

There is much more to the operation of a public library than meets the eye. On the other side of the service desk, behind the walls that separate the public and staff areas, in the Board Room meetings or at staff training sessions, the creative process of Library service is at work. Regina Public Library (RPL) has significantly invested in the consultative and creative process over the past few years, and that investment will continue as the Library re-defines its future.

Early in the year, the Regina Public Library Board unveiled its new Strategic Plan, *Setting the Course: Looking Ahead to 2010*. This Plan emphasizes six areas for development through the next five years:

- Restoring Our Branches
- Building a Strong Capital Campaign
- Considering the Future of Central Library
- Telling the Library's Story
- Creating a Welcoming Environment
- Meeting Community Needs

Advancement of the Strategic Plan became the focus of activities for the Library throughout the rest of the year. One of the first major initiatives to support the capital campaign was the launch of RPL's first Home Lottery. As the Lottery builds momentum, it holds the potential to add up to \$350,000 annually to the Library's capital fund.

The Strategic Plan clearly identified that restoring the inner-city branches is a top priority. An internal committee was struck to



PHOTO: CLAIRE ISAAC

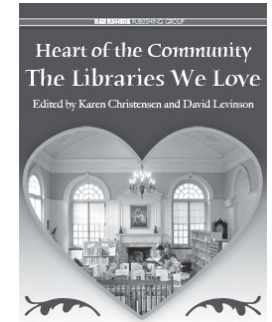
begin the information gathering process. Starting with the Prince of Wales Branch area, (2188 Broder Street) the committee worked with a number of community groups to gain an understanding of the neighbourhood's needs. After examining demographics and current library use, the committee conducted focus groups and a survey of area residents. This information was collected and analyzed to become a recommendation to the Board for its 2007 Branch Development Plan.

Along with the new initiatives introduced by the Strategic Plan, RPL continued its high standard of programs and services. Usage statistics of library services fluctuated a bit in 2006 when compared to 2005, but the five-year trend shows increased use in virtually all categories. The Library's traditional services such as circulation of books, public programming, and reference services remain

strong, but it is clear that technology-based services have shown a continuously growing demand. Use of computers in the Library and use of technology to communicate with the Library show the most significant increases in usage. Nationally, RPL ranked above average or well above average in those areas for which statistics are gathered.

Recognition of the efforts and excellence of RPL and some of its staff was a welcome addition for the year. RPL was honoured to be selected as one of only four Canadian public libraries included in the Berkshire publication, *Heart of the Community:*

The Libraries We Love. As well, the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and Brodart presented their Outstanding Public Library Service Award to



RPL's Head of Central Public Services and Inner-City Branches, André Gagnon. The Saskatchewan Library Association's Frances Morrison Award was awarded to recently retired RPL Head of Reference, Rosemary Oddie.

The major initiatives of 2006 are only the beginning. The Board's Strategic Plan is the blueprint for a five-year rejuvenation project and the best is yet to come.

– Darlene Hincks, Chair
Regina Public Library Board

– Jeff Barber
Library Director



PHOTO: KATE KOKOTALO

Prince of Wales Library

YEAR END STATISTICS

for December 31, 2006

Items in collection	630,213
Items added in 2006	87,816
Clients served	1,474,832
Circulation	2,673,805
Reference Questions	187,512
Automated telephone renewals	31,913
Number of public access computers	124
Internet use – total minutes	*
Internet use – total sessions	*
Number of programs provided	4,547
Program attendance	122,364
Items loaned to other libraries	8,026
Items borrowed from other libraries	7,005
Active Library cards (residents)	95,951
Active Library cards (non-residents)	4,892

*Data not available due to a system software change.

Audited Financial Statements and Strategic Plan details are available at www.reginalibrary.ca. Click on "About Us", or ask for a copy at your local Library.

Regina Public Library Board

Darlene Hincks (Chair), Elaine Kivisto (Deputy Chair), Janet Brown, Sharron Bryce (Councillor), Mayor Pat Fiacco, Renu Kapoor, Gerald Kleisinger, Darryl Lucke, Shelley Monson, Jeff Barber (Secretary to the Board)



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