





On November 1, 2010, Strathcona County Library opened the doors to a brand-new, 2-storey 64,000 ft² facility, housed in the multi-use Community Centre located in the heart of Sherwood Park. This beautiful new library serves almost 90,000 urban and rural residents living in Strathcona County.

library director's message

At this time last year, my key fashion accessories were a hard hat, a clip board and a safety vest! Construction of the new library was rounding into the home stretch, and we were planning the mammoth task of moving the library from its existing home in Sherwood Park Mall to brand new quarters in the Community Centre on Festival Lane. At the same time, our new Bookmobile was nearing completion, and we were still in the midst of a \$1.5 million Capital Campaign. 2010 was truly a year of milestones, and I'm happy to report to you on a few of the highlights.

In April, the new low-floor Bookmobile took to the roads of rural Strathcona County. A bright and welcoming space full of natural light and fresh air, the Bookmobile is also designed for complete accessibility. Toddlers, seniors and those in wheelchairs can now board and browse with ease, so we were able to add a number of visits to preschool and seniors facilities to our twelve weekly rural stops. It also captured international attention for the library. Erik Boekesteijn and Jaap van de Geer of the DOK library in Delft arrived at the end of April to film a short "innovations and best practices" documentary on the new Bookmobile. (See the final video at www.shanachietour.com. Select the "Wild Rose Shanachie Tour: Strathcona Mobile Library".)

On October 1, we closed the doors on our old home and began the process of moving. For this entire month, staff worked long hours packing, unpacking and then doing all of the work necessary to prepare the new library for its debut to the citizens of Strathcona County.

That long-anticipated debut came on November 1st. After all of the hard work, it was thrilling to see the wonder and excitement on the faces of our patrons, as they explored all that this new library has to offer them. Throughout the planning and construction, library staff worked hand-in-hand with the architecture, special features, and interior design teams, and that effort has paid off in a space that is both beautiful and highly functional. Strathcona County has embraced the new library as the community's living room.

The entire Capital Campaign Cabinet was thrilled that the Campaign reached its goal at the end of October, just before the new library opened. This \$1.5 million has been earmarked for furniture, shelving and materials for the new library. The generosity shown by individual, corporate and service club donors in our County is both heartwarming and inspiring. Thanks to this Campaign, several successful partnerships have also been forged with the business community and service clubs.

Looking ahead to 2011, we will be finalizing and putting into action our new four-year Plan of Service, built with the assistance of 21 community leaders from a variety of sectors. Patrons will be able to start borrowing e-books in early summer, and we will also be introducing Bibliocommons, a modern and user-friendly new catalogue. Finally, funds from our Capital Campaign are being used to enhance our collections, and this will continue through 2012.

An extraordinary year like 2010 does not happen of its own accord. Votes of thanks must go to our Board and to our staff for their continued dedication and support in providing quality library services. The Friends of the Library and our volunteers -- who lend a helping hand with programs, services, and fundraisers -- are invaluable. And finally, we must thank our patrons, who support the library's mission of providing the literacy, learning and leisure activities that have become an important part of the community we are so proud to call home.



Sharon Siga, Director, Strathcona County Library



library board chair's message

2010 was a landmark year for Strathcona County Library! In April, we put our brand-new low-floor Bookmobile on the road and on November 1, we opened the doors to the much-anticipated new library, resplendent in its new 64,000 square foot home in the Strathcona County Community Centre. You will probably notice a big improvement in the library collection. We are also very proud that our outstanding Youth and Children's programming has expanded. These developments marked a significant enhancement in library services for our urban and rural residents.

2010 also marked the successful completion of our \$1.5 million Capital Campaign. We wish to thank each and every person, business, organization and corporation who donated so generously, and got us to the finish line! We must also thank the Capital Campaign Cabinet and Honorary Families, the library staff and the Friends of the Library for your ideas, encouragement, financial support, and labour.

We genuinely appreciate the support we receive from Strathcona County Council. The Council provides vital financial and moral backing for library services to a large and diverse community. We also extend our appreciation and thanks to the Province of Alberta. Provincial funding resulted in a Career Resource Centre, public art installations, furnishings and equipment for the public, and part of the construction costs of the new library. We are very grateful to our two MLAs, the Honourable Iris Evans and MLA Dave Quest, for championing the new library.

As we look back on an amazing year, there are two final groups of people who deserve special recognition. They are our volunteers and our staff. Under the leadership of director Sharon Siga, these individuals collectively saw to it that the library's transition into its new home was accomplished with a minimum of disruption to our patrons. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by these people is truly inspiring.

On behalf of the entire board of trustees, welcome to the new Strathcona County Library, with its enhanced capacity and collection, and to the new Bookmobile. We are thrilled with our ability to serve you better, and we hope that you will find something here that sparks your interest, expands your knowledge and sends your imagination soaring!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernie Jurkat".

- Ernie Jurkat, Chair, Strathcona County Library Board

consumer champion award of merit

Strathcona County Library, along with partners Fort Saskatchewan Public Library and the Legal Resource Centre of Alberta, was a recipient of Service Alberta's Consumer Champion Award of Merit at a ceremony at Government House on March 8, 2010. The award was for the Law for Seniors in Alberta: Library Training Project – a project designed to increase the legal knowledge of Alberta seniors, their families, and those who work with them.

The project included a series of eight to ten training sessions for staff in public libraries who work with seniors, as well as information sessions for the public that were conducted at libraries and seniors' centres. Legal information booklets and checklists were produced to supplement these sessions, aimed at seniors and older adults, their families, and the service providers who work closely with them. The plain language booklets on wills, powers of attorney, personal directives, consumer protection, and grandparents' rights are also available online. Interest in, and requests for the booklets, has continued long beyond the end of the project.

The project was led by an advisory group of public librarians, seniors, and representatives from local seniors' organizations who provided advice and feedback on the legal topics covered, resource formats, and evaluation of activities. Library partners also surveyed the public for legal topics of interest and concern.

The information tools and booklets resulting from this project are now available to all public libraries in Alberta via the web and in print. As well, a list of suggested titles has been generated for public libraries to use as a guide when building their collections of legal information materials for seniors in Alberta. This list is available online on the Older Adult Knowledge Network (www.oak-net.org).

Funding for this one-year project was provided through the Public Library Development Initiative (PLDI) of Alberta Municipal Affairs.





highlights of the new library

welcome

... to the “community’s living room”. The new library is 64,000 sq. ft., spread over two floors. Featuring a variety of spaces for people of all ages and interests, natural light floods cozy reading nooks filled with comfortable seating. Organic shapes and colors inspired by nature blend to create an environment that inspires the imagination and provides a tranquil oasis for reading and research.

meet

Buy a latte at Vicky’s Café and visit the Fireside Lounge on the second floor to enjoy the warmth of the fireplace, comfortable armchairs and a great view. Quiet private and group study areas are sprinkled throughout the space, including meeting rooms available for spontaneous use or advanced booking.

imagine

The new library is home to several works of art, created by Alberta artists and representing an eclectic mix of styles and media. At the entrance, visitors are greeted by two murals by renowned Cold Lake First Nations artist Alex Janvier. The Birch Room on the second floor is home to a stunning curved wall of glass by Manola Borrajo-Giner, titled park • land • home.

play

The hand of set designer Marissa Kochanski can be seen in the incredible decorative elements found throughout the Enchanted Forest and Discovery Zone. The Enchanted Forest is dedicated to future readers and their families. At the centre is the Reading Tree, complete with concrete bark, hiding spaces for little treasures and foliage that changes with the seasons. The most active space in the library, the Enchanted Forest is also home to a broad spectrum of early literacy programming and activity centres.

discover

Explore in the Discovery Zone, a space designed for school-age children. Story rings encircle the pillars while a starry night-sky mural and a puzzle theme invoke the boundless imagination of a child. As well as large collections of books, the Discovery Zone hosts a Homework Help centre. Next door, the TeenZone offers a quirky and colourful place for teens to hang out, study, plug in a laptop, browse magazines, or grab a graphic novel.

connect

An Internet café, public computers, laptop bars and wireless access throughout the building will appeal to anyone looking to connect online. For those with special needs, assistive technology can be found on the first floor. A Career Resource Centre and a Business Resource Centre are handy for specific information-seekers, while easy-to-read signage and friendly staff are always nearby to connect library visitors to whatever they seek.

library by the numbers

- 64,000 square feet, on 2 floors
- 7 living rooms
- 1 Career Resource Centre, 1 Business Resource Centre and 1 coffee shop: Vicky's Café
- 88 public computers
- 225,000 items in a variety of formats for reading, viewing and listening
- 1.1 million items borrowed and returned last year
- More than 500,000 visitors in person annually
- 12 regular weekly rural stops by the Bookmobile, with extra visits to playschools and seniors' residences
- Over 460,000 visitors online to the library's catalogue and website
- 175 followers on twitter.com (and climbing)





relax



adult services

The beginning of 2010 saw the Adult Services staff intensively involved in the interior design of the new library. We were fortunate enough to be given the ability to participate in this aspect of our new home and we took that responsibility seriously.

Staff undertook research into the best practices for the design of public spaces, as well as field studies into what was working in other public libraries across the country. Our challenge was to integrate the best of what we found out in the rest of the world, and make it even better.

The end result was the innovative signage and wayfinding system in place in the new library, and a casual “bookstore” feel to the adult collections. And the reward has been an increase in patron use of the space – we now see people staying in the library to relax, lounge and read. We are also seeing more students using our space. The library has truly become the “community’s living room”.

One key feature of our new wayfinding system is highly accessible shelving. To make room for this shelving, we sold most of our old shelving and furniture to schools and non-profit organizations, giving these items a useful new lease on life.

We have also revitalized our collections. We have added Blu-Ray DVDs, 100 more magazine titles and leisure reading for our new cafe. We have also created a new “Classics” collection, offering classic titles in multiple formats including book, audiobook and DVD.

While most of the Library was closed for a month, a great partnership with Salisbury Composite High School allowed us to offer study space and Internet access at the old library location and in the school’s library. We re-opened with twice the number of public computers. In the electronic realm, our website has also undergone some changes. This year, we began hosting BookLetters - a multi-dimensional service that introduces patrons to the latest new books across a variety of genres. In November, we relaunched our site with our new logo and a new look, featuring the library’s new Twitter account.

The Career Resource Centre on the second floor is one of the key features of our new library. Designed to support workforce activity in the community and benefit the broader labour market, the Centre features a photocopier, fax, phone, scanner and several computers. Patrons can find information on resume writing, interview techniques and labour market trends and receive career assistance whenever the Library is open. Many of the resources are supplied by Alberta Employment and Immigration. We are very proud to have a strong partnership for the Centre with the Rotary Club of Sherwood Park Centennial.

Finally, we are pleased to report that we enjoyed a great response to the range of programs that Adult Services sponsored in 2010, including new programming for Historic Week. We also partnered with the Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County Community Adult Learning Council (CALC) to provide over 1000 hours of ESL tutoring.





youth services

One of the highlights of 2010 for the Youth Services staff has been the creation of special features in the children's areas of the new library. Throughout the spring and summer, we partnered with a team of artists and designers, and watched with growing excitement as features like the Reading Tree and Discovery Zone story rings came to life.

Alongside creativity, technology has played a strong supporting role in our services for youth. There are new Early Literacy computers with touch screen options for our youngest patrons, new Discovery stations for preschool learning, and Smart Board technology enhances programs for babies and parents. A major revision of the library website included significant design updates for the KidSpace and Teenzone sections.

As we prepared to open the doors our new home, we refreshed and significantly built up our youth collections. In addition to more books, CDs and DVDs, we now feature an enhanced magazine collection, with new titles for children, teens, parents and French Immersion students.

As the collections were enlarged, increased space in the new library meant that we had room for more displays and easier access. We developed pull-out collections and enhanced options for displays. We also took the opportunity to examine and update our wayfinding system. Signage, collection descriptors and labels for youth collections were reviewed and followed up with a plan for customer-friendly language and clear, concise signage now found in our children's and teen areas.

On the programming front, Youth Services offered 461 programs during 2010, with attendance of 23,218. A broad range of topics served children, teens and caregivers. We conducted an extensive evaluation of programs, especially for the high demand programs for preschool children, and we shifted some of our focus to include more programming to accommodate families with children of different ages.

Spring Reading programs for children and teens were based on the extremely popular game "Guitar Hero". We also marked a milestone in the summer with the children's summer reading game, "Under Construction", being played over 10,000 times. The teen summer game, "Time Stealer", resulted in 375 book reviews being submitted by teens. To encourage the budding authors in our community, we also hosted a one-day writing workshop for teens and two weeklong writing camps for children, in partnership with Strathcona County's Recreation, Parks and Culture department.

The opening of the new library on November 1st was an exciting milestone and it is so gratifying to see the library spaces busy and appreciated by community residents on a daily basis. In 2011 we will shift our focus from facility planning to re-establishing and refreshing services, especially those related to programming and outreach. The next year promises to be very exciting as we enter a new Plan of Service and deliver services from a wonderful new facility.



accessible



community



bookmobile

The Bookmobile also had a memorable year, as we launched the newest incarnation of Strathcona County's "library-on-wheels" on April 19, 2010. On October 25, the Bookmobile rolled into its new home for the very first time. We're very proud of this unique bus, designed to be universally accessible and highly eco-conscious.

Several years in the planning, our Bookmobile has been designed with the goal of revolutionizing the traditional model, creating a superbly functional vehicle that carries the services of the library into the communities surrounding our bricks-and-mortar home in Sherwood Park. From concept to completion, the new Bookmobile was dreamed of and designed by our own staff.

Universal accessibility was of cardinal importance. The low entrance and ramp accommodates our littlest patrons, those with knee problems and patrons using wheelchairs and walkers. Once inside the Bookmobile, an adult wheelchair user finds the materials are within easy reach. As well, the interior is designed to allow a child in a wheelchair to access the Children's area.

With this accessibility, our service could be expanded. We overcame space limitations by designing revolutionary rolling shelves that provide great flexibility. This "quick-change" design means that contents can be rapidly adapted to different user audiences. We can move from serving seniors to preschoolers in minutes! We would like to acknowledge System One Manufacturing for their superb workmanship and willingness to work closely with us to develop this one-of-a-kind bus.

These innovations have allowed us to expand our services, and over 2010, visits to the Bookmobile were up 27%. 19% of the increase was at our regular stops and 8% of the increase can be attributed to new visits.

The new Strathcona County Library Bookmobile is solar-powered. The roof is equipped with six solar panels tied into a battery bank. This bank will provide 200 (24 volt) amp hours and the panels will provide 20.1 amps/hour. Combined with the use of natural light and air flow, this means that the Bookmobile is less reliant on shorelines and generator power. Our new Bookmobile is much greener! This was an attractive feature that eventually led to a five-year renewable sponsorship by Shell Canada Ltd.

At the end of April in 2010, Erik Boekesteijn and Jaap van de Geer arrived to film a short documentary on the new Bookmobile. Hailing from the DOK public library in Delft, these filmmakers were on a global Shanachie Tour, capturing best practices and innovations in public libraries around the globe. You can see the final video at www.shanachietour.com. Select the "Wild Rose Shanachie Tour: Strathcona Mobile Library".

We envision a bright, new future for Bookmobiles worldwide. Our greatest satisfaction would come with seeing this innovative concept duplicated and ultimately improved even further.



resources



space





once in a lifetime, a community builds a library...

The new library was built as part of an innovative Community Centre project that attracted funding from all orders of government. With the construction budget taken care of, the library embarked in 2008 on a Capital Campaign to raise \$1.5 million to furnish, equip and stock its new home with appealing materials on accessible shelving.

A dedicated group of volunteers were recruited to form a Campaign Cabinet. The Cabinet was selected to be as diverse as its prospects: male and female; teen and senior; urban and rural; working and retired; library staff and Board. What united them was their belief in the value of libraries to transform lives and a drive to make Strathcona County's library the best it could be.

With the message, "once in a lifetime, a community builds a library..." community members were invited to be a part of the library's story, "creating the next chapter... together." Over a period of two years, the Campaign was led by an evolving group of volunteers, including a series of Honorary Families who graciously agreed to lend their support in the media and at fundraisers and community events. Countless relationships were forged along the way, as a mix of corporations, small businesses, groups and individuals responded to the call. The legacy of these wonderful donors is acknowledged on numerous plaques throughout the library.

By the time the new library opened its doors to an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds on November 1, 2010, the Capital Campaign goal had been achieved. As we finish writing this successful chapter in the library's story, we offer heartfelt thanks to all of our donors who have made such a difference in the lives of community members, now and for generations to come.



community support

Throughout 2010, the Library enjoyed significant support from the community. Much of this support came from the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society, who had a very active year.

In May, the Friends held their Annual General Meeting, electing a new slate of officers for all positions. This was followed in June by a special resolution meeting to ratify new bylaws.

July saw the 10th Anniversary edition of the Friends' Water Garden Tour. This unique self-guided tour spotlighted a collection of beautiful gardens and has become a highly popular annual event. In commemoration of the anniversary, the planning committee decided to feature some of the best gardens from the previous nine years of the Tour.

As well, the Strathcona County Agricultural Department asked the Friends to organize an additional five-site mini Water Garden Tour in 2010, designed to showcase a variety of agricultural components. This was in conjunction with a province-wide agricultural conference hosted by the Agricultural Department. Between the two tours, this annual event raised more than \$8000.

The Library's annual Book Sale ran over two days in August and raised over \$3000. The Friends were instrumental in helping with the set-up of the sale, and did a variety of volunteer jobs throughout the two days.

In September, the "Cathedrals and Temples 2010" fundraising tour was hosted. This tour normally focuses on historical sites, but the 2010 version featured six churches and temples in the Edmonton area. The event was completely sold out ten days prior and generated a sizeable waiting list. Feedback was very positive from the 42 participants, who enjoyed exploring spaces that they would not otherwise have access to. Connelly-McKinley provided a bus and driver, and this year's tour raised \$2300.

December marked the return of the Annual Gift Wrap fundraiser. 2010 was the 12th year of this event, which saw 85 volunteers (many of them Friends of the Library) spending more than 450 hours wrapping Christmas gifts at the Sherwood Park Mall, with a generous donation of wrapping paper by the Mall. This wrapped up a very successful year of fundraising, and the Friends had the pleasure of presenting the Library with a cheque for \$10,000 at the end of the year.

new logo & new website

As final preparations were made to move into the new Library, the time was also right to create a new logo. Multiple options were reviewed and the final version was selected in August 2010. The modern new logo has a variety of visual interpretations, including books, a laptop, a plant, a building, a bird and several others. This seems appropriate as the modern library evolves and serves multiple functions within the community.

The choice of green fits with themes like “nature” and “calm” and links naturally with the environmentally-friendly practice of circulating materials amongst multiple users. Our new home has been built with sustainability in mind, and is in the process of acquiring a (Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design) LEED designation. This makes green a perfect color for our new logo.

Finally, we considered the evolution from our existing logo, which was built on the visual idea of three stacked books, or a building. We carried the concept of “three” into the new logo and stretched “book” and “building” just a little further.

Following the development of the new logo, a new Library website was also launched, in a fresh and user-friendly format. The new website features the library’s twitter feeds, program and highlight slideshows, and a slew of interactive booklists.



Strathcona County
LIBRARY

statement of financial position

STRATHCONA COUNTY LIBRARY
Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2010

	<u>Dec 31 2010</u>	<u>Dec 31 2009</u>
Financial Assets		
Due from Strathcona County	\$ 2,854,651	\$ 4,355,155
Trade and Other Receivables	<u>26,879</u>	<u>32,654</u>
	<u>2,881,530</u>	<u>4,387,809</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 517,893	\$ 334,106
Deferred Revenue	<u>30,904</u>	<u>23,157</u>
Long-Term Debt	<u>23,940,415</u>	<u>10,635,200</u>
	<u>24,489,212</u>	<u>10,992,463</u>
Net Debt	<u>(21,607,682)</u>	<u>(6,604,654)</u>
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible Capital Assets	<u>29,115,629</u>	13,133,337
Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Charges	<u>3,041</u>	<u>1,413</u>
	<u>29,118,670</u>	<u>13,134,750</u>
Accumulated Surplus	<u><u>7,510,988</u></u>	<u><u>6,530,096</u></u>

In order to improve transparency about the economic resources consumed to deliver services and the financial sustainability of Strathcona County Library, in 2009 the Library implemented a new financial information presentation format - the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) 1200 Financial Statement Presentation and its 3150 Tangible Capital Assets Presentation.

One major change from previous Library financial presentations is that the term "Accumulated Surplus" refers to the net assets of the library in all its forms i.e. tangible assets such as materials, facilities, and cash assets.

It is important to note that the Library's 2010 financial statements reflected an elevated level of accumulated surplus due to the timing of funding and debt related to the building of the new library facility in the new Community Centre. The "Annual Surplus" recorded in 2010 as reserves were accumulated to purchase furniture and equipment for the new library. Some reserves will be expended to purchase furniture and equipment for the new library facility. For more information please contact Sharon Siga at ssiga@sclibrary.ab.ca or 780-410-8606.



statement of operations

STRATHCONA COUNTY LIBRARY

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

	Dec 31 2010	2010 Budget (unaudited)	Dec 31 2009
Revenue			
Property Taxes	\$ 6,205,819	\$ 6,205,819	\$ 5,918,513
Provincial Government Transfers - Operating	475,189	461,813	461,813
Other Government Grants	135,028	17,517	31,291
Government Transfers - Capital	117,676	46,000	48,841
User Fees and Charges	135,675	148,340	141,951
Penalties and Fines	146,061	158,670	147,143
Investment Income	53,367	13,880	29,321
Other	652,672	558,875	389,865
Total Revenues	7,921,487	7,610,914	7,168,738
Expenses			
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	3,946,039	3,913,405	3,414,965
Amortization Expense	867,971	124,000	495,791
Contracted and General Services	844,667	942,530	1,020,056
Interest on Debt	830,456	821,995	81,914
Administrative Charges	244,293	246,665	70,647
Supplies, Materials and Utilities	208,121	1,167,716	214,974
Other Expenses	7,291	8,155	6,594
Grants and Requisitions	(8,243)	-	(2,200)
Total Expenses	6,940,595	7,224,466	5,302,741
Annual Surplus	980,892	386,448	1,865,997
Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year	6,530,096	6,530,096	4,664,099
Accumulated Surplus, End of Year	7,510,988	6,916,544	6,530,096





Strathcona County Library

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