

2021: written and illustrated by THE WESTERN MANITOBA REGIONAL LIBRARY

Coronavirus-19

- Provincially mandated closures and re-openings continued to occur in the first half of 2021
- COVID policies and procedures developed in 2020 continued to serve our communities well, including contactless deliveries; curbside pick-ups; and enhancement of virtual programming and electronic services

Goal One: Facilities

- In partnership with the City of Brandon, Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba and Brandon General Museum, an extensive Conceptual Design was undertaken with f-BLOCK Architecture of Winnipeg. The proposed Library redesign titled "Forward Through Culture" strives to revitalize the Downtown area through the combined draws of Library, Museum, and improved Gallery access via an attractive Rosser Avenue direct entrance. The improved Library layout includes a reduced footprint, as planning is underway for expansion of the popular Brandon Shoppers Mall Branch

Goal Two: Technology

- IPad coding kits were added to the collection, which can be checked out by patrons interested in the Coder Dojo program, now offered virtually
- Two new eResources for 2021 include Newspaper Archives, digital access to Canadian Newspapers, and AtoZ World Foods, an online resource of recipes and food facts
- "Story Time in the Park" this year included iPads with a Library Circulation App, enabling participants to check-out Library materials offsite
- A technology Spending Plan was created to guide regional IT spending

Goal Three: Workforce

- Former Director of Library Services Danielle Hubbard resigned in June 2021, with Will Enns stepping in as Acting Director for 6 months. Aly Wowchuk was hired to fill the role in December
- A new five-year Collective Agreement with MGEU has been ratified
- A Staff Restructuring Plan was implemented to better target service delivery
- Laurie MacNevin was hired as Carberry's new Branch Supervisor, while Carson Rogers started in the newly created Brandon Branch Supervisor position
- The WMRL welcomes new Programming and Outreach Coordinator Alex Rogowsky
- A new WMRL Policy Handbook was developed and finalized

Goal Four: Community

- RM of Oakland-Wawanesa has agreed to directly subsidize residents for WMRL memberships
- Contactless pick-ups and deliveries continued to be available to our community members during the periods of closure
- A variety of virtual programs were offered throughout 2021 featuring Book Clubs, Coder Dojo and Author Readings, with particular emphasis on Indigenous authors as part of WMRL's ongoing Truth and Reconciliation initiatives
- An Indigenous Resources collection was initiated at the Brandon Downtown Branch for use by the entire region
- Weekly Storytime on social media continues to run every Wednesday morning. The library partnered with Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to host outdoor in-person story times at Princess Park in Brandon
- WMRL participated in a TD Story Walk program including story boards installed in our member communities
- With funding from "Healthy Together Now" five "Little Free Libraries" were set up in public parks across Brandon and Neepawa.
- In response to the WMRL Library Survey, the City of Brandon established the Downtown Safety and Wellness Task Force

Goal Five: Finance

The WMRL received numerous grants this year, including:

- The Protect MB Community Grant enabled the WMRL to host vaccine clinics at the Brandon Downtown Library.
- The Healthy Together Now Grant was awarded for installation of five "Little Free Libraries" to increase local access to literacy.
- The Carberry and Area Community Foundation funded a popular new 3D Printer program at the Carberry/North Cypress Library
- Canada Summer Jobs funding helped employ two youth to facilitate children's literacy programs and the TD Summer Reading Club
- In partnership with the City of Brandon and AGSM, the WMRL applied to the federal Community Revitalization Program toward funding a new accessible Rosser Street entrance
- The Glenboro Library was successful in obtaining a grant from the Glenboro Area Foundation for the amount of \$2500 toward office renovations



Contributors

- Will Enns, Special Projects Librarian (Acting Director 2021)
- Erika Martin, Technical Services Librarian
- Alex Rogowsky, Programming & Outreach Coordinator
- Donna Jardine, Bookkeeper & Acting Administrative Assistant
- Carson Rogers, Branch Supervisor Brandon/Shoppers Mall
- Debbie Unger, Branch Supervisor Neepawa
- Laurie MacNevin, Branch Supervisor Carberry/North Cypress
- Kelly Tirschman, Branch Supervisor Glenboro/South Cypress
- Helen Weitman, Branch Supervisor Hartney/Cameron

Acknowledgements

- Thank you to our patrons and communities; we appreciate your support!
- Our staff who work diligently contributing their talents, time, and energies
- Our volunteers, LAC's, and especially Board members
- Our member municipalities who fund and house us
- Thank you also to Public Library Services, the provincial library community and all our service contractors including Technology Solve, and SirsiDynix.

Circulation							
	Brandon	Shoppers Mall	Carberry	Neepawa	Glenboro	Hartney	TOTAL
Adult Materials:							
Print formats	29,602	7,961	5,005	7,704	3,494	1,843	55,609
Non-print formats	3,576	67	249	89	43	8	4,032
Teen Materials:							
Print formats	3,906	657	355	252	104	24	5,298
Non-print formats	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Children's Materials:							
Print formats	27,482	9,010	5,205	5,766	1,915	976	50,354
Non-print formats	1,598	42	137	66	34	7	1,884
E-Resources	165,441						165,441
TOTAL 2021	231,606	17,737	10,951	13,879	5,590	2,858	282,621

Membership							
	Brandon	Shoppers Mall	Carberry	Neepawa	Glenboro	Hartney	TOTAL
Adult	5,177	500	490	621	254	191	7,233
Children	1,039	73	119	125	39	54	1,449
Non-Resident	324	45	3	72	8	1	453
TOTAL 2021	6,540	618	612	818	301	246	9,135

Holdings							
	Brandon	Shoppers Mall	Carberry	Neepawa	Glenboro	Hartney	TOTAL
Adult Books	39,196	555	7,257	10,844	4,318	5,130	67,300
Teen Books	4,632	40	436	553	376	186	6,223
Children's Books	24,921	329	4,210	4,654	3,630	2,158	39,902
Government Documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magazines/Newspapers	84	0	24	23	18	12	161
Audio Books	1,021	0	125	96	22	12	1,276
DVDs	1,657	0	379	353	283	143	2,815
Microforms	858	0	0	0	0	0	858
Miscellaneous	216	0	22	24	3	18	283
TOTAL 2021	72,585	924	12,453	16,547	8,650	7,659	118,818

**Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

Revenue	2021
City of Brandon	692,501
Municipality of Glenboro South Cypress	17,528
Municipality of Grassland	17,483
Municipality of North Cypress-Langford	30,744
Town of Carberry	19,466
Town of Neepawa	51,621
Province of Manitoba:	
Operating grant	261,495
Collection development grant	27,500
Technology grant	24,581
Memberships and fines	7,240
Interest	3,282
Federal Government	6,916
Amortization of deferred contributions	14,869
Other revenue	833
TOTAL	\$1,531,059

A library card is the start of a lifelong adventure
- Lillian Jackson Braun

Expenditures	2021
Advertising	11,483
Amortization	13,099
Bank charges	298
Books	125,556
Building maintenance	25,001
Collection development	27,500
Computerization and IT services	28,363
Convention and travel	7,810
Employee benefits	86,532
Insurance	6,093
Miscellaneous	1,104
Postage	6,983
Professional fees	18,768
Rent	286,170
Salaries	684,249
Service contracts	62,733
Staff training	1,856
Stationery and supplies	23,405
Sundry	4,143
Telephone	11,214
TOTAL	\$ 1,432,360

Chairperson's Report: 2021 Year in Review

When I wrote this report last year, reflecting on 2020, I could not have envisioned the challenges that 2021 would bring. We may have thought that we were due an easier year, but it has been anything but; however, the Western Manitoba Regional Library, her board and staff, have all stepped up to the challenge and we can claim another successful, if difficult, year has been achieved.

In 2021, new challenges in the form of changing restrictions, vaccine availability, and pandemic fatigue have been experienced. In the summer we lost our Director of Library Services. A leave of absence turned into a permanent situation, and the WMRL administrative team stepped up, and handled the situation as they have dealt with everything: with grace and focus on the success and continued seamless service to our patrons and communities. We are exceptionally fortunate in our staff and administrative team; the past two years would have been very different without their constant efforts.

In December, Aly Wowchuk was hired to take on the role of Director of Library Services, she has proven to be a thoughtful, dedicated, and focused individual who will bring her own experience and insight to the role. I look forward to seeing where she takes the library in the coming years.

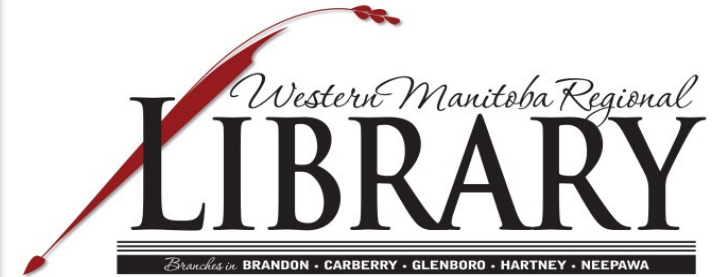
At the end of 2021, with 2022 being a municipal election year, I made the difficult decision to step down as Chair of the WMRL. I continue to offer my support to our board and to the new Chairperson, Coral Millar, whose dedication to the WMRL and library services in general is absolutely unquestionable.

I would like to thank the Board, WMRL administration and staff, our member municipalities, as well as our patrons, for their continued support. May 2022 be an equally successful (and perhaps less challenging) year for all of us.

Tracy Rimmer
WMRL Chairperson 2021
Councillor, RM of Glenboro South Cypress

Library Board of Trustees

<i>Tracy Rimmer, Chair</i> Councillor, M. of Glenboro South Cypress	<i>Coral Millar, Vice-Chair</i> M of Grassland
<i>Ron Brown, Councillor, City of Brandon</i>	<i>Matthew Berry, City of Brandon</i>
<i>Jeff Fawcett, Councillor, City of Brandon</i>	<i>Dr. Wayne Kelly, City of Brandon</i>
<i>Hector Swanson, Town of Neepawa</i>	<i>Jason Nadeau, Councillor, Town of Neepawa</i>
<i>Donna Fillion, M. of Glenboro South Cypress</i>	<i>Matthew Tolton, Councillor, Town of Carberry</i>
<i>Stuart Olmstead, Councillor, Town of Carberry</i>	<i>Whitney Pingert, Town of Carberry</i>
<i>Melanie Lavich, Town of Carberry</i>	<i>Loretta Oliver, RM of North Cypress Langford</i>
<i>David Blair, Councillor, RM of North Cypress Langford</i>	
<i>Claude Martin, Councillor, M of Grassland</i>	
<i>Stefanie Demarcke, Secretary (Jan-Sept)</i>	
<i>Chidinma Ahaneke, Secretary (Sept-Dec)</i>	
<i>Danielle Hubbard, Director (Jan-June)</i>	<i>Louise Ferguson, Programming & Outreach Librarian</i>
<i>Will Enns, Acting Director (June-Dec)</i>	
<i>Aly Wowchuk, Director, (Dec)</i>	



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Western Manitoba Regional Library is to enrich lives and strengthen communities by providing universal access to broad and diverse collections of resources relevant and responsive to community needs.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

City of Brandon	pop.	48,859
Town of Carberry	pop.	1,738
M. of North Cypress-Langford	pop.	2,745
Town of Neepawa	pop.	4,609
M. of Glenboro South Cypress	pop.	1,565
M. of Grassland	pop.	1,561