

# Jake Epp Library

## 2018 Annual Report



### Library Director's Report

2018 has been another interesting, busy, and stretching year. Our circulation statistics prove that once again we were busier than the year before. It should be noted that while our statistics for digital access increased substantially, our circulation for everything we check out in the library also increased. Steinbach, and the surrounding communities we serve are still reading for enjoyment and information. The full statistical picture is at the end of this report.

Each year is a challenge for Jake Epp Library, as it is for all businesses, to create and maintain a viable budget. The word viable has the following synonyms: *workable, feasible, practical, manageable, operable, attainable, reasonable, sensible, realistic, and effective*. As we have reviewed the budget at the end of 2018, I can confidently say that these words describe the outcome of our budget planning.

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act came into effect as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The law requires that businesses and non-profits have a policy that complies with the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service. The Province of Manitoba gave us advance information and provided assistance with workshops and planning tools. Working on this policy, educating ourselves, and learning how to think differently was a lengthy but profitable process. It will be a policy that will grow with experience, and also as we find more tools to help us provide excellent service to everyone in our community. The question "If we cannot have all the equipment, how can we work around the problem to serve a patron's needs?" describes the mindset that will help us move forward in this process.

The ***Friends of the Library*** organization has been, as always, very active in their work of promoting Jake Epp Library. I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to this group for what they helped us accomplish this year. Their fundraising enabled us to purchase 3 banks of shelving. These extra shelves provided the space needed to bring all the young adult collections within the designated area of the Young Adult section. Moving those items allowed us to rearrange the western books, provide extra space for the large print collection, and allowed us to have a dedicated space for our DVDs and reference items. This was a project we have had in mind for years so we were very excited to see it come to fruition!

I am very grateful for the Library Board who meets monthly to provide oversight and support. When you have the opportunity to work with people for a span of years, change can cause some sadness. Daryl Braun, who has been our Board Chair for several years, stepped down. I have been very appreciative of his service and support on the Library Board. We have also had other changes to our (*continued on next page*) r

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Board due to terms of service expiring. However, I am very pleased with the new members of the board who will bring new ideas and points of view.

We also want to acknowledge how much we value all the volunteers who offer their time to help us with putting books back in their places, and assist in other areas as well. We would like to say THANK YOU to all of our fantastic volunteers.

Thank you to the members of the Steinbach City Council who have encouraged us and supported us. Thank you to the City of Steinbach for our annual grant. Without that financial support we could not exist. Thank you to the Manitoba Provincial Government and Public Library Services Branch for our grant and their helpful services.

There's a line from an old song that says "You're still glowin', you're still crowin', you're still goin' strong". The library is "glowing" with pride that our community comes here so regularly and uses our facilities. This report is our opportunity to "crow" – we are proud of our library! And we are still "going strong" and still growing. 2018 was a great year!

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Graham

### Library Board Chair Report



The love and joy of reading is alive and well in Steinbach. Circulation of books and ebooks increased again this year. Library Director Carolyn Graham continues to run a tight ship and provides excellent leadership.

Board members Daryl Braun and Barb Guenther completed their terms on the board as of November. They were succeeded by Allison Dueck and Jacqui Broesky.

It has been a real pleasure to serve on the library board, a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to making sure the library is a community hub for literacy. The use of the library by various community groups continues to increase, especially by small non-profit groups who need access to our smaller-sized meeting rooms.

We worked hard as a board again this year to live within our means. As costs have gone up and as grants have not kept pace with those costs, we have had to cut back somewhat on book purchases, one of the few areas where we have the leeway to trim costs to stay within our budget. Indications are that the city will increase its grants again starting in 2019 which will be a big help.

The library is a huge asset to the City of Steinbach and taxpayers are getting excellent value for their money.

Sincerely,  
  
Daryl Braun

### Library Board Members

#### Chair

- Daryl Braun (outgoing)
- Cindy Blatz (incoming)

#### City Council

#### Representative

- Susan Penner (outgoing)
- Damian Penner (incoming)

Dennis Giesbrecht

- John Wiebe
- Barb Guenther (outgoing)
- Melanie Fast
- Allison Dueck
- Jacqui Broesky



Aubrey Walker, Madison Reddekop, and Carolyn Graham ready for Family Literacy Day (PJ Party theme)

## Mission Statement

The goal of Jake Epp Library is to make a wide variety of print, audio, and visual materials available to as many community residents as possible to promote individual life-long learning. Within the limits of its budget and the criteria contained in this policy, the library will do its best to meet the educational, entertainment and informational needs of its patrons and to provide convenient hours and appropriate library services for all community residents.

The freedom to read is essential to a democratic society. Jake Epp Library acts as a guardian of this freedom. As such, it will resist efforts by individuals or groups, no matter how well meaning, who seek to impose their own standards and tastes on the selection of materials for its collection. The fact that children have access to all library resources will not in any way restrict the selection process. Responsibility for what children read rests with their parents and guardians.

Jake Epp Library also has a responsibility to protect and enhance intellectual freedom. It will do this by making it possible for readers to choose from materials which represent the widest diversity of thought and expression, including ideas which may be considered unpopular or unorthodox. It should be clearly understood that the library does not necessarily endorse the points of view taken by all the material it makes available to the public.

Jake Epp Library endeavours to be a safe community space. We provide meeting space for rent and can provide minimal fees for local non-profit groups.

## Jake Epp Library Staff

### Library Director

Carolyn Graham

### Assistant Library Director

Aubrey Walker

### Programs Coordinator

Madison Reddekop

### Preschool Programs Coordinator

Holly Reimer (outgoing)

Katarina Garrecht (incoming)

### Library Clerks

Chris Desrochers

Marty Dyck

Janet Friesen

Jacqueline Le Gal

Katarina Garrecht

Kara Harder

Elsie Hiebert

Katrina Hiebert

Alecia Kehler

Norma Klassen

Marilyn Martens

Lynn Neufeld

Robyn Oberik

Amanda Peters

Mildred Reimer

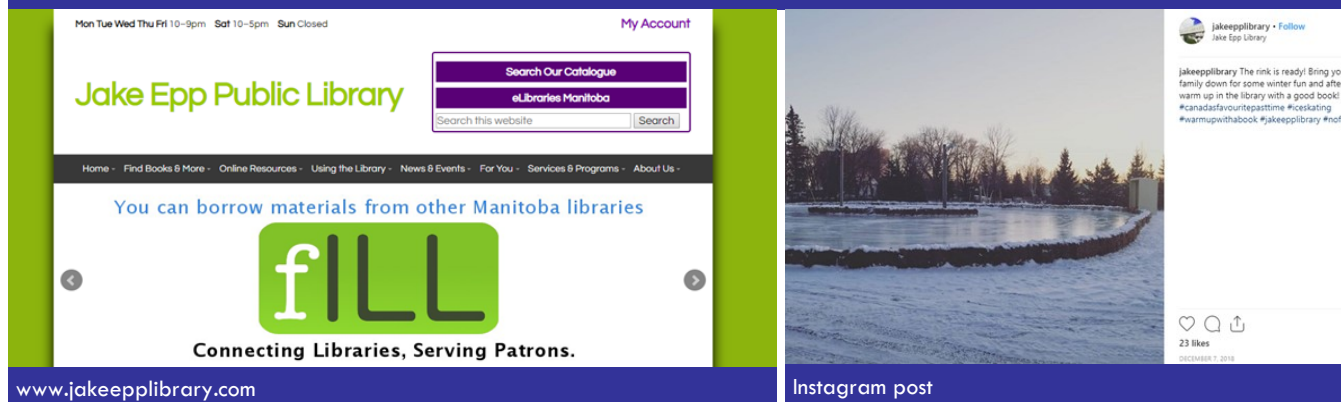
Jill Snider

Pam Toews

### Accountant

Ken Barkman

## Publications & Online Presence



You can currently find us online at our website, our local blog on [steinbachonline.com](http://steinbachonline.com), Facebook, and Instagram, where we post about upcoming events, library anecdotes, book reviews, and much more. Each platform has seen growth throughout the year, and we're pleased with the amount of community engagement generated on our social media accounts. Facebook has grown from 379 followers in 2017 to 440 and Instagram has grown from 194 followers in 2017 and reached 269 followers. Monthly we publish "What's New on the Shelf", a publication stating what new books have hit the library shelves that month.

## News

### New Shelving!

One of the highlights for 2018 was the culmination of two years of efforts from *Friends of the Steinbach Public Library*. The library was in need of shelving for the young adult area. For quite a long time, the entire young adult collection has not been available in the designated young adult area. Rectifying this became a project for our *Friends of the Library* group. In May we excitedly received our shelves and moved our books onto them.

After all the young adults books were moved into their new places, we had shelves that could be re-purposed. The western fiction was given a new home and that gave our science fiction and fantasy collections some needed growth space. We were able to find a more visible spot for our small but growing adult graphic novels. Part of the shelving purchase included one set that would provide better access for our DVDs and the reference section. With this change we were able to provide more space for our large print collection. In conclusion, we would rather not know exactly how many books were moved from here to there, but we were all thrilled with the finished project! We are more grateful than we can say for all the work the *Friends of the Steinbach Public Library* did for this project. Please see their report for further details.



Instagram post about our new shelves waiting to be filled—it didn't take long!



## Programs & Events

### Author Readings

A library continuously celebrates authorship. We provide homes for books written by a vast number of authors who have used their creative writing skills to provide us with a wide variety of stories. Many of the authors are people who have taken the time to create a written record so many readers have access to their information and knowledge. We try to promote authors from our city, surrounding communities, and our province. It is a unique experience to listen to an author share their reasons for writing their book, how they came to write their story, or how they studied their topic and found a way to put it on paper.

Bill Vassilopoulos' *Following the Fire* is his autobiography dealing with his personal struggles with drugs, alcohol, and suicidal thoughts and tendencies. His presentation was quite interesting as it was given in an interview style with Bill's editor.

Canadian Children's Book Centre presented us with the opportunity to host children's author Vikki Van Sickle for an afternoon in May. We partnered with Elmdale School, a local elementary school, for this opportunity to be a field trip for 110 children in grades 2 and 3, accompanied by 7 staff members. Vikki presented her book *If I had a Gryphon*, as well as the idea of mythology and magic, to the children in a charming and funny way. The cost of this event was donated by Canadian Children's Book Centre and their partner, the Adopt-a-School program.

Lenora Buffi presented her book *Vista* and provided an inside look on her writing process, inspiration, and research. *Vista* is a Christian historical fiction novel that took 5 years to write. It has themes of faith, music, and mystery that make it a compelling read.

Our final author of the year was children's author Brad Klassen with his debut children's book *The Greatest Gift*, an adorable adventure about a bear who wants a tree house. The book is filled with beautiful illustrations and the content is enhanced by a good moral.



Vikki VanSickle, TD Canadian Children's Book Week

### Authors and Books

*Following the Fire :*  
Bill Vassilopoulos

*If I Had a Gryphon :*  
Vikki Van Sickle  
(Canadian Children's Book Week)

*Vista :*  
Lenora Buffi

*The Adventures of Junior Bear: The Greatest Gift :*  
Brad Klassen

## Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is a nation-wide celebration of literacy in the home. On this day we invite families to come celebrate and be reminded that literacy really does begin at home. Our event for 2018 was themed “Bedtime Stories” and was held on Saturday, January 27 in the afternoon. We turned our children’s area into one big blanket fort and encouraged everyone (staff included) to come in their PJs. Local author Casia Schreyer read her books *Nelly-Bean and the Adventures of Nibbles* and *Nelly-Bean and the Kid-Eating Garbage Can Monster*. Corny Rempel our local headliner radio host, Corny Rempel also read stories to the kids, using his talent with voices to make them so much fun. To finish off the afternoon, a snack of cookies and milk was served. We are thankful to our sponsor Sobeys for donating the milk and cookies for the



### Families Celebrate Literacy

Category: Local News

Published: Sunday, 28 January 2018 13:42

Written by Rachel Siemens



Children listening to book readings during Family Literacy Day on Saturday.

The Jake Epp Library celebrated Family Literacy Day on Saturday.

Madison Friesen is the library's program coordinator and she says, "Family Literacy Day here in Steinbach actually started about 12 years ago and it was sanctioned by our mayor. It happens every January 27 and it's just a day we celebrate with families, literacy in the home."

Friesen says they decorated the library as a giant blanket fort, dressed in pajamas, had book readings, snacks, and lots of fun.

She adds Thursday is February 1, which kicks off I Love To Read month.

"We actually have a program for I Love To Read month called 'Blind Date With A Book'. It's for adults and children; we

Portion of article from local news site [steinbachonline.com](http://steinbachonline.com)

## Movie Nights

Movies nights can provide a free evening of entertainment for our community. We show a classic movie and a family movie on rotating months. Movie night is the last Friday of each month. Admission is free and everyone in attendance can enjoy a nice treat of popcorn, popped fresh in our movie theatre popcorn machine.

### Family Movies

- \*Ice Age: Collision Course
- \*Norm of the North
- \*Maze Runner
- \*The Scorch Trials
- \*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul
- \*Boss Baby
- \*Wallace & Gromit: The
- \*Curse of the Were-Rabbit

### Classic Movies

- \*Breakfast at Tiffany's
- \*To Catch Thief
- \*Jane Eyre
- \*Anna Karenina
- \*White Christmas

## Recurring Adult Programs



We have several programs that run steadily throughout the year, at which adults are welcome to drop by. Our Knit-Wits group welcomes anyone who does any sort of fibre-crafting to come and work on their project and chat. Knit-wits has a wide range of people from all ages and life experiences with an average attendance of 7 people.

Creativi-Tea Time was a colouring and relaxation time for adults (tea and instrumental music included), but throughout the year attendance dropped off and it was eventually put on hiatus in order to try something new.

Twice monthly we host a Games Day/Night for people of all ages to gather and play games. Our regular attendees range from early teens to people in their 60s and beyond. The most popular games currently are *'Magic: The Gathering'* and chess. Average attendance on Wednesdays is just under 10, and Saturdays average over 10 people per event, though recently we have had a surge in new attendees.

This event typically happens in the classroom and is facilitated by staff member Christopher Desrochers.

We were pleased to introduce to the rotation this year a program called Memory Keeper's Club which began in February of 2018. They meet on the first Tuesday of every month. Each month the participants decide what theme they will prepare for the next meeting. Each member can explore their own life story anecdotes and experiences they write about to share with the others. Each writer has the chance to share their work and gain from the supportive critique of the group.

## Blind Date With A Book

As has become a tradition for us, we implemented the Blind Date With a Book program for I Love To Read Month/ Valentines day. For all of February, we put wrapped books on display, this year with the first sentence on the front to intrigue patrons. Staff decorated many of the books based on that first sentence as well, which made them visually appealing but gave nothing away. Patrons loved the chance to try something a bit different, checking out 155 blind date books throughout the month. They had the chance to rate their date (whether good or bad) and be entered in to win a prize at the end of the month.





## Workshops & Seminars

In the last year, Jake Epp Library has hosted many seminars with the intent to help people improve themselves and their own situations.

The library hosted a Resume Workshop, taught by local HR consultant Eileen Krueger. At this event, Eileen reviewed what to include and what not to include on a resume. Participants were also given examples of formats as well as appropriate cover letters. To end the evening, interviewing for jobs was also discussed. The library hosted this event just before the local job fair, to help people polish their resumes before attending the fair.

A new partnership was also formed this last year with CPAC (Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada), who have created a new program of Financial Literacy workshops. These workshops are 1 hour long and taught by a local CPA volunteer. The purpose of these workshops is to teach finance basics, to help people better understand and take control of their own wealth.

### CPAC Seminars

10 Healthy Habits of Financial Management

Owning Your Financial Future: Managing Debt and Making Credit Work for You

Fraud Protection for Seniors

## Diversity at the Library



Steinbach is growing in diversity every year. Opportunity to reach some of these newcomers arose when Jake Epp Library was approached by two local organizations, Eastman Immigrant Services and South Eastman Filipino Association, to host a specifically Filipino event at the library in January.

The library led a tour to highlight our many resources for families as well as resources specific to newcomers. Eastman Immigrant Services decorated the multi-purpose room with Filipino flags and décor symbolize the coming together of two cultures. A local Filipino bakery called The Flour Connection donated delicious ethnic treats, and there were stories read in both English and Tagalog. To end the event, each child in attendance was able to go home with a book donated by Eastman Immigrant Services. All in all, this was a great event!

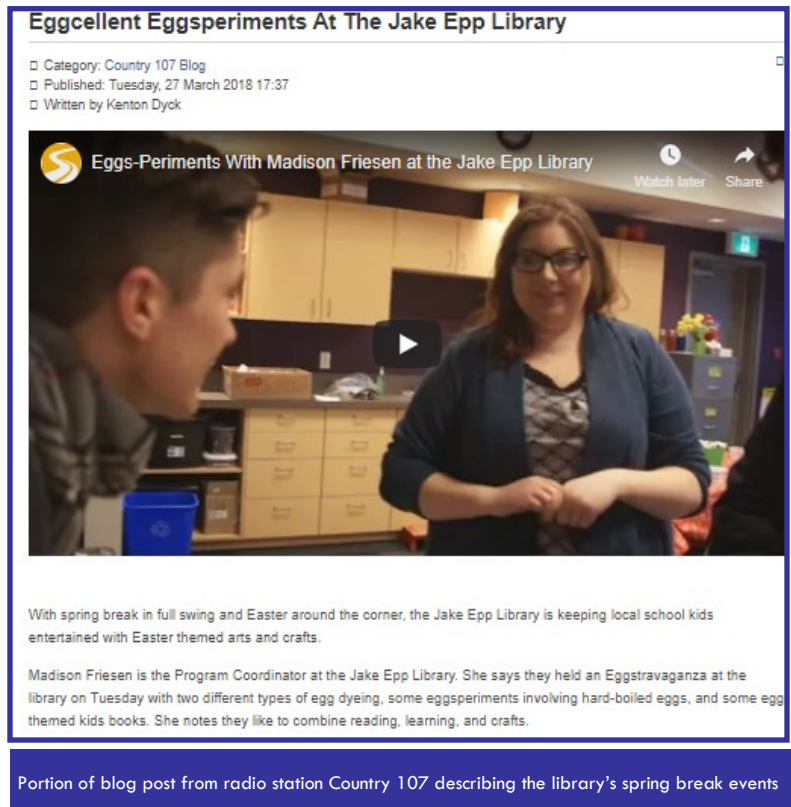
In October, Jake Epp Library partnered once again with Eastman Immigrant Services to welcome newcomers to our community. Jake Epp Library hosted an Autumn Kids' Craft Day that was attended by familiar child patrons as well as newcomer children who are clients of Eastman Immigrant Services. In total there were 15 children in attendance speaking 6 different languages, and 2 translators from EIS. The children created multi-media paintings of a tree in autumn and had a great time. We also read *We Are Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger.

Interactions and event opportunities for newcomers are very important as many immigrants come from places where libraries are only accessible to those who are relatively wealthy. These partnerships allow us to open doors that our newcomers have never had open to them in the past, and it also allows us to embrace our growing and diverse community.



## Spring Break

Spring Break is always a busy week at Jake Epp Library, particularly because the children are out of school. We are always sure to plan a few events for families and kids to enjoy. This year we hosted a young adult movie marathon featuring the first two movies of the Maze Runner franchise: *Maze Runner* and *The Scorch Trials*. We are thrilled to say that there were a total of 8 young people who attended and enjoyed the event. There was a \$3.00 charge if the teens wanted to partake in the pizza lunch that was offered, though popcorn, drinks, and candy were free with the event. This was a successful teen event that will be repeated. We also hosted a craft day for kids because this has become a standard favourite for spring break. Our theme this year was *Easter Eggstravaganza*. We read *The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett, and did egg themed science experiments such as Egg in a Bottle and Disappearing Egg Shell. We also decorated eggs in 2 ways: shaving cream painting as well as vinegar food colouring. 10 children attended the craft class. There was lots of laughs, plenty of mess, but it was a fun and great event.



## NaNoWriMo

NaNoWriMo is a month long event created for authors, both new and experienced. **National Novel Writing Month** has adopted November to challenge all authors and would-be authors to write 50,000 words during the month. The library provides a variety of events to inspire and assist authors as they attempt to reach their goal.

The library hosts several NaNoWriMo events during November. This year we saw our author base grow, as a few younger authors took up the challenge. Our youngest participant was twelve years old, and had a great time interacting with fellow authors throughout the month. We host a kick-off to get writers excited and inspired (with 32 people in attendance in 2018). After the kick-off, we host multiple write-ins where authors can come to find a quiet space to sit and write, as well as a space to connect with fellow authors. At the end of the month a “Thank the Writing Gods its Over” party was held for all who made the attempt. We love to see this creativity happen in our library, and will encourage people to come back for this event in years to come.

## T.A.I.L.S. (Therapy Animals Involved with Literacy Skills)

In September, Jake Epp Library partnered with St. John Ambulance to run an exciting new pilot program called T.A.I.L.S. (Therapy Animals Involved with Literacy Skills). T.A.I.L.S. is a free, canine-assisted program for children who are experiencing difficulties with reading. It is designed to motivate and build confidence in a low-stress environment. St. John Ambulance has provided the library with a therapy dog and handler team for 1 hour every Tuesday, with space available for 3 children in every 10 week session. The handler works with the children on their reading skills every week for 20 minutes each.

Books are chosen by library staff, using mostly leveled readers that are the equivalent of the school reading level of each child.

The improvement and love of reading that has grown in these children is remarkable. This is a rewarding program that is loved by library staff and participants alike.



### Goals of T.A.I.L.S.

To reduce stress and anxiety when reading aloud

To increase interest in reading

To celebrate progress in reading aloud

To improve word recognition and reading fluency

To provide children with an opportunity for positive relationship with an encouraging adult and a dog

## Christmas Carol Performance



We were so fortunate to arrange a production performance of “*A Christmas Carol*” performed by John Huston, a professional Canadian actor based in Toronto. The show is a one-man production of Charles Dickens’ timeless Christmas story. Huston travels across Western Canada each year presenting his show in a variety of venues. This is the second time we have been privileged to host him in our multi-purpose room. We have some talented staff members who provided a Dickensian backdrop, and Huston dressed just as Charles Dickens would have as the author told his story to audiences in his day. Huston narrate the story from memory and presents each character with their own voice and facial characteristics. The humour is broad and had our audience laughing out loud, and the gentle emotions tugged our hearts. As our audience walked out at the conclusion of the standing ovation, their comments included the words “amazing”, “realistic”, and “fabulous”. We hope to host this wonderful event again.

## Summer Reading Club

Once again the library staff banded together to tackle the wonderfully enormous task of summer activities and the expectation of an increase in circulation during the summer months.

This year once again proved that Summer Reading Club is a huge event for us and one of our favourite things that we do every year. The theme was **Feed Your Passions!**, and it was all about using books as a source of inspiration for imagination, and being care-free and wild. We delved into this concept by fleshing out 7 thematic weeks based on different aspects of hobbies and areas of interest for the children. An optional part of the reading club was craft classes, which highlighted the weekly themes. In order to involve as many children as possible, sessions for kindergarten to grade 3 were held weekly Monday to Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and grades 4 to 8 classes were held weekly on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

There was also one *Crafts & Laughs* family night planned as an evening for parents to come with their children and spend time together. The evening allowed families to create homemade kites.



Having fun at science night

This year we also held a science night, an evening program where we walked the attendees through experiments and the science concepts behind them. This was a well-received addition to our programming. We repeated our book club format program called Reading Circle. Every week on Thursday afternoons, children could come and colour while we read to them. We then did a small craft that was on-topic with what we read that week. By the end of the summer we read entirely through the book *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. To end the summer, as a reward, we watched the movie adaptation and ate candy and popcorn.

## Weekly Themes

### Sound Bytes

K-4: Craft - Spin Drum

4-8: Craft - Craft Stick Harmonica

Experiments: Balloon Speakers, Water Xylaphone

### The Natural World

K-4: Craft - Coffee Filter Peacock

4-8: Craft - Pipe Cleaner Chameleon

Experiments: How Do Animals Stay Warm?, How Do Penguins Stay Dry?

### Artists in the Making

K-4: Craft - Van Gogh Plastic Fork Paintings

4-8: Craft - Picasso Face Masks

Experiment: Jelly Bean Rainbow

### Having a Ball!

K-4: Craft - Paper Footballs

4-8: Craft - No-sew Felt Footballs

Game: Capture the Flag

### Bon Voyage!

K-4: Craft - Paper Plate Masai Necklaces

4-8: Craft - Chinese Dragon Puppets

Demo: Rice Krispies Sushi

### Eureka! Science Week

K-8: Experiments: Tea Ghost, Fire Snake, Carbon Dioxide Cup, Easter Egg Rockets

### Waffle Fun

K-8: Demo: Waffle Pizza Pops



## Summer Reading Club (continued)



Wind Up Party: Ryan Price performs magic

Every year, we partner with Steinbach Arts Council, to host a weekly field trip for their daycampers. There was an average of 30 children per weekly session. This year, we focused on story time. We also had the opportunity to teach the daycampers about our different collection types and how to use our library. Daycamp field trips are a connection point for our community. Not only are

we building relationships with children that may not otherwise come to the library, we are also strengthening a relationship with our local Arts Council in working together to help shape the next generation. It is important for our library to be known in the community and to have a presence that is not just associated with the books that are on our shelves. For the summer months, we offered a weekly Thursday evening movie which were chosen to appeal to children and encourage family time spent together. A bag of popcorn was always included.

Reading for our program was done at home and for each weekly reading log completed (150 minutes) the child would be entered into a weekly draw to win a prize. There were a variety of weekly prizes given away such as action figures, movie prize packs, Lego, books, etc. Every child that signed up for the Reading Club and participated in reading all seven weeks of reading were offered a free book and had their name included in a draw for several prizes. The grand prize was a Nintendo Switch with a game, and there were several other prizes to be won such as a Janzen's Paint, Decorating (as seen in sponsor list to the left) gift cards, and book prize packs.

### Summer Reading Club Sponsors

Unger Meats

Valeant Pharmaceuticals

Janzen's Paint and Decorating

Trucks Unlimited

Scholastic

United Library Services

Good 'N' Natural

Canadian Tire

We had a total of 655 children who signed up. During the seven weeks of the reading program a weekly average of 6,745 children's books were checked out, for a total of 47,221 juvenile, easy and young adult books checked out. It is very encouraging for us to realize that the children in our community spend time reading and using their imaginations during the summer months.

The wind-up party was held the week after the reading was completed and a return visit from magician Ryan Price was the highlight of the day. Mr. Price always makes sure that his presentation includes the importance of reading. His show is always a hit with children and parents alike. Following the magic show and prize distribution, everyone was welcomed to a hot dog lunch sponsored by Unger Meats and cooked by volunteers, Nathan and Nicole Schettler.

### Summer Movies

Trolls

The Lego Ninjago Movie

Ferdinand

Sherlock Gnomes

Despicable Me 3

Ballerina

Charlotte's Web

How to Train Your Dragon 2

## Preschool Programs



For many years we have offered programming for the early childhood years that encourages bonding time between parent and child and promotes the beginning of literacy in the home with young children. This year Mrs. G took over as the early childhood program facilitator.

Toddler & Me is meant for little ones aged 12 months up to 3 years. This program involves many activities that engage the interaction of parent with child, including reading together and crafts that stimulate the development of fine motor skills. It also instills the start of literacy through interactive rhymes and finger plays with fun words and actions. Story time often includes a selection from one of our

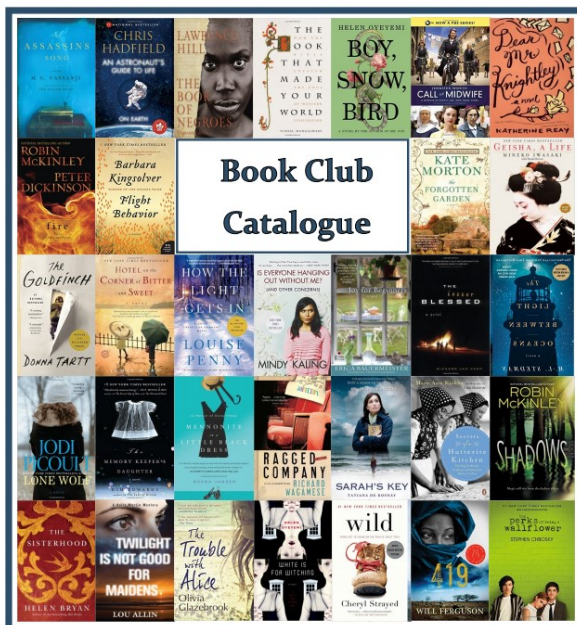
board book sets that have enough copies for each parent and child to follow along with the story and all of the hands-on activities.

For children aged 3 to 5 years, Story Hour offers a fun environment with new stories to read every week, as well as a craft and a snack, helping to encourage the continuation of literacy during the session and at home. Tips are also offered for parenting and kindergarten preparation.

In both programs, Mrs. G always has fun things up her sleeve, and many of the activities and things that are learned can be repeated at home. She also is sure to introduce parents to the many resources available to them through the library.



## Book Clubs



Jake Epp Library has long been a supporter of book clubs by providing resources for local groups. The library has a total of 43 kits for book clubs to use. A kit consists of 5 to 7 copies of a book as well as a packet that includes an author biography, book reviews and questions to help facilitate discussion. Jake Epp Library is currently affiliated with 5 local book clubs.

This year, the library expanded its outreach by lending our kits to other libraries to share resources and support more book clubs. Some of the libraries that we have partnered with are: Pauline Johnson Public (Lundar, MB), Morris Public, Jolys Regional Public (St. Pierre and St. Malo Branches), Bibliotheque Allard Library (St. George, MB) and others. It is exciting to watch this co-operative

grow as many of these libraries are also building their own kits to share with the collective, giving our patrons more options as well.

# Partnerships and Collaboration

## Community Collaboration

Working together with other organizations for the good of our community is something that Jake Epp Library strives to do. One of our ongoing partnerships is with Steinbach Family Resource Center. Our program coordinator, Madison, is invited 2-3 times per year to speak in their parent-child play groups about the importance of literacy at a young age, how the library can help, and simple ways that parents can support their child's literacy. Madison was also invited this year to participate in the Family Resource Center Pre-Kindergarten Graduations, in April and in October as the "commencement speaker". This speech entailed a reading *We Share Everything* by Robert Munsch, a book that focuses on two children's first day of Kindergarten. In December, Madison was also given the opportunity to be the story reader at the FRC Christmas Party, in which she read *Pig the Elf* by Aaron Blabey.



Carolyn Graham (Library Director), Vicki Olatundun (former Director of Steinbach Family Resource Center) and Madison Reddekop (Programs Coordinator)

Another local organization that Jake Epp Library partners with is Steinbach Arts Council. During the summer months we host their Arts Daycamp for weekly field trips. Twice a year, in fall and in spring, we also host pre-kindergarten Arts 4 Tots for a tour of the library and to teach the children how to check out their books. There is a story time to follow as well as one of several fun games that are adapted for a quieter library setting such as "Book...Book...Read!" or "What time is it, Mrs. Librarian?"

Collaborations with other local organizations allow us to have an outreach to people that we may not normally come into contact with. We have the opportunity to build relationships with children and encourage their growth in literacy. With these organizations as well as others, such as Eastman Immigrant Services (as mentioned previously), we are thankful that we can work together for the good of our community.

## SEELS



South Eastman English and Literacy Services, Inc. helps learners improve their reading, writing and/or math skills for personal use, further education and work. The learners' work in reading and writing is based on completing stages. A final Stage 3 is equivalent to a Grade 10 entry English class in the public school system. Instruction, class discussions and individual interests are part of the classroom dynamics. Math classes can prepare learners for a Grade 10 Math class. Computer basic skill classes provide the technical knowledge needed to complete tasks in the other classes. We greatly appreciate the classroom space, flexibility of time and friendly and helpful staff at the library.

Submitted by Val Zacharias, Director: South Eastman English & Literacy Services



## **Friends of the Steinbach Public Library**

Friends of the Steinbach Public Library is a registered charitable corporation whose aim is to support the well-being of the Jake Epp Library and to foster literacy amongst residents of SE Manitoba. By maintaining our registered status with the Canada Revenue Agency, we are authorized to issue charitable receipts that donors may subsequently claim as a deduction on their income tax returns. Donations in excess of \$200 will generate a federal tax credit of 29% of the amount of the gift. Following a two year funding campaign, Friends of the Library was able to purchase new shelving units. These shelving assemblies make better use of our limited space, thereby, facilitating easier patron access to our collection. Total cost for acquisition and installation was approximately \$11K.

Overall, the Jake Epp Library has experienced increased funding shortfalls. Grant applications have not successfully supported new programmes nor infrastructure. New book acquisitions have been curtailed by price increases greater than the national cost price index (CPI). Unforeseen expenses, such as insurance deductibles and new staff training, have placed further pressure upon the budget. Gifts to the Jake Epp Library are critical to the success of many of the programmes. In the summer of 2018, for example, gifts from both corporate and individual donors ensured an outstanding record breaking summer reading programme. The summer reading programme encourages grade school children to read throughout the summer, thereby, maintaining their literacy levels and avoiding a summer slump in skills and vocabulary.

A final summary: despite generous public funding, many necessities, such as shelving and summer intern employment depend upon charitable giving from private individuals and local businesses. To our generous sponsors and donors, we sincerely thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

R.J Bond, Corporate Secretary, Friends of the Steinbach Public Library

## **Toastmasters**

The Carillon Toastmasters Club 3406 appreciates the opportunity to meet at a non-intimidating place to do something *very* intimidating! For several years 10 to 20 people of all ages (over 18) have met at the library in an effort to improve their communication skills, their leadership skills, and their self confidence.

There is quite a turnover in membership as members gradually achieve their goals and go on to become the leaders in the community. Good communicators are always in big demand everywhere! Ralph Smedley, the founder of Toastmasters International felt that people learn best while having fun, therefore having fun is one of our top priorities. The Toastmaster program has a proven track record since 1924. There are now at least 16,000 clubs in 141 countries all over the world. The Carillon Club has existed for 40 years. The club is planning a celebration to include the public later this year. Guests and new members are always welcome every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. More information is available at [carillon.toastmastersclubs.org](http://carillon.toastmastersclubs.org). Hopefully we can continue enjoying the comforts of the multi-purpose room and the wonderful dispositions of the library personnel for years to come!

Submitted by: Irene Toews, Vice President, Membership

## Statistics & Finances

### Circulation Statistics

|   | 2017           | 2018           | Physical Items Checked Out Per Month |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Print Materials</b>  |                |                |                                      |
| Adult Fiction   | 53,600         | 54,528         |                                      |
| Adult Non-fiction   | 15,378         | 15,638         |                                      |
| Magazines (Adult & Children)  | 9,362          | 8,393          | January—18,554                       |
| Literacy Materials  | 91             | 98             |                                      |
| Young Adult Fiction   | 13,679         | 13,874         | February—17,097                      |
| Young Adult Non-fiction   | 1,141          | 829            |                                      |
| Juvenile Fiction  | 67,152         | 72,435         | March—19,387                         |
| Juvenile Non-fiction  | 10,533         | 10,086         |                                      |
| Early Years   | 47,759         | 44,986         | April—18,186                         |
| Miscellaneous   | 17             | 10             |                                      |
| German  | 449            | 659            | May—17,979                           |
| Large Print   | 4,351          | 4,760          |                                      |
| <b>Non-Print Materials</b>  |                |                |                                      |
| Audio Books   | 7,937          | 7,237          | June—21,104                          |
| Digital Viewing Devices   | 3,319          | 3,041          |                                      |
| Railia (Story Sacks)  | 116            | 139            | July—30,420                          |
| eLibraries Manitoba (Digital Books)   | 19,632         | 26,919         |                                      |
| <b>Total Circulation</b>  | <b>254,516</b> | <b>263,632</b> | August—26,865                        |
|   |                |                | September—18,572                     |
| <b>Inter-Library Loans</b>  |                |                |                                      |
| Borrowed Books  | 842            | 840            | October—18,589                       |
| Books Lent  | 1,164          | 1,256          |                                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2,006</b>   | <b>2,096</b>   | November—18,181                      |
|   |                |                | December—14,639                      |
| <b>Cardholders</b> (2018 stats reflect current-ly active, not total as in 2017) | Total Patrons  | Active Patrons |                                      |
| Steinbach   | 12,572         | 4,905          |                                      |
| Non-Resident  | 5,038          | 1,166          |                                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>17,610</b>  | <b>6,071</b>   |                                      |

## Statistics & Finances

### Library Holdings

#### Most Circulated Adult Books 2018

The Great Alone -Kristin Hannah (28x)

End Game -David Baldacci (23x)

Oath of Honor -Lynette Eason (23x)

The Midnight Line - Lee Child (23x)

The Rooster Bar -John Gri-sham (22x)

A Bridge Across the Ocean -Susan Meissner (21x)

Fall From Grace -Danielle Steel (21x)

The Romanov Ransom - Clive Cussler (21x)

The View from Rainshadow Bay - Colleen Coble (21x)

The Wanted -Robert Crais (21x)

You're Gonna Love Me - Robin Lee Hatcher (21x)

#### Most Circulated Book

Garfield Pigs Out (2 cop-ies) (45x)

|                             | 2017          | 2018          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Print Materials</b>      |               |               |
| Adult Fiction               | 25,407        | 25,841        |
| Adult Non-fiction           | 15,213        | 15,068        |
| Magazines subscriptions     | 77            | 78            |
| Literacy Materials          | 334           | 339           |
| Young Adult Fiction         | 4,947         | 5,044         |
| Young Adult Non-fiction     | 1,092         | 1,098         |
| Juvenile Fiction            | 11,387        | 11,017        |
| Juvenile Non-fiction        | 3,990         | 3,659         |
| Early Years                 | 8,114         | 8,175         |
| German                      | 595           | 601           |
| Large Print                 | 2,006         | 2,045         |
| Reference (non-circulating) | 45            | 86            |
| Subtotal                    | 73,207        | 73,051        |
| <b>Non-Print Materials</b>  |               |               |
| Audio Resources             | 2,643         | 2,706         |
| Digital Viewing Devices     | 1,490         | 1,517         |
| Railia (Story Sacks)        | 61            | 61            |
| Miscellaneous               | 7             | 7             |
| Subtotal                    | 4,201         | 4,291         |
| <b>Total Holdings</b>       | <b>77,408</b> | <b>77,342</b> |



# Statistics & Finances

## Financial Information

| Income                       |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Province of Manitoba         | 140,046.50        |
| Provincial Technology Grant  | 5,178.91          |
| City of Steinbach            | 323,856.08        |
| RM of Hanover                | 3,400.00          |
| Friends of the Library       | 11,917.00         |
| Interest Income              | 1,310.42          |
| Non-Budgeted Revenue         | 10,152.92         |
| Fines                        | 9,120.84          |
| DVD Rental                   | 2,504.13          |
| Miscellaneous Income         | 2,634.06          |
| Copier & Printer Fees        | 4,937.15          |
| Book Sales                   | 76.50             |
| Lost & Damaged Fees          | 1,103.35          |
| Program Fees                 | 542.00            |
| Donations                    | 91.45             |
| Room Rentals                 | 7,535.00          |
| Internet Fees                | 5,294.20          |
| Non-Resident Membership Fees | 43,735.00         |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>         | <b>573,435.51</b> |

| Expenses                     |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Capital Expenses</b>      |                   |
| Acquisitions                 | 35,581.71         |
| Furniture & Fixtures         | 14,155.44         |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>    |                   |
| Acquisition Processing       | 560.32            |
| Advertising & Promotion      | 722.00            |
| Accounting                   | 7,057.50          |
| Computer Hardware & Software | 3,034.84          |
| Contract Maintenance         | 14,258.14         |
| Education & Conferences      | 752.50            |
| Internet Expense             | 1,553.25          |
| Janitorial                   | 17,345.43         |
| Library Supplies             | 11,412.69         |
| Postage                      | 1,435.05          |
| Memberships                  | 485.54            |
| Miscellaneous                | 2,553.94          |
| Programs                     | 10,087.17         |
| Rent                         | 140,000.00        |
| Travel                       | 526.79            |
| Telephone                    | 3,549.94          |
| Yard & Building Maintenance  | 2,980.00          |
| Cash Register Discrepancy    | 31.85             |
| Bank Fees                    | 1,019.51          |
| Wages & Benefits             | 295,976.36        |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>    | <b>565,079.97</b> |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>           | <b>8,355.54</b>   |

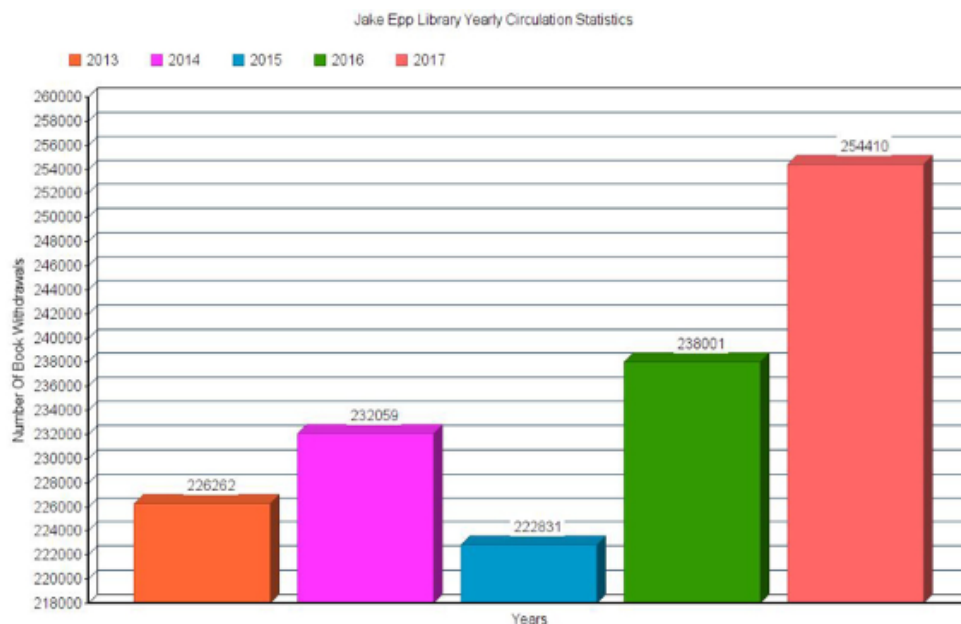
# Thank You!

## Books Aren't Going Out Of Style At Jake Epp Library

Category: Local News

Published: Tuesday, 23 January 2018 05:17

Written by Rachel Siemens



Yearly circulation stats from 2013 to 2017.

Almost 20,000 more books were checked out of the Jake Epp Library in 2017 compared to 2016. According to yearly circulation statistics from the library, in 2016 there were 238,001 books checked out compared to 254,410 in 2017.

Head librarian Carolyn Graham says she's heard books are going out of style but after looking at statistics she knows books are still being read. Graham adds the summer months have shown a 5,000 to 15,000 increase in book checkouts due to the summer reading program.

"Last year we had 700 children register for that and they have obviously read up a storm. The children have read so many books and that is so wonderful because it helps them to maintain their reading levels over the summer."

Graham says reading is just about the only way we access information.

"We do listen to a lot but reading posters, reading newspapers, reading magazines, reading textbooks when you're a student to study. If your reading skills are not optimal it's harder to learn, it's hard to make information part of your life. So, reading skills are so terribly important and I think they always will be."

In 2015 the number of books checked out decreased by 10,000 from the year previous. Graham says, "we do have a bit of a suspicion because we had raised our fines a fair bit, it really impacted the families. So, when we reviewed that and we dropped our fines and made them a more approachable thing, I think that's really, largely, the result there."

She adds e-books are not taking off the way everyone thought, but they are seeing an increase in the number checked out from the library each year.

Graham says the Jake Epp Library has just over 80,000 books and acquires approximately 2,500 new books each year.

Steinbachonline article, another great source of support in our community, willing to spread the word about us and what we do here

Thank you, again, to a community that continually shows us its support! We wouldn't be here without you. Through your patronage, financial support, interest in our books and services, volunteered time, willingness to spread the word about us, and so much more, you help us keep going strong every year. Happy reading!

## Contact Us

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