



2009

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE

CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR



It was great to start 2009 with a celebration! In January 2009, RPL marked its 100th anniversary of public library services to the people of Regina. The passion and enthusiasm for public libraries in 1909 was still evident in 2009.

People from all over the city came to celebrate with us and there was no better way to ring in the new year.

The annual report for 2009 highlights some of the Library's progress and major accomplishments over the past year but from the outside looking in, it is not always clear how it all happens. The driving force behind what RPL does is the community – it starts with you! The Library Board and Administration add leadership and guidance to the mix. Then a knowledgeable and dedicated staff carry out the work of delivering public library services – buying, cataloguing, labelling, and shelving materials; keeping the computers working; paying the bills; hanging the artwork; setting up the films; and providing front-line services and programs to the thousands of people who come in the door every day.

Along the way, there are also many partnerships and collaborations that keep the Library connected to the community and the many stakeholders who share in the Library's success. Some of the Library's programs are supported by Reginaans who volunteer their time, sharing their knowledge and expertise, to help others. RPL's links to the City of Regina, dozens of community groups, businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs contribute significantly to the Library's capacity to offer an effective and efficient set of programs and services. This is just a glimpse into how a public library works but it is easy to see how a public library's call to promote and support literacy and life-long learning has an impact on the whole community.

It has been a privilege to be leading RPL at this point in its history and through this very exciting time. Regina Public Library is again in its prime with the support of the community providing the impetus for change, new directions, and continued development of the public library system as a key service to city residents.

Darlene Hincks Joehnck
RPL Board Chair

Jeff Barber
Library Director

REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2009 BOARD

Darlene Hincks Joehnck (Chair)
Elaine Kivisto (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Pat Fiacco
Sharron Bryce (Councillor)

Darryl Lucke
Janet Brown
Renu Kapoor
Gerald Kleisinger

Shelley Monson
Jeff Barber (Library
Director & Secretary to
the Board)

RPL QUICK FACTS

644,187 items in the collection

97,910 new items added in 2009

2,707,306 items circulated in 2009

1,748,254 clients served

141,252 reference questions answered

113 public access computers

57,223 hours of public Internet use

141,951 public Internet uses

4,899 programs provided

88,751 people attended Library programs

6,073 items loaned to other libraries

7,939 items borrowed from other libraries

82,723 active library cards (residents)

4,218 active library cards (non-residents)



RESTORING OUR BRANCHES

The Library Board continued to place a high priority on Library facilities by focusing its efforts on moving both the Prince of Wales and Albert Branch projects forward in 2009. Below is a brief update on both of these initiatives.

Prince of Wales Branch

The Library has been working closely with the City of Regina to make the new Prince of Wales Branch a reality. In May 2009, public consultations were held with very positive feedback and local residents and community groups were excited to see the project moving along. It will be the first new building in 15 years.

P3Architecture of Regina was awarded the architectural services contract and discretionary use of the land south of the Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre was approved by City Council. Further public consultations were held in October and concept designs were presented at a public open house in early 2010.

The new Prince of Wales Branch will be a warm and welcoming place for the community. This bright and open space will be devoted to meeting community needs – high-interest collections, comfortable seating, public computers, and children's programming. Follow the progress of this project online at: www.reginalibrary.ca/pow.

Albert Branch

The Library has been an active member of the planning committees for the North Central Shared Facility for some time and the Library Board has expressed its intent to relocate Albert Branch to the new development.



The concept design for this new facility was completed in the spring of 2009, along with a proposal for sustainable design. As the project progresses, the Library has confirmed its contribution to the next phase of this multi-partner development project. The design reports are available online at: www.northcentralsharedfacility.ca.

Home Lottery

The Library's ability to move ahead with Branch development projects is directly linked to the Library Board's Home Lottery initiative started back in 2006. Funds from the past four annual Home Lotteries have generated the revenues needed for the Library to begin construction on the new Prince of Wales Branch in 2010.



CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL LIBRARY

There is a tremendous amount of excitement around the Central Library Development Project and the Library continues to work on community partnerships and design possibilities.

Toward the end of winter in 2009, the Library Board issued an invitation to design firms to explore development options for a new Central Library.

A selection committee, including members of the community, reviewed the eight proposals and recommended that the joint proposal from Harvard Developments and P3Architecture of Regina be accepted. The Library Board accepted the recommendation and the pre-design work began.



Planning continued through the rest of the year based on stakeholder consultations, public input, and partnership options.

Preliminary calculations indicated that Central Library must grow from its current 75,000 square feet to about 150,000 square feet to meet the needs of our growing city. Only minor changes have been made to the current Central Library building since it was first opened in 1962.

The Library Board and the design team are working hard to ensure that the Central Library Development Project is in harmony with the City's downtown plan – making it a destination where both residents and visitors can live, shop and work.

TELLING THE LIBRARY'S STORY

The overwhelmingly positive response to the Library's Service Plan, Home Lottery and building projects has encouraged the Library to share its positive story with residents, community groups and the business community.

In 2009, a new marketing and communications plan was developed to support the Library's Service Plan by reminding residents about the wide range of Library services and programs available.

As a result of community consultation, the Library initiated a branding campaign to educate and inform Regina about the Library's many outstanding programs and services.

The multi-media campaign included radio, print and online ads, billboards, as well as a TV spot on SaskTel Max.

The messages highlighted numerous programs and services offered by the Library, including:

- free Internet & Wi-Fi access;
- almost 5,000 free programs every year;
- access to downloadable Audiobooks and eBooks; and
- the best of world cinema at the Film Theatre.

Along with creating awareness, the messaging also encouraged the public to rediscover Regina Public Library by either visiting one of the Library's nine locations or online at ReginaLibrary.ca. The campaign continues through 2010.

**Access the world.
Get your FREE Library card.**

9 locations serving you
ReginaLibrary.ca





MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH THE SERVICE PLAN

RPL's first full year under the new Service Plan was 2009.

The Plan, which was approved toward the end of the previous year, was a result of an intensive community consultation. The public wanted the Library to be a place where one can:

- Stimulate the imagination through reading, viewing and listening for pleasure;
- Create young readers through early literacy programming;
- Visit a comfortable space, both physically and virtually; and
- Satisfy curiosity through lifelong learning.

To support the Service Plan, the Library committed to a number of program and service improvements, which were made throughout 2009, including:

- Increased open hours at branches to include Friday mornings and, where branches were open at 10 a.m., hours were changed to 9:30 a.m.;
- Wireless Internet access at all nine Library locations;

- Expanded reach of Aboriginal programming to more branches throughout the city and hosted a First Nations Round Dance in February;
- Another successful Mayor's Mega-Minute Reading Challenge involving school-aged children who successfully read over 7 million minutes in May;
- Increased program offering for pre-school children to encourage reading readiness; and
- Integrated summer reading programs for adults, young adults and children, providing a consistent approach at all branches, while giving participants a chance to win great prizes based on their time spent reading.

Audited Financial Statements and Strategic Plan details are available at ReginaLibrary.ca. Click on 'About Us' or ask for a copy at your local branch.



PO Box 2311,
2311-12th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 3Z5
ReginaLibrary.ca