

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**RUSSELL AND DISTRICT
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

**FOR
ALL
PEOPLE**

“Access to Knowledge is the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission.”

Toni Morrison

Author and Activist

The Russell & District Regional Library

2023 Annual Report

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LETTER FROM LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

March 2024

2023 has been a successful year. One of the positives was the hiring of our New Library Manager who has been working really hard with her team to arrange and provide local entertainment events; introducing an afternoon and evening Book Club (Raven and Owl Book Clubs); keeping patrons happy with providing them with reading material they found within the shelves at the library or requesting a book to be ordered in; having a cozy environment to relax and enjoy a few pages of their book while sipping on their cup of freshly brewed Java or eating some popcorn.

Unfortunately, we had a few people resign from their positions, we wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

We were extremely fortunate to have our infamous summer student return to help with the hot dog sales, decorating the front windows, keeping the green spaces nicely mowed and keeping the flower beds watered and weeded.

The board has been very busy with reviewing policies and procedures to ensure the safety of the staff and patrons. As well as many hours were spent working with our budget to get the maximum return for each dollar spent. We knew there would not be an increase for the year but we managed to maintain our programs.

The library gives no indication of declining or becoming less relevant. We are providing a community space, both inside and outside, for the public to enjoy and local organizations to meet, as well as providing a broad range of books for enjoyment, information and education. We offer many programs and services for children and adults and they are being enjoyed by a wide variety of people.

The Russell & District Library is thriving, thanks to everyone using our library!

We are very thankful for a supportive municipal council, both libraries continue to provide a tremendous service to the residents of the Municipality of Russell Binscarth, and is certainly getting excellent value for its funding. We are grateful to the Provincial government for our annual grant and support via PLSB.

I'd like to thank the volunteer Library Board and working along side them to help provide direction, feedback and support. I'd like to also Thank our Treasurer - Sandie Ross, for working hard to stay on budget, a task that has been a challenge due to no increase in funding and keeping everything functioning and organized as well as Don Ross, who comes to the help (whatever it may be) on moments notice regardless if it's at the Russell or Binscarth Library! And a HUGE thank you to the staff, they are an amazing team who provides excellent service.

Estha Baseley
Chairperson

LETTER FROM LIBRARY MANAGER

March 2024

The strength of Russell & District Regional Library is its diversity of people, cultures and perspectives which make up the rich fabric of our neighborhoods and communities. Russel & District Regional Library has two locations: Russell Branch and Binscarth Branch. For more than 40 years, the Russell & District Regional Library has made our communities stronger by serving all who pass through our doors, celebrating one another as we come together.

Now, more than ever, public libraries are crucial to the well-being of the people and communities they serve. Libraries unite our communities around access to knowledge and information, and level the playing field so all may succeed.

Over the course of 2023, the Library focused on establishing and re-establishing patron relationships, inviting new audiences to learn about and enjoy everything we have to offer. The Library is a crucial free resource for the Municipality of Russell Binscarth and we must lead in creating a future that represents the values we believe in: freedom of expression, of thought, of discussion, and of speech, that is at the foundation of our society.

From Trade Shows to Mass Registration, Reading Outreach Programs (2), to Hot Dog Sales and Book Sales, and our ever-unfolding line up of evening events held in our beautiful Library Gallery, 2023 has been a banner year of positive change and growth. Please enjoy this 2023 Annual Report from the Russell & District Regional Library. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Podollan

VISION

Russell and District Regional Library is a cornerstone of the communities it serves. We offer spaces that welcome all. We are a beacon of access to information and ideas. We stand for freedom of expression, of thought, of discussion, and of speech. We bring people together, encourage inquiry, conversation, and promote community engagement by serving, without discrimination or distinction, all who pass through our doors. Russell and District Regional Library is yet another example of Friendly Manitoba.



GOALS

The purpose of the Russell & District Regional Library is to obtain, organize and make available for all residents of the Municipality of Russell Binscarth materials that are educational, recreational and informative.

The Library Board and Staff's goal is to provide our area with effective library services and to encourage people young and old to continue their education and keep abreast of changing times.

Realization of these objectives can be obtained by:

1. serving the public competently at all times
2. maintaining accuracy in information
3. continually re-appraising and keeping up to date with library services
4. working together to strive for good public relations with all concerned

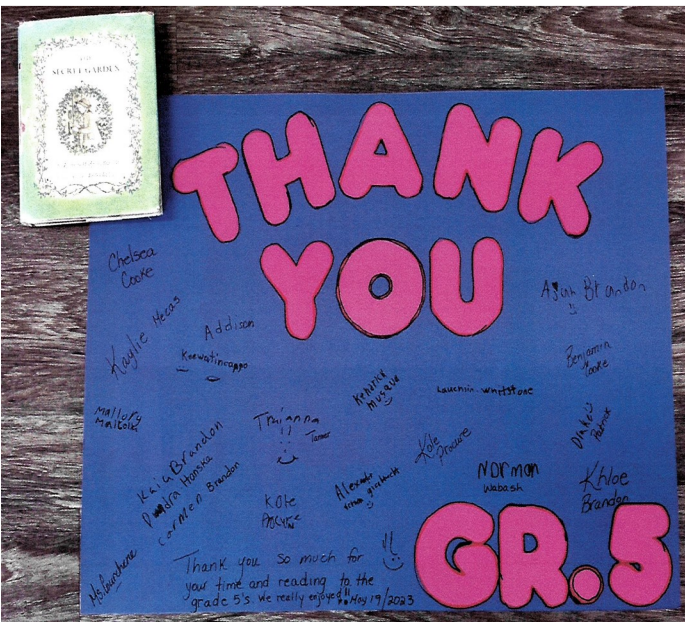
LIBRARIES BRING US TOGETHER



Reaching New Audiences:

Over the course of several months, we have read Frances Hodgson Burnett's, *The Secret Garden*, to students. The choice of the book was made by the students and their teacher.

An Outreach Program to a class of Grade 5 students from WayWaySeeCappo First Nation School enriched the lives of all involved.



The Feeling of Gratitude is Mutual.

We're better when we read TOGETHER.



Gambler First Nation Daycare was also one of our reading destinations. Country roads, eager listeners, and intriguing stories. What more could a Librarian ask for?

**LIBRARY BOARD,
LIBRARY STAFF,
VOLUNTEERS**

LIBRARY BOARD

AS OF DECEMBER 2023:

CHAIR OF THE BOARD:

Estha Baseley

VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD:

Shelley Robidoux

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Sandie Ross

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Cheryl Pushka

Kim McLeod

Joanne Gaudet

Darlene Armstrong

LIBRARY STAFF

AS OF DECEMBER 2023:

MANAGER:

Christine Podollan

LIBRARIANS:

Rayla Buss

Lisa Clement

Jessica Davies



LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS



<=== Russell Library
Steps/Walkways Snow Removal
- *Kelly Kalyniak*

Binscarth Library ==>
Steps/Walkways Snow Removal -
Brody Cook



<=== Russell & Binscarth Library
Maintenance & Repair
- *Don Ross*

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



MASS REGISTRATION

Municipality of Russell Binscarth held a Mass Registration event and invited the Russell & District Regional Library to showcase what we offered to the patrons such as: Library membership cards, book samples and information.

TRADE SHOW

The Russell & Binscarth Library rented a table to promote its establishments along with other businesses to all those who attended the tradeshow. We brought books, popcorn, balloons, mittens, and information brochures. We also held a free draw for books and a book bag with our new logo on it.



CANADA DAY PARADE

A True North, Strong, and Free, Friendly Manitoba kind of day.

The Russell & Binscarth Library Ladies came out to wave hands and throw candy, while sporting our new banner that reads:

Russell ~ Binscarth Library: You Need to Read!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2023

OPEN MIC NIGHT!

JOIN US AT THE
RUSSELL LIBRARY

BRING YOUR OWN!

SHORT STORY
SPOKEN WORD
POETRY

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
SHOW STARTS AT 7 PM

PRESENT YOUR VERY OWN WORK
5 MINUTES PER PARTICIPANT
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

@yoursmalltownlibrary https://russell.mb.libraries.coop/ (204)773-3127

The Russell Library Presents!
Russell Library Speaker Series
"The Frank Skinner
Arboretum: A 100 year legacy
in Manitoba Horticulture"
presented by Hugh Skinner

May 10th @ 6:30 PM



@yoursmalltownlibrary
https://russell.mb.libraries.coop/
(204) 773-3127

The Russell Library Presents!
Russell Library Speaker Series

"A Conversation
Circle"
With Mayor
Judy
Snitynsky



Join us in
conversation with
Mayor Judy
Snitynsky

MAY 3RD @ 6:30 PM
AT THE RUSSELL LIBRARY

@yoursmalltownlibrary
https://russell.mb.libraries.coop/
(204) 773-3127

THIS FRIDAY ONLY
AUGUST 4, 2023
\$6.00
CHEESEBURGERS



not exactly as shown.

FILIPINO
Fiesta

JOIN THE PARTY!

JUNE 28, 2023

5:00PM - 8:00PM

KARAOKE | ZUMBA | FOOD VENDORS

SUMMER IN THE GREEN SPACE

STORIES
MUSIC
GAMES
SNACKS

FARMERS MARKET

RUSSELL LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY'S
6:00PM - 8:00PM
JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

Interested Marketers
Call: 204-773-3127

**Binscarth Library is
Hosting**


Coffee, Cookies and Cards!
@ the Binscarth Library
Thursday, June 15th
3:00pm-5:00pm
Everyone Welcome




NIGHT OWL

BOOK CLUB


1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
IN LIBRARY GALLERY
6:30PM-7:30PM



Story Time at the Library
with Terrie Welwood
This Saturday April 22, 2023
11:30 AM
at the Russell Library
Everyone Welcome!

HAPPY
EARTH
DAY





You're Invited!

BOOK SALE


RUSSELL LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023
11:00am - 3:00pm

A Come & Go Tea & Book Sale.

- Fill Your Own Bag \$10
- Fill Our Cloth Book Bag \$15
- No Limit on Books (1 or 100)!
- Garage Sale: shelving, electronics, knick knacks

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE LIBRARY.



STORY TIME WITH BOOKWORM BERT

WEDNESDAY 6-7PM

RUSSELL LIBRARY

339 Main Street



CHILDREN'S ARTS & CRAFTS PROGRAM

MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

RUSSELL LIBRARY - 11TH, 25TH, 8TH, 22ND
12:00 - 1:00

BINSCARTH LIBRARY - 18TH, 1st, 15TH, 29th
2:00 - 3:00



ENCORE!

LEWELLYN MELNYK

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH, 2023

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

RUSSELL LIBRARY GALLERY

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE / SILVER COLLECTION



HELLO, I'M MADISON

2023 Summer Student

Favorite Book The complete player: The psychology of winning hockey	Favorite Quote Always make a total effort, even when the odds are against you. - Arnold Palmer
Favorite Activity Playing hockey and going to the gym.	

THE RUSSELL & DISTRICT REGIONAL LIBRARY

HOT DOG SALE!

Only \$5



ALL SUMMER LONG!

BINSCARTH: THURSDAY'S 12-2
RUSSELL: FRIDAY'S 11-2


ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE LIBRARY
BEGINS THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST

MORE INFO: 204-773-3127



GUEST SPEAKER

AN EVENING WITH OSCAR WINNER JAN MURRAY



RAVEN

BOOK CLUB

1ST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
IN LIBRARY GALLERY

1:30PM-2:30PM



THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE

FREE MOVIE NIGHT!

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCT 5TH
WHERE: G.P.B HALL
TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 4
SHOW STARTS AT 4:30

CONCESSION ON SITE
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE RUSSELL AND DISTRICT REGIONAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

RUSSELL & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS
UNDER THE ARCHES

SATURDAY, DEC 2
MAIN STREET, RUSSELL

Hotdog Roast
at the Russell Library

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MEET YOUR RIDERS

ELI PODOLLAN
RUSSELL & DISTRICT REGIONAL LIBRARY

RUSSELL BINSARTH LIBRARY PRESENTS

AMY & ED
in concert!

BEGINS AT 6:30PM

A JOHN PRINE TRIBUTE!

OCTOBER 11, 2023 | WEDNESDAY

FREE
ADMISSION

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Librarty

MOVIE
NIGHT

ADMIT ONE
TICKET
ADMIT ONE

Wednesday December 27th
Russell Library Gallery
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Refreshments Available
Silver Collection



LIBRARY SERVICES

Curation of books, upon Patron request

Ordering books for Patrons from other libraries

Home/curbside delivery of books for Patrons

Proofreading of manuscript (limited by length)

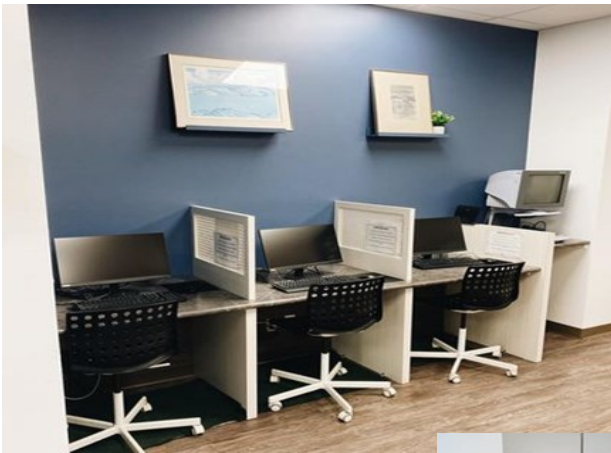
Fully stocked kitchenette (Coffee, Tea, Soda, Bottled Water, Montellier, Popcorn)

Boardroom Rental

Exam Invigilation

Printshop Services

Computer Services/Kiosks



Computer Service/Kiosks



Board Room & Art Gallery



<===Kitchenette



*Cozy Reading
&
Seating Areas*



LETTER FROM LIBRARY TREASURER

March 2024

Our library team has risen to many challenges this past year. The board and staff have worked very hard to fundraise throughout the year. It has inspired all of us to work together to provide services to our community. We want to thank the Municipality of Russell Binscarth for their support. The Russell Thrift Shop, the Municipality of Riding Mountain West and a number of individual donors have also supported the library. Throughout the year, the library staff and board has worked very hard at numerous fundraising projects. This included hotdog sales throughout the summer, farmers market, raffles, the Beef and Barley bull riding, and numerous other endeavours.

We would also like to mention our endowment fund with Living Legacy Community Foundation. Along with receiving grants and endowment funds, it has helped the library make purchases to further enhance the library. Thank you, Living Legacy Foundation.

We look forward to the library continuing to be a place where community members and visitors can find books and services.

Sandie Ross
Treasurer

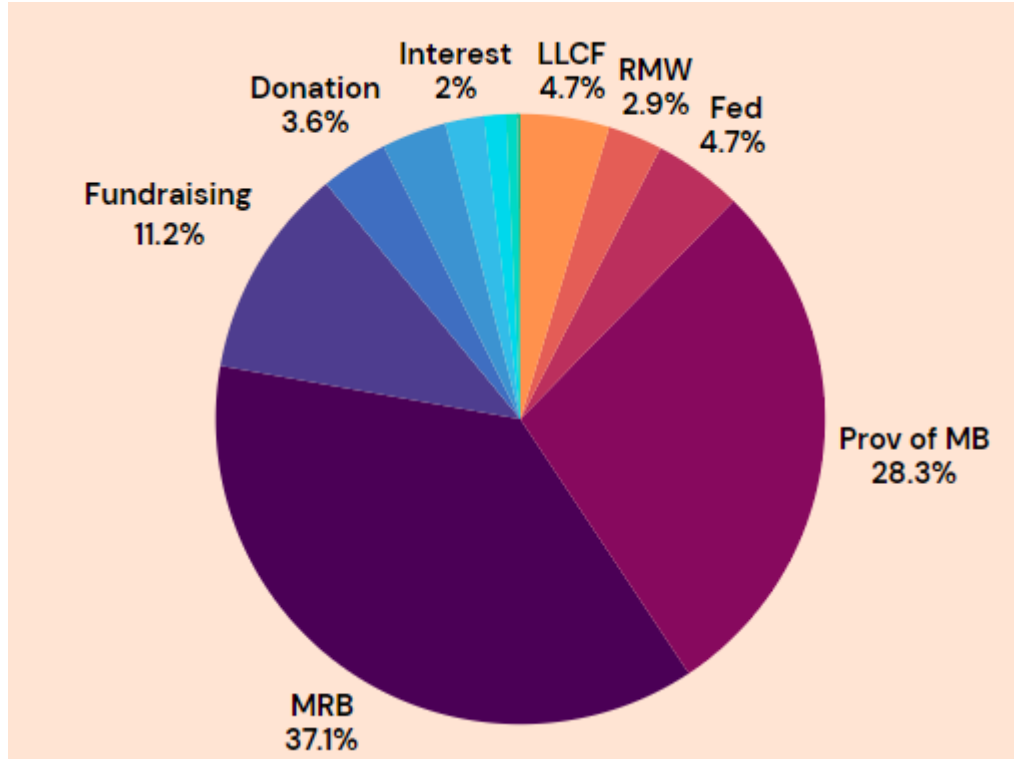


FINANCIAL FIGURES

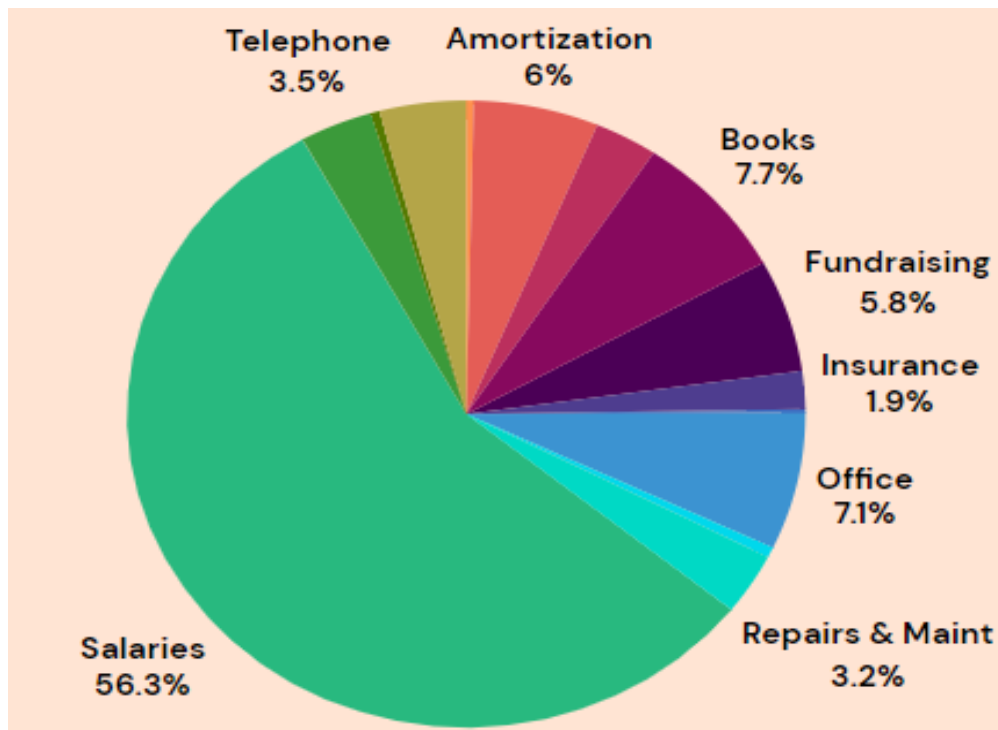
<u>Revenue:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Municipality of Russell Binscarth	\$51,453	\$48,632
Province of MB - Operating	25,778	24,249
Province of MB - collecting development	11,000	11,000
Federal Gov't - summer student	6,549	3,680
RM of Riding Mountain West	4,000	3,000
Province of MB - rural library technology	2,509	2,565
Living Legacy Community Foundation	6,536	1,375
Fundraising	15,536	8,274
Donation	4,977	1,878
Rent	4,763	4,200
Interest	2,827	1,711
Miscellaneous	1,622	722
Fine, Fax & Photocopying	851	347
Membership Fees	200	-
Manitoba Hydro Rebate	-	4,277
	<u>\$138,601</u>	<u>\$115,910</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Administration	\$ 500	\$ 3,500
Amortization	8,364	8,607
Audit Fees	4,211	2,932
Books, periodicals and prints	10,748	11,555
Fundraising	8,167	4,153
Insurance	2,722	2,548
Miscellaneous	277	402
Office	9,918	9,766
Programming		1,007
Property Taxes	739	641
Repairs and Maintenance	4,458	6,633
Salaries and Benefits	78,938	42,169
Telephone	4,878	5,306
Travel	563	
Utilities	<u>5,796</u>	<u>5,887</u>
	<u>\$140,312</u>	<u>\$105,106</u>
Surplus/Deficit	\$(1,711)	\$10,804

FINANCIAL FIGURES

Operating Revenue: \$138,601

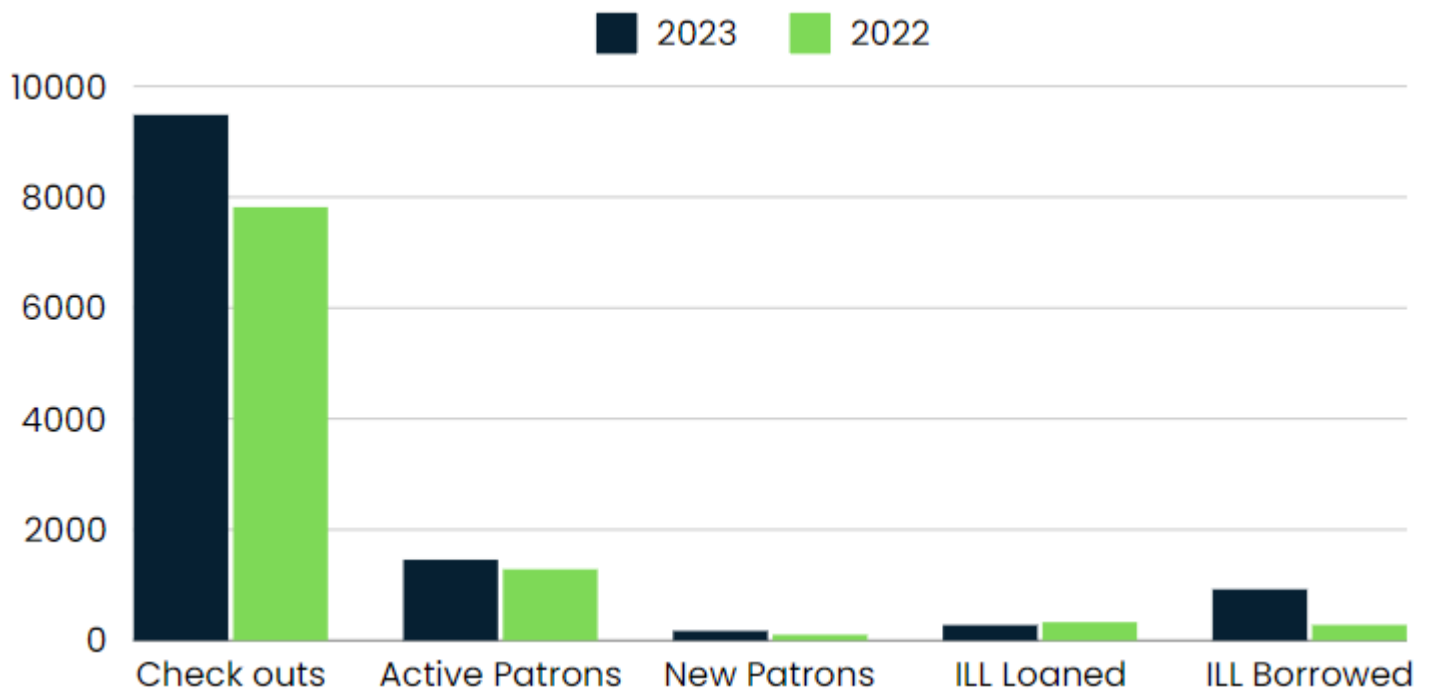


Operating Expenses: \$140,312



LIBRARY STATISTICS

	2023	2022
Check Outs	9,484	7,819
Active Patrons	1,457	1,285
New Patrons	172	103
ILL Loaned	277	330
ILL Borrowed	923	281



LIBRARY INFORMATION

Russell Library



Address:

339 Main Street North
PO Box 340
Russell, MB R0J1W0

Contact:

Phone: 204-773-3127
Email: ruslib@mymts.net

Hours:

Monday: 10 - 3
Tuesday: 10 - 5
Wednesday: 10 - 8
Thursday: 10 - 5
Friday: 10 - 5
Saturday: 11 - 3 (closed Jul & Aug)
Sunday: Closed

Website:

<https://russell.mb.libraries.coop/>

Binscarth Library



Address:

106 Russell Street
PO Box 379
Binscarth, MB R0J0G0

Contact:

Phone: 204-532-2447
Email: binslb@mymts.net

Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 12 - 5
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 12 - 5
Friday: Closed
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

SUPPORT RUSSELL & DISTRICT REGIONAL LIBRARY

RECOMMENDED FORM OF SUPPORT

The Russell & District Regional Library is a Registered Charity.

Gifts and bequests to the Library are tax deductible under the federal income, estate, and gift tax laws. For federal tax purposes, the Library uses its formal corporate name: The Russell & District Regional Library. The Library Board recommends that for estate planning purposes, friends consider the following language for use in their wills:

“To the Russell & District Regional Library a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated in the province of Manitoba in [year], having as its principal address 339 Main Street North, Russell, Manitoba, R0J 1W0, Canada, I [name], of [City, Province, Postal Code], hereby give, devise, and bequeath [a dollar amount, percentage of residuary estate, or description of property] for its general purposes.” Unless otherwise specified, donations will be placed in the Russell and District Regional Library’s Endowment Fund.

If you wish to make a bequest for a specific purpose, it is suggested that you consider adding the following language to any restriction you may impose on your bequest:

“If at any time in the judgement of the Library Board, the designated purpose of this bequest proves to be impracticable or impossible, I authorize the Board to use the income and principal of this bequest for any purpose they deem to be consistent with the general intent and purpose set forth herein.”

Should you decide to leave a bequest to the Library in your will, you will become a member of the Library’s legacy society, (Living Legacy Community Foundation), created to recognize the generosity of those individuals who include this institution in their estate plans. The Library expresses its gratitude to members during their lifetime by inviting them to special events and by listing their names on donor publications, unless they prefer to remain anonymous.