



Southwestern Manitoba Regional Library

Annual Report

2021

Board Members

Town of Melita:

Rhonda Verplanche – Council

Keith Jones – Citizen

Municipality of Two Borders:

Aileen Tucker – Council

Bob Renwick – Council

Lynda Hammell – Citizen

Municipality of Brenda Waskada:

Alana Van Steelandt – Council – Vice Chair

ClaraLea Green – Citizen – Chair

Bookkeeper:

Brenda Banks

Secretary:

Roberta Brown

Staff

Melita Library:

Sandra Sterling – Director, Librarian

Elissa Greenlay – Assistant Librarian

Pierson Library:

Mary-Anne Minshull – Librarian

Deborah Forsyth – Assistant Librarian

Napinka Library:

Jackie Leforte – Librarian

We Let Go Of The Familiar And Comfortable, And Embrace New Changes

Some shifting and changing happened at the end of 2021 for Southwestern Manitoba Regional Library. Our Director, Sandra Sterling, retired at the end of November. She guided all Staff and Board members, and ran Melita Library for 10 years. We hope she has a wonderful retirement, and thank her for her many years of knowledge and expertise in all things public library related.

Mary-Anne Minshull, the Pierson Librarian, was hired as the new Director in December. She has been the Librarian at Pierson Branch for 14 years now, and will continue to work from there, with time spent at the other two branches as required.

At the same time, Elissa Greenlay accepted the position of Melita Librarian. This will be a new career opportunity, and more responsibility after being the Assistant Librarian at Melita for 10 years.

Melita Library Numbers

COLLECTION

- Books: 17 895
- Periodicals: 21
- Audios/DVDs: 2597

CIRCULATION:

- Patrons: 2254
- Program Attendance: 26
- Adult Books: 4085
- Children's Books: 690
- Audio/DVD: 742

INTER LIBRARY LOAN:

- Borrowed: 339
- Sent: 238

eREADING:

- Users: 490
- Downloads: 2472

FACEBOOK:

- Followers: 350
- Likes: 327

HOOPLA:

- Users: 64
- Borrows: 227

AUDIO BLOCKS:

- Libraries: 14
- Sight-Impaired:

MEMBERSHIPS:

- New Members: 32
- Active Members: 279

OTHERS:

- Puzzles: 17
- Days Open: 200
- Items Added: 1421

Melita Library Report- 2021

Another year has flown past with COVID-19. We were closed for the months of January, February, May, June and the first half of July. Curbside pickup and delivery were available for patrons all throughout the year. eReading and Hoopla were popular options for patrons also.

The Community Volunteer Tax Program was held by the library again this year with many partakers. Thank you to our volunteer that heads up this great program. Along with that, we continue to have the Prairie Skills job board posted all year long.

2 brand new computers were installed in the library for workspace, along with software upgrades for the public access computers.

Our yearly book sale happened during the Town Wide Yard Sales in September. It was wonderful to be open again for the public without limitations, and to have people look for some good Summer/Fall reads.

We applied for and received grant applications to upgrade our lights from T4 bulbs to LED bulbs. After they were installed, it brightened up the whole building. What a major improvement.

Rotations with Deloraine, Boissevain, Pierson and Napinka were a bit delayed this year, but were still a go.

With the end of the year, changes to the library were made to be more accessible and organized for the patrons and many positive compliments were made.



Above: Melita Librarian Elissa Greenlay;
Melita Children's area

Pierson Library Report - 2021

(First year and the start of the second year of the Covid-19 Pandemic)

Our Numbers:

- Open to the public 116 days, Open for curbside services only 27 days.
- Added 481 items to our inventory
- 396 active patrons
- Subscribed to 20 magazines
- Sent out 82 Inter-library loans, and received 83
- 1708 people came through the library in the year
- Checked out 5886 items in house, 332 digital checkouts from hoopla, 911 E-books from eLibraries MB
- Held 16 public programs and functions (11 ONLINE, and 5 in-person) with an attendance of 799
- Received 180 items from other libraries for rotation, and sent out 336 items on rotation
- An estimated 730 visits to the website
- 223 people following the Library's Facebook page
- 19 subscribers to YouTube channel "Read alouds with Mary-Anne Minsh"

Highlights and behind the scenes of 2021 at Pierson Branch:

*The library received \$227.50 in generous donations from organizations and individuals this year. Thank you to our 2021 donors.

*It was interesting to navigate the first year of the pandemic, but we did it! Patron support was pretty great when we could only be open for curbside services at the beginning of 2021. They were very happy when we could finally open to the public consistently.

*We began offering hoopla, a "new to us" digital service in the Spring. Patrons have been able to access ebooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, TV, music, and magazines through their accounts, on the hoopla app on their electronic devices.

*An entirely new workstation was created for the assistant librarian, so that staff could work socially distanced. We liked it so much, we had new floor plugs installed, so that it could become permanent.

*The Summer Reading Contest was a great hit. Seventeen kids took part, and everyone that registered got a free ice cream cone certificate to use at the Heritage Restaurant, as well as a small prize at the end of Summer donated by Valleyview CO-OP.

*A number of patrons received help with vaccine consent forms, proof of vaccination passports, and the ArriveCan app. We are happy to help with anything to do with requests that are Covid-19 related.

*Librarians attended the Virtual Library Conference in June, hosted by MLA (Manitoba Library Association) and SLA (Saskatchewan Library Association). It was a wonderful learning collaboration by the two provinces.

*A little brown bat was "hanging" out outside the library for a number of days in the Summer. It was a fun opportunity to educate about bats and display books on the topic.

*Erica McNish, a local artist, displayed her artwork for a period of time.

*4-H Cloverbuds used the library space for their meetings and events, once they were able to get back up and running. Other organizations in the community are encouraged and welcome to use the library to gather as well.

*We provided Fall booklets for kids, and did a paper pumpkin contest in October. We sure missed our annual pumpkin carving party. Will plan for it next year!

Continuing Education webinars:

- "Graphic novels for adults and young adults," hosted by Booklist
- "Graphic novels for children and junior readers," hosted by Booklist
- "Understanding Covid-19 vaccines," hosted by The Realm Project.
- "Harassment in the workplace," hosted by Prairie Skills Employment Services.
- "The power of hoopla," hosted by CVS Midwest Tape.

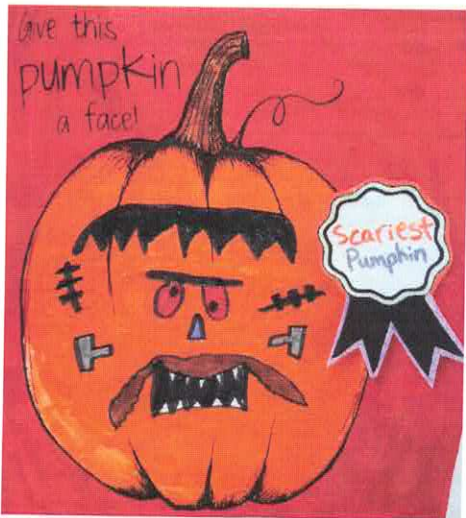
Displays created in the Library:

- Black History Month
- "Banned and Challenged" book display for Freedom to Read week
- National Indigenous History Month
- LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month
- Truth and Reconciliation Day/Week
- Paper pumpkin contest for students in October
- Remembrance Day
- December Holiday Season



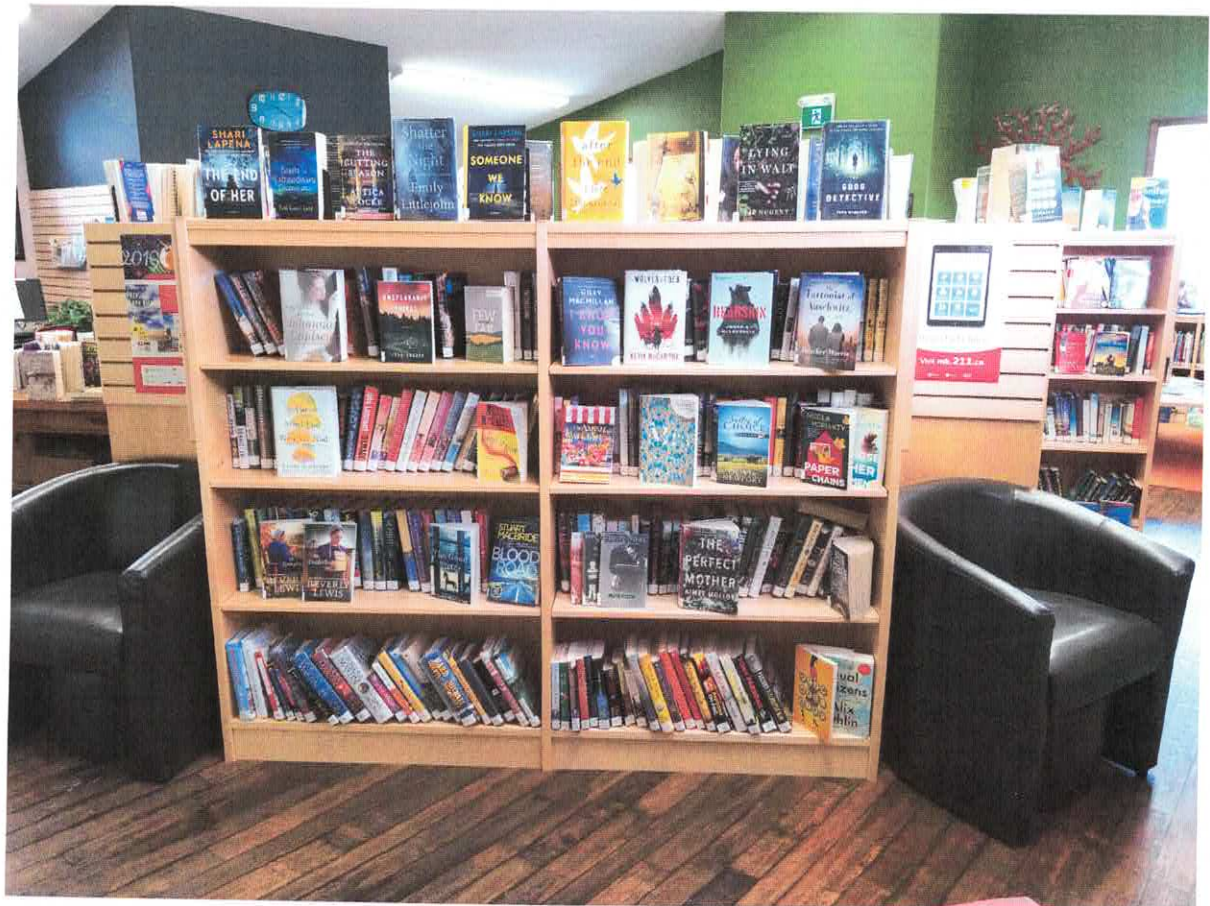
Above: Librarian Mary-Anne Minshull, and Assistant Librarian Deborah Forsyth, performing the "high touch clean" at the end of the day (a twice daily task for most of the year).

Below: October's Paper pumpkin contest!





Above photo: Melita Library



Above photo: Pierson Library

Napinka Library Report 2021

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic has subsided at year's end, we are able to get on with our lives, and this year it has become somewhat easier to deal with customers and make their presence in the establishment more pleasing to visit. The past year was not as busy for the Napinka Library as we would have liked, but the library was still busy with patrons coming a couple times a week to get books and visit at the coffee shop. We hope that next year will pick up, and the number of visitors will increase in numbers. We had a number of local people at Legion Decoration Day that was held at the Napinka Cemetery. Lunch was served at the Napinka Drop In Center with a tour of the school, including the museum and the library in conjunction with the luncheon.

The library is housed in the Napinka Drop In Centre, which is located in the North section of the old Napinka School. Our visitors are always interested in what is going on in the building, and that keeps them coming back to visit their roots. They are amazed that we still have an active Drop In Centre and an active library. The museum that is housed in the same building as the library, and myself along with members of the Drop In Centre, have taken visitors on a tour of the complete facility.

Thank You for your patronage over the past year, and I hope to continue to see everyone again in the next year. Happy Reading!!

**Thank you to our Library Patrons, Board Members, and Funding Partners.
We look forward to serving you, and continuing partnerships, in 2022.**

We are excited for the future of Southwestern Manitoba Regional Library!

- Librarians Mary-Anne Minshull, Elissa Greenlay, and Jackie Leforte