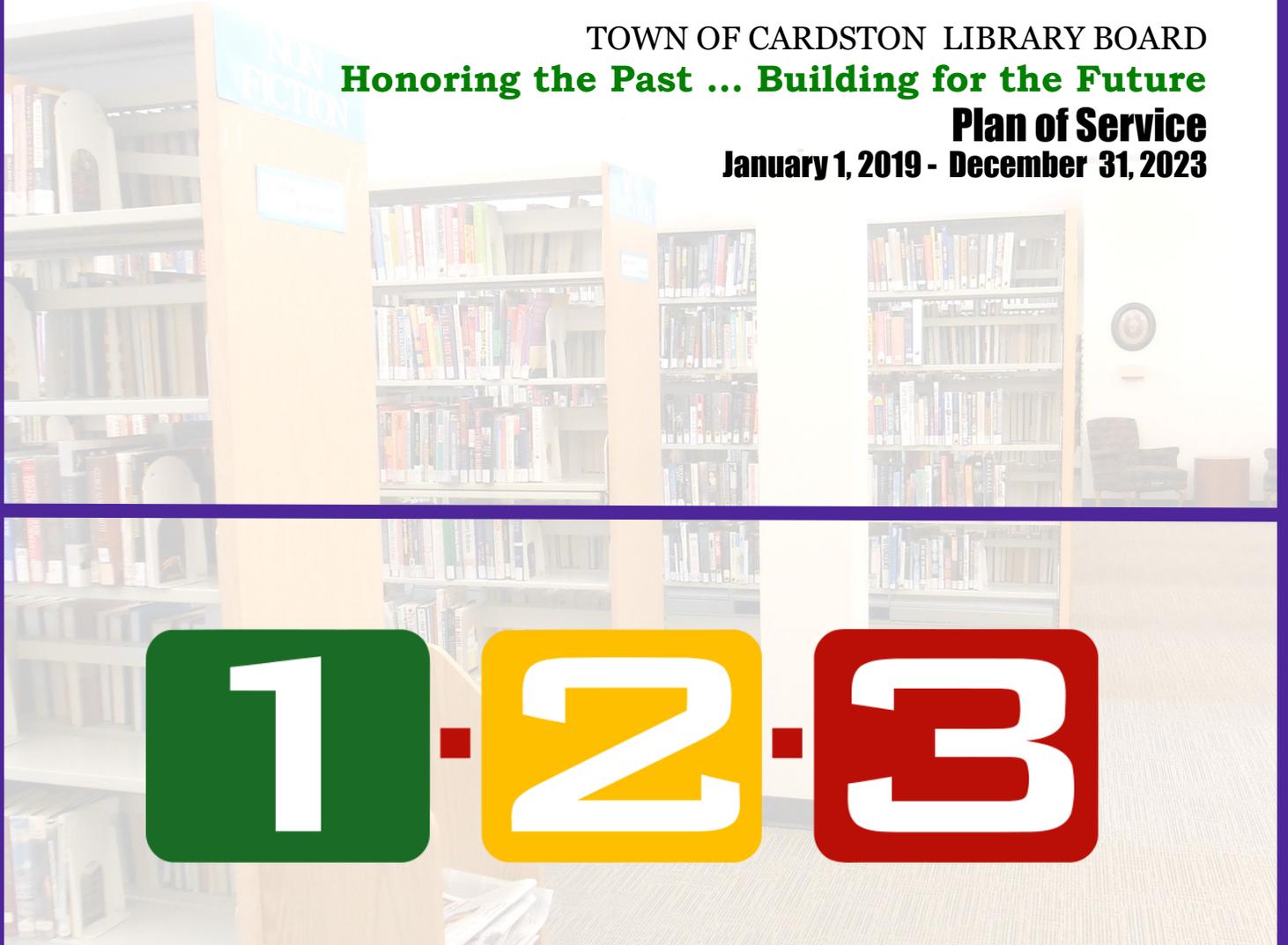


Town of Cardston Library Board  
Operating as the  
Jim and Mary Kearl Library



TOWN OF CARDSTON LIBRARY BOARD  
**Honoring the Past ... Building for the Future**  
**Plan of Service**  
**January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2023**





## LIBRARY BACKGROUND It's important to know where we have been so we know we are headed in the right direction.

The history of the Cardston Library dates back to 1903, when W. O. Lee had plans to open a public library. He rented a small building, just north of the Allen Store, which later became known as *Laidlaw's*. In this building, he placed his own bookshelves, lamps, heater and furnished nearly 300 books from his own library. These books included one of the earliest editions of the Encyclopedia Britannica and the library became a mine of information.

Since then the library has seen many changes. The most significant change began in 2004 when fundraising for a new library began.

There are many individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of the fundraising drive for the new library. It had been a dream and a prayer for many board members. A *CAN* program was established throughout the community, where individuals were invited to deposit their change as they did business throughout the town, towards the new library.

On April 9, 2002, the town committed \$250,000.00 towards the new library, the costs that were estimated at that time at \$1 million dollars. The ultimate cost turned out to be \$2 million.

A program was mapped out anticipating donations over a three-year period from 2003 – 2005. The theme for the library was to be a centennial project in 2005. An opening date was set subsequently for July 2, 2005.

A mail out to the post offices in Waterton, Hill Spring, Glenwood and Cardston helped publicize the project. The media, including the Temple City Star, Lethbridge Herald and Global Television were very cooperative and sent representatives at significant stages of the campaign.

A pivotal event developed from a newspaper clipping, indicating that Ike and Jean Barber had donated \$20 million dollars to a new library at UBC.

Ike Barber was one known locally by the name Irving Kearn Barber of Edmonton in 1939 and the early 40's. It was suggested that perhaps he and his wife would be willing to donate significantly to the Cardston library and name the library for his mother, Irene Kearn Barber who had served in Relief Society in Edmonton in the early 1940's. Subsequently they decided to name the library for both Ike's grandparents, Jim and Mary Kearn as they were known locally.

Ike and Jean were very responsive to this invitation and immediately committed to \$400,000.00 with the suggestion that the board take their funds and the \$250,000.00 to the provincial government to see if they would match it toward the Library building.

Bryce Jacobs was most enthusiastic and cooperative in this. As our local MLA he approached Ron Stevens and they were willing because of the money in hand, to commit from various funds the amount of \$600,000.00. On this basis the board felt confident to go ahead and that we would be able to achieve the total through fundraising to the estimated costs then of \$1.5 million dollars.

As the campaign progressed, we realized we had started the campaign prior to mad cow disease hitting the local ranching community. On this basis we went back to the province and asked for an additional \$200,000.00.

When Ike heard of what we were doing, without any indication, he wrote a letter authorizing us to again go to the provincial government, asking them for another \$100,000.00 to which he would match dollar for dollar.

The government did extend that amount and Ike contributed the additional \$100,000.00. There was also a broad base of support. Such that the \$2,000,000.00 was raised.

It is marvelous to see the satisfaction of the members of the Board and all those who were involved with the project. The timing of the building project was fortuitous.

The generous donation of Ike and Jean Barber was key to the success of the fundraising.

In 2005, the Town of Cardston Library Board opened its doors as the Jim and Mary Kearl Library.



## LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

**The Jim and Mary Kearn Library is the learning center of our community and the place people turn to for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information.**



## LIBRARY PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

To establish, maintain, and preserve an organized collection of educational, cultural and recreational materials in order to promote an enlightened citizenship and enrich personal lives.

To serve the community as an information center.

To provide opportunity and encouragement for continuous education of the residents of the community.

To identify community needs and provide programs and services to meet such needs.

To cooperate with other library systems, groups, organizations, agencies and institutions which can provide programs or services to meet community needs.

To provide the best possible service to all persons, recognizing the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And supporting the Freedom of Information and Privacy.

# 4

The Jim and Mary Kearl Library offers a broad range of services to the community including:

## *Collections*

- Books in print, audio and large print format, movies.
- Local history and genealogy
- Access to French library
- Indigenous Collection
- Physical literacy collection
- Local authors

## *Programs*

- Programs for pre-school and school age children
- Teen Advisory Group and teen programs
- E-book user training
- Outreach to Lee Crest Senior Living
- Winter Pop Up Playground
- Maker Space
- Escape to the Library

## *Other Services*

- Video Conference Suite
- Exam Proctoring
- Photocopy/printing service
- Basic computer use

## *E-Services*

### *Provided as a member of the Chinook Arch Regional Library Service*

- Magazines, encyclopedias, books and audiobooks
- Online library catalog
- Temple Archive
- Ancestry.ca, online genealogy database
- Language learning software
- Wireless Internet
- Public Internet
- 4 Accessible public Internet Access Workstations
- 2 public Internet Access Workstation for the visually impaired
- Email notification of holds and overdue items, as well as due date reminders
- Newspaper Database
- Online educational courses (GALE)
- Online Drivers Education

## *Staff Assisted Services*

- Information and Reference Services for adults and children
- Book Recommendation services
- Interlibrary loan
- Modified due dates for travelers
- Fax service
- Photocopy/printing service



## **Making Connections**

We are here to connect people and to serve the needs of our community. Connecting with others is innovative and offers fresh thinking and ideas.

Below is a list of organizations we have either partnered with for special events or where the Jim and Mary Kearn Library are a committee member:

- Cardston County Library Board Member(s) - The Town of Cardston Library Board has always had 1 –2 County residents sit as board members
- In this region, all Hutterites are able to choose the library of their choice as their home library
- Jim and Mary Kearn Library staff do off-site training of Hutterite students on the use of e-readers
- Town of Cardston Inter-Agency
- Lee Crest Senior Living Facility
- Chinook Arch Regional Library System
- Chinook Arch Resource Sharing Committee
- Chinook Arch Overdrive Collection Committee
- Carriage House Theatre
- Westwind School Division: Cardston Schools and Mountain View Schools, Kindergarten, and preschool
- Westwind School Division Teachers
- *From Scratch Dinners*
- *Hannah Paige Photography*
- *Carriage Lane Market*
- Community Reading Challenge
- Local Martial Arts Teachers
- Carriage House Theatre
- Cardston Girls Choir
- Chinook Health Region
- Regional Alzheimer Society
- Service Canada



The Town of Cardston Library Board, operating as the Jim and Mary Kearn Library initiated a process in 2018 to renew its *PLAN OF SERVICE* .

A group of 105 people from the community, were surveyed. Results were tallied and the top five service results modifications pertained to:

- Library Hours
- DVD user selection more user friendly
- Staff and Customer Service
- DVD and Children's book collection and management

From the same group of 105 people it was determined that the library is continuing to do a wonderful job in these areas:

- Kind and helpful staff
- Indigenous Collection
- Library Displays
- Extra programming

The Library Manager, Children's Program Facilitator and Library Staff met to review the generated input. The Staff analyzed these responses, and added their own responses to determine the library's current strengths and weaknesses. They agreed that:

1. The library's strengths included: Programs, staff, a safe gathering place, hours as compared to other libraries in the region/collections.
2. The staff concluded that some of the libraries weaknesses include: Computer use, safety, social media filters, conflicts with computer users, conflict with mothers of small children.

Next, the library board met to review and respond to the generated input. The board analyzed these responses, added their own responses to determine the library's current strengths and weaknesses.



## STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2019-2023

January 21, the Town of Cardston Library Board, ratified the Strategic Goals for 2019 - 2023 as being:

Goal 1: Advocacy and Communication

Our community is diverse, but we are stronger together. This direction is about listening to those in our community and addressing our unique needs. It's also about ensuring the information regarding the Jim and Mary Kears Library information is accurate, up-to-date, thorough and is well communicated as to offer the best possible service response.

Objective: To represent and assist the Town of Cardston Library board in informing and influencing Library patrons, partners, staff and the community at large

- A. Provide resources to educate target customers
- B. Strengthen partnerships within and outside of the organization
- C. Implement strategies for delivering information and broaden awareness of our services
- D. Engage with our community
- E. Actively explore community and cultural needs

### Measurement:

1. Include library and program branding
2. Launch communication strategy
3. Measure cardholder statistics
4. Member satisfaction sustained or exceeded

**Goal 2:** Advance Learning and Literacy  
Our priority has always been on reading and learning, but technology is changing the way people learn. The library is evolving to reflect that.

**Objective:** Connect with creators, community groups and entrepreneurs to learn what tools and services they would most like to see. E.g.: Use of space, educational workshops, video conferencing, etc...

- A. We will advance learning and literacy by continuing to foster joy of reading and learning
- B. Help people identify and find ways to build the skills they need
- C. Embrace technology
- D. Help people learn about technology and how to apply it
- E. Provide opportunities for people to use new technology
- F. Pilot new tools and services that support creativity
- G. Identify and showcase local culture and expertise
- H. Invite talented local people to share what they know

**Measurement**

1. Strategic training schedule for staff and patrons alike. Ensure scheduling is also arranged for collaborating, displays and sharing.
2. Use of library resources, application of grants to provide creative opportunities and/or purchase creative tools
3. Training Resources increased
4. Collaboration with community partners increased
5. Member satisfaction sustained or exceeded

**Goal 3:** Reconfigure Spaces to ensure our library does not appear bland nor out of date. Refresh and re-invent in response to changing needs of our community.

- A. We will create welcoming, high quality spaces that are optimized for books, materials and technology.
- B. Make creative use of our window space, street presence displays and high visibility areas
- C. Reflect cultural diversity through the incorporation of local art and the creation of culturally welcoming spaces
- D. Free up floor space for alternative uses by ensuring our collections are space efficient and relevant

**Measurement:**

1. Audit personal experiences
2. Simplify our processes to improve the library experience
3. Improve spaces to include community space, group and individual study space, technology, office away from home, etc...