

Headingley Library a “Bright Spot” in the Community

In November of 2016 the Province of Manitoba launched a program and policy review of libraries and the services they provide across the province. Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Rochelle Squires acknowledged that “Libraries can build bridges between communities, inspire young readers and offer the key that unlocks the imagination...we want to ensure the support we provide and the services that are offered are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible.”

With this in mind, Manitoba’s Public Library Services Branch initiated a “Bright Spots” study this past summer. All public libraries in Manitoba were examined through analysis of statistics and personal visits, to determine what local factors were most conducive to success. In other words, the Province wanted to study what certain libraries are doing right.

Our little library in Headingley certainly has a lot to be proud of! Headingley’s population in the last census was 3,215 and 1,141 of those people – more than one third - currently use the library! Even more impressive, out of 51 provincial libraries, Headingley Library has the highest number of e-Library users, per capita, in the province! We are also the highest in Manitoba for new users to eLibraries and the third highest in total checkouts. “Whatever you’re doing out there”, says Manitoba Public Library Services consultant Anthony Woodward, “keep doing it!”.

If you haven’t paid a visit to the library recently, what are you waiting for? Your membership entitles you to unlimited use of eLibraries Manitoba, where you can download free ebooks and audio books to your iPad, Android tablet or e-reader. We also offer free tech support by appointment if you’re having trouble getting those books onto your device. There’s our monthly book club, free use of the multipurpose room by appointment, new release DVDs, audiobooks on CD and, of course, our brand-new children’s department which offers free weekly story times for ages 18 months to five years.

Are you still buying magazines? Did you know the library subscribes to 38 monthly and weekly magazines, including *People*, *Oprah*, *Maclean’s*, *Real Simple*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Yoga Journal*, *Food Network*, *Hello Canada*, *HGTV Magazine*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Consumer Reports* and many more. The best part? You can take home current magazines for 7 days and older issues for 21.

Can’t find a book on our shelves? Just ask! We can often find it at another library for you.

If you don’t live in Headingley, that’s no problem either. \$40 per year will get you a non-resident membership for the entire family. This fee is reimbursed partially or in full by most municipalities. Check with yours for more details.

If you're not making use of the library, there has never been a better time to start! Drop in today and see what we can do for you...we also offer complimentary coffee or tea while you browse the shelves and chat with our helpful and friendly staff.

“Public libraries play a key role in providing Manitobans of all ages and backgrounds with access to skill-building opportunities and services they need to navigate our increasingly complex world. Through the provision of local services, public libraries offer opportunities where people come together to learn, share and explore. Libraries of the 21st century are masterfully incorporating new technologies and are able to provide greater access to information than ever before” -Trevor Surgenor, Director of Manitoba Public Library Services Branch