

History of Glenwood & Souris Regional Library

Before

Plum Creek chapter of I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, a Canadian women's organization) operated a library with volunteers for 34 years before the inception of a regional library. With the opportunity for a regional library, the members were among the strongest supporters for this valuable resource.



This picture was taken around 1952. The I.O.D.E. library was located in a room in the old community hall (presently The Whistling Donkey Pub 'N' Lounge) on First Street.

1956

Miss Vera Patrick, after retiring from her teaching career in Winnipeg, returned to Souris and showed an active interest in establishing a public regional library in her home town. She set about talking to individuals and various groups about the great advantage of having a regional library for the residents.

A Regional Library Executive was formed on **October 6, 1956** with the appointment of the following officers and conveners: Miss Vera Patrick, Chairman; Mr. Hugh Buscarlet, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Ruth Leslie, Secretary; Charles Saunderson, Petitions Convener; Mrs. Ada Tobain, Publicity Convener; Mr. Maurice Jacobson, Housing Convener; and Mrs. H. Hicks, Membership Convener.

On **October 17, 1956**, the Chamber of Commerce in Souris sponsored a public meeting on the establishment of a regional library. Representatives from all local organizations were sent invitations to attend this informative assembly. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jack Dodd, the Chamber president at the time. Speakers included Miss Vera Patrick; Miss M. Morley, Provincial Librarian; Miss Violet Parker, president of the Manitoba Library Association; and Mr. M. Coleman, librarian from the Brandon Public Library.

Miss Morley explained that the Government of Manitoba would make an establishment grant of \$10,000 for a regional library, plus an annual operating grant of \$400 for each municipality. The electors would have to vote on the issue.

A library committee was then chosen to study and promote the establishment of a regional library for the district. Miss Patrick along with Mrs. A. Tobain, Mrs. R. Leslie, Mr. H. Buscarlet, and Mr. M. Jacobson were chosen for the town of Souris. Mrs. H. Hicks, Mrs. W. (Olive) Thomson, Mr. Charles Saunderson, and Mr. Mark, Janz Sr. were named for the Municipality of Glenwood.

On **November 18, 1956**, a meeting of 15 members of the Library Committee was held in the I.O.D.E. library room. Petitions asking the local councils to hold a referendum on the question of establishing a regional library in Souris were given to the members to be distributed to various local societies for members' signatures.

1957

Crescent Rebekah Lodge, No. 24, and the Women's Institute conducted a house- to- house canvass for signatures in **April and May of 1957** with great results.

In **May 1957** other municipalities - Hartney, Cameron, Wawanesa, Oakland, and Whitewater - were invited to join in the establishment of this regional library. They all declined.

On **October 18, 1957** the Library by-law carried with a majority of 68 votes in Souris and 20 votes in Glenwood.

A Library Board was appointed in **November 1957**. Mr. Hugh Buscarlet and Mr. Reg. Cartlidge represented the Town of Souris and Mrs. Fred Philp and Mr. Charles Saunderson represented the Municipality of Glenwood. At the first meeting of this Board on **November 22, 1957**, Mr. Buscarlet was named chairman, Mrs. Jean Philp treasurer and Mrs. Ruth Leslie secretary. The Board started the proceedings to receive the \$10,000 for library establishment.

Glenwood & Souris Regional Library was the name chosen by the Library Board on **December 5, 1957**. It was decided that since "G" comes before "S" in the dictionary, Glenwood would precede Souris in the name.

Glenwood & Souris Regional Library was the first regional library established in Manitoba.

1958

At the meeting in **January 1958** the Board chose the location for the library. They signed a 5-year lease with Mr. Box for a 30' x 60' room in a building located at the corner of First Street and Crescent Avenue. Mrs. Ada Tobain was selected to be the first librarian. The tender from Williamson & Son was accepted to construct the library shelves.

Prior to the opening of the library Mrs. Tobain, together with librarians from Russell, Flin Flon, and Transcona, spent three months of intensive training at the Provincial Library in Winnipeg under the guidance of Miss Marjory Morley. During this time, books were ordered and processed and shipped home to Souris to be ready for the opening of the library.

On **May 24, 1958**, following a noon luncheon, the library was officially opened by the Honorable W.C.M. Miller, Minister of Education. Other special guests were Mr. Norman Matheson, Mayor of Souris; Mr. L.B. Powell, Reeve of Glenwood; Mr. H.E. Wright; Miss Patrick; Miss Margery Morley, Provincial Librarian; Miss V. Parker, Past President of the Manitoba Library Association; and Mr. M. Coleman, Librarian of the Brandon Public Library.

Residents residing in municipalities other than Souris or Glenwood could use the library for a fee of \$3.00 for first adult and 50 cents per person for the rest of the family.

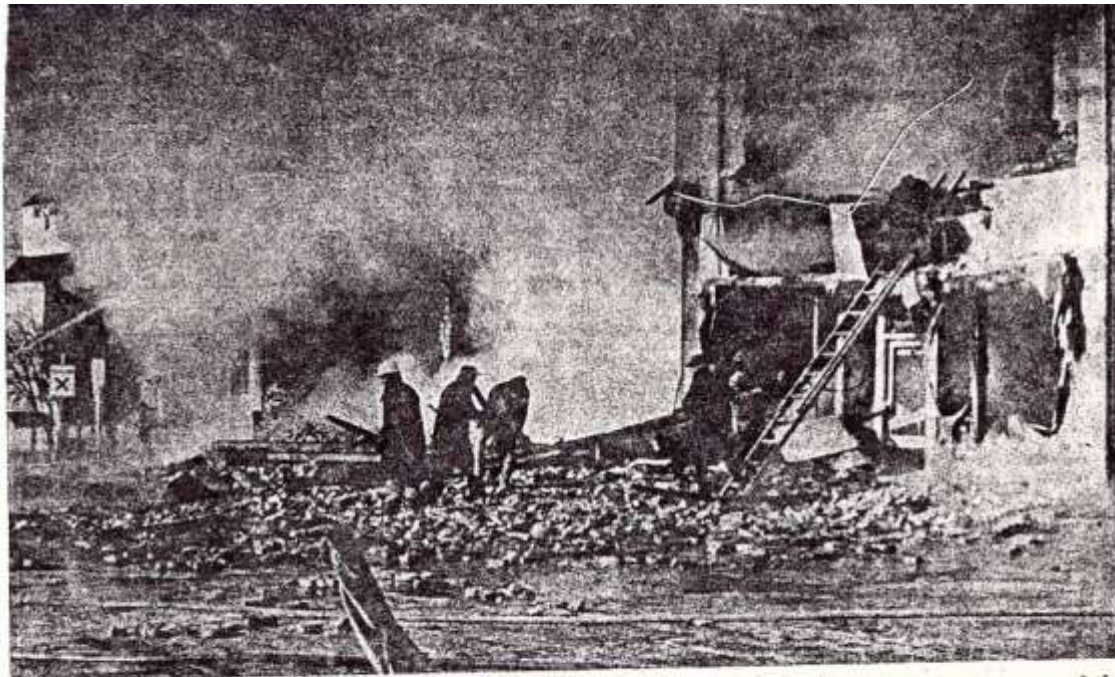
Books from the I.O.D.E. library were purchased to add to the library's collection.

1963

In **1963** the Library moved into the former drugstore of Mr. R. Whitfield. This location was in a building block at the corner of Crescent Avenue and 2nd Street, which also housed the Manitoba Liquor Commission, Souris Dry Cleaners, Tomlinson's Food Land, and Jacobson Photo Studio.

1966

Disaster struck on December 11, 1966, when fire completely destroyed the building and contents. The library received \$17,000 insurance to cover the loss.



It's operation clean-up for the town's public works department, this week, the aftermath of Sunday's disastrous fire that left 11 people homeless and put four

library. The above photo was taken after most of the front walls facing Crescent Avenue had fallen, at right is the library.

This photo was from the *Souris Plaindealer* published on December 14, 1966

1967

The Councils of Souris and Glenwood supplied a room for the library in the lower level of the Civic Centre. Mrs. Tobain, assisted by Mrs. Phyllis McElroy, began the arduous process of reordering supplies and replacement books.

In **March 1967** the Glenwood & Souris Regional Library was once more open to the public. The staff and Board Members celebrated the reopening of the library in the basement of the Civic Centre.

Pictured left to right in the photo (1967):

Mr. Hugh Buscarlet, Mrs. Phyllis McElroy,
Mr. Reg Cartlidge, Mrs. Ada Tobain and
Mrs. Jean Philp



A tea was held to celebrate the reopening
of the library in the new location.



1969

In **October 1969** Mrs. Ada Tobain passed away suddenly. After 11 years as librarian, her loss was greatly felt by the community.

Miss Nancy Collinson agreed to act a
librarian until a replacement could
be found.





Mrs. Viola Wright eventually took over as librarian with Miss Nancy Collinson as her assistant

1970

Glenwood & Souris Regional Library entered a float in the summer parade to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Canada!



1977



Averill, Daphne, and Rod Whitfield visiting the library at the Civic Centre location

Although the Library Board continued to search for another building, the library remained in this location for another 11 years. Other locations such as the old Post office and the old Royal Bank building were considered.

1978

In **January 1978** the library moved to its present location on the lower floor of Crescent Manor. As this building was partially funded by the provincial government, the town had certain obligations that needed to be met. One provincial requirement was to provide a 'commercial' tenant for the space.

With a street level entrance, large front windows and double the space for books, the Library Board collectively agreed to this location for the library.



Following the retirement of Mrs. Viola Wright in early 1978, Marilyn Dell, Betty Jo Crook and Kathy Saunderson each temporarily took over the position. Miss Nancy Collinson continued on as the library assistant.

Marilyn Dell with Mrs. Viola Wright



1979

Mrs. Margaret Greaves became the librarian in 1979, with Miss Nancy Collinson continuing as the assistant.



Published in the *Souris Plaindealer*
November, 1979

Books for the asking

Librarian Margaret Greaves has been a little bit busier than usual this week, greeting some new visitors to the Glenwood and Souris Regional Library. Among the Library Week guests at the facility in Crescent Manor's lower floor were Marjory Morris, Tracie Stouffer and Angela Swaenepoel, seen with Mrs. Greaves.

1983

The library celebrated its 25th Anniversary in **May 1983**.

1985

Nancy Collinson retired after 15 years of dedicated service as the library assistant. Cindy Minary was hired to take over Nancy's job as assistant to Margaret Greaves



Cindy Minary (standing), Nancy Collinson
and Margaret Greaves

1992

Robin Ludlum joined the staff in 1992 as a helper to Cindy and Margaret.



1994

The first computer was put into the library for the staff in **1994**.



Margaret Greaves

1995

The first public computer was available for the public.

1998

Internet access became available at the library in early **May 1998**.



The library celebrated its 40th Anniversary in **May 1998**.



40th Anniversary Tea

Three members of the original Library Committee were able to attend the 40th Anniversary celebration.
From left to right: Charlie Saunderson, Maurice Jacobson, and Albert Williamson



2000



A wonderful mural depicting children and books was painted on the wall behind the front desk by local artist Ruth Martin.

2003

The library celebrated its 45th Anniversary in **May 2003**



Darcy Gerow, Board Member; Betty Somersall, Board Member; Margaret Greaves, Librarian; Judy Hale, Board Member; Joe Goodwill, Board Member; and Gayle O'Greysik, Board Member.



Article published in the *Souris Plaindealer* in May 2003

2008

The library celebrated its 50th Anniversary in **May 2008**.



Charlie Saunderson
Original Regional Library Committee
Member and Board Member



Betty Somersall, Board Member;
Gayle O'Greysik, Board Member;
Judy Hale, Board Member;
Margaret Greaves, Librarian; Gerry
Williams, Board Member; Joy
Dunlop, Board Member; Barb
Chapman, casual assistant.

After 23 years as Margaret's assistant, Cindy Minary resigned in **August 2008** so that she could devote her time to her family's bakery. Connie Bradshaw took over her position.



2009

In **August 2009** Margaret Greaves retired after 30 years as librarian. Connie Bradshaw moved from assistant into her position. Lynda Luptak was hired as library assistant.



2011

The library added their name to the list of charities with the Souris District Donor's Choice annual canvass.

2015

With the amalgamation of Souris and the Municipality of Glenwood on **January 1, 2015**, the library was no longer considered a regional library but now a **municipal library**. It was decided that the name Glenwood & Souris Regional Library would remain.

Lynda Luptak retired in June 2015. Her position was taken over by Debra (French) Wright.

2018

The library celebrates its 60th Anniversary on **May 25, 2018**.



Robin Enns, Vice-Chair of the Library Board, welcomes the guests to the 60th Anniversary cake and coffee party.



Darryl Jackson, Mayor of the Municipality of Souris-Glenwood, congratulates the library for its 60 years of service to the region.



Present Board Members:

Mark Gillis – Chair (Municipality Representative)
 Robin Enns – Vice Chair
 Gayle O’Gresik
 Mae Hart
 Florence Phillips

Present Staff/Volunteers:

Connie Bradshaw – Librarian
 Debra Wright – Assistant Librarian
 Mark Cranwell – Assistant Librarian/ Computer Technician / Volunteer
 Judy Suttie – Casual Assistant
 Elsie Kurntenbach – Caretaker
 Rae Laval – Volunteer
 Terrie Stelmack – Volunteer
 Joseph Logeot – Volunteer

Original Regional Library Committee 1956 – 1957

Miss Vera Patrick	Chairman
Mr. Hugh Buscarlet	Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Ruth Leslie	Secretary
Mr. Charles Saunderson	Petitions Convener
Mrs. Ada Tobain	Publicity Convener
Mr. Maurice Jacobson	Housing Convener
Mrs. H. Hicks	Membership Convener
Albert Williamson	
Mr. Mark Janz	
Mrs. Olive Thomson	
Mrs. Jean Philp	

Board Members over that last 60 years

Mr. Hugh Buscarlet	1957 - 1978
Mr. Reg Cartlidge	1957 - 1969
Mrs. Jean Philp	1957 - 1969
Mr. Charles Saunderson	1957 - 1963
Mrs. Ruth Leslie	1957 - 1971
Bob Hicks	1964 - 1978
Mel Wilson	1970 - 1971
Stuart Pomeroy	1970 - 1978
Dr. Jack Coates	1972
Evelyn Brandon	1972 - 1978
Pam Cobban	1973 - 1988
Alf Klassen	1979
Brian Saunderson	1979 - 1982
Elsie Dornian	1979 - 1981
Lloyd Brown	1979 - 1982
Irene Oberlin	1980 - 1991
Keith Davison	1980 - 1982
Edith Smith	1982 - 1988
Larry O’Neail	1983 - 1996
Doug Denning	1983 - 1987
Margaret Edmunds	1983 - 1989
Wayne Williams	1988 - 1991

Betty Somersall	1988 - 2011
Bev Somersall	1989 - 1990
Sharon Brown	1990 - 1993
Gayle O'Greysik	1989 - Present
Hermoine Christie	1992 - 1993
Gerry Williams	1992 - 2009
Lora Lovatt	1993 - 1997
Faye Kirbyson	1994 - 1995
Judy Hale	1996 - 2009
Val Bergen	1997
Joy Dunlop	1998 - 2009
Louise Smigelsky	1999 - 2000
Darcy Gerow	2003 - 2006
Joe Goodwill	2002
Jim Butler	2001 – 2003
Harvey Veldhouse	2004 – 2006
Mark Gillis	2006 – Present
Leslie Chudley	2010 – 2014
Belinda West	2010 – 2014
Gloria Turner	2010 – 2017
Mae Hart	2012 – Present
Robin Enns	2016 – Present
Florence Phillips	2018 – Present

Staff, Students, and Volunteers over the last 60 years

Librarians

Mrs. Ada Tobain	1957 - 1969
Mrs. Viola Wright	1970 - 1978
Marilyn Dell	1978
Betty Jo Crook	1979
Kathy Saunderson	1979
Margaret Greaves	1979 - 2009
Connie Bradshaw	2009 - Present

Library Assistants

Mrs. G. Dixon	1958 - 1961
Mrs. Gilchrist	1962 - 1965
Mrs. Phyllis McElroy	1966 - 1969
Miss Nancy Collinson	1969 - 1985
Cindy Minary	1985 - 2008
Connie Bradshaw	2008 - 2009

Lynda Luptak	2009 - 2015
Debra Wright	2015 - Present
Mark Cranwell	2017 - Present

Volunteers/Casual Helpers /Students

Over the years there have been several volunteers, casual workers, and students who have all contributed to the operation of the library.

Fred Main	Student
Rick Stokes	Student
Lorne Caver	Student
Kim Gosnell	Student
Gary Powers	Student
Mrs. Brownlee	Story Time
Cynthia Clear	Student
Val Matheson	Student
Linda McJannet	Student
Robin (Ludlum) Clark	Casual Help
Lara Williams	Student
Kathryn Theissen	Student
Heather Radcliffe	Student
Lizzy DeJong	Student
Crystal Carlisle	Student
Belinda West	Story Time
Barb Chapman	Casual Help
Cassie Hainsworth	Volunteer
Debra (French) Wright	Volunteer
Mary Addison	Volunteer
Patti Kolba	Casual Help/Volunteer
Jennifer Adams	Student/Canada Summer Jobs
Alyssa Thompson	Student
Alissa Swaenepoel	Student/Canada Summer Jobs
Alexis Maclean	Volunteer
Noralyn Graham	Volunteer
Cassie Quadrelli	Story Time
Noelle Adams	Student/Canada Summer Jobs
Rae Laval	Volunteer
Terri Stelmack	Volunteer
Mark Cranwell	Volunteer Technology Support
Joseph Logeot	Volunteer

Caretakers (in present location)

Frank & Janette Gerow
 Marie Neilson
 Eloise Gosnold
 Elsie Kurtenback

