



Portage la Prairie
Regional Library

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



www.portagelibrary.com



204-857-4271



library@portagelibrary.com



[portagelaprairielibrary](https://www.facebook.com/portagelaprairielibrary)



[@portagelaprairielibrary](https://www.instagram.com/portagelaprairielibrary)

40B Royal Road N.
Portage la Prairie, R1N 1V1

Get to Know Your Library

Mission

The Portage la Prairie Regional Library fosters life-long learning, social wellbeing, and personal development. We provide our evolving, diverse community with information, materials, and fun in a welcoming and accessible environment.

Vision

We are an essential asset of the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and beyond where our community gathers to grow in knowledge, resilience, and connection.

Board Members 2025

Leta Maksymk - Chairperson	Joe Masi - City Council Rep
Bryan Dion - Vice Chairperson	Lynda Mann - Citizen Rep
Kevin Blight - RM Council Rep	Teagan Glanville - Citizen Rep

Partner Municipalities

City of Portage la Prairie
13,468
RM of Portage la Prairie
7,064

About Us

Portage la Prairie Library was founded in 1968 and became a regional library in 2004. Membership is free for those who live or attend school in the City or RM. We provide a free place to gather, learn, and relax in downtown Portage la Prairie, as well as offering free recreation activities both internally and in partnership with other community groups. We serve more than 7000 members and had over 55,000 visitors in 2025!



Tuesday	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Sunday, Monday
and on Statutory
Holidays



An alternative version of this document is available on our website.

Statistics Snapshot 2025



7,170

People have a card at our library!

55,167

Visitors in 2025

5,502

Children & Adults enjoyed FREE programs!



65,479

Items Circulated



Over

5,000

Computer Bookings



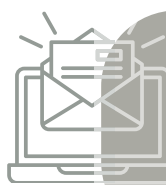
9,568

Questions Answered



88,000

Website Visits



538

Newsletter Subscribers



35,493

Digital Items Circulated



137

DVD Club Cards Redeemed

6

Books Adopted!



9 Volunteers helped us for

156

Hours



Over

3,080

DVD Rentals

1,066

ILL - Interlibrary Loan Books were sent out



697

EBSCO Host Searches

TD
Summer
Reading
Club

231

TD Summer Readers



23 kg

Batteries Recycled



69

Radon Screener Loans 2025

Rn
Radon
222.0176

Letter from the Chair

It is my pleasure to reflect on our previous year and acknowledge the progress and successes we have experienced as a library.

Over the past year, our library has continued to be a welcoming space for all ages, with more than 55,000 patrons and visitors walking through our doors. This speaks to essential role that the library plays in our community. They come for programming, books, e-books, magazines, movies, games, audio books, and computer access and a safe place to be and relax.

We offer a diverse range of programming from a variety of kids activities and adult services. The Grief and Loss program provided a compassionate and supportive space to individuals navigating difficult times. The adult writing program gave participants a space to share their voices and stories. A representative from CRA came in regularly to assist individuals with the challenges of tax questions and benefits. We introduced STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) for hands on learning. We hosted a variety of author book launches, connecting readers and writers in a personal way.

The TD Summer reading program saw outstanding participation with approximately 231 children taking part. We are hopeful that this fosters a love for reading that will last a lifetime.

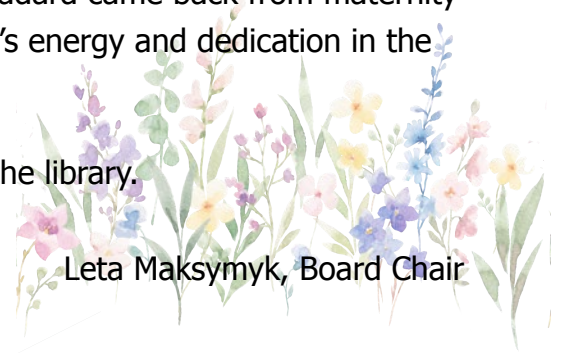
Seasonal activities brought families in to celebrate in fun ways. Over 75 children took part in the Easter Egg Hunt. The trick or treat event attracted 847 attendees and showcased the collaboration with 10 community partners. We are so thankful for the support of our generous community.

Everyone looks forward to our annual book sale and this year was no exception. The sale runs throughout the summer and raised approximately \$11,000. Thank you for donating and buying books here! In total, the library raised just over \$31,000 through personal and business donations, as well as a variety of fundraising activities.

None of this would have been possible without the energy, knowledge, skill and dedication of the staff. Thank you!! We are so grateful to Sharon Nichol for the fabulous job she did as director throughout the year. In mid December, McKayla Goddard came back from maternity leave to take over the position. We look forward to McKayla's energy and dedication in the coming year and anticipate another great year!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the library.
We love being a vital part of this community!

Leta Maksymyk, Board Chair



Letter from the Director

This past year both began and ended on a high note for our library.

In January, we received a funding increase from the City of Portage la Prairie and the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie. This recognition of the library's vital role in the community is truly appreciated and has enabled us to expand our programming and better serve those who rely on our services.

We are also grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and community partners. Their support throughout the year, has strengthened our programming and outreach initiatives, and allowed us to further develop our collection. Designated donations have contributed to the expansion of our digital collection, additional languages collection, and resources for newcomers. These efforts help ensure that everyone in our community feels welcomed, supported, and connected.

In November, we were excited to receive a grant to renovate our multi-purpose room. In addition to improving the design and functionality of the space, this project will introduce sensory materials, helping to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment. These enhancements will support diverse needs and ensure our space remains accessible, engaging, and adaptable.

In December, we welcomed McKayla Goddard back in her new role as Director. As I return to my position as Assistant Director, I look forward to working with McKayla and helping bring her vision for the library to life.

Thank you to our staff, board members, volunteers, partners, and supporters for your invaluable contributions. This year's accomplishments are a direct result of your dedication, the strength of our partnerships, and the continued support of our community.

Sharon Nichol, Director



Collection Overview



What do we have in our collection?

Aside from our large collection of fiction and non fiction books, we also offer air quality monitors, RADON detectors, native plant seeds, DVDs, CD audiobooks, blood pressure kits, and board games for our patrons to borrow!

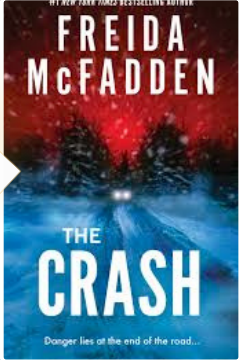
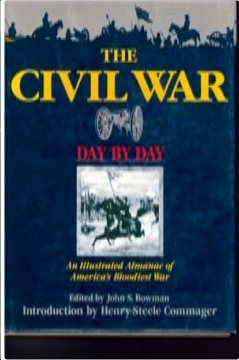
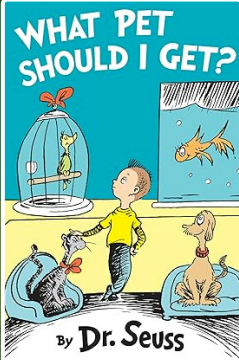
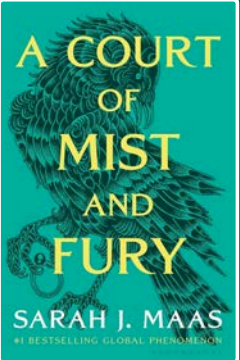
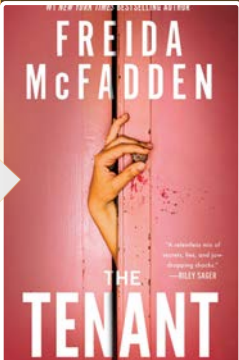
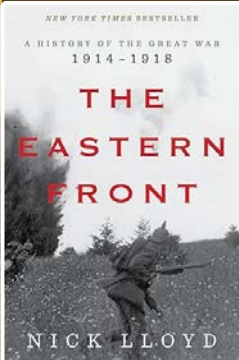
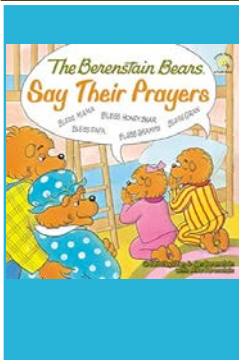
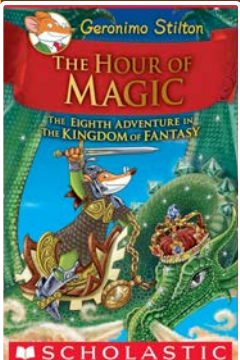
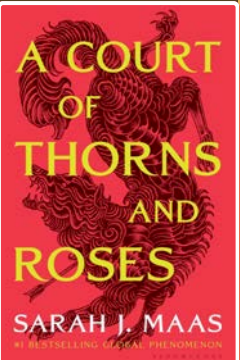
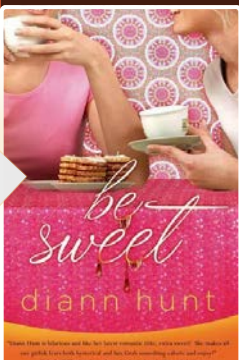
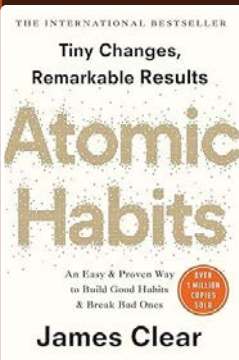
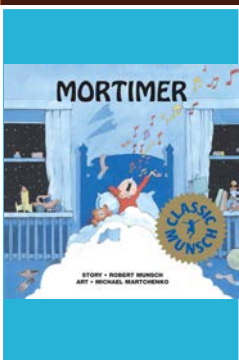
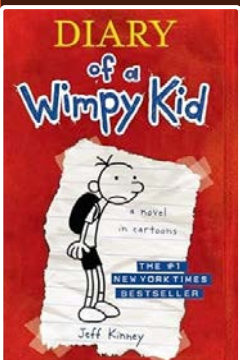
Accessibility? Absolutely!

The library is for everyone, no matter your abilities. That's why we offer a number of different options for our patrons to access materials. Our collection of large print books are open to everyone. We have Victor Readers and audio disks, which are helpful to those with vision impairments. Need more specialized assistance? Come talk to our staff about how we can help.



Most Popular Items of 2025

123

	Adult Fiction	Adult NonFiction	Junior Primary	Junior Fiction	Young Adult Fiction
1	 THE CRASH Freida McFadden	 THE CIVIL WAR DAY BY DAY John S. Bowman	 WHAT PET SHOULD I GET? By Dr. Seuss	 THE SECRET OF THE CRYSTAL FAIRIES Thea Stilton	 A COURT OF MIST AND FURY SARAH J. MAAS
	21 circs	18 circs	22 circs	11 circs	16 circs
2	 THE TENANT Freida McFadden	 THE EASTERN FRONT NICK LLOYD	 The Berenstain Bears Say Their Prayers Stan & Jan Berenstain	 THE HOUR OF MAGIC Geronimo Stilton	 A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES SARAH J. MAAS
	20 circs	15 circs	21 circs	11 circs	15 circs
3	 be sweet diann hunt	 Atomic Habits James Clear	 MORTIMER ROBERT MUNSCH	 DIARY of a Wimpy Kid Jeff Kinney	 The Summer I Turned Pretty Jenny Han
	19 circs	13 circs	19 circs	10 circs	11 circs

Most Popular Authors of 2025

Adult

James Patterson
Nora Roberts
Freida McFadden
Susan May Warren
Denise Hunter

Junior

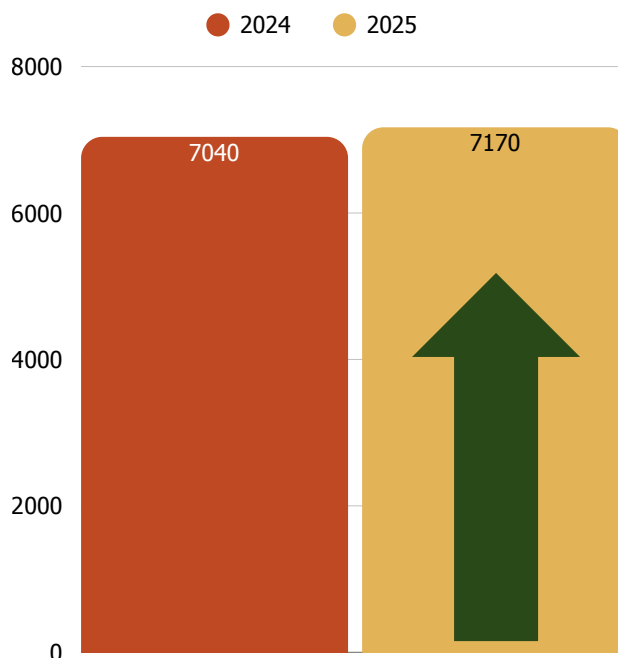
Stan & Jan Berenstain
Robert Munsch
Dr. Seuss
Mo Willems
Geronimo Stilton



Membership

We currently have 7170 memberships. Any resident of the Rural Municipality or City of Portage la Prairie are eligible for a free membership. All you need is ID and proof of address and we can get you set up with your very own library card!

While we primarily serve the residents of the Rural Municipality and the city of Portage la Prairie, we also offer non-resident memberships! In 2025, we welcomed new memberships from across Canada and overseas.

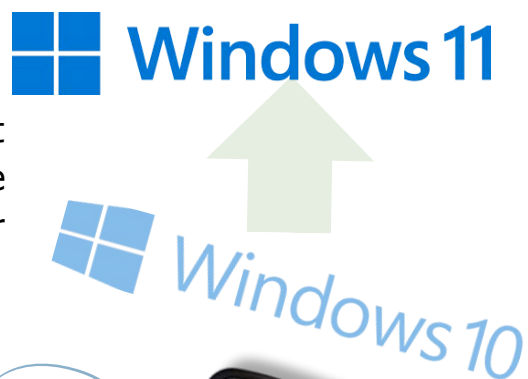


Technology

Technology Updates:

2025 saw the end of Windows 10, and with that, the need for new computers at the library. We replaced most of the patron and staff computers, ensuring we'd be able to continue to offer excellent access to web platforms for years to come!

Radon kits continue to be a popular checkout item in the winter months, allowing users to monitor the level of radon present in their homes.



TAKE
ACTION
ON RADON



Library in the News

COMMUNITY

Portage library prepares for 47th annual book sale

Michael Blum, PortageOnline.com | Tuesday, May 27 2025, 5:00 AM

Share:   



Sally Laevens standing in the library in front of some book shelves.

May 27, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/portage-library-prepares-for-47th-annual-book-sale>

LOCAL NEWS

Grief support group continues to offer shared healing in Portage la Prairie

Michael Blum, PortageOnline.com | Tuesday, May 20 2025, 12:00 PM

Share:   



Brian Russell

May 20, 2025 (Daytime Series at Library)

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/grief-support-group-continues-to-offer-shared-healing-in-portage-la-prairie>

LOCAL NEWS

Library tour aims to spark curiosity and connection in Portage

Maryssa McFadden, PortageOnline.com | Monday, Jul 21 2025, 12:00 PM

Share:   



The Portage la Prairie Regional Library, where the tour will take place tomorrow afternoon. PortageOnline/du Photo

July 21, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/library-tour-aims-to-spark-curiosity-and-connection-in-portage>

COMMUNITY

Library summer programs bringing community together at Portage la Prairie Regional Library

Brittany Storchman, PortageOnline.com | Tuesday, Aug 05 2025, 5:00 AM

Share:   



Books at the Portage la Prairie Regional Library for their 47th Annual Book sale. Photo credit: Leah O'Leary

August 5, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/library-summer-programs-bringing-community-together-at-portage-la-prairie-regional-library>

Library in the News

COMMUNITY

Stuffies take over the library for a sleepover adventure

Triston Sokolovsky, PortageOnline.com | Saturday, Aug 30 2025, 3:59 PM

Share:   



August 30, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/stuffies-take-over-the-library-for-a-sleepover-adventure-->

LOCAL NEWS

Portage library shares highlights in 2024 annual report

Tyler Baer, PortageOnline.com | Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 12:00 PM

Share:   



Sharon Nichol (left) and Leah O'Leary (right) of the Portage to Prairie Regional Library. PORTAGEONLINE / TYLER BAER

September 23, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/portage-library-shares-highlights-in-2024-annual-report>

LOCAL NEWS

STEAM Explorers program sparks curiosity in Portage kids

Tyler Baer, PortageOnline.com | Sunday, Sep 28 2025, 5:00 AM

Share:   



Jeffery Amstutz (right) keeps careful watch of the youth in his "STEAM Explorers" program at the Portage to Prairie Regional Library. PORTAGEONLINE / TYLER BAER

September 28, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/steam-explorers-program-sparks-curiosity-in-portage-kids>

Marketing



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER
FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

607 Newsletter
contacts!

Emails go out bi-weekly



Social Media

Facebook



portagelaprairelibrary

Instagram



portagelaprairelibrary

- 3 Digital Signs in Library
- City of Portage Community Billboard
- Media Outlets like the Portage Online Events Calendar

Programming

381 programs were held for Children, Adults/Seniors and Young Adults!

Our numbers reflect sessions that took place in the library as well as activities in the community.

Adult / Seniors Programs: 103 programs

Children Programs: 193 programs

Young Adult: 33 programs

All Ages: 48 programs

- Adult Craft Nights continue to be a hit, with seasonal and whimsical crafts to make with friends
- Book club has been running for 15 years, which makes it our longest running program.

In 2025 we established new programs and increased the frequency of some existing programs, providing more opportunities for people to attend!

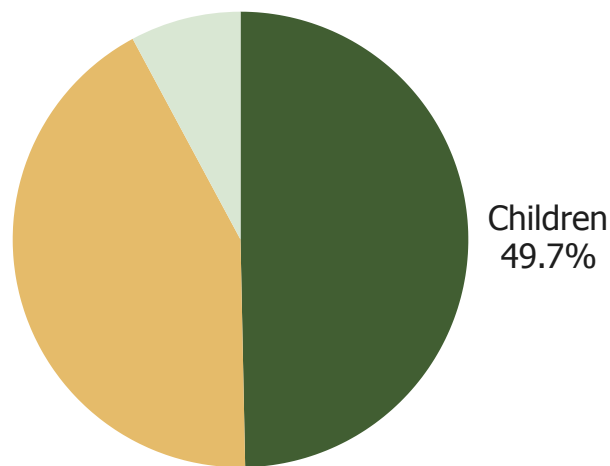
- STEAM
- Tabletop Games

NEW!

Adults / Seniors
42.5%

Young Adult
7.8%

Participant Breakdown



Children 2,506 Adult 2,143

Young Adult 396



(Science, Technology, Art, and Mathematics)

STEAM

Programming

Crafts for All Ages!

We created over 145 crafts in the library this year between children, teens, and adult programs!



Tween Craft Night -
Painting Miniatures

Over
145 crafts
created!



KID'S CRAFT NIGHT

TD Summer Reading

231 kids took part in the TD Summer Reading program! We had over 600 children who enjoyed our programs alongside TD Summer Reading. Readers got one ticket for every ten books they read. They also got one ticket for every library program they attended. We had amazing prizes thanks to the generosity of the community in Portage la Prairie. For the wrap up party the programming team organized a magician, Chris Kitchen from BOSS Academy, face painting, candy, prizes and crafts!

TD
Summer
Reading
Club



TD Summer Reading
Wrap Up Party -
August 23

Programming

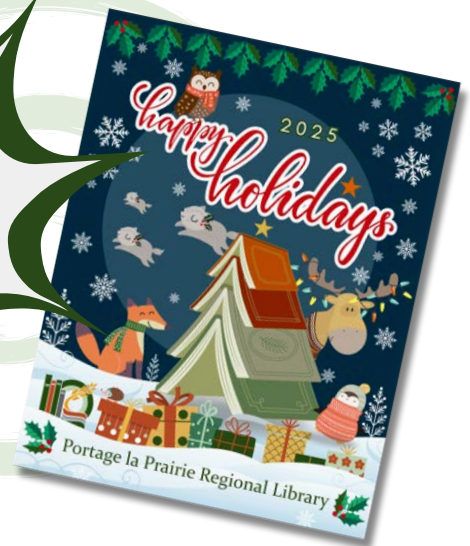


Holiday Fun Event

Our programming team hosted a lively library event, starting with a handbell performance by a local community group. Guests then enjoyed a puppet show in partnership with the Family Resource Centre, while the Portage Youth Hub helped run games and served cookies and hot chocolate from Tim Hortons.

The event welcomed 70 attendees in total.

70
Festive
participants!



Programming

Highlights:

Beading Workshop: Flowers & Orange Shirt Day with Jacinda Houle from the Portage Youth Hub

We were pleased to host a series of beading workshops with Jacinda Houle, who generously shared her skills with participants. Attendees created lovely flower pieces and Orange Shirt Day T-shirt designs. The workshops were a great success and had excellent attendance.



Beaded Flowers Workshop -
with Jacinda Houle - May 7



Jingle Dress Workshop - with Jacinda
Houle - August 6

Easter Egg Hunt

We hosted our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the library, with 75 children participating. The event began with children decorating their baskets before searching the library for hidden eggs.

Once their baskets were filled, they exchanged the eggs for chocolate treats!



Easter Egg Hunt & Craft - April 19



Community Collaborations

We've remained highly engaged with our community this year, we had 40 different community partnerships in and outside the library.

FRC Teddy Bear Picnic

This was a successful event run by the Family Resource Centre. We partnered with them to provide a storytime and activities for participants.

Teddy Bear Picnic
Family Resource Centre
- July 2



WINTERFEST PCRC
Photo credit: PCRC Facebook



Winterfest

Winterfest was a community event organized in partnership with eight local organizations including the library. The event featured both indoor and outdoor activities, including bouncy castles, free food, and many fun activities for families.

Southport Family Day



Southport Family Fun Day -
September 13

Trick or Treat!

Our Halloween event is one of our most successful and cherished celebrations, holding a special place in the hearts of both our staff and many local organizations. This year, we welcomed over 800 attendees who collected treats over the course of three hours. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community partners for their invaluable support!



Annual Events & Programming



Writing Classes with Rachael Clarke

Local author Rachael Clarke, shared her writing expertise during several free sessions.



Manitoba Library Association Conference

Staff attended the Manitoba Library Association conference in October to expand and enhance the services of the library.



Valentines for Seniors

115 cards were handed out to Dufferin Villa seniors.



Story Time with Mayor Sharilyn Knox

The Mayor, Sharilyn Knox, dropped by on February 1 to celebrate Family Literacy Week with us!

*Photo credit Mayor Sharilyn Knox, City of Portage la Prairie Facebook.



Light Ceremony

In November the Holiday Avenue Project added a canopy of lights between the Portage la Prairie Regional Library and Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment.



Food for Fines

Every spring the library offers a chance for patrons to pay down their library fines with food!

Fundraising

Library
Giving
Day

50/50
Raffle

\$3,397

Raised in total, with
raffle and donor
contributions
combined!



March 28 - April 1

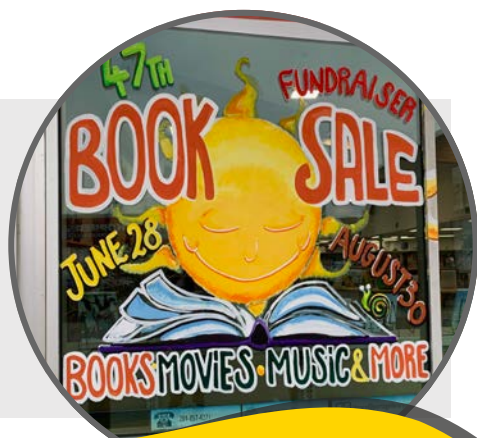
Library Giving Day gives people the chance to discover the many exciting services and programs the library has to offer. It also helps libraries build new partnerships, connect with supporters, and create meaningful opportunities for the community.

Annual Book Sale



47th Summer
BOOK SALE

\$11,229.07



Year Long Book Nook
& Summer Sale TOTAL:

12,188.27



**Christmas Raffle
& 50/50 Fundraiser**

November 25 - December 18

We raised **\$578.00** with
our annual fundraiser!

Library
**Christmas
Raffle &
50/50 Draw**



Corporate
Sponsorship
for
events and
activities!

Grants

LOCAL NEWS

Renovation grant will upgrade Portage library multipurpose room

Michael Blume, PortageOnline.com | Friday, Dec 05 2025, 5:00 AM

Shares



Cheque presentation with past Foundation chair Warren Neufeld, Library Director Sharon Nichol, and Community Program Coordinator Leah O'Leary, Mike Blume/PortageOnline

\$57,490 grant will refresh Portage library's multipurpose room, add sensor-friendly upgrades

December 5, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/renovation-grant-will-upgrade-portage-library-multipurpose-room>

November 28, 2025

<https://www.portageonline.com/articles/57490-grant-will-refresh-portage-librarys-multipurpose-room-add-sensory-friendly-upgrades>



Multipurpose before renovations.



With Thanks to:



Finances

Revenue

	2025	2024
Amortization of deferred contributions	6,257	4,829
Fundraising	31,785	32,577
Interest Income	9,103	10,943
Grants		
<i>Federal</i>		
Community Services Recovery	-	59,290
Canada Summer Jobs	-	3,833
<i>Provincial</i>		
Operating	216,583	216,583
ACS Community	-	-
Accessibility	-	1,053
Technology	-	-
Collection Development	-	-
Community Celebrations	-	-
Climate	-	500
<i>Municipal</i>		
City of Portage la Prairie	279,707	264,219
Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie	96,250	87,500
<i>Other</i>		
Work Experience	706	5,599
Community Foundation	-	-
Library Fees	10,611	10,459
Miscellaneous	2,441	1,883
Rental	2,827	2,348
Total revenue	656,270	701,616



Expenses

	2025	2024
ACS community - Grant	-	7,694
Advertising	2,433	766
Amortization	40,801	41,224
Bank Charges	429	250
Community Celebrations - Grant	-	-
Community Foundation	-	-
Community Services Recovery Fund	-	56,824
Conference and Travel	106	171
Electronics	-	5,498
Employee Benefits	72,203	66,123
Equipment and Furniture	2,931	4,312
Freight and Postage	2,483	3,752
Fundraising	1,129	639
Garbage Collection	2,011	1,206
Internet	3,775	2,304
Licences, Memberships and Fees	12,535	13,316
Manitoba Accessibility - Grant	-	255
Miscellaneous	1,612	5,004
Periodicals	2,146	2,690
Professional Fees	16,316	10,854
Programming	4,768	4,376
Rent	29,048	29,048
Repairs and Maintenance	4,220	5,019
Salaries	387,876	441,118
Supplies	5,567	9,297
Telephone	1,567	1,196
Training and Education	250	187
Work Experience	706	5,562
Workers Compensation	1,189	2,065
Climate Grant	-	1,952
Total expenses	593,877	722,702

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses
62,393 (21,086)

Partner Recognition

Program Partners 2025

A very special thank you to our Community Partners. Their creativity and passion inspires us to constantly improve.



Canadian Mental Health Association
Mental health for all



Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation



scientists
IN SCHOOL
scientifiques
À L'ÉCOLE



Homestead



Canada Revenue Agency



Donors



Homestead



LIQUOR MART



ROQUETTE



JANZEN'S
PAINT & DECORATING LTD.



Southport
AEROSPACE CENTRE INC.



PORTAGE
LA PRAIRIE

MANITOBA, CANADA



SHEWFELT'S
PLUMBING & HEATING LTD.

