



Annual Report 2016

**Prepared by Lac du Bonnet Library Staff
2017 April**

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Mission Statement

The Lac du Bonnet Regional Library is the focal point in our community for formal and informal association with information and ideas. Resources that inform, educate, develop, and enrich the lives of all are provided through services, programs, and access to information technology.

Board Members

Town of Lac du Bonnet

Christine Argyle
Beverley Richmond
Steva Becker
Ken Lodge

Vice-Chairperson (Member-at-Large)
Treasurer (Member-at-Large) (January only)
Treasurer (Member-at-Large) (March-December)
Council Representative

RM of Lac du Bonnet

Janice Walker
Cathie Brereton
Doug Marks
Loren Schinkel

Chairperson (Member-at-Large)
Secretary (Member-at-Large)
Council Representative (January-August)
Council Representative (September-December)

Staff Members

Head Librarian
Public Services Coordinator
Events Coordinator

Library Clerk

Janitor
Assistant Clerks

Summer Reading Program
Co-ordinator

Vickie Short
Janice Hoffman
Joanna Sokal (January-September)
Michelle Grimmelt (October-December)
Michelle Grimmelt (January-April)
Kathy Tomm (May-December)
Michelle Grimmelt, Donna Kovari
Ashley Dufault
Kathleen Harland (January-June)
Marina Milne (September-December)
Marina Milne

Visit www.lacdubonnetlibrary.ca for information on Online Access, Services, Library Corner, Events, What's New, Staff, Careers, Policy, Board Minutes and Financial/Annual Reports.

Fully-automated library services are offered to all residents of:

Town of Lac du Bonnet
Population: 1089

RM of Lac du Bonnet
Population: 3121

(Population based on 2016 Revised Census).

Your Information Services Headquarters....

Fiction and Non-Fiction for all ages!	Reference Material
Magazines	Videos/DVDs
Public Access Computers/Early Literacy Station	Internet and Wireless Access
Large Print Books	Audio Books
Photocopying/Faxes	Interlibrary Loans (fILL)
Good as New Book Sales	Summer Reading Program
2 nd Hand Sales (Books, Magazines, and Movies)	eLibraries Manitoba, EBSCOhost,
Special Events	NNELS*, and Global Road Warrior
Disc Cleaning/Repair	Travel Database Access
Library Catalogue Home Access for Catalogue searches, reserves and circulation renewals (as well as special features such as recommendations and wish list).	

*NNELS – National Network for Equitable Library Service.

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday and Monday – Closed

Tuesday:	10:30 am – 8:00 pm
Wednesday:	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Thursday:	10:30 am – 8:00 pm
Friday:	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday:	10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Interlibrary Loans – Can't find a book you are looking for? We can often find it at another library. This service is free within Manitoba and occasionally we are charged a small fee by some out-of-province libraries. This charge is passed on to the patron. We also have many requests from other libraries for interlibrary loans.

The Year in Review...

We had a few staff changes during the year. Joanna Sokal left us in September and Michelle Grimmelt took over the Events Coordinator position in October. Kathy Tomm returned in May to fill the vacant clerk position. Donna Kovari was hired to take over the janitorial contract from Michelle. Marina Milne was hired as our new Summer Reading Program Coordinator for July and August, and filled the vacant Assistant Clerk position when Kathleen Harland moved to Winnipeg to attend University in September.



Vickie Short
Head Librarian



Janice Hoffman
Public Services
Coordinator



Joanna Sokal
Events Coordinator
(Jan.-Sept.)



Michelle Grimmelt
Clerk (Jan.- Apr.)
Events Coordinator
(Oct.-Dec.)



Kathy Tomm
Clerk (May-Dec.)



Ashley Dufault



Kathleen Harland
-----Assistant Clerks -----



Marina Milne
&
Summer Reading
Program Coordinator

There were also a few changes to our Library Board this year. Janice Walker stepped down at the end of her term. Beverley Richmond stepped down as Treasurer and Steva Becker joined the Board in March as Treasurer and Town member-at-large. Doug Marks served as RM Council Representative from January to August with Loren Schinkel taking over in September.

Family Literacy Day is celebrated across Canada annually on January 27th. On January 26th, the Library hosted a very special “Family Literacy Night.” We were also celebrating an anniversary. Twenty-five years at our current location (see Appendix).

Since February was “I Love to Read Month,” each visit to the Library entitled our patrons and visitors to an entry for one of our book draws. Winners of the book draws were Karen Meyers, Victoria Luckhart, Grace Kost, John Barnard, Tara Tyles, Janice Halliday, Gloria Barnard, Jennifer Pinto, Mason C. and Courtney S.

Thursday morning Preschool Storytime ran through February and March, but unfortunately due to very low attendance had to be cancelled (see Appendix).

During Spring Break, the Library hosted “Spring into the Library.” From March 29th through March 31st, local and visiting children joined us for stories, crafts and refreshments.

April 11th, RBC Staff members Coreen Pusiewich, Kim Tompkin, Richard Cure and Linda Davidow through their RBC Volunteer Hours program assisted Vickie Short, and Rick and Cathie Brereton with the re-organization of our storage areas. Along with the helping hands, they presented the Library with a cheque for \$1000.00.

The Lac du Bonnet Regional Library, along with co-host Winnipeg River Arts Council (WRAC) hosted our 4th Annual “Celebrating Stories” on Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at 7.00 p.m. Writer/Journalist Arlene Davidson, Author Helen Kish Hastman and Singer/Songwriter Shannon Shewchuk were our special guests for the evening (see Appendix).

The Annual Spring Tea for Volunteers and Library friends was held April 29th, 2016. The Library Staff and Board like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and library patrons for all their support during the year.

We continued to work closely with the schools to provide books and interlibrary loans to the teachers and students for special projects. As part of the pre-school networking committee that is ongoing throughout the year, Joanna Sokal participated in a day-long event called “Ready, Set, Grow” an information session making parents of young children aware of what the School and the Library have to offer.

The Interlake Eastern Suicide Prevention Committee’s mission is to support initiatives that are designed to prevent the occurrence of suicide by promoting mental well-being and encouraging help-seeking behaviours through awareness and education activities/resources. To this end, the Committee graciously donated four books to our Library.

In conjunction with Centennial School’s “Artists off the Avenue” program, on June 16th, the Library hosted the artists from Centennial School’s Grades 5 & 6 classes. The students from Mrs. Hodgson’s and Mr. Gow’s classes, led by Talent Development Co-ordinator, Stephen Smith, wrote, illustrated, and displayed their art at the Library.

During the month of June, our volunteers “came to the rescue” again at Mrs. Lucci’s, earning the Library another \$500.00 in volunteer hours.

The Summer Reading Program ran from July 5th to August 18th. This year the program theme was “Wild!” Marina Milne was hired as the Summer Reading Program Coordinator. Thank you to Marina for a job well-done. We concluded the Summer Program with a windup held at the Community Centre. Approximately 120 people attended the Prairie Exotics exhibit, with refreshments served at the Library after the event. A partnership between The Lac du Bonnet Library, The Lac du Bonnet Children’s Centre, and The Winnipeg River Recreation District provided the funding for the windup.

In August, Lac du Bonnet Library launched the new Website with features such as a Calendar of Events, Database Listings, Local Links, Local History and a Contact Us page.

The Annual Fall Supper was held on September 10th at the Legion Hall. Royal Canadian Legion Branch #164 generously donated the Hall and our Legion comrades and the Ladies Auxiliary prepared the meal.

Wednesday September 21st, 2016, the Library hosted an **Understanding Fraud** seminar with approximately 20 people in attendance. Presenters were Len Terlinski, an Investigator from the Manitoba Securities Commission; Silvana Buccini, Consumer Services Officer, Consumer Protection Division, Department of Justice; and Maureen Schatkowsky, our local Canada Post representative.

Lac du Bonnet Library hosted “Pyjama Storytime” on November 24th with Michelle Grimmelt at the helm as the new Events Coordinator (see Appendix).

This was another successful year for the magazine sponsorship program. Library friends and local business sponsors are responsible for the existence of at least half our magazine collection.

The Library Boardroom has continued to be used on a regular basis throughout the year by local groups such as: the Lac du Bonnet Food Bank; the Winnipeg River Arts Council; the Alzheimer’s Group; the Parkinson’s Group; the Winnipeg River Recreation District held Beginner French classes; author mentoring classes with Donna Besel; and by various students writing exams for courses being taken that require a Proctor.

Our appreciation is once again extended to the Town of Lac du Bonnet and the RM of Lac du Bonnet for their continued support; and to the RM of Alexander for continuing to compensate the Lac du Bonnet Library for services provided to residents of their municipality residing in the Bird River area. Total funding from the RM of Alexander for 2016 was \$3,090.00.

In 2016, funding received from the Province, the RM and the Town amounted to \$96,478.21. In addition, we received \$3,774.51 as our share of a Rural Library Technological Sustainability Grant; and from the Federal Government, a Canada Summer Jobs Student Grant of \$2,640.00 that assisted in funding the Summer Reading Program Coordinator position. The Lac du Bonnet Charitable Foundation generously donated \$3,000.00 toward the purchase of

a new AWE Early Literacy Station, as our previous model retired itself after ten years of good service to our young patrons (see Appendix).

Training and Development...

- Head Librarian, Vickie Short attended an Age-Friendly Resource Meeting in January, hosted by Louise Hutton and Connie Newman, representatives from the Age-Friendly Manitoba Resource Team and Pat Porth, representative from Two Rivers Seniors' Services. The purpose of this meeting was to share resource ideas for enhancing senior services in the Whitemouth, Pinawa, Seven Sisters and Lac du Bonnet areas.
- In February, Vickie, Janice, Joanna, and Michelle participated in Lib-Press Website training provided by B.C. Libraries Cooperative to better enable our staff to manage the content of our new website in-house.
- Janice Hoffman attended a training session on Destiny ILS Reporting in April at the Gaynor Family Regional Library.
- Joanna Sokal and Vickie Short attended the Manitoba Library Association (MLA) Conference held in May.
- Vickie Short and Kathy Tomm attended a 2-day Mental Health First-Aid Course at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Special Events...

On January 26th 2016, along with all the fun and games during Family Literacy Night, we celebrated our **25th Anniversary** (25 years at our current location). It was great to see so many board and staff members from days gone by.



Head Librarian Vickie Short started the evening off with introductions, and recognition to staff and board members past and present, while Past Board Member John Barnard gave us a little history on the efforts of so many, especially Roz and Dick Burt in making this library a reality 25 years ago.



Board Chairperson Janice Walker and Librarian Vickie Short accepted a plaque from Lac du Bonnet MLA, Wayne Ewasko commemorating our 25th anniversary. Councillors Frank Terra and Ken Lodge were kind enough to say a few words on behalf of the Rural Municipality, and the Town of Lac du Bonnet.



Denise Weir, Regional Library Consultant, Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage, Public Library Services Branch; Town Councillor, Ken Lodge and Public Services Coordinator, Janice Hoffman all lend a hand in preparations for the evening. A huge round of applause from the entire audience “young, old, and everyone in between” was given to the Janzen Boys for capping off a great evening with their superb musical talents.

A special thank you is extended to our volunteers Pat Terra, Cathie Brereton, Cheryl Zawislak and Melissa Miler for their invaluable assistance throughout the evening. Lucky book draw winners: James T., John and Jerald V., Hudson S., Saffiya R., Grayson M., Lily and Makenna N., Jenn Stewart, Jen Smithson, Teresa Usackis, Beverley Richmond, Lynn Carter, Frank Terra and Cathie Brereton. To celebrate our big day, Wendy Lamb of Skylight Books graciously donated the books for the draws; Board and Staff members provided the refreshments. Thank you all so much for your generosity.



Thirteen children, their parents, staff and volunteers played Libraryland, Library Yahtzee and Scategories (with questions related to books or literary characters) at the Family Literacy portion of the evening. A great time was had by all.

During Spring Break, the Library hosted “**Spring into the Library**”. From March 29th to March 31st, local and visiting children participated in the 3-day program.



Assisted by our very much appreciated student volunteers Erin, Carissa, Payden, Vannessa and Arianna, the children read stories, made crafts for Easter, and later on relaxed with a small snack.

The Library hosted “**Celebrating Stories**” on Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.; featuring Author Helen Kish Hastman, Writer/Journalist Arlene Davidson, and Singer/Songwriter Shannon Shewchuk..



Arlene Davidson Shannon Shewchuk Helen Kish Hastman

The **Annual Spring Tea** for Volunteers and Library Friends was held April 29th, 2016. We hope that the forty-four volunteers and guests enjoyed the Annual Spring Tea as much as we enjoyed being able to show our heartfelt appreciation for all that our Library friends do for us throughout the year.



*Volunteers, patrons and friends join Library Board Members and Staff
for a most enjoyable afternoon.*

In conjunction with Centennial School's "*Artists off the Avenue*" program, on June 16th, the Library hosted the artists from Centennial School's Grades 5 & 6 classes.



Students from Mrs. Hodgson's and Mr. Gow's classes, led by Talent Development Co-ordinator, Stephen Smith, wrote, illustrated, and displayed their art at the Library.

The **Summer Reading Program** ran from July 5th to August 18th. This year the program theme was "Wild!" Marina Milne was hired as the Summer Reading Program Coordinator.



Reading Club members enjoyed outdoor games with Marina and Erin, crafts, puppet fun, snacks with friends and lots and lots of new books.

We concluded the Summer Program with a windup held at the Community Centre. Approximately 120 people attended the Prairie Exotics exhibit, with refreshments served at the Library after the event. A partnership between The Lac du Bonnet Library, The Lac du Bonnet Children's Centre, and The Winnipeg River Recreation District provided the funding for the windup.



During the six-week program 1,116 children's and junior books were checked out. Congratulations to Parker and Bella T., winners of the Boat Set, and to Emily B., winner of the Pop-Up Tent. Thank you to Marina and her volunteer assistants for a job well-done!

The 29th **Annual Fall Supper** was held on September 10th at the Legion Hall. Royal Canadian Legion Branch #164 generously donated the Hall and our Legion comrades and the Ladies Auxiliary prepared the meal. Supplies for the meals were again donated by our Library patrons, who also helped with the serving and cleanup. Three hundred and fourteen meals were served, and proceeds were approximately \$5,497.44.

Pyjama Night was held on Thursday, November 24th. The evening was very well attended by fifteen children along with their parents/guardians, most in their favourite pyjamas. Volunteers, Cathie Brereton, and Melayni Schwab were the evening's official story-tellers, aided at times, by some of the children taking over and reading along as well.



Board member Cathie Brereton reads to the children; now their turn to read to her.



Following story-time, the children were treated to snacks and refreshments, and then a “Freeze-Dance” party ensued, hosted by volunteer “Game-Master” Georgia Milne. The freeze-dance was zany and wild, as all the children danced off their sugar cookies and vied for prizes. All children went home with a Literary/Game package, and a good time was had by all. The two attendance draw prizes were won by brothers Linden and Grayson M.



Cathie Brereton, our Lac du Bonnet Regional Library Board Secretary, donated this beautiful handcrafted quilt for our upcoming Quilt Raffle, with all proceeds going to the Library. The tickets will be drawn at the Fall Supper September 16, 2017. The quilt will be on display at the Library until the draw.

The Library says “Goodbye” to Stella Soroka on January 1, 2016; and to Gordon Ennis on April 1, 2016, two long-time Library patrons who will be missed. The families of both Stella and Gordon chose the Library as one of the recipients of funds donated in lieu of flowers in memory of their loved ones. We truly appreciate this kind gesture on our behalf.

Links Available from the Lac du Bonnet Library Website...



Library patrons have access to search the Manitoba Public Libraries Network – fILL – a federated Search system of libraries in Manitoba. URL is: <https://fill.mb.libraries.coop>.

(The fILL Discovery page will let patrons search for inter-library loans, but rather than showing a “Click to Request” button, Patrons will see a “Copy to Clipboard” button. You can then open your own email program and paste the clipboard contents into an email to us at mldb@mymts.net.)



Audio and electronic books can be downloaded by library patrons with online access (login with your username and password provided by the Library) from the eLibraries Manitoba (eLM) website at <http://elm.lib.overdrive.com>.



Ebscohost is an online research database which can search thousands of e-journals. Visit the auto repair, small engine repair, home improvement reference centres, Novelist (for like-type authors and genre), or one of several student research sites (login with your username and password provided by the Library).



Lac du Bonnet Library Patron use only. Visit the library to learn more. This is for information purposes only. No offers/promotions/additional subscriptions or purchases are authorized.

Global Road Warrior

The Ultimate Guide to the World



Global Road Warrior is a travel and geographic database that provides rich cultural reports that cover everything from rudimentary language terms, currency, health issues, customs, and cultural faux pas. This database has current coverage of over 175 countries, and includes over 6,500 color photos and 1,500 high-resolution country maps.

Website: www.globalroadwarrior.com

User name: ldblibrary

Password: travel



This website is an online public library of published books in accessible formats (using downloadable Apps for Daisy Players, Computers/Laptops, Phones, Tablets, etc.) for Canadians with perceptual disabilities. Visit the Library or <https://nnels.ca> to sign up for an account.

Fundraising Report

This is a joint effort by Board, Staff and Volunteers! A breakdown of these receipts is as follows:

Fall Supper	\$5,497.44
Book Sales	1,851.30
Mrs. Lucci's	500.00
Penny Jar	321.80
Patron Services	947.00
Raffles	193.00
Total	\$9,310.54

The Fall Supper continued to be our major fundraiser in 2016 with a very good, although not a sell-out crowd! We hope to have a full house next year. We extend a special thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #164, as well as the Branch and its members, many volunteers and our very generous community. We could not do it without you!

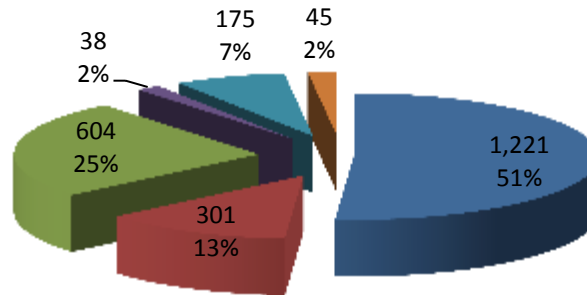
“In Memory” Plaque – We thank Stella Soroka’s family and friends for their very generous contributions to the Library. A plate in Stella’s name will be added to our “In Memory” plaque.

Circulation Statistics

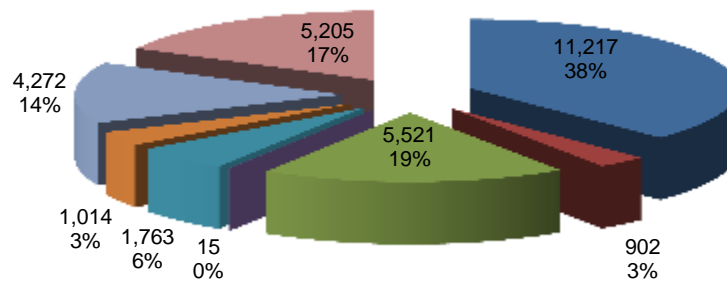
	2014	2015	2016
Adult Fiction	11,694	10,961	12,594
Adult Non-Fiction	1,657	1,566	1,576
Young Adult Fiction	705	543	530
Junior Fiction	1,161	1,006	1,232
Junior Non-Fiction	606	540	596
Children's	2,473	2,737	2,523
Magazines	2,497	2,083	1,972
Vertical File	15	6	11
ILL Incoming	1,003	718	614
ILL Outgoing	577	407	577
Sound Recordings	295	230	156
PLS Large Print	172	186	297
MLDB Large Print	310	382	340
Videos/DVDs	2,390	2,352	2,619
eLM (eBooks/Audiobooks)	3,722	3,817	4,272
Total	29,277	27,534	29,909

Membership and Circulation Statistics (Jan. 1, 2016 – Dec. 31, 2016)

Library Memberships (Total = 2,521)



Circulation by Patron Group (Total = 29,909)



■ RM of LdB	■ Summer RM of LdB	■ Town of LdB
■ Summer Town of LdB	■ RM of Alexander	■ Non-Resident
■ eLM	■ Other*	

* *Other includes: Library Use, Block Loans, InterLibrary Loans and Temporary Checkouts for all municipalities combined.*

eLM = eLibraries Manitoba.

2016 Library Statistics

Volumes and Resources Held

Books	18,778
Videos	320
DVDs	858
Magazine Subscriptions	51
Back-Issue Magazine Categories	32
Sound Recordings	202
Vertical File	15
New Acquisitions	795
(Approx. 334 of these were donated items)	

We hold 935 copies in our magazine collection and 364 copies in our Back-Issue magazine collection. Approximately 1,193 items were withdrawn in 2016.

Top Circulating Items and Authors at Our Library for 2016

Adult Fiction	<i>Mary Higgins Clark</i> – All Dressed in White; <i>Danielle Steel</i> – Blue;
Adult Non-Fiction	<i>James Patterson</i> – Cross Justice; <i>Lisa Jackson</i> – After She’s Gone.
Young Adult	<i>Helen Edwards</i> – My Secret Sister; Guinness World Records 2016;
Junior	<i>David A. Stewart</i> – American Sign Language.
Children	<i>James Dashner</i> – The Death Cure; <i>Cassandra Clare</i> – City of Bones;
	<i>Sam Enthoven</i> – The Black Tattoo;
	<i>Lipkowitz, Daniel</i> – LEGO Awesome Ideas, and The LEGO Playbook;
	<i>Rachel Renée Russell</i> – The NOT-SO-Perfect Pet Sitter;
	<i>LEGO Ninjago’s Tournament of Elements</i> , and <i>Masters of Spinjitzu</i> ;
	<i>Julia Donaldson</i> – The Smartest Giant in Town; <i>Paulette Bourgeois</i> –
	Franklin and the Thunderstorm; and Franklin’s Bad Day.
Sound Recordings (Adult)	<i>Eric Van Lustbader</i> – Robert Ludlum’s The Bourne Objective; <i>Robert Crais</i> – The Last Detective; <i>David Baldacci</i> – Saving Faith.
DVDs (Adult)	Game of Thrones series; Outlander series.
(Children)	SpongeBob Square Pants: Tide and Seek; Scooby-Doo on Zombie Island

A visit to the Library does not always result in a check-out of material – some patrons come to browse or read magazines, and others find the information they need in our reference section or on the Internet. This is not reflected in our circulation statistics. Total sign-ins for the Public Access Computers for 2016 was 850 (WiFi users not included). The Early Literacy Station remains very popular with the young children. The Library website received 3,403 visits in 2016 (including 16 visitors viewing 49 pages in 7 various countries on the Global Road Warrior database).

Point of Interest: Despite all efforts made by staff over the years to collect, as of December 31st, 2016, this Library is owed **\$5,394.08** in unpaid fines.

APPENDIX

Library-Related Newspaper Articles
Published in the Lac du Bonnet Clipper

2016

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Lac du Bonnet CLIPPER

FREE

Vol. 25 No. 5

Dedicated to The North Eastman Community

February 4, 2016

LdB Library celebrates 25 years on 3rd Street

By Arlene Davidson

The Lac du Bonnet Library hosted an evening of fun for the entire family on Jan. 26 as they celebrated their silver anniversary at their 3rd Street location.

Following an hour of Literacy Night activity and games for the children, head librarian Vickie Short welcomed close to 65 guests to the event. Short, who has served with the library since 2001, introduced her staff and board members past and current, and extended heartfelt gratitude to all of the volunteers for their loyalty and support over the years.

"Volunteers have been the backbone of our library since its early inception in Mrs. Smith's home," Short said. "As the library outgrew each home, it was the vision of these volunteers that sparked the idea to have their own building. Now 25 years later, our library is the hub of our community both for residents and visitors."

The history of library services in Lac du Bonnet dates back to 1960 when Helen P. Smith set up a lending library in the basement of her Lac du Bonnet home. After Smith relocated from the area, Halle Lavioie became the next keeper of the books, which eventually ended up in the hands of Ralph Butchart at the Lac du Bonnet Dry Goods Store.

After a few years of inactivity, a new library committee was struck by founding members Roz Burt, Nick Otash, Theresa Usackis, Art Van Steelant, Joyce Hanton, Eleanor Lewko, Phyllis Robin, Carmie Saffronetz and Aline Preston. The committee ran a library out of the local high school until space permitted elsewhere.

The books were relocated once again to a basement room in an apartment building, renovated for their use by building owner



Photo by Arlene Davidson

Vickie Short (left) introduces The Janzen Boys at the Lac du Bonnet Library event held last week.

August Kulikowski. During this time period, the committee was planning and working behind the scenes to establish a regional library, and they met that goal in 1991 when they purchased the current library building at 84, 3rd Street.

Wayne Ewasko, MLA for Lac du Bonnet, attended the event and

during his short address, congratulated the people of Lac du Bonnet and the library for their dedication and success.

"The library was established without any government grants. The money raised was all public funding that came from the community, and there was no mortgage on the building," said Ewasko, who

also presented a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Other local dignitaries who delivered congratulatory messages included Town of Lac du Bonnet Coun. Ken Lodge and Coun. Frank Terra on behalf of RM of Lac du Bonnet. John Bernard, founding building committee chair for the library, and Janice

Walker, chair of the library board, thanked everyone for supporting the library over the years and for coming out for the celebration.

The evening concluded with a buffet of tasty treats and musical entertainment by The Janzen Boys of Winnipeg, a very talented family featuring John and his sons Simon and Mick.

New children's computer at Lac du Bonnet Library

By Arlene Davidson

The Lac du Bonnet Regional Library installed a new computer for children on June 16 thanks to the generous support of the Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation.

The new computer was ordered in May, arrived on June 4 and was set up and ready to go just in time for summer.

"The computer is a stand-alone machine and does not connect to the Internet," explained librarian Vickie Short, who referred to the unit as an Early Literacy Station.

The computer is designed for children ages two to 11 and comes complete with a variety of fun and educational software. Children can enjoy some interactive play while they learn a variety of subjects including math, spelling, science, art and geography.

The computer is also equipped with software that will help children learn to type, and provides a wide range of educational puzzles to keep inquiring minds thinking.

Short explained the children's computer that had been at the library had seen better days and was no longer available for use.

"The replacement is a much better computer. It's up to date with all the new technology," said Short.

Short said the children's computer gets used a lot during the summer months, and it keeps the children occupied while parents and guardians browse through the stacks for their own reading enjoyment.

"I'm really glad it arrived before the Summer Reading Program starts on July 5," said Short.

Although operating funds for the library are supplied by the province and the Town and RM of Lac du Bonnet, Short said that she often has to reach out to community organizations for financial help when large capital purchases are required.

With a \$3,000 price tag, the children's computer met the grant application criteria of the Lac du Bonnet Foundation. Short submitted a grant request in April and received approval one month later.

"We strongly support facilities like the Library, which make the town more inclusive and livable," said Foundation president John Barnard. "Part of our mandate is to support youth and to provide important services to people in the community."

The Library provides free services to residents of the RMs of Lac du Bonnet and Alexander, the Town of Lac du Bonnet and the community of Bird River.

For more information about operating hours, events and programs, visit their website at www.lacdubonnetlibrary.ca.

Librarian Vickie Short and John Barnard (back right) of the Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation watch as Grayson (front left) and Linden Miller check out the new children's computer at the Lac du Bonnet Library.

Photo by Arlene Davidson



Library launches Preschool Storytime



Photo by Arlene Davidson

Elias Van Linden (left) helps Janice Halliday select a book to read at Lac du Bonnet Library's Preschool Storytime.

By Arlene Davidson

In keeping with I Love to Read month, the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library launched their Preschool Storytime on Feb. 11 to provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to engage

young children in the activity of reading.

Assistant Librarian, Joanna Sokal said that storytime will take place every second Thursday and invites volunteers from the community to contact her at 204-345-2653 if they are interested in coming out to read to

the preschoolers.

"Preschool Storytime runs from 10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Younger and older siblings are welcome as well. Feel free to bring the whole family. Children will receive juice and a cookie after stories," added Sokal.



Photo by Arlene Davidson

*Melayni Schwab reads to the children who came out to enjoy
Pyjama Storytime at the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library.*

Fun at the Library

By Arlene Davidson

On Nov. 24, local families were invited to join

**fitting
brance
:00 p.m.**

staff and volunteers at the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library for their annual Pyjama Storytime evening.

"The Evening was very well attended by children and parents/guardians, with most wearing their favourite pyjamas," reported Michelle Grimmelt, who hosted her first event as the new assistant librarian. "Volunteers Cathie Bereson and Melayni Schwab were the evening's official story-tellers, aided at times, by some of the chil-

dren taking over and reading aloud as well."

Following story-time, the children were treated to snacks and refreshments, and a freeze-dance party hosted by volunteer Game Master Georgia Milne.

"The freeze-dance was racy and wild, as all the children danced off their sugar cookies and vied for prizes," said Grimmelt. "All children went home with a literary game package, and a good time was had by all."