INTRODUCTION

The Midway Public Library is located on the main street in the Village of Midway, just blocks off Hwy. 33 in the West Boundary. The Town of Osoyoos is 40 minutes to the west and Grand Forks is to the east about 30 minutes away. The Library is accessible by foot, bike or car and is located across from the local post office and we share our building with the pharmacy. Our central location makes the library a hub in the community serving a population of approximately 649 people in Midway and more from the surrounding area “E” of the RDKB. We have achieved our goal from the last two years of creating a friendly, welcoming environment where you can access the information and books, and will to continue to work on providing the best service possible. The Village of Midway is the main supply town for other communities in the West Boundary area which makes it convenient for patrons to stop in while running errands or to plan to attend a program.

The village of Midway is mostly a retirement area because of affordable housing but it is also a good area for family’s and has many small or home based businesses. The main employer is the local wood mill as well as the local grocery store.

The main challenge for our library is a lack of a larger tax base. The Village of Midway is limited in the support it can provided to us therefore the library is limited on expanding programs and services with other rising costs. Our board, staff and volunteers work to raise funds and plan carefully to provide all that we can to our community.

The challenges for us for the last couple of years have been improving our building’s interior spaces, and areas of public use. We are seeing big changes in how our patrons think about the library and they are using the spaces we have created. More groups have signed up to use us as a meeting space, more craft groups are setting up regular days to gather here, and more adult students are having exams facilitated. There are still more improvements to come and more ways we can grow as a library, but we are building a very strong library community and feel very supported by that community.
LIBRARY PRIORITY 1
Fostering equitable access to information and services

Interlibrary Connect and Audio Books

Over the last two years we have worked to inform and assist our patrons of the ease of using the interlibrary service and just how it can open up a much wider selection to them. We see more and more each week just how our patrons are enjoying what they can order and we are now also trying to promote the access of audio books and large print titles to those starting to struggle with sight issues.

This year we have also had an increase in individuals needing supervised exams and conference space. One of the library's goals for the next year are to keep working on our public work spaces and the number of computers we have for patrons and the public, and to improve our printing abilities for the public so we can offer local business people and local groups more services like help with grants and posters.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 2
Developing skills and knowledge

Computers and Services

The goal of the Midway Library was to improve the main floor computer area and to add extra work spaces in quiet areas of the library for students and business people and well as regular patrons. In the continuation of improvements we have updated our WIFI system that was over 10 years old, this has help us offer a better connection to the internet. Public confidence in the computers security and that a computer will be available for them to use had grown, and we have seen a steady growth in the need of the public computers for locals starting business and applications for course. Our goals are to continue to improve our public access to computers, to add more opportunities for patrons to learn about computers and using them and most of all to add more computers.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 3
Working together

The Midway Library's goal is to maintain existing programs like the Reading Link Challenge and the Preschool Story Time. We have developed partnerships with groups that support this goal. The Grand Forks and Greenwood libraries work with us to facilitate the Reading Link Challenge, the partnership has made this a strong event for us. We have also partnered with the KLF for a grant to help enhance our preschool story time, this grant has help us with craft supplies, snacks and book as well as access to
creative themed bins, full of helpful materials. We plan to continue to offer these programs and more in our future, to build a solid base of programs that patrons and parents can rely on.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 4

Enhancing governance

The Midway Library’s goals were to complete our building improvements, create more programs and to work on our new strategic plan. We felt we had the majority of these tasks done and that it was time to work on a community needs assessment. Our new board Chair had to resign after a short time due to health concerns, this was a bit of a setback. Our team is still strong and hardworking, but we did not achieve our goal of a community assessment survey in 2018. We would like to re-set this goal and have it accomplished by June of 2019.

SUMMARY

With the completion of the majority of our improvement projects; meeting room, craft room, larger nonfiction, redone storage area for supplies and materials, etc., we are seeing a resurgence of patrons and users of the library. As we move forward with our goals and strategic plan, we hope to keep growing the number of patrons and the programs we can offer. With faster internet and more computers we can see this will greatly help our area of the Boundary. We look forward to the challenges that will come and know we have the support of community partnerships and helpers that have come to joins us in our goals.