

LIBRARY MANAGER'S REPORT – SUBMITTED BY PAMELA MORRIS

MARCH 2021

Circulation of physical materials increased significantly in February at the Dawson Creek Public Library. We circulated 4,049 items in February – up 653 items from the month before. This re-enforces staff belief that the library has felt busier in the last few weeks. Our patrons also borrowed 1,272 e-materials through Libraries-to-Go – 50 more e-materials than in January. When looking at interlibrary loan statistics for February we see that our biggest borrowers of physical items from the Dawson Creek library are patrons from 100 Mile House (24 items borrowed), Creston (23) and Sechelt (22). Altogether we loaned 305 physical items to other libraries in February.

What we've been up to at the library:

- We held a very successful 2-hour virtual “Self-Care Strategies for Women” program via Zoom on March 8. The program was hosted by Registered Clinical Counsellor Annette Jalbert and was attended by 25 women on International Women’s Day. There was great feedback on the night of the program from attendees.
- Our digital library service provider, Jamie Bond, is working on a gardening-themed virtual program next.
- Book club continues to meet virtually. We are reading ‘The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared’ by Jonas Jonasson.
- Outreach deliveries continue each month.
- The children’s librarian Laurie Youb is posting Storytimes to Facebook and to YouTube. Crafts that accompany the weekly storytime are available for pickup at the library front counter. She is also creating weekly activity/craft bags for pickup for our Afterschool Kidz kids.
- Staff took part in the anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day on February 24.
- The library promoted Freedom to Read Week Feb 21 – 28 with a “Blind Date with a Book” event. Books were packaged up in brown paper bags and our patrons were encouraged to borrow the books without knowing what’s inside. When they borrowed a blind date book they were entered into a draw for a gift certificate from Faking Sanity. The winner of the contest was Nicole Leblanc.
- I have registered for the annual British Columbia Library Association conference May 3 – 7, 2021. All sessions will be virtual and recorded so I am looking forward to be able to attend as many sessions as I find interesting/relevant!
- Our library will soon have a new free resource for our patrons provided by the BC Libraries Co-op at no charge to us! The Co-op received the same one-time tech grant that all public libraries received last spring. With a portion of their grant they are providing the ‘LinkedIn Learning’ (formerly Lynda) resource to all public libraries in BC for free for two years. LinkedIn Learning is expert-led, on-demand courses with everything from tech courses to business and creative courses. LinkedIn Learning should be accessible through our website in March – the Co-op is working on the last bit of the authentication set up. I am excited to see what courses will be available to our patrons and hope to have some of our staff use the resources as well as a professional development tool. (Excel classes here I come!)
- The 2020 Provincial Public Library Grants Report approved by the board was submitted on February 23, 2021.
- The capital work memo approved by the board has been submitted to Melina Sweezey, the city’s Parks and Facilities Manager, for consideration for the city’s 2022 capital project budget. Ms. Sweezey informs me that work is being done on a cost summary sheet.

- The bookkeeping files for the 2020 financial audit are nearly complete and should be submitted within the week. I am just waiting on a Hydro bill for February. Thank you to Treasurer Terri Foster for helping me finish up the last few things on the list and catching my mistakes – I learn something new from her every time we sit together at the bookkeeping desk.
- I am working on an application to the Lake View Credit Union Community Social Responsibility Fund Program for \$4,000 for the 2021 Summer Reading Club. I am very hopeful and excited that we will be able to offer our 'normal' summer reading club program this summer.

Dolly Parton fundraising:

- The library has been approved for a \$5,000 donation from Shell Canada for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! With this donation, we should have funding for the program until December.
- I have received a rejection email from Loblaws. They encouraged a re-application in the future so I will try again in 2022.
- I have just received an email from Dawn Johnson with Clear Course Consulting, the new service providers for grant writers for the Peace River Regional District. She would like to set up a call to discuss possible grants available to the library for DPIL and other projects or programs. I will move ahead with this asap.

Submitted by Pamela Morris, Library Manager