

History of the Eckville Library

Established: 1952 Joined Parkland Regional Library System: 1964

In January of 1952, the Eckville Municipal Library opened in Dan Clausen's insurance office. Mr. Clausen managed the library with the help of the Presbyterian Church ladies and the Eckville Board of Trade. In 1964, after the passing of Mr. Clausen, the village relocated the library with the help of local organizations to the main floor of the new Village Office. A local board of directors was formed, and after joining Parkland Regional Library and receiving a grant of \$40,000 from the County of Lacombe, the new library opened on March 21, 1964, with Mr. Nels Mogensen as library manager. The library was open from 2 to 5 pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays and 7 to 8:30 pm on Fridays.

In 1979, the library moved to the basement of the town office, considerably increasing the space available. The grand opening for the new facility was held on June 21, 1980, and that year Lorraine Freitag took over as library manager. Things were looking up for the library: hours increased to twenty hours per week in 1986. In July 2004, the Eckville Library moved to the larger and brighter facility located at 4855-51 Street, its present home. The yard space allows for extra activities, enhancing the Summer Reading Program and seniors' Programs. The main floor library entry has also improved accessibility for many patrons.

The Eckville Municipal Library has seen many changes throughout the years, and one of the largest was the advancement of technology. Today, the library provides public computers with internet access for the use of the community. In addition, the library offers access to materials from almost any library in Alberta through Parkland Regional Library, The Alberta Library, and the ME Libraries Alberta wide borrowing. In the future, the library plans to continue improving its services and fulfilling the needs of the Eckville community and surrounding area.

Mission Statement

The Eckville Municipal Library is a place where citizens of Eckville and surrounding areas may indulge in their love of reading and in the enjoyment of the written word. We provide technological support through the use of computers, computer learning courses and one-on-one help with existing and new technology.

Process Overview

As part of the process to complete a Plan of Service, The Alberta Libraries Regulation (AR 141 / 98) requires Library Boards to conduct a community needs assessment.

Plan of Service 13(1) In managing and controlling a municipal library, a municipal board or intermunicipal library board shall (a) within 3 years of being established, develop and file with the Minister a plan of service with a mission statement and goals and objectives based on a needs assessment of the municipality or municipalities served by the board.

To that end, the Eckville Municipal Library has conducted a comprehensive community consultation to meet this needs assessment requirement. A community forum was held in Eckville on October 18th, 2014 and was open to community members within the service area. Participants were asked to determine community needs and identify potential Eckville Municipal Library roles in meeting those needs. The Library Board used the community input to develop this Plan of Service.

The Community Needs Assessment meeting was facilitated by Lindsay McFarlane, and Karyn Goodwillie from Parkland Regional, with input from the Eckville Municipal Library Manager, Carol Griner.

The process was adapted from the Strategic Planning for Results Workbook as recommended by Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch.

Process Details

Session design included a meal, plenary opening and closing, and small group work to determine input, areas of consensus, and to allow participants to see points of views from others.

Results were captured within the group by group-appointed recorders, with data recorded to pre-prepared templates. The results from each small group were then shared with all meeting attendees.

Following the community needs assessment meeting a committee of library staff and trustees reviewed the 18 Library Service Responses from Sandra Nelson's Strategic Planning for Results. The committee selected three service responses that met the needs identified as library priorities at the community needs assessment meeting.

Goal #1: All members of the community will have access to information about Eckville’s services, organizations, and programs.

Service Responses: Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services

Objectives & Measurements:

1. The number of information packages given to new residents will increase by five packages per year. (2016 will be the baseline year.)
2. 90% of responses to a question about community information provided by the library will say it’s very good or excellent. (Measure each year over the course of the plan).

Goal #2: All residents will have access to computers to pursue knowledge and interests. They will have the opportunity to learn how to use computers and become Internet savvy.

Service Responses: Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

Objectives & Measurements:

1. 90% of responses to a survey question about the helpfulness of tech programs will say it is very good or excellent. (Measure each year over the course of the plan).
2. Computer use sessions will increase by 5% a year each year over the course of the Plan.

Goal #3: All members of the community will have access to a variety of programs that meet their needs.

Service Responses: Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

Objectives & Measurements:

1. 95% of responses to a survey questions about program satisfaction will say it was very good or excellent. (Measure each year over the course of the plan).

Goal #4: All members of the community will have a comfortable and welcoming place with a community atmosphere.

Service Responses: Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Objectives & Measurements:

1. The number of library visitors will increase by 5% each year over the course of the Plan.