

Lincoln Public Library Newsletter



www.lincoln.library.on.ca

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

July/August 2016

20th Anniversary Open House



Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Moses F. Rittenhouse Library! Enjoy refreshments and a display on the history of library service in Vineland.

Friday July 15, 1 to 5 pm

Cake Cutting and Remarks at 1:30 pm

Inside this issue! A history of library service in east Lincoln.

Holiday Hours

Both LPL locations will be closed:

- ◆ Friday July 1 for Canada Day
- ◆ Monday August 1 for the Civic Holiday
- ◆ Monday September 5 for Labour Day

This Summer is **WILD!**

**TD
Summer
Reading
Club**

TD Summer Reading Club (TD SRC) registration and reporting start **Monday July 4!** Designed for children ages 2 to 12, the TD SRC is a

great way for children to maintain or improve their literacy skills while winning cool prizes. Plus, every child who reads and reports on ten books by August 13 earns an invitation to the TD SRC final party, featuring Reptile Kingdom's South American Amazon Rainforest Show!

We also have a **Tween & Teen Reading Club (TTRC)** for those going into grade 7 and up. Simply sign up, read and fill out ballots. You could win fabulous prizes! There are also opportunities to meet other TTRC participants and talk about your books, plus there will be a TTRC party on August 16.

Tweens and teens are also invited to join the summer **Pinterest** and **Colouring Clubs** at the Fleming Library.

We haven't forgotten about adults! In addition to the Pinterest and Colouring Clubs, we are continuing with our weekly **Wednesday Flicks**, 1 pm at the Fleming Library, plus the **Adult Summer Reading Club** returns! Simply read, fill out ballots and enter a draw for a wonderful gift basket.

Pick up a **Summer Programs 2016** brochure for details or check www.lincoln.library.on.ca.

Library Service in East Lincoln: *A Brief History*

by Veronika Reiser and Janice Coles



What happens when you pair a library with a 110-year history with a building that has all the latest technology? You find yourself on the “on-ramp to the information highway.”

That was the stated goal of the Lincoln Public Library Board in 1993, when a steering committee was struck to find a site for a new library to serve the east end of Lincoln. Vineland has had a library since 1886, when Moses F. Rittenhouse purchased 500 books, two sets of encyclopedias, 20 bound periodicals and 12 magazine subscriptions for a library located in the Rittenhouse School in Vineland Station. When Rittenhouse died in 1915, the library’s trustees received \$20,000 to endow the library. Fifty years later, the building was expropriated for the QEW interchange at Victoria Avenue. A new Rittenhouse Library, funded by the Rittenhouse Trust, was built in conjunction with tennis courts on First Avenue in Vineland Station.

Jordan’s Library began in 1973 following a community survey undertaken by Chief Librarian Stan Skrzyszewski. It was located in the former Louth Council Chambers (now the location of the fire hall on Nineteenth Street).

In the early 1990s, the demographics of Lincoln’s east end were changing. This was particularly true in Vineland, which saw the construction of two retirement communities and a new subdivision. The libraries in Vineland and Jordan were no longer sufficient to serve the needs of the changing community. The steering

committee, composed of Board members, library staff and community members, worked with an architect and a land-use planner to choose a central site for a new library. The criteria included walkability, a location near the centre of east Lincoln and visibility in the community. In total, thirty sites were examined and the current location was determined to be the best fit. Funding was provided by the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure program as well as the Town of Lincoln. An enthusiastic fundraising campaign was carried out by FANS (Fundraising Advocates for New Services), who raised \$105,140 towards the cost of the \$1 million project.

Initially, the design was controversial. “UFO lands in small farming community” read the caption for Norman Hossell’s cartoon in *Inheritance*, the Heritage Village magazine. Designed by Chamberlain Architects of Burlington, the plan was for an elliptical building described by one board member as being “a big statement from a small community.”

The old libraries closed in mid-June 1996 and staff started moving the collections. There was a “sneak preview” of the new library on Friday July 12, and it opened officially the next day.



The interior of the Rittenhouse Library, circa 1911

As well as the shape, there are other details that add to the building's character. As you walk in from Victoria Avenue, what looks like a golf ball on a tee is actually one of the stone globes from the gateposts of the original Rittenhouse School. To reflect the agricultural nature of the community, the walkway has a stylized grape leaf incised in the concrete. The shape of the stained glass in the front door mirrors the exterior of the building and its various colours reflect the different sections of the library.

As well, in the year 2070, library patrons will be able to experience the Vineland of 1996, thanks to the *Lincoln Post Express* newspaper, which helped celebrate its centenary by donating a time capsule containing both photographs of the community and art and stories created by local schoolchildren. It is located between the parking lot and the walkway to Victoria Avenue. The opening of the time capsule will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Lincoln.

When the library's Local History collection was relocated from the Fleming Library in Beamsville to the new facility, it was decided to name the collection in honour of William F. Rannie, former editor of the *Lincoln Post Express* and local historian. With over 1100 items, this collection is popular with local and out-of-town researchers alike.

In 1997, a group of Rittenhouse descendants, many of them from Chicago, came to Vineland to visit their Canadian cousins and pay a visit to the new library that still bears their ancestor's name. They donated Moses F. Rittenhouse memorabilia and funded a display case for the artifacts. Nine years later, library staff received a surprise phone call from Paul Rittenhouse, offering the library the roll top desk from Moses's office. It now sits in the Rannie Room, with a bust of Moses F. beside it, and his portrait hanging above it.

In 2011, Library CEO Jill Nicholson saw a notice that a shelving unit from the old Rittenhouse Library was being auctioned off. Then-Deputy CEO Cathy Simpson contacted Rick Ritten-

house, who successfully bid on it on the library's behalf. It currently houses some of the older volumes in the library's Local History collection.

Despite some raised eyebrows at its start, the building has become a favourite destination for residents of the east end of Lincoln, with over 52,000 visits in 2015. Those entering for the first time often comment on how much they like the library, with its rounded walls and abundant natural light. The LPL Board and staff continue to make improvements. We have moved shelving and computers to better serve the changing needs of our community, and we continue to plan changes to make the building more accessible. We look forward to serving Lincoln for many more years!

The People who Made it Happen

Please note that many of these community-minded individuals sat on more than one committee. Our apologies to anyone we missed.

Lincoln Public Library Board Members, 1995 & 1996

Sharon McMillan (Chair), John Albers, Kevin Burns, Robert Foster, Anna Gadsby, James Gibson, Wayne MacMillan, Karen McMaster, Ethan Mings, Arthur Nagels

FANS Members

Mary Wiley (Chair), Margaret Andrewes, Theo Blom, Sid Colwill, David Grant, Mary Hodgson, Nick Kauling, Fiona Kelly, Sharon McMillan, Maureen Morrison, Olga Piedrahita, Brian Romagnoli

Other Committee Members

Suzanne Culp, Ken Friesen, Paula House, Kip Parker, Peter Marett, David Whish

Library Staff

Lori Sims (CEO), Kae Elgie, Mona McMaster, Cathy Orr, Elisabeth Peters, Veronika Reiser, Diane Smith

Town of Lincoln Mayor: Ray Konkle

Thank You!

Going on Vacation?

Don't miss your holds!

Let us know when you'll be back, and we'll change the activation date for items you have requested (aka "holds"). This maintains your place in the queue for an item.

Don't know when you'll be back? Maintain your place in the queue by suspending your holds. You can do this online, or ask us to do it.

To suspend your holds:

- Go to our website:
www.lincoln.library.on.ca
- Sign in to your account under "My Account"
- Choose the "holds" tab when your account information appears
- Select the holds you wish to suspend
- Choose "Suspend" from the drop-down "Actions for selected holds" menu
- Click on the green "Go" button

When you are back from your holidays, repeat the above, but choose "Activate". We'll let you know when your items are ready for pickup.

As well, if you need to keep items a bit longer because you'll be on vacation, let us know. Depending on what you are borrowing, we may be able to lengthen the loan period when you check your items out.

Have a Great Vacation!



Meet our Summer Student!

Please join us in welcoming **Megan Kools** as our Summer Student. In addition to helping plan and present summer programs, Megan will be assisting you at the circulation desk.

This fall, Megan will enter her fourth year of Child and Youth Studies at Brock University. In the past, she has dedicated her time to various roles at camps, youth centres and elementary school classrooms. She hopes to continue to contribute to the healthy development of children and their communities through a career in education, specifically working with vulnerable populations. She also loves all things to do with art and the outdoors!

Megan is looking forward to spending her summer at Lincoln Public Library, and we are thrilled she has joined us.

Lincoln Public Library acknowledges the assistance of the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs program for some of the funding of this position.



The Lincoln Public Library Board does not meet in the summer. The next meeting is **Tuesday September 20**, 7 pm, at the Moses F. Rittenhouse Library in Vineland.

The public is welcome to attend. The agenda will be posted on the library's website before the meeting.