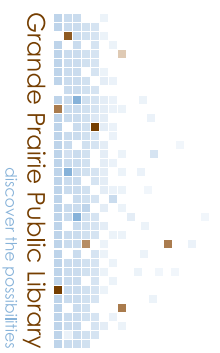
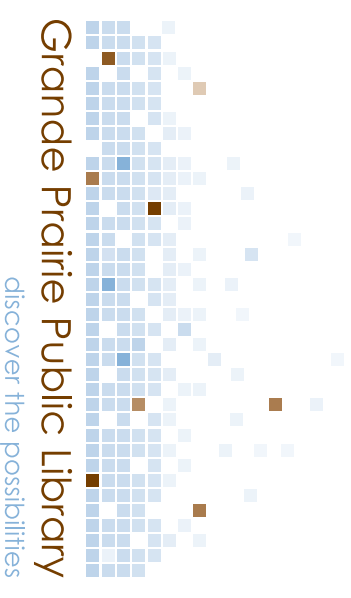


2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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From the Library Board

The major highlight of the year was the successful move to the new Library at the Montrose Cultural Centre and the hard work by the staff, family members and contractors to open the wonderful facility in early June after only a few days to get organized.

The Library Board, under the leadership of Jim Smith, worked with the staff to host the grand opening of the Library on August 22nd. The ceremonies and open house were well attended with many positive comments from the public on the new facility.

Our ongoing partnership with Peace Library System continued to produce benefits and improvements in 2009. The introduction and fine tuning of the Polaris software system provided our patrons with a new Windows interface to

search and order material from the many Alberta libraries that belong to TRAC. Peace Library System covers the cost of shipping books between libraries and Grande Prairie Library patrons have been very proficient at ordering books from other libraries in Alberta.

The Friends of the Library Society raised funds for furnishings and equipment in the new Library and for programming. I would like to thank Katherine Wiebe and the members of the Executive for their hard work and dedication in supporting the Grande Prairie Library.

The Library membership, patron visits and circulation of material have increased with each month that we are in the new Library. With this increase in activity, the Library increased the 2009 spending on the book collection as well as other media and information services. The Board and staff



will be working with patrons and the public during 2010 to develop a new strategic plan that will identify how we can best serve our patrons and members of the community.

I would like to thank Jim Smith for his many years of volunteer service on the Grande Prairie Library Board and wish him well in his future volunteer activities.

In summary, 2009 was a successful year for the Library and on behalf of the Board I would like to express our appreciation to Laurie Harrison and the wonderful staff for their hard work and dedication.

Dennis Young
Board Chairman

Volunteers at the Library



Congratulations to 2009
Volunteer of the Year -
Judy Dickson!

Thank you to all the Library
volunteers - we appreciate your
time and dedication!

41 volunteers donated close to
1400 hours of time in 2009!



Barbara Nelson



Mary Linford



Dolly Savage

Library Programs

Adult Programs

732 adults participated in adult programs at the Library.

Programs included *Learn German, Musical Interludes, Library Book Club, Armchair Travel, Computer & Internet Training, Is the Book Better Than the Movie* and the *Adult Summer Reading Program*.



Flowers with Janice Lutsenko



The Dandy Lionesses

Children's Programs

1694 children took part in scheduled Children's Programs.

266 children participated in the *Summer Reading Game*.

30 preschool children participated in the *Preschool Summer Reading Game*.



25 teens participated in the summer *Teen Reading Challenge*.

1232 children toured the Library.

From the Library Director

The year 2009 was a momentous one with the move into our new library. We opened in our new location in the Montrose Cultural Centre on June 11 and many in the community are discovering their public library. Membership has increased by 55% since we opened.

We have a new logo and tagline to go along with everything else that is new about the Library.

Our tagline is "Discover the possibilities" and people are doing just that. They are discovering that we now have quiet areas for study and research; soft, comfy lounge seating by the fireplace for browsing through our magazine and newspaper collection; and an area dedicated to teens with internet and study stations.

The public is also discovering that we have three times the number of public Internet stations; self checkout stations located on both the second floor Children's Library and on the main floor; a training lab where staff offer instruction to the public on how to search the library

catalogue, the Internet, art gallery was very successful. Support from all levels of government, service clubs, businesses and individuals was very strong and we are very grateful.

In addition to our appreciation to the City for the major financial investment in this project, we also have enjoyed working with City staff whose expertise, time and attention was critical to the success of this valuable community facility.

The year ahead will be an exciting one as well. We will be developing a four-year Strategic Plan to determine the best ways to meet the needs of a growing, changing community.

Laurie Harrison
Library Director



Friends of the Library

The Grande Prairie Public Library Friends Society had an active 2009. The highlight was the move to the new Library building, which was attended with great excitement.

Due to the enormous task placed on the Library staff to accomplish the move and become comfortable with the logistics of their new space, some of the Friends usual activities were postponed in 2009. The Silent Auction and the Spring and Fall Book Sales were not conducted in 2009.

However, we did enjoy accomplishing the following:

» The Friends fundraised towards furnishings and equipment in the new Library and contributed \$80,000 to sponsor two rooms - the Sky Story Room and the Reading Lounge.

» The Friends

were pleased to be able to provide \$8300.00 of financial support to the Library's partnership in the "Want to Reach

Program", an art and music program designed to reach out to youth.

» The Friends submitted an application to participate in Bingo fundraising, which was

accepted; however, player attendance is down so no dates were available in 2009.

» We held a very successful casino on October 8 and 9. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this possible. We raised \$34,600 for the Library,

which will be spent on the

Library's adult audio visual collection.

» Several of the Friends



members

participate in the Downtown Association's Halloween Parade, escorting children safely to businesses for trick-or-treating.

» The popular Friends Christmas Pins sale brought in \$128.00.

We were sad to mourn the passing of long time friend and Library supporter, Phyllis Brazeau, who passed away in September. Phyllis was a valued member of the Friends Society and had worked in the Library for over 10 years.

Katherine Wiebe
President

Community supporters and donors who had contributed towards the campaign for equipment and furnishings were recognized for their generosity.



Grande Prairie Royal Purple Lodge No 107



The City officially opens the Montrose Cultural Centre.

Montrose Cultural Centre



On June 21, 2009 the City of Grande Prairie held the opening ceremonies for the Montrose Cultural Centre. The Library joined in the celebrations along with project partner The Prairie Art Gallery.

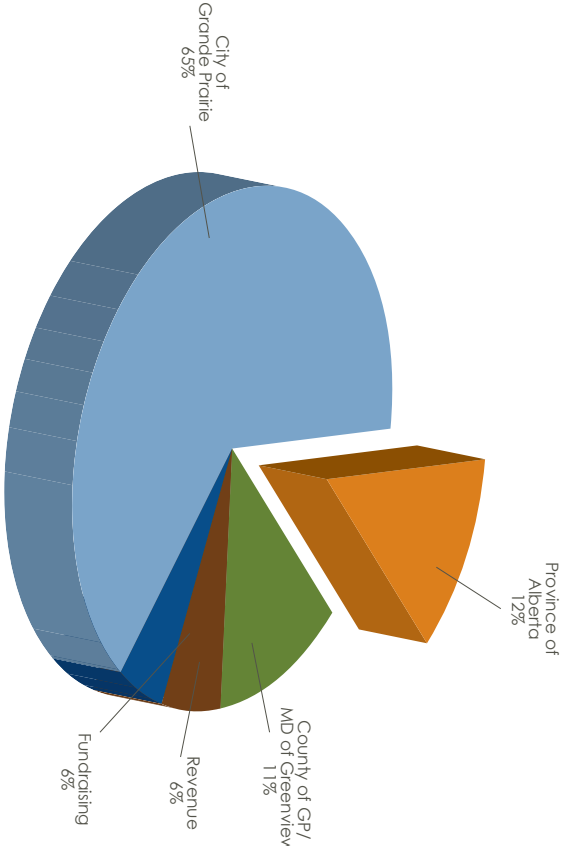
Guests were invited to tour the new facility including the Library and Gallery.



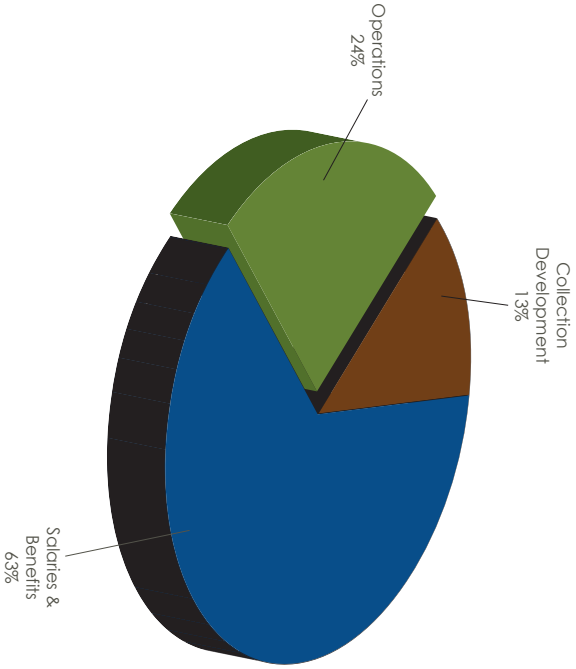
For many, it was the first time they had seen the completed building, but certainly not the last.

Financial Reports

2009 FUNDING SOURCES



2009 EXPENDITURES



A copy of the 2009 audited financial statement is available upon request.

2009 Library Fast Facts

Library membership increased **55%**

Library visits increased **52.5%**
Over 150,000 people visited in 2009.

Public computer use increased **11%**
Our public word processing & Internet computers were accessed 45,000 times.

Questions answered by Library staff increased **74%**
Over 16,000 questions were asked.

There are **122,540** items in the Library's collection.

320,000 books & other materials were borrowed.

The Library has an inventory of **107,000** books, **6000** DVDs, **6000** music CDs, **3300** audiobooks on CD and **240** magazine and newspaper titles.

The Library is open **3150** hours per year.

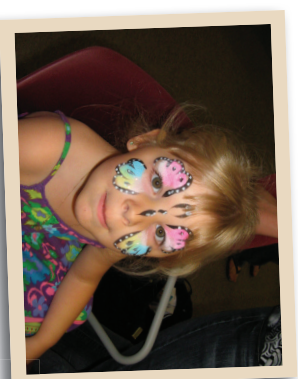
The Library employs **52** staff members.



A special storytime with Alderman and Library Board member Bill Given.



One of the highlights of the day was a free show featuring children's performer Fred Penner in the beautiful Teresa Sargent Hall.



The festivities ended with the Library's opening ceremonies.

Library Grand Opening



The Library held its grand opening ceremonies on August 22, 2009. We invited the community to celebrate the new Library and they did! Over 2000 visitors came through the doors that day.



A full day of activities was planned including face painting, clowns, music, tours and refreshments.



The previous location of the Grande Prairie Public Library was closed on May 25, 2009 to begin the process of moving to the Montrose Cultural Centre.

Library staff packed and purged files, supplies and mementos from offices and areas that some had been in for 20 years.

The Library collection, shelving and office contents were moved over the next week to their new home.



Old and new shelving, desks and public furniture were assembled. Books were transferred in sections. Staff worked many hours to ready the new Library for its June 11 opening.



Moving a Library

Library Opening Day

On June 11, 2009 the Grande Prairie Public Library opened at the Montrose Cultural Centre.



The new Library features Smart Chutes that check in books and other materials as they are returned.

Patrons explored the new space and immediately began using the new public areas including the Preschool Play Zone.



In the Community

In November, the Library hosted a successful production of Little Bear's Winter Tails at the Douglas J. Cardinal Theatre.



During the annual Food for Fines promotion, the Library collected 446 items for the Salvation Army Food Bank and waived \$1200 in fines.



In the Children's Library, patrons used the Giving Tree to donate hats, gloves and toiletries to Odyssey House.

