

2011 Annual Report



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Your Community Your Library

discover the possibilities

From the Library Board

This has been a year of tremendous change for the Grande Prairie Public Library. As we have continued to settle into our incredible new facility, we have also been busy fitting our programs and services to the priorities set forth in the strategic plan.

2011 marked our successful “Geek the Library” campaign. We strove to demonstrate to the community that the library was a place where you could pursue your unique passion. Your desire to become educated on any subject is truly only limited by your desire, not your economic status or location. Libraries are true pioneers in the areas of cooperation and resource sharing, and this commitment means that our patrons have access to materials of interest to them from all over the province, the country and the world.

We are incredibly grateful to all of the organizations and individuals that provide us with the resources we need to provide quality library service. The City of Grande Prairie and surrounding municipalities have shown in their funding that providing top tier library service to their citizens is a high priority. Our collaborative relationships with other regional libraries through the Peace Library System allows us to provide an incredible variety of resources to our members through centralized purchasing and interlibrary loans.

Change has come to the top levels of our organization. The end of 2011 marked the departure of two people who made incredible contributions to our success. Director Laurie Harrison departed in October after six years. Her cheerful demeanor and hard work throughout the building process were an inspiration to everyone. Long time board member and chair Gary Wood completed nine years of service in December. Gary was a great leader for our board, and a tremendous spokesperson for the library in the public sphere. His experience and vision will be sorely missed.

The future is bright for the Grande Prairie Public Library. Membership and circulation continue to grow, programs are seeing increased attendance, and online resources are being used in greater numbers. This is all directly attributable to our incredible front line staff, our volunteers, and our highly engaged, supportive members. Our new director, Dawn Silver, brings a wealth of experience in public libraries, and a willingness to confront tough issues. In addition, our board has been fortunate enough to welcome two passionate, skilled new members in Tymarrah Zehr and Wade Pilat.

We look forward to another banner year in 2012, to providing this diverse community with excellent service tailored to its demands, and to doing our part to make Grande Prairie an even more enjoyable place to live.

Wade Nellis
Board Chair



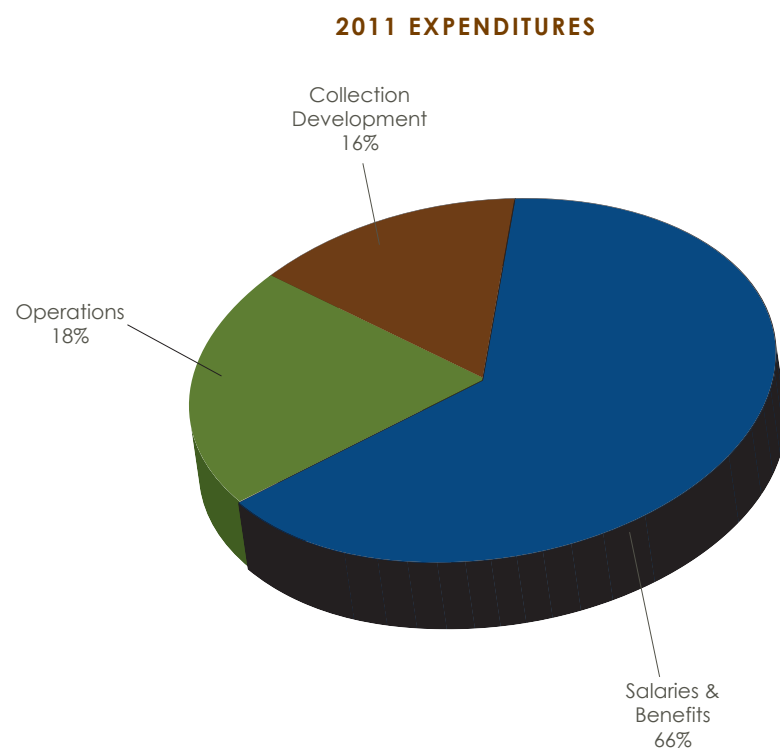
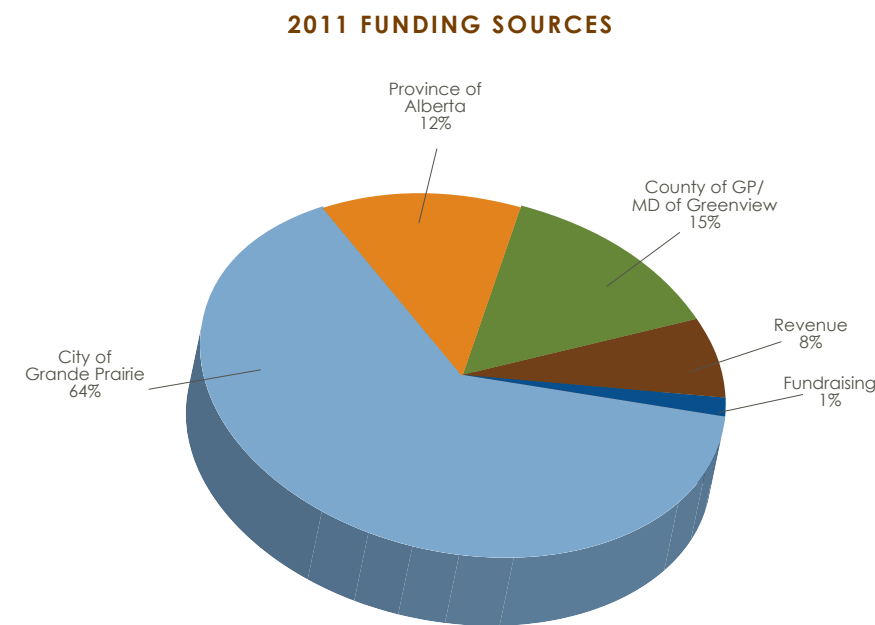
2011 Library Fast Facts

Library memberships	12,321
Circulation	512,595
Visits to the Library	264,655
Interlibrary Loan borrowing	61,022
Interlibrary Loan lending	64,172
Public Internet usage	60,773
Staff hours	55,255
Collection size	147,746
Program attendance	10,137



GPPL Staff - Family Literacy Day

Financials



A copy of the 2011 audited financial statement is available upon request.

From the Library Director



In 2011, Library staff continued to implement the current three year Strategic Plan to ensure the relevancy of Grande Prairie Public Library to the community. The direction most successful was the creation of young readers so that preschool children will have the skills for reading readiness. In 2011, 4580 children participated in preschool programs representing a 41% increase in one year. Staff increased the children’s collection to 22,256 items representing a 21% increase. Similarly, the Strategic Plan calls for an increase in the circulation of children’s materials. With 100,607 items being checked out we saw an astonishing 48% increase which reflects how popular the larger collection has become.

One goal of the Plan is to ensure that all residents will have resources that excite their imaginations and provide reading, viewing and listening pleasure. Happily with a carefully targeted 9% increase in the collection, we saw more than half a million items circulate. 512,595 items were taken out in 2011 for the first time breaking the half-million mark. A portion of this increase came from eBooks being downloaded by Grande Prairie Public Library members. Library staff has taken an active approach to helping people learn how to use eReaders and tablets.

In keeping with the goals of the City of Grande Prairie, the Library is actively engaged in partnering with community groups. In 2011, formal partnerships were signed with the Alberta Genealogical Society, Grande Prairie Branch and the Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers. We are committed to celebrating the cultural diversity of our community by continuing to offer programs and events such as Chinese New Year and a Russian Christmas.

Lifelong learning and the ability to find, evaluate and use information in our lives has become ever more important. People learn to access meaningful and relevant information through educational opportunities offered at their Library. Our ongoing commitments to excellent customer service lead us to ask our customers how they saw our ability to guide them in learning about the tools and technology. We asked them if we were knowledgeable, helped them effectively and if what they had learned produced a positive experience. Overall the response was excellent with over 95% satisfaction rating.

In the year ahead, the Grande Prairie Public Library will remain responsive to our customers, continue to be a community hub with our welcoming and inclusive facility and commit to ongoing innovative programming for every age.

Dawn Silver
Library Director

Welcome!

Whether you're new to the country, province or the City of Grande Prairie - welcome! Whether you're looking for information, entertainment or to learn a new skill, your Library should be one of your first stops. The Library is a welcoming, community gathering place and a stepping stone for learning, personal enrichment and engagement.

In 2011, the Library introduced new programs for newcomers such as Citizenship Preparation Classes, the ESL Reading Circle, Conversational English Club and Resume Writing for Newcomers. Over 300 people participated in ESL programs at the Library in 2011



ESL Holiday Celebration



French Language Book Club

Another online tool, Press Display, has made keeping in touch with the news from home a bit easier. Press Display allows Library patrons to read newspapers from around the world in their own language.

The French Language Book Club was also new in 2011, allowing participants to discuss French language material. Participants are encouraged to read a book of their choice for discussion in French.

The Library also partnered with the WorkPlace in 2011 to present Internet Basics for Job Seekers, a session to assist those who were searching for work in Grande Prairie and area.



English Conversation Club



Food for Fines - February
13 & 14, 2011



Giving Tree benefitting
Odyssey House



Alberta Seniors' Week
entertainment from the
Golden Age Centre.



Alberta String Music Association

Community

Throughout the year, the Library partners with other community organizations by organizing programs, donating prizes and participating in events.

The Library was highly visible in 2011 at events such as Heritage Days, Alberta Arts Days, Alberta Seniors' Week and the Grande Prairie Women's Show.

The Library worked with Alberta Health Services, The WorkPlace, Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, The Alberta String Music Association, The Writers Guild of Alberta, Odyssey House, Parent Link, Golden Age Centre and the Prairie Art Gallery to develop and present programs.

Staff also participated extensively with the Children's Literature Round Table and the Council for Lifelong Learning.



Heritage Days



Alberta Arts Days

Each Valentine's Day, the Library encourages patrons to contribute to the Salvation Army Food Bank. For each item donated, the Library waives one fine. In 2011, 1170 items were donated and over \$3000 in fines were waived.

Over the Christmas holidays, the Library partnered with Alberta Health Services to present the Safe & Sober Tree and with Sunrise House and Odyssey House for the Giving Tree.

The Library also provided free memberships for evacuees from Slave Lake as well as a safe haven, entertainment and activities for their families and Internet access to communicate with friends and family.



Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce Mixer

Early Literacy

Children learn in many different ways and your Library has the resources to help them succeed.

In 2011, the Children's Library at GPPL introduced new programs to meet the changing needs of families. Saturday programs for families that could not attend during the week have become very popular. Sessions that have been held during the week are repeated for those who can only attend on weekends.

Also on weekends is PAWS for a Story. Emerging readers ages 5 to 8 are invited to read a story to this gentle golden retriever named Corky. Reading to a therapy dog can enhance literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. Sessions in this registered program are always in demand. Thirty-five children were able to participate in 10 sessions.



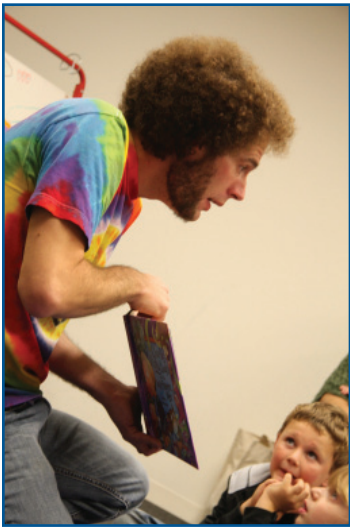
PAWS for a Story



COW Bus

Preschool drop-in programs were extremely popular in 2011. Over 6000 participants attended sessions such as Baby Rhyme Thyme, Imagination Station, Musical Tots, Mother Goose on the Loose and Tumbling T's.

Future Readers, a registered reading readiness program, was one of the most requested programs in 2011. Over 250 children attended in 2011.



Chris Thiessen of the Dragon Stew Crew



LEGO Mania

Learn a new skill, hobby or share ideas

Baking buns, flower art, world movies, book clubs, travel and music. Teens were locked in the Library and Merlin was rescued. Children built with Lego, had tea parties and had a party with a pigeon. Programs at the Grande Prairie Public Library were very popular and extremely well attended. Over 10,000 people participated in 781 programs in 2011.

During the summer, 203 adults, 55 young adults and 370 children participated in reading programs such as I'm a Book Geek: Adult Summer Reading Program, Get Your Geek On: Teen Summer Reading Game 2011 and Children's Summer Reading Game 2011: Geek Some Summer!

Author visits included Eva Olssen, Maureen Fergus, Joseph Simons, Karen Bass and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton.



Fancy Nancy Tea Party



(left) Zumba® instructor Robyn Rowlands leads a group in the I geek aerobic dance session at the Geek launch.



(right) Sharon Lowe demonstrates her geek - cake decorating!



Teen Lock-In



Flower Art with Janice



Geek freeze mob at the Prairie Mall during Canadian Library Month.



Save Merlin



Summer Reading Game

Mayor Bill Given visits the Library to proclaim Canadian Library Month and Geek Week. A library user, the Mayor renewed his membership.



Geek the Library

In 2011, the Grande Prairie Public Library participated in a community-based, public awareness campaign called Geek the Library, created by OCLC with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Geek, used as a verb, means to have an intense passion for. Whatever you are passionate about, your Library supports you.

Geek the Library launched on June 4 with individuals and community groups sharing their geeks. Library patrons were invited to sessions on cake decorating, scrapbooking, fitness, running, robotics, birds, rodeos and travel. Those who attended also had the opportunity to have their own geek picture taken to share on social media.



Game 2011 and Children’s Summer Reading Game 2011: Geek Some Summer!).

During Canadian Library Month, Geek the Library lawn signs were put up along major arterial roadways. Digital billboards featuring our local geeks were at several locations. Local radio station Q99 provided extensive airtime as the major media sponsor.

On October 22, the Library organized a freeze mob at the Prairie Mall. Library staff and supporters scattered throughout the mall’s centre court and froze with their reading material in various positions. A freeze mob was a new idea in Grande Prairie and attracted a lot of attention.

Geek the Library was a huge success! What do you geek?



Library staff requested custom geek shirts and after the launch, they were made available to patrons. Close to 100 geek shirts were ordered throughout the campaign. Many were purchased for Christmas presents and several onesies were given as baby gifts.

Several celebrity geeks were recruited to share their passions including champion curler Renee Sonnenberg, actor Alex Zahara and Grande Prairie Mayor Bill Given.

Throughout the summer and fall, Library programs were geeked including the summer reading programs (I’m a Book Geek: Adult Summer Reading Program, Get Your Geek On: Teen Summer Reading



Curl up with a good book

Whether it be paper, audio or eBook, is there anything better than curling up with a good book? The Library has resources that excite the imagination and provide reading, viewing and listening pleasure.

Not only does the Library have books in many formats - DVDs, Blu-ray, audiobooks, magazines and eBooks are all available as well.

In 2011, over 23,000 new items were added to the Library’s collection. By the end of the year, the Library’s collection contained 150,000 items. New material was added in many areas, including:

Blu-ray	97
Board Books	268
Christian Fiction	288
DVD (Adult)	646
DVD (Young Adult)	46
DVD (Juvenile)	785
Fiction (Adult)	1360
Fiction (Juvenile)	540
Fiction (Young Adult)	769
Large Print (Adult)	259
Non-Fiction (Adult)	2277
Non-Fiction (Juvenile)	895
Non-Fiction (Young Adult)	67
Paperback (Adult)	1292
Paperback (Juvenile)	1283
Paperback (Young Adult)	157
Picture Books	1356
Picture Books (Non-Fiction)	873
Beginning Readers	946



Suggestions for the purchase of Library materials are always welcome either in person or through the Library’s website at www.gppl.ab.ca.

Technology for all

The Library makes technology accessible for all. Wireless Internet access is free and can be used with a laptop or any mobile device. Those who do not have their own computer can use the public Internet stations at no charge. The 41 public stations at GPPL were used over 60,000 times in 2011.

The first ever Technology Day was held in 2011 with close to 50 people attending. Sessions were held on online research tools such as Novelist, Mango and Consumer Reports as well as introductions to Twitter, Facebook and eBooks.

With the addition of OverDrive, eBooks have become a popular choice with Library patrons. One-on-one sessions on how to use eReaders and tablets have quickly become very popular.

To assist patrons who would like to know more about the Library's online research tools, a regular program called Get Connected - How to use Online Research Tools was created.

The Library's website has become a source of information for patrons. Not only can they check their account and put books on hold, they are also able to search all of the Library's online research tools at once using the articles button on the search bar located on every page of the website.

The Library's website was accessed 128,164 times in 2011.



Tumblebooks station in the Children's Library



Internet for Seniors



Wii Women

We couldn't do it without YOU

Not everyone is aware that the Library is a non-profit organization. As such, we rely on our donors and volunteers.

Volunteers perform a variety of duties at the Library. From shelf reading and dusting to our Reading Buddies volunteers and those that assist with duties such as mending books.

Our Board, who are appointed by the City of Grande Prairie, are all volunteers. Not only do they attend monthly meetings, but they also donate their time for events and programs.

175 volunteers donated over 2300 hours of their time in 2011.



BMO - Bank of Montreal Donation

We are very grateful to our many donors who sponsor all aspects of the Library. From bookmarks and events to programs and author visits, we thank you for your support.



Author Margaret Pokiak-Fenton presented by encana



Geek the Library, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Media sponsor Q99.



Volunteer facilitator with the English Conversation Club



Reading Buddies volunteer