

STRATHCONA COUNTY LIBRARY



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR & CEO

2018 provided our library with some unique challenges and opportunities.

In the spirit of community connection, the core of the County's new Social Framework, we tried a variety of new initiatives this year. In January, we began hosting content from Family and Community Services (FCS) within our quarterly Program Guide. In May, we held a Food for Fines week to help our patrons pay down their late fees by stocking the Strathcona Food Bank's pantry at a time when supplies are traditionally low. In the fall, we welcomed FCS Solutions Navigators into our public spaces where they remain available to interact with anyone looking to connect to social resources.

We also tried a number of new interactive program formats like a guided cycling tour of historic sites for adults, an appliance autopsy "what makes it work" program for younger teens, and a computer coding family program to build digital skills with a side of intergenerational fun.

When our Central Library was shut down in November, we felt that it was important for us to restore library services as soon as possible to keep those vital connections alive. We were fortunate to have our Bookmobile running on its rural routes, and with help from so many amazing community partners – and a great deal of work and patience from our staff and patrons – we found innovative ways to **keep calm and library on.**

We were thrilled to open the front doors of the Library to the public on May 8, 2019. It has been great to be back in our library home, back in the Strathcona County Community Centre, at the heart of this wonderful, supportive, resilient and connected community.

Thank You

Anna Pandos

Chair, Strathcona County Library Board



Sharon Siga

CEO, Strathcona County Library





2019 LIBRARY BOARD

2019 Strathcona County Library Board

Back Row (left to right): Ken Glover, Anna Pandos (Chair), Anne Nothof (Vice-Chair), Lynn Walker, Denise Charbonneau, Doug Davey, Councillor Linton Delainey

Front Row (left to right): Meagan Olive, Pam See-Too, Leah Lewis (Secretary-Treasurer)



SOCIAL FRAMEWORK IN ACTION AT THE LIBRARY



Solutions Navigators, professional social workers from Family and Community Services, are at the Central Library during the week to connect residents to social resources. Look for their signs to see when they are in, or ask for them at any library Information Desk.

Did you know? You can also find a settlement practitioner working with newcomers, language tutors working with English language learners, and career and resume tutors working with job seekers in the library.

FOOD FOR FINES



Staff and residents requested this event as a great way for people to pay down their fines gracefully while supporting their community. Together we donated 20 bins weighing over 1000 pounds at a time when food bank stores are traditionally low.

Did you know? During the summer, as part of the *Kids' Summer Reading Game*, players get an extra roll of the dice for bringing donations on *Food Bank Fridays*.



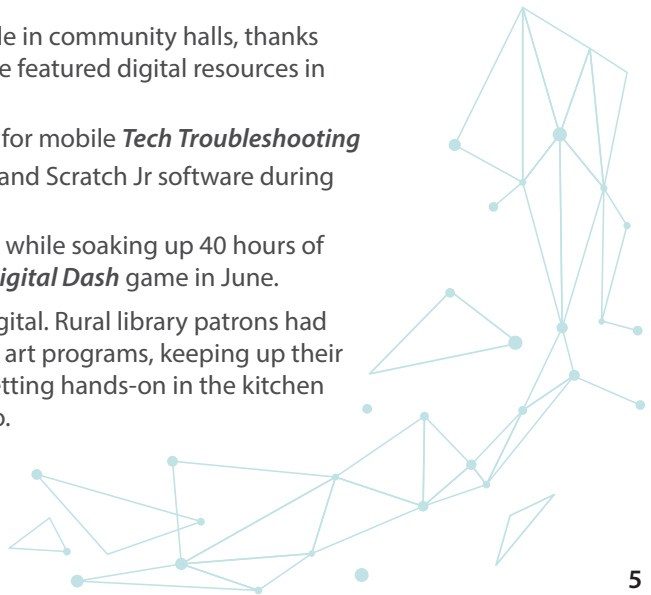


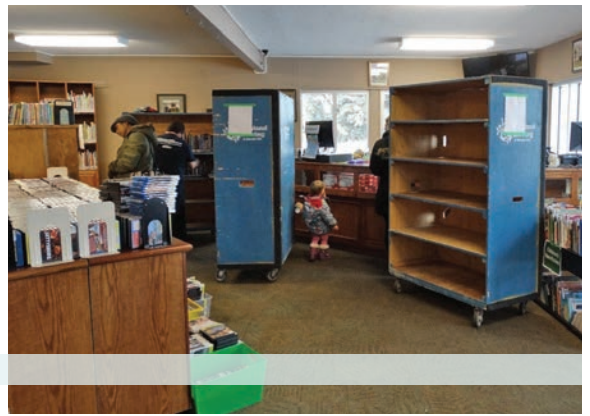
BOOKMOBILE BUILDS DIGITAL LITERACY

Capitalizing on the improved wireless access available in community halls, thanks to the *Rural Internet Access Program*, the Bookmobile featured digital resources in many of its 2018 programs;

- adults brought their device questions on the bus for mobile *Tech Troubleshooting*
- families tackled coding challenges using Scratch and Scratch Jr software during *Hour of Code*
- over 200 children and their parents earned prizes while soaking up 40 hours of training about digital library resources with the *Digital Dash* game in June.

Of course, not everything our bookmobile does is digital. Rural library patrons had a great time this year getting creative with paint and art programs, keeping up their literacy skills with reading year-round games, and getting hands-on in the kitchen with Edmonton's own "Green Onion Cake Man" Siu To.





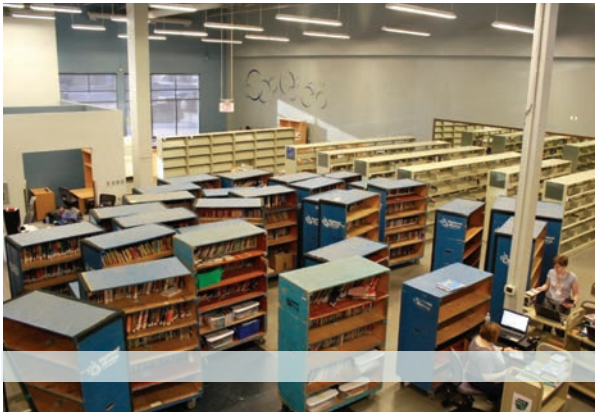
KEEP CALM AND LIBRARY ON AT THE BROADMOOR GOLF COURSE PRO SHOP, NOV 12 - DEC 4, 2018

When an incident in the Strathcona County Community Centre Parkade resulted in a six-month closure of our Central Library, many wonderful community and library partners stepped up to help us find temporary homes for our services in addition to the ones highlighted on these pages. For all of the facilities, equipment, donations, help and well wishes we received along the way, we are eternally grateful!

KEEP CALM AND LIBRARY ON

AT BASELINE VILLAGE, DEC 10, 2018 - APR 30, 2019

Did you know? We shared our good fortune by passing along all of the desks, chairs, tables and shelving donated to us during our period of closure to other local organizations who needed them.



RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE AND CONNECT AT LIBRARY PROGRAMS



Cyclists enjoyed a tour of historic County sites as part of the *Ride-Along* program.



Writers Sharon Bala, Winnie Yeung and Abu-Bakr al Rabeeah signed autographs at *Fall Feast of Words 2018*.



The library's Allison Gibbard entertained little folks with a winter story and puppet show at a daycare visit.



Attendees practiced chivalry and heraldry in *Get Knighted*.

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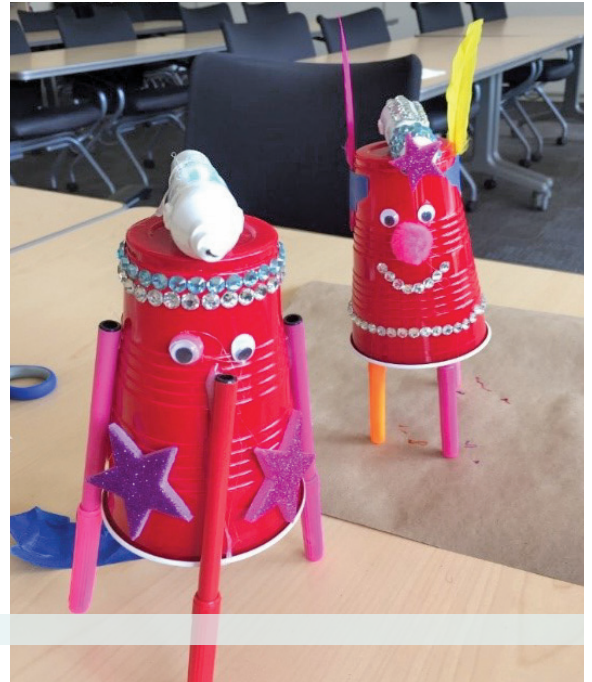
2018 Writer in Residence, Michael Hingston, helped young reporters to produce a *Spring Break Newspaper*.



Teens transformed their voice recordings into art during *Paint Your Voice*.



Scottish storyteller Calum Lykan and the library's Holly Sommert celebrated all things Scottish on *Outlander Day*.



Elementary age participants combined art and technology to build *Robo-Doodlers*.

FRIENDS AND FUND DEVELOPMENT



As owners of Fix Auto Sherwood Park, Theresa and Mervyn Koughan were major donors when the current Library was being built. Not long after the events of November 6, they contacted us to ask if there was any way they could help. Their timing was perfect. We had just made the decision to replace our board books. Because these books often end up in childrens' mouths, we felt it was best to replace them instead of cleaning them.

Grandparents themselves, the Koughans opened their hearts and wallets, donating \$30,000 to cover the cost of a new board book collection. On the day that we reopened to the public, those shelves were full, thanks to the generosity of the Koughan family.



Friends

The Friends of Strathcona County Library Society marked their 25th anniversary in 2018, with an evening event at Salisbury Greenhouse. They also celebrated this milestone year with the creation of a brand new logo.

The support of the Friends has enabled countless enhancements to library programs, services, and collections over the last quarter-century. In the summer of 2018, we celebrated their most recent gift: a very popular light table, which resides in the Enchanted Forest.

I felt a deep sense of relief coming
"home" to the library today.
A big thank-you to you all!
Deep sigh of relief & comfort

I love the library. I am so glad
it's open again. I have missed it.
A great place to learn and explore.
Thank you for making the
experience wonderful!

We missed our library.
Thank you to all the staff who
make it a welcoming, fun place
to be!

We missed you.
Welcome back.

So happy the library is open again!
Thanks for creating a fun
environment for our kids.

WELCOME BACK!



Front cover: *Build a Better World Reading Game Windup* at Strathcona Wilderness Centre.

Back cover: Community members welcome the library back to the Community Centre on May 08, 2019.

Strathcona County Library

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