

Before the town could boast its first public library, the Northern Tribune Sept. 7, 1933 announced, Grande Prairie will soon have a rental library. In discussing the proposed library with the reporter, Miss Brown said "People of Grande Prairie and district are a reading public and I believe there is an opportunity for such a library." By the press of Dec. 14, 1933 many were delighted to believe the following folksy notice: "Studio Library (Opposite Town Hall) A cozy chair, a glowing hearth and a book. If you can enjoy this, why not your friends also? Let them have adventure, mystery and romance. Give them a membership to The Studio Library. It will cost you only \$1.00. That early cultural venture served in a limited, ad hoc way for a brief time, eventually inspiring the Grande Prairie branch of the Women's Institute to promote the town's first public library.

LIBRARY to Formally Open Saturday Afternoon With Serving Silver Tea

June 21, 1939

To formally open the Grande Prairie Public Library a silver tea will be held in the council room of the Town hall, Saturday afternoon, June 17, from 3 to 6. Everyone interested in this worthwhile addition to the town as well as women, are invited to attend the tea and see the progress made.

The Library committee, W.I. assisted by members of the I.O.G.E. have been busy for some time repairing, filling and indexing the books donated by local supporters. The first bookcase built by Mr. Spencer is well filled with nearly 500 volumes of fiction, non-fiction and juvenile.

During the afternoon there will be an opportunity to take out membership, which is the only charge for the privileges of the library and which is permanent. This charge is necessary to meet expenses incurred

in the establishment of this town benefit.

Commencing June 21, the library will be open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 10. It is hoped that Grande Prairie will show its appreciation of the real work entailed in the establishment of this town benefit.

Annual Report 2014

G.P. Public Library Increases Books To Meet Demand

October 1939
Some of the new books of particular interest in the light of present-day events are: "A Peculiar Treasure" by Edna Kerber; "Mr. Ennoble" by E. Kerber; "Ordeal in England" by Sir Philip Gibbs; "The Arrogant History of White Den" by Clemence Dane; "Pamine Den" by "Inside Europe" "Japan Over Asia" "October 1939

So great has been the response for books for the Grande Prairie Public Library that it has been found necessary to construct another bookcase. This has now been put into place and the committee will shortly have the books arranged to better advantage.

Library Has Very Successful Year

February 1940

Don't Let Your Library Down! VOTING DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

On Monday, February 9, ratepayers will vote on the library. Don't let Monday blues, wash day or war scare keep you from marching resolutely to the Town Hall to register an emphatic "yes" to the question of establishing the present W.I. library as the Provincial Libraries Act. The British wouldn't. The blitz made them realize more than ever the importance of not only maintaining but widening "this vital national service" which a library alone can supply equally to all.

When the vote is counted, let it be an overwhelming decision in favor of this important service to our youth as well as to our adults.

SEE YOU AT THE POLLS ON MONDAY!

February 5, 1942

Public Library To Be Open Twice Each Week

September 1940

G.P. Library Board Hold First Meeting

March 12, 1942
The first meeting of the Grande Prairie Library Board was held recently in the Town Hall. Mayor Lawlor and members Mrs. Pickard, Mrs. Hunter, L. Kowensky and C. Spencer were present.

Mr. Spencer was appointed chairman of the board for a period of one year. Mrs. J. B. Phillips is secretary-treasurer.

New Library Building Needed Grande Prairie

August 1945

A Community Celebration

From the

Library Director

This was a year of celebration, innovation and revitalization for the Grande Prairie Public Library.

The community helped us celebrate our 75th anniversary throughout the year, and particularly embraced the free Library memberships we offered during the month of June. We saw an 82% increase in new memberships and a 63% increase in renewed memberships.

Our celebration as a vibrant, progressive Library included the expansion of our e-resources, including new databases such as Ancestry for genealogy research, Zinio for online magazines, and Hoopla for videos, music and audiobooks. Ebooks continue to be extremely popular with our users, and our collection has expanded accordingly. In response to requests from our users for bestsellers to be more available, we introduced the Most Wanted Collection, with short-term loans and high turnover. The books and films in this collection are flying off the shelves and are clearly a hit.

Programs continue to be a key component of our service, and the creativity and innovation of our staff led to many exciting new offerings. One of the year's highlights was LibriCon, the first ever Library Comic Con. Hundreds of people – many in costume – attended this hugely successful program, which has gone on to receive two provincial awards.

This birthday year was also an opportunity to revitalize the Library, with the launch of our new technologically advanced programming space and a review of the layout of our current public areas.

As the Grande Prairie Public Library embarks on its 76th year, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Board, our strong ongoing relationship with the Peace Library System, the support of municipal, regional and provincial governments, the generosity of donors and volunteers, and hard-working staff.

The community of Grande Prairie prides itself on its innovative culture, and its public Library also reflects the values of creativity, excellence and innovation. These values have been woven into our Library services for 75 years and we will continue to grow and respond to the needs of our vibrant community as we enter a very bright future.

Maureen Curry
Library Director





Guests celebrate
the Library's 75th
Anniversary on
June 21, 2014



1939 t

In 1939, the Grande Prairie Institute asked the town council for a new Library. The town and Charles Spencer, a local businessman, donated bookcases for the Library. The Edmonton Bulletin and local newspapers had a collection of 300 books. June.

Seventy five years and five months later, the library is located in the beautiful Morley building. The collection contains over 160,000 items, including toys, DVDs, Blu-ray, eBooks and other resources.

A community celebration was held from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The event was reminiscent of the original opening day in 1939, featuring delicious OMG Cupcakes. Guests enjoyed games and a photo gallery of the Library's history. All those who attended were entered to win an iPad.



Our iPad winner!

Families gathered to
play games that were
popular in 1939.





o 2014

The branch of the Women's Council for room in the town. The town approved the request. A contractor, built the first. With donations from the local citizens, the new Library opens on its opening day in

At a later date, the Library is moved to the Centre. Our collection of 10,000 books, magazines, and other electronic

The event was held on Saturday, June 21. A highlight was a silver tea, held on the Library's opening day. There were delicious, mini-cupcakes from the local bakery. People enjoyed crafts, music, games, and a tour of the library through the decades. People entered for the chance to



Staff taught crafts from the era such as paper hats and rag dolls



Our history was displayed on boards created by Library staff





Exploring the books and
toys in the Children's
Library



A Journey Through Time
Community Art Project



GPPL in 2014

The Library was visited
256,680 times

The Library has
11,184
members

The Library's collection
contains
163,333
items including books,
magazines, toys, DVDs,
Blu-ray, CDs, eBooks and
eAudiobooks

431,820
items were circulated
at the Grande Prairie
Public Library in
2014

60,798
items from our
collection were lent
to customers at
other libraries.

146
volunteers
donated **2,253** hours at
the Library



Libricon 2014

The Library's free public
computers were used

42,174 times

Our website at
www.gppl.ab.ca
was visited
142,187
times

Library members checked out

29,563

eBooks & eAudiobooks.

An increase of

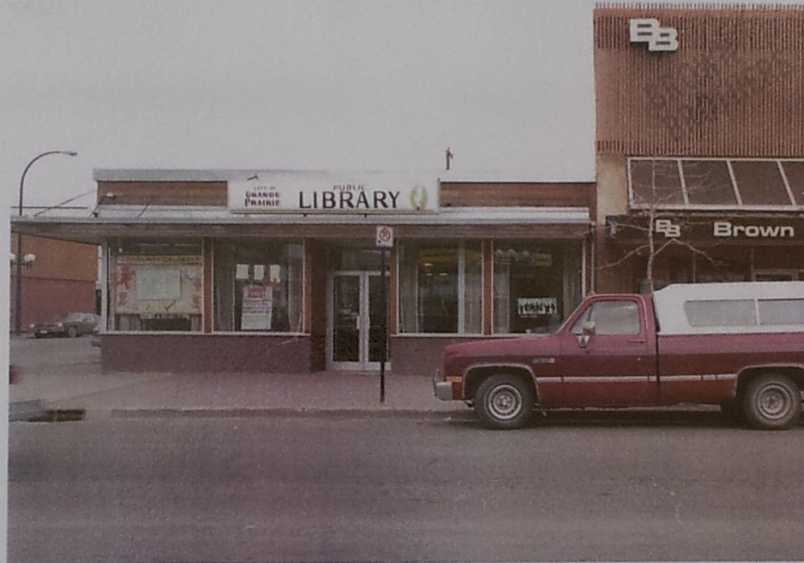
20 %

10,869 people participated
in **1,066** programs.



Learning how to use
eBooks and eAudiobooks

Grande Prairie Public Library first housed in the City Hall building
1939-1957



Grande Prairie Public Library housed in the old Merit Hardware
1970-1989



Grande Prairie Public Library housed in the old Liquor Store
1989-2009



Grande Prairie Public Library ~ our very own home in the
Montrose Cultural Centre
2009

