

Session B – 10:45 am – 12:00 pm
B3 – *Decorating/Renovating your Library*

Hi, I am Mary Ann Sparks, Library Manager of Edgerton Public Library. I have been Edgerton's Library manager for almost 17 years. And for the last 15 years have worked as an Educational Assistant at Ribstone Colony School. My husband and I raised 3 sons and have 2 daughters-in-law and five amazing, fun loving grandchildren.

In 2015 the talk in the Village of Edgerton was that there was going to be built in the next year or two a Municipal building and it would house the Village office and Fire Hall. This new building would be where Edgerton Public library was located. So where would the library be?

One day in mid-September just after I had opened the library Village Administrator, Al arrived. After the usual greeting of "Hi! How are you?" Al proceeded to tell me that the Village Council had approved the immediate start of construction of a building to house the Village Office, Fire Hall and Library. The location of this building was to be where the Library was currently located. Al continued to inform me that the library would have to be out of the building by September 28 as utility companies were to disconnect power and natural gas on the 29th. Then demolition of the building would begin immediately. Al assured me that he would find the library a place to move to as the village was forcing the library to move. The discussion continued that not only did we need a place to relocate to but need the high-speed internet for the library computer program, Polaris to function. The next week Northern Lights Library System and Axia techs., traveled to Edgerton to remove the Wi-Fi equipment. The fibre optical line would be remaining underground as the new library was going to be located back where it had been for the last 14 years. Boy was that going to be a saving of \$50,000.00! Telus was willing to disconnect the phone with a monthly charge of \$100.00 to have the phone number put in hiatus but no guarantee that the Library would have its original phone number back when it was reconnected.

Al returned to the library in a week with news he had found a place for the library at the Edgerton Arena. The area at the Edgerton Arena that the library was moving into was at least 3 times smaller in size. With much-appreciated help from local people packing of 10,000 plus items began. The Village Maintenance crew- consisting of 2 people, took time out of their daily schedule to assemble the new shelving in the arena. This shelving had been purchased to replace older shelving through a donation. Moving day came and some of Edgerton's community members stepped up to the plate and off to our now location the library goes. Into

the cozy area we called a library for the next year goes all items and 4 computer desks. It was amazing what fit into a much smaller area!

The Wi-Fi and telephone were reconnected that was in the library area. These services and a portion of power, natural gas and water utilities were paid by the Village of Edgerton for the next year. Financially that was a sweet deal for the library! The phone was shared with the arena and available to arena usage only when the library was open. More than once we had calls inquiring if there was public skating or hockey games going on. The phone was about 12 metres away from the staff desk on the top of a tall book shelf that was not attached to the wall as the Arena board had requested that nothing be screwed or nailed to the walls. Finally, I clued in and purchased a cordless phone.

Not long after the library moved the library computer system program, Polaris, had an update done. Then at least once or twice daily Polaris would close down. Trying to start it back up sometimes luck was with us and it would work for awhile. Finally, we realized that the shutting down of Polaris was happening when public computers were being used at the same time as the staff computer. One can only imagine what it was like when all three public computers and the staff computer was being used along with the arena visitors using cell phones. Realizing that it wasn't Polaris updates but was that the Wifi couldn't handle all the internet usage! Therefore public computers had limited use.

One disadvantage of the library being at the Arena was local patron usage decreased greatly. I guess a change isn't always a good thing, especially for the elderly. Yet there was the enjoyment of seeing more children making use of the library. These children were waiting for siblings to finish playing or practicing hockey so why not come into the library and look at books or even get a membership so that they could take a book or two out.

Now, let's move onto construction of the library. True to the Village administrator's words the brick building that had been the Library's home since 2003, was demolished within a few weeks of moving. The only thing I knew about the new library was that it would be in the same location as the Village Office facing Main Street and the Fire Hall at the back. I were given a photocopied drawing of the new building that the Village Administrator had sketched on a piece of grid paper. The Library would gain approximately 500 square feet totalling 2000 sq. ft. This 2000 sq. ft. did not include washrooms or meeting room, just library space. Of course, I started dreaming and planning how 2000 square feet would be utilized! Only if the Library could win the Lotto!

As time goes on it looks like the construction is ahead of the game due to a mild winter. Talk around the village was saying that we will be in our new location a month or two ahead of time. There's no information of how the building is coming. But as I look back at this observation

there wasn't no need to inform us because the library isn't the owner! But I couldn't take the lack of information any longer. I asked could the Library Board's Village Rep. to inquire how the construction is coming. He made a visit to the Village Administrator being told the building is coming along as planned!

In August 2016, the Village Administrator contacted me to go the new library to check if the electrical outlets were in the necessary places. At this time he mentioned that the Village Office was moving the first week of Sept. but the library won't be able to as there was a mix-up with the flooring that had to be reordered from the factory. So, with anticipation of being able to see the new library I eagerly go off to inspect plug-ins. Yes, the electrical outlets are in the correct spots. But there's no telephone jacks. No problem the electrician will be contacted.

With consulting, the Northern Lights Library IT department and Axia a quote of \$7000.00 to install the fibre-optical line was approved by the Village Administrator as the Village is paying for all building expenses. Along comes an Axia tech. to install the Super-Net. Very shortly he called and there's an issue! There's a pipe located outside the building but not a wire in it, not even fibre-optical wires coming out of it to go into the building. Minutes later I received a call from an Axia supervisor telling me of the lack of the fibre-optical lines and that there wasn't in any building but a huge pile of rubble. Why hadn't I given the correct address and what was the correct address! By then I had had it – how could the Axia Tech had found out that there wasn't any fibre-optical line if the address wasn't correct and that indeed there was a building not a pile of rubble on 5037-50 St, Edgerton, Alberta.

So, back to the drawing board the Northern Lights Library IT Supervisor, Kelly, the Village Administrator, Axia, and myself go to figure out how and when the needed lines would be installed. A new quote of \$12,000.00 was approved. Near the end of September, the fibre-optical lines were trenched in and put into the building. Weeks later an Axia Tech. arrived to install the Super-Net. Later in the day I was told the job order couldn't be completed as not all the necessary electrical equipment had be installed. Of course, the electrician returned to do the installations.

A used counter desk to be a circulation counter was purchased through an online auction at 2:00 in the morning with 5 minutes of bidding before closing time for a sweet deal of \$475.00. The Library's Secretary delivered it to the library that now had flooring. While unloading it what do I do but lock us out. Not off to a good start as my vehicle keys inside too. Off I go on that chilly fall day to the Village Administrator's home hoping that he's home and willing to come to rescue us. Finally, the unit was in place. This circulation counter has since been refinished by a local designer who donated her labour.

Let's go onto the move from the Arena to the Municipal Building. I was getting nervous about the move it was mid-November and snow will be arriving soon. I agree to packing up as the Fibre-optical is in place along with required equipment to have the Super-Net. Again, community members came to help with packing. The move took place on a chilly afternoon with about 15 – 20 high school students from Edgerton Public School helping. They were such a great help that everything was loaded and unloaded within an hour. After the move a local business purchased pizza from a local restaurant for the students to show the library's appreciation. Local volunteers and village maintenance staff assembled shelving and helped with unpacking.

The following week Jodi from the IT dept. at Northern Lights Library System came to hook up the Super-Net. But guessed what, she can't! Not all the necessary electrical data items had been installed. Another big issue was in the Mechanical Room where the Super-Net equipment was located was way too warm. Jodie explained that when the internet equipment was running that it gets very warm and with the combined heat the equipment would explode. A week later the Village Administrator checked out the mechanical room and boy was it warm. A call is made to the plumber. The plumber would come to check it when he happened to be in Edgerton. Finally in the first of the New Year the plumber happened to be in Edgerton and by gosh there is an issue and the furnace's duck work was corrected in a matter of minutes.

When Jodi was at the library she explained how to use the Library's I-pad with the Polaris Leap program to check items in. Theses directions was greatly appreciated as there were tubs and tubs of items to be checked in. We got permission from the Village Office to piggy back off their Wi-Fi. So happy campers we were with finally being able to check in many items that had been sitting since November also patron's hold were able to be filled.

In the first week of 2017 Kelly, Supervisor of Northern Lights Library System IT Dept. arrived to hook up the Super-Net but again it isn't to happen. The problem being the Axia equipment that had been sitting idle since October wasn't able to power up. One more visit by Kelly, photos of the equipment sent to Kelly, and many phone calls the Edgerton Public Library finally could be connected by the middle of January 2017. Remember now that the library has been there 4 months without internet. This did show that the library could be a basic functional library without their own internet, only because of the Village Office's co-operation of letting us piggy back off their Wi-Fi and the library e-mails being dealt with on my home computer.

Since our move into a new building the library has received donations of a fireplace, lamps, a collection of a local artist's paintings, and homemade quilts to display. Through a Community Incentive Grant there are new shelves being purchased to replace shelving that's

been part of the library since late 1980, and replacing 2 out dated computers, one of them being the staff computer.

Already in 2 more months the Edgerton Public Library has been in a new building for year. This new building happened only as the Edgerton Village Council took the bull by the horns with having a Municipal Building built. The Edgerton Library Staff and Library Board is so grateful for such an opportunity to be in a new location at no construction costs to the Library. On behalf of the Edgerton Public Library Staff and Board I would like to extend a grateful thanks to the Village of Edgerton for this opportunity to call the Municipal Building at 5037-50 Ave. a home for the Edgerton Public Library. Another thanks is to Northern Lights Library System for including the Edgerton Public Library in their consortium so that there can be a library in the Edgerton community.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Northern Light Library System for hosting the conference, Canada & Libraries as One and inviting Ina, Stuart, and myself to present a session on Renovating and Decorating a Library. Are there any questions for us?