

from the Director

The community of Grande Prairie continued to enthusiastically embrace its public library in 2013. The number of customers coming through the door remains strong, but library usage is now also measured in other ways that reflect the habits of current society. Virtual visits to our website and catalogue grew at the phenomenal rate of 40% from 2012 to 2013, and one of the major reasons customers are visiting this virtual branch is to borrow eBooks. Usage of eBooks by our customers continues to explode, with an increase of 60% in 2013 over 2012.

The Library, however is not just about reading - it's also a thriving community space. Programs continue to be a popular and key component of our library service.

2013 saw several changes to the staff of the Library, including the departure of Deputy Director Pam Chislett, who retired after 32 years of devoted service. Pam played a significant role over the years in the growth and strengthening of the Grande Prairie Public Library and her efforts are deeply appreciated.

As the Library heads into its 75th year, we are excited about the many projects planned as part of our celebrations. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Board, our strong ongoing relationship with the Peace Library System and the support of municipal, regional and provincial governments, as GPPL continues to grow and respond to the needs of our vibrant community.

Maureen Curry
Library Director

in the Community

The Library maintained its position as a strong community link in 2013, actively engaging in partnerships with many groups and agencies.



Panadream Theatre

Our ongoing partners include the Centre for Newcomers, Council for Lifelong Learning, the Alberta Genealogical Society, South Peace Regional Archives, Volunteer Services Bureau, the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie, French Language Resource Centre, Canadian Parents for French and the Work Place. We formed new partnerships in 2013 with the CNIB, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and Odyssey House, as well as becoming an active member of the City's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Committee.

2013 featured even more exciting new program choices for the community, including *Facebook Me! Learn the Basics of Facebook*; *Hunting and Fishing in the Peace*; *Internet Basics for Job Seekers*; *Swing*



Live Angry Birds

Dancing and the teen programs *GameMaker Studio 101* and *Live Angry Birds*.



from the Board

From the Grande Prairie Public Library's 2013 statistics, I think you will agree that our patrons are well served by our very capable, efficient and effective staff as they maximize community members' opportunities for lifelong learning, leisure pursuits and enjoyment of all things printed and digital.

In 2014 we will see additional program and staffing space made available to enhance the experiences enjoyed by so many. None of this happens by chance or luck.

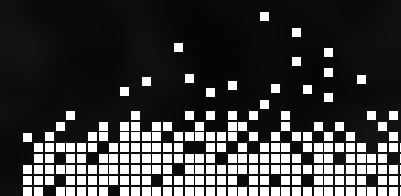
Library service is made possible by the support of the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie #1, the MD of Greenview and the Province of Alberta. Collaborative arrangements exist with other groups and organizations to assist Board and staff to provide for the needs of our patrons.

Your Library is a member of and is represented on the Board of the Peace Library System, one of 7 library systems in the province. The Peace Library system provides resources to its member libraries. It serves 41% of the area of the province and approximately 153,000 persons.

The year 2014 will see the Grande Prairie Public Library celebrate its 75th year, and the City of Grande Prairie celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The members of the Board join me in congratulating both entities for their wonderful accomplishments and superior record of service.

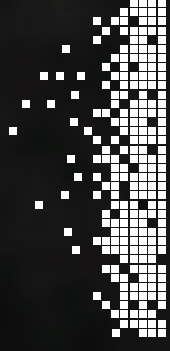
R. Lynne Coulter
Board Chair

2013 in review



Grande Prairie Public Library
discover the possibilities

GPPL in 2013



The Library was visited 240,449 times



The Library's collection contains 154,631 items including books, magazines, toys, DVDs, Blu-ray, CDs, eBooks and eAudiobooks

456,687

items were circulated at the Grande Prairie Public Library in 2013

The Library has
17,085 members



Our website at
www.gppl.ab.ca was visited

184,481
times



Library members
checked out 24,640
eBooks & eAudiobooks.

An increase of

60%



The Library's free
public computers
were used 43,723
times



64,302 items from our collection were
lent to customers at other libraries.