



THE  
WILLOW  
AWARDS

Annual Report  
June 5, 2004





## Mission

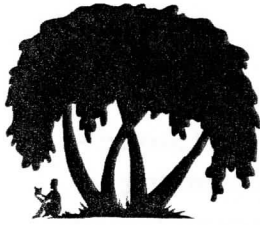
The mission of SYRCA - Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. is to promote reading by granting a “Willow Award” to the Canadian and/or Saskatchewan book(s) voted by students to be the best of those nominated in designated categories for a specific year.



## Objectives

In order to achieve its Mission, the Corporation will:

- develop an annual list of Canadian and Saskatchewan books nominated to receive a Willow Award;
- maintain a web site to inform the public of the list of nominated books, and to conduct the voting electronically;
- present Willow Award(s) to the author(s) of the winning book(s);
- promote reading of Saskatchewan and/or Canadian books by conducting the award, and by developing incentives for young readers to participate;
- develop and ensure implementation of SYRCA - Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. policies;
- encourage community involvement in all levels of SYRCA - Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. activity;
- cooperate with other organizations and groups in order to maximize the use of limited resources;
- ensure that SYRCA - Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. is managed in a financially responsible, prudent and ethical manner.



## Board Members

President	Marion Perry, Regina, Sk.
Vice President	Lynn Gilbert, Saskatoon, Sk.
Vice President	Claire Isaac, Regina, Sk.
Treasurer	Margaret Steger, Regina, Sk.
Secretary	Eleanor Matz, Regina, Sk.

### Directors at large

Carol Thiessen, SSLA Rep., Saskatoon, Sk.  
Marilyn Andrews, SLA Rep., Regina, Sk.  
Elsbeth Dormuth, Saskatoon, Sk.  
John Haas, Regina, Sk.  
Chris MacLennan, Regina, Sk.  
Debbie Mervold, Shellbrooke, Sk.  
Liz Roberts, Rockglen, Sk.  
Jeff Ruf, Regina, Sk.

## President's Report 2003

We have much to celebrate and many challenges. Here are the highlights of the 2003-2004 Willow Awards in addition to those described in the Committee Reports.

- In the second cycle of granting the Willow Awards, 7,521 Saskatchewan students read and voted. This is an increase of 50% of the 5,000 voters in the first cycle (2002). A quick analysis of the ballots reveals the following breakdown:

<b>Willow Award Participants</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Teachers/Adults</b>	180	195	8%
<b>Schools</b>	83	114	37%
<b>Libraries</b>	2	1	(50%)
<b>Communities</b>	59	61	3%
<b>Voters</b>	5000	7521	50%

- Thank you to all students who voted for their favorite 2003 Willow Awards' book. The following students received a book because their names were drawn from the 2003 Willow ballots:

Leanne Ready, Prairie View School, Dalmeny; Cary Balaberda, St. Henry's Jr. Elementary School, Melville; Brooke Khays, St. Augustine School, Humboldt; Michael David Brandon, Imperial School, Regina; Rhylen Prefontaine, Rockglen School, Rockglen; David Deghenghi, Tompkins School, Tompkins; Marissa Lovasik, WFA Turgeon Catholic Community School, Prince Albert; Alexai fan Skool, Buena Vista School, Saskatoon; Jay J. Rogers, Wascana Community School, Regina; Rebecca Ingram, Langham Elementary School, Langham; Madison Kube, Wagner Community School, Nipawin; Grace Parkman, White Fox School, White Fox; Tiffany Wilkins, Mankota School, Mankota; Bradley Torwalt, Leroy School, Leroy.

- The 2003 Launch organized by the Nipawin School Division, and the SaskEnergy Willow Awards Gala held June 4, 2004, at Jack MacKenzie/St. Gabriel Schools' joint gymnasium in Regina together involved more than 1,000 Saskatchewan students and showcased the creative results of students' interacting with the Willow Award books under the leadership of their dedicated and talented teachers. Thank you to everyone involved in these events. The 2004 Launch will be held at Kincaid Central School.
- Seven of the nominated authors attended the Gala and gave readings at schools and libraries prior to the event. The author tour enriches the students' experience of the Willow Awards; however, organizing the tour is a major task and much gratitude is owed to Eleanor Matz who assumed this duty in addition to being the Secretary and the Newsletter Editor. The Board will be re-examining the author tour.

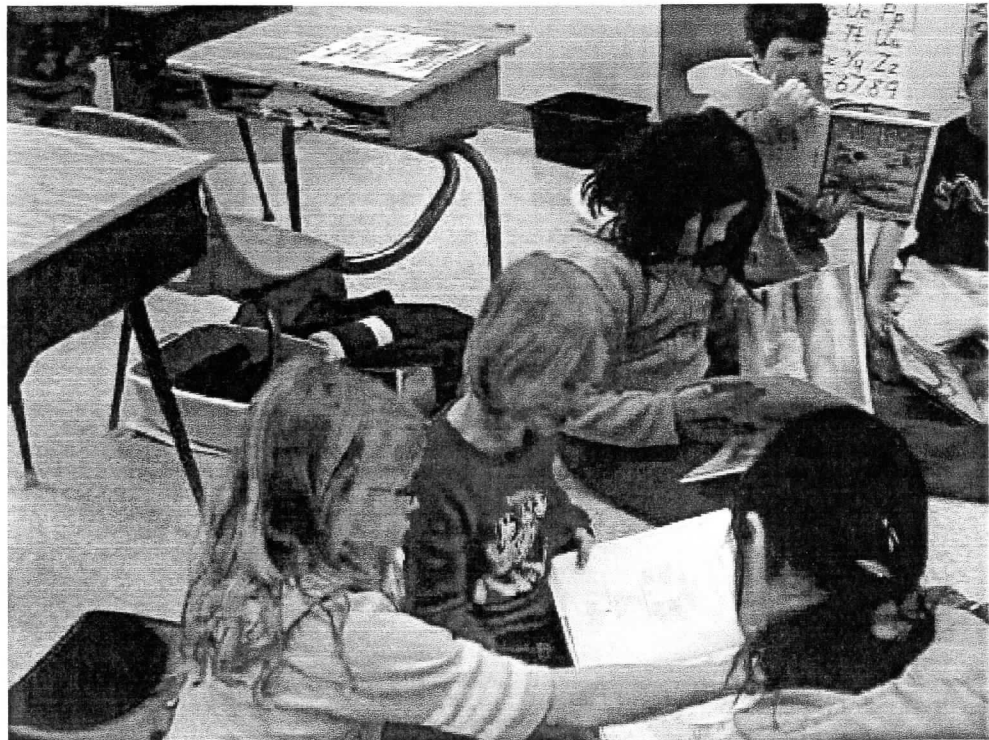


- Unless a volunteer coordinator is found, future author tours may not be organized by the Willow Awards, and our involvement with author visits may be limited to the bringing the winners to the Gala.
- In addition to the endeavours outlined in the Marketing Report, the Willow Awards' had an exhibit and distributed brochures, poster/ballots and bookmarks at four conventions. These were the Regina Teachers' Convention, and the conventions of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC), the Saskatchewan School Library Association (SSLA) and the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA). Draws for \$600 worth of books were held at the first 3 conferences
- Articles and in some cases pictures were submitted and published in several journals including *Forum* (SLA), *The Medium* (SSLA) and *Query* (SRC). A picture of students at the Nipawin Launch appeared on the cover of SLA's Annual Report. In May, I was on CJTR, Regina's community radio station. I believe many more teachers and librarians are aware of the Willow Awards than a year ago.
- Noodles and Books II, Silent Auction and Dinner was held in Regina in March. Thanks to everyone who contributed an item to the auction and or attended the dinner. It was a sell out, and enjoyed by all.
- The Willow Awards' webpage has moved to a new host, SaskNow Technologies, and a new volunteer, Kathy Stedwell, has agreed to be webmaster. I would like to thank Maureen Erlendson for her work in establishing and maintaining the website until now.
- We now have 2 new e-mail addresses: [willowawards@willowawards.ca](mailto:willowawards@willowawards.ca) for general e-mail and [vote@willowawards.ca](mailto:vote@willowawards.ca) where teachers and/or librarians may e-mail a group tally of the votes for each title with their name, their school/library, address, telephone number, and (optional) student names for the book draw.
- As the organization grows and matures, policies and procedures are being developed and revised to guide the organization. In order to facilitate communication to Willow Award Board Members, the Willow Awards' Policy manual has been posted on my website at: <http://www3.sk.sympatico.ca/mper/>
- At the March meeting, the Board decided to suspend the Snow Willow Award for 2005. Of the 7,521 votes for the 2003 Willow Awards, only 96 were in the Snow Willow Category. Developing the list and publishing the materials is a major investment of Willow Award resources – in terms of both money and volunteer time. By the spring of 2005, a final decision as to the future of the Snow Willow Award will be made.

- The Willow Awards is an entirely volunteer-run charity dependant on memberships, donations and grants. In 2005 there will be a change in the designation and level of recognition for financial support of the Willow Awards. The new categories are: **Patrons** - \$1000.00+, **Sponsors** - \$500.00 - \$599, **Friends** - \$100.00 - \$ 499.00, **Members** \$10.00 - \$99.00. Patron's logos will be included on Willow Award materials and the website; the names of Sponsors will be listed. Donations must be received by the end of January to meet printing deadlines for the current year.
- We have succeeded beyond our expectations. We need more volunteers. We are presently creating descriptions of the jobs that need to be done. If you are interested in helping or learning more please contact me.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the board members, volunteers, teachers and students who have contributed to the success of the Willow Awards.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Perry, President  
586-0691



**SYRCA -- THE SASKATCHEWAN YOUNG READERS CHOICE AWARDS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

Balance at March 31/03

**\$2,077.36**

**INCOME**

Grants	\$7,100.00
Sponsorships	\$2,501.00
Memberships	\$2,800.00
Fundraising	\$5,659.33
Stickers/Kits	\$3,628.00
Gala Refund	\$148.63
GST Rebate	\$291.73

\$22,128.69

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Meeting expenses	\$3,108.39
Award expenses	\$1,388.65
Office expenses	\$1,113.31
Award function expenses	\$2,311.91
Corp/Rev. Canada/	
Audit expenses	\$110.00
Marketing	\$847.92
Fundraising	\$1,769.88
Poster/Ballots	\$4,976.52
Stickers/Kits	\$2,348.14
Web Site expenses	\$178.75

\$18,153.47

Balance at March 31/04

**\$6,052.58**

Checked and verified by: S. Dishington

May 20, 2004





## **The Willow Awards Fund Raising Annual Report**

### **Summary of Activities June 2003-May 2004**

#### Corporations

SaskEnergy has once again donated \$2,000 to sponsor the 2003-2003-4 Awards ceremony in Regina. A representative of SaskEnergy has been invited to speak at the Awards ceremony.

Due to problems with restricted advance bookings and charitable tax receipts, WestJet was not approached for donations of airline tickets this year.

Book and Brier Patch, a Regina bookstore and book distributor has contributed \$1,000.

Radisson Plaza Hotel Saskatchewan has donated hotel rooms for the winning authors for one night, and reduced rates for a second night, if required.

Regina Public Library donated \$500.

ULS donated \$100 and NBS donated \$100 and a complete set of nominated books for the Launch.

Jeff Ruff has pursued donations from Investment Saskatchewan and Conexus Credit Union.

A request for funding was made to Weyerhaeuser Ltd. but was declined.

I will be pursuing donations from Ipsco and the Potash Corp.

#### **Associations**

SSLA donated \$500.

#### **Funding Agencies**

The second annual application to SaskCulture was sent in early January 2004. I requested the sum of \$6,800. The final payment of \$1,700 from our first annual grant will be received in June 2004, after the submission of our report. SYRCA Inc. is eligible to apply for funding for one more year.

SaskEducation donated some money in 2002-2003. I will be pursuing funding from SaskLearning during the next year.

### Other Fund-Raising

A second Willow Awards fund-raising dinner, "Noodles and Books" was held in Regina on March 26. Over 90 people attended this delightful evening. A silent auction was part of the evening, with many great prizes up for auction. The event raised -\$3,737.00. There were also some personal memberships and donations as a result of the evening. Many thanks to Eleanor Matz, Marion Perry and Muriel Drew for arranging the evening, and SYRCA Inc. Board members who solicited door prizes and auction items.

Lakeview Gardens in Regina donated a willow tree for the host schools of the Awards Gala. Thanks to Elsbeth Dormuth who arranged this.

Marion Perry organized draws for books at conferences and raised \$340.76

### Fund-Raising November June 2003 -May 2004

SaskEnergy	\$2,000
SSLA	500
SaskCulture	5,100
Book and Brier Patch	1,000
Regina Public Library	500
Fund-Raising Dinner	
Dinner /auction	3,737
<u>Draws</u>	<u>340.76</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,177.76</b>

Plus: Free hotel rooms for the winning authors and a set of nominated books for the Launch.

Respectfully submitted  
 Claire Isaac  
 Fund-Raising Chair

Discussing the auction items



### 2004 Author Tour Report

In mid December, all thirty of the nominated authors were asked if they were interested in participating in an author tour prior to the 2004 SYRCA Gala. The following responded Ann Alma, Cathy Beveridge, Vivien Bowers, Maggie Devries, Hazel Hutchins, Candace Savage, Beryl Young.

At the beginning of January the following contacts were made in order to advertise the author visits:

1. Naomi Kral, SaskLearning did an electronic mail out to the provincial Directors of Education. A notice was also posted in the SaskLearning Discussion Area.
2. Judy Nicholson, president of SSLA passed out the information via their mailing list as well as their SSLA newsletter.
3. An advertisement was placed in the January 21<sup>st</sup> issue of the STF Bulletin.
4. Caroline Selinger sent a notice to all the public libraries in the province.
5. The school divisions were contacted through their various consultants.
6. All members of the board received a copy of the notification and were expected to pass it along to any of their contacts.

Schools and libraries then submitted their requests by March 15<sup>th</sup> to host an author. Some applicants withdrew when they realized SYRCA was not funding the visits. There were not enough requests for Maggie Devries and Beryl Young to make their trips feasible. This year, contracts were signed by the participating author sponsors and then forwarded to the authors.

Five public libraries sponsored author readings and thirteen schools sponsored readings. These were in addition to the six readings sponsored by SYRCA and the 2004 SYRCA GALA committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Matz

Lois Simmie accepting her award





### Willow Awards Gala, May 23, 2003

The first annual SaskEnergy Willow Awards' Gala was held May 23, 2003 at Dr. John G. Egnatoff School in Saskatoon. We were privileged to have Her Honour, Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, as our opening speaker. Nominated authors Arthur Slade, Julie Burtinshaw, Mary Harelkin Bishop, Lois Simmie, and Sharon McKay as well as illustrator Cynthia Nugent and her dog, the model for Arnie in "Mr. Got-to-Go and Arnie" walked behind student-made banners into the gymnasium filed with students from Dr. John G. Egnatoff School and delegates from other Saskatchewan schools who participated in voting for their favourite book.

Ms Donna Douglas-Elliot, Principal, welcomed everyone. Her Honour, Dr. Haverstock spoke to the students followed by His Worship, Jim Madden, Mayor of Saskatoon, and Dr. John G. Egnatoff who brought greetings. The school choir and the jazz band from Evan Hardy Collegiate provided entertainment. Students assumed responsibility for being parking lot attendants, greets, ushers, masters of ceremony, and hosts at the reception and did a superb job.

Winners of the 2002 Awards announced at the Gala were:

**Shining Willow: Mr. Got to Go and Arnie** by Lois Simmie ; illustrations by Cynthia Nugent, Raincoast Books, c2001

**Diamond Willow: Power Play in Washington**, by Roy MacGregor, McClelland and Stewart, c2001

**Snow Willow: Rebound**, by Eric Walters, Stoddart, c2000.

A Willow Tree was presented to the school by Marion Perry, President of SYRCA – The Willow Awards as a permanent memento of the occasion.

Special thanks to Carol Thiessen and Lynn Gilbert who organized a wonderful event.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marion Perry

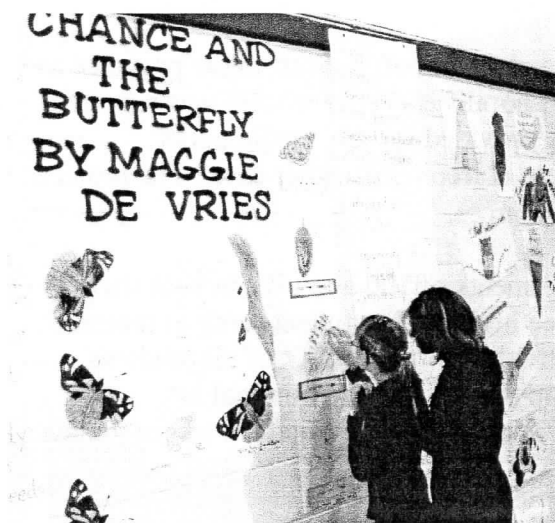


### Willow Awards' Launch 2003

Nipawin S.D. # 61 hosted the 2003 Willow Awards Launch on October 17<sup>th</sup> at École Wagner Community School in Nipawin. Students and teachers from 5 schools, local authors and a wide range of community members participated in the event. Artwork, charts and a student-made big book introduced the nominated books in visual format. The École Wagner Glee Club sang: "We want to thank you for writing these books; thank you for all you've done." The Grade Two Class from École Alex Wright Community School introduced the Shining Willow books with a Rap written by their teacher, Gail Haight. The Grade Four Class from École Wagner dramatized *Jillian Jiggs and the Great Big Snow*. Arthur Slade, author of Diamond nominated *The Return of the Grudstone Ghosts* spoke to the assembled students. The morning ended with each class being read to by community member or a high school student. The Willow Awards would like to thank Elaine Rospad, teacher-librarian at École Wagner and École Alex Wright, and all the teacher-librarians of the Nipawin S.D. for organizing a wonderful Launch

The 2004 Launch will be held in Kincaid.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marion Perry



**Marketing Report 2003-2004**

In the past year the marketing tasks have included the following:

1. Preparing and copying the education kits to accompany the 2003 list of nominated books for all three Willow Awards. There were a number of people who worked on this project. They were acknowledged on a separate sheet that accompanied each kit and we thank them most sincerely for their time, effort and professional expertise. The sales from the kits provided \$1201.00 in funding for SYRCA.

The 2004 kits have now been prepared and printed. Once again, the donation in kind from Borderland S.D. Has allowed us to keep the cost of producing the kits to a minimum. Sales continue to be favourable for these materials. Revenue produced from sales this year have already amounted to approximately \$332.00.

In future, some thought should be given to having the materials professionally printed to improve their finish. Photocopiers are noted for their idiosyncrasies, and each time the materials are copied, the resolution of the materials, particularly the photos, diminishes. The activities people have developed continue to be interesting and suitable for the levels of the students. Elsbeth Dormuth is to be commended for her breakdown of the task of producing the materials so that the process could be standardized for everyone working on any kit.

2. Media Releases: These were sent to all radio and television stations in the province as well as all bookstores announcing the 2003 list of nominees. This process was repeated this spring for the 2004 list. Contact names were provided for any media outlet requesting an interview. Unfortunately, there were no replies in either case. The project seems to have been a waste of time, effort and resources.

3. Over 600 letters were sent to schools with enrolments of 100 and over in both the public and separate school systems in the province inviting the students and/ or teachers or teacher-librarians to support SYRCA in its activities for the benefit of the students. The numbers of memberships which resulted from this effort were minimal in comparison to the amount of postage that had to be paid. Again, the effort seems to have been futile.

In future, it would be my suggestion that more attempts be made to promote the Willow Awards and their benefits through personal contacts throughout the province. Some of the following activities might be beneficial:

A. identifying, and visiting with, story editors and/or writers in various media outlets in person to outline the purposes of SYRCA and the Willows, and to provide ideas of ways the media could support our efforts. Giving these key people a timeline of our important dates could be worthwhile.



B. writing columns or news stories for the weekly papers that could be circulated from their head office. These stories could be written on a monthly basis.

C. having each board member visit, and speak to, principals' monthly meetings in at least three school divisions, to outline the purposes of SYRCA and to provide reasons for, and ways to, support the program. The importance of schools obtaining memberships to sustain the universal access to SYRCA should be emphasized.

D. having board members meet with resource-based learning consultants at their regional meetings throughout the province.

E. having board members meet with, and present our program to, key subject councils either at their administrative meetings or in sessions at their conferences. (i.e. SETA, SRC, ECEC)

F. having members of the executive meet with STF staff to present our program at one of their regular meetings.

G. having members of the executive meet with Saskatchewan Learning staff and LEADS to introduce SYRCA.

H. having board members meet with the SLA members at their conference to broaden the appeal of the Willow Awards, and to suggest concrete ways of promoting the awards within a public library context.

Because of the flood of printed information that crosses the desks of educators and library staff every day, printed messages are lost in the storm of white paper. Personal contact seems to be the only effective way to reach busy people and to be remembered.

SYRCA might also attempt using posters with key figures on them who are popular with young people. The posters produced of Mayor Fiocco in Regina are an example of what might be done. Perhaps we should consider posters stating that Mayor Fiocco reads the Willow Books.

A brief, but colourful presentation kit could be given whenever a board member speaks to a group to retain interest and provide information after the presentation.

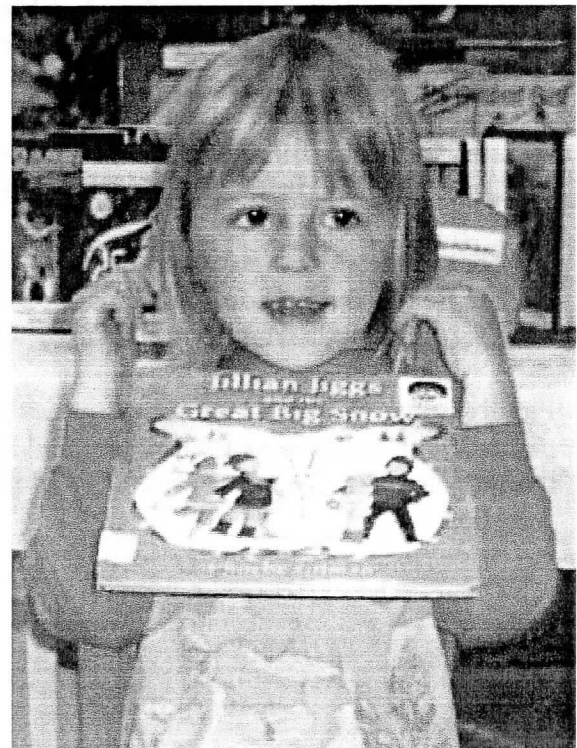
Further to promoting the Willow Awards, it might be useful to ask someone such as Brenda Baker, the Waltons, Widemouth Mason, or Brad Jonner to create a children's song for the awards which could be used whenever we speak about The Willows.

Finally, some interactive games, activities or contests could be placed on our website, perhaps with some animation, so that children and their parents might be enticed to visit the website often. There are several good ideas already available on various author websites.

It is my opinion that our organization still has a long way to go in creating the "100th Monkey" of recognition that will keep youngsters, librarians, teachers and parents mindful of 'the Willows'.

Because the majority of media and other outlets are located in the two major cities in the province, it is my suggestion that the marketing director be located in one of these locales so that contact can be made often and easily.

Respectfully submitted  
Liz Roberts



Selection Committee Annual ReportShining Willow Award**Selection Committee Members**

Carry Dueck	Ione Langlois
Florence Barton	Pat Taylor
Verna Demers	Jessica Latshaw
Cheryl Smith	Terry Clark
Denise Rosmo-Wiegers	Hedie Borne
Sandra Ellis-rollack	Valerie Blain
Carol Thiessen	

The Shining Willow selection committee met for its first meeting in mid-November at 4:30 p.m. in the library at Dr. John G. Egnatoff School. Once again the submissions and multiple copies from the publishers were of great significance. We presented each committee member with a list of books we had received and began the evaluation process. We also accepted possible suggestions from members of the selection committee. Ninety-eight books were considered for the Shining Willow Award this year. We spent several hours reading and discussing the books and listening to reviews that had been gathered. At the end of the meeting the books were distributed to the members.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held December 15th at Dr. John G. Egnatoff School. Members shared personal reviews as well as written reviews from reputable sources such as *Resource Links*

and library catalogues. A big thank you to Cheryl Smith from the Saskatoon Public Library for hunting up so many reviews. After much discussion and deliberation a shortened list of 35 books was established. The books on this list were again distributed and all committee members went away committed to read as many of the books as possible.

The third meeting was held January 12<sup>th</sup> at McNally Robinsons. After much deliberation the final list was compiled. Attention was given to criteria such as genre, gender, aboriginal content, reading level and interest level as outlined in our policy document. The two year publishing window allowed us to target some books for reconsideration for next year's award. At the end of this meeting we were still not settled on a beginning chapter book and this required a lot more reading and searching. The final decision was made the week before the list was submitted to the Board.

The final list was presented for approval to the SYRCA Inc. Board at the meeting held on February 7, 2004.

I would like to thank the members of the Shining Willow Selection Committee for their commitment to books and "Saskatchewan Readers".



**SHINING WILLOW AWARD LIST**

Bailey, Linda, 1948-

Stanley's party / written by Linda Bailey ; illustrated by Bill Slavin

-- Toronto : Kids Can, c2003.

[32] p. : col. ill.

Summary: Stanley is a good dog, but he is lonely, so one night when his humans are out, he throws a wild party.

ISBN 1-553-37382-0

1. Canadian fiction. 2. Dogs--Fiction. 3. Parties--Fiction. 4.

Loneliness--Fiction. I. Slavin, Bill, ill. II. Title.

Bouchard, Dave, 1952-

That's hockey / written by David Bouchard ; illustrated by Dean Griffiths

-- Victoria : Orca, c2002. [29] p. : col. ill.

First published in the U.S., 2002.

Summary: Etienne introduces his city cousin to the joys and eccentricities of real hockey, street hockey that is.

ISBN 1-551-43223-4

1. Hockey stories. 2. Hockey stories, Canadian. 3. Canadian fiction.

4. Hockey players--Fiction. 5. Sports stories. 6. Cousins--Fiction. Griffiths, Dean, 1967-, ill. II. Title.

Cook, Peter.

Why animals show off / Peter Cook, Laura Suzuki ; [illustrator: Ron Broda

-- Toronto : Scholastic, c2003.

28 p. : col. ill.

Also issued in French under title: M'as tu vu?.

Summary: Explores the physical characteristics and colorful markings of a variety of animals in their natural habitats.

ISBN 0-439-98861-6 (pbk.)

1. Animal communication. 2. Animal behavior. I. Suzuki, Laura. II.

Broda, Ron, ill. III. Title. IV. Title: M'as tu vu? English.

Coulman, Valerie.

Sink or swim / story by Valerie Coulman ; pictures by Rog . -- Montreal :

Lobster, c2003. [32] p. : col. ill.

Summary: A cow named Ralph and his friend Morris try just about anything to learn how to swim. ISBN 1-89422-254-7 1. Animals--Fiction. 2. Cows--

Fiction. 3. Swimming--Fiction. 4. Canadian fiction. I. Girard, Rog , 1972-, ill.

II. Title.

Ruurs, Margriet, 1952-

Wild babies / Margriet Ruurs ; paintings by Andrew Kiss. -- Toronto :

Tundra, c2003. 31 p. : col. ill.

Summary: Bear cubs in meadows and loons on cool lakes, otters, skunks, and deer are just some of the wilderness families in this introduction to the wonders of the outdoors. Search the pictures for the hidden objects.

ISBN 0-88776-627-7

1. Animals--Infancy. 2. Zoology. 3. Wildlife art. 4. Parental behavior in animals. 5. Picture puzzles. I. Kiss, Andrew, ill. II. Title.

Spalding, Andrea.

Solomon's tree / written by Andrea Spalding ; illustrated by Janet Wilson ; mask and tsimpshian designs by Victor Reece. -- Victoria : Orca, c2002.

[30] p. : col. ill.

Summary: When Solomon's beloved maple tree falls in a storm, the transformational experience of making a Tsimshian mask helps him deal with his grief. ISBN 1-551-43217-X

1. Tsimshian masks--Fiction. 2. Grief--Fiction. 3. Maple--Fiction.

I. Wilson, Janet, 1952-, ill. II. Reece, Victor. III. Title.

Tibo, Gilles, 1951-

Shy guy / by Gilles Tibo ; illustrated by Pef ; translated by Sibylle Kazeroid. – New York : North-South, c2002.

[25] p. : col. ill.

Summary: Greg is painfully shy, turning red and stumbling over his words each time he tries to speak, until his new pet goldfish, Shy Guy, helps him to get his words unstuck.

ISBN 0-7358-1710-3

1. Pets--Fiction. 2. Goldfish--Fiction. 3. Bashfulness--Fiction. I. Pef, ill. II. Kazeroid, Sibylle. III. Title.

Uegaki, Chieri.

Suki's kimono / written by Chieri Uegaki ; illustrated by Stéphane

Jorisch. -- Toronto : Kids Can, c2003.

[30] p. : col. ill.

Summary: Suki receives a blue cotton kimono, from her grandmother, during a visit. Suki decides to wear it on her first day back to school, no matter what anyone else has to say.

ISBN 1-553-37084-8

1. Canadian fiction. 2. First day of school--Fiction. 3. Grandmothers—Fiction. 4. Kimonos--Fiction. I. Jorisch, Stéphane, 1956-, ill. II. Title.

Van Kampen, Vlasta.

Marigold's wings / Vlasta van Kampen. -- Toronto : Key Porter, c2002.

[32] p. : col. ill.

Summary: Marigold the caterpillar imagines what life will be like when she turns into a butterfly. Travel along with Marigold as she imagines what it will be like to make the long journey from Canada to Mexico. ISBN 1-552-63468-X

1. Caterpillars--Fiction. 2. Monarch butterfly--Fiction. 3. Butterflies--Fiction. 4. Canadian fiction. I. Title.

Wiebe, Trina.

Parrots don't make house calls / by Trina Wiebe ; illustrations by

Marisol Sarrazin. -- Montreal : Lobster, c2003.

96 p. : col. ill. -- (Abby and Tess pet-sitters)

Summary: Abby and Tess are expecting a new addition to the family, a baby, not the pet they've been longing for. Luckily, an opportunity to take part in an animal-assisted activity program comes up and helps take Abby's mind off her baby problems. Abby and Tess must try to draw a little boy out of his dark silence, with the help of an African gray parrot named Chiku.

ISBN 1-89422-245-8 (Lobster, pbk.)

1. Parrots--Fiction. 2. Human-animal relationships--Fiction. 3. Pets—Fiction. I. Sarrazin, Marisol, 1965-, ill. II. Title. III. Series.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Thiessen**

**DIAMOND WILLOW SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

## Members of the Committee:

Ann Atchison – teacher librarian  
Shona Iverson – teacher librarian  
Sheree Rutherford – library technician  
Bev Brenna – consultant and author  
Judith Beninger – public library  
Saache Heinrichs –public library  
Jane Glen – teacher librarian  
Elsbeth Dormuth – teacher librarian  
Lynn Gilbert – Willow Awards Contact

The Selection Committee met three times, each time eliminating books until we reached the final 10. The policy was reviewed at the first meeting. The committee members read the books provided by the publishers as well as others that were presented by the committee or purchased for review. Book reviews were considered when they could be obtained.

**WILLOW AWARDS - Diamond Books**

The amazing international space station / by the editors of YES Mag ;

[illustrations by Rose Cowles]. -- Toronto : Kids Can, c2003. 48 p. : col. ill.

Summary: Meet the first crew of the ISS, and find out how it was built.

Check out some of the experiments astronauts conducted in space. Includes experiments and instructions for building your own rocket.

ISBN 1-553-37380-4 1-553-37523-8 (pbk.)

1. International Space Station. 2. Space stations. 3. Space flights.

4. Astronauts. 5. Manned space flight. I. Cowles, Rose, 1967-

Beveridge, Cathy.

Shadows of disaster / Cathy Beveridge.-- Vancouver : Ronsdale, c2003.

Summary: After going through a time crease, Jolene and her grandfather find themselves in the coalmining town of Frank in 1903, when the disastrous mountain slide happened.

ISBN 1-553-80002-8 (pbk.)

1. Canadian fiction. 2. Time travel--Fiction. 3. Natural disasters--

Canada--Fiction. 4. Frank (Alta.)--History--Landslide, 1903--Fiction. I. Title.

Bishop, Mary Harelkin, 1958-

Tunnels of treachery : another Moose Jaw adventure / Mary Harelkin Bishop

. Regina : Coteau, c2003. 288 p. : map.

"A third Moose Jaw adventure"--Cover.

Summary: After her friends have disappeared in the tunnels and are forced to work in the underground laundry, Andrea, and her brother Tony must travel

back in time to rescue them.

ISBN 1-550-50270-0 (pbk.)

1. Tunnels--Fiction. 2. Time travel--Fiction. 3. Canadian fiction.
4. Brothers and sisters--Fiction. 5. Chinese Canadians--Fiction. 6. Saskatchewan--Fiction. 7. Moose Jaw (Sask.)--Fiction. I. Title.

Chamberlain, Penny.

The olden days locket / Penny Chamberlain. -- Winlaw, B.C. : Sono Nis, c2002.  
198 p.

Summary: While working as a volunteer at the historic Point Ellice House, Jess is visited by a ghost. She is taken back in time where she relives a tragic event. Now it is up to Jess to solve the mystery and ease the troubled spirit.

ISBN 1-550-39128-3 (pbk.)

1. Canadian fiction. 2. Haunted houses--Fiction. 3. Ghost stories. I. Title.

Charles, Norma M.

All the way to Mexico / Norma Charles. -- Vancouver : Raincoast, c2003.

Summary: Jacob and his sister go on their mother's honeymoon with her new husband, Fred, and his two children. All are crammed together in an old station heading for Mexico. Soon they discover their families are quite different, causing humorous and frustrating situations.

ISBN 1-551-92598-2 (Raincoast, pbk.)

1. Family--Fiction. 2. Canadian fiction. 3. Stepfamilies--Fiction. I. Title.

Daher, Anita.

Flight from Big Tangle / Anita Daher. -- Victoria : Orca, c2002.

134 p. -- (An Orca young reader)

Summary: After her father died in a plane crash, Kaylee is terrified of flying. Kaylee and her mother are now living near the woods where her mother is a water bomber pilot. When the forest fire strikes Kaylee's mother is called to work. Can Kaylee fly the small plane to save herself and her dog from the advancing flames?

ISBN 1-551-43234-X (Orca, pbk.)

1. Forest fires--Fiction. 2. Canadian fiction. 3. Fear of flying--Fiction. I. Title. II. Series.

Glaze, Dave, 1947-

Waiting for Pelly / Dave Glaze ; [cover and text illustrations by Bill Johnson]. -- Regina : Coteau, c2003. 223 p. : ill.

"A new Pelly adventure"--Cover.

Summary: Sandra returns to the river in spring to look for Pelly. But she can't find Pelly there or at Redberry Lake pelican study project. What has happened to Pelly? where could Pelly be?.

ISBN 1-550-50228-X (pbk.)

1. Pelicans--Fiction. 2. Authors, Canadian. 3. Canadian fiction. I. Johnson, Bill, ill.  
II. Title.

Hancock, Pat.

Haunted Canada : true ghost stories / Pat Hancock. -- Toronto : Scholastic, c2003.  
106 p. : ill.

Summary: A collection of ghost stories, from all across Canada.

ISBN 0-7791-1410-8 (pbk.)

1. Ghosts--Canada. 2. Ghost stories. I. Title.

Silverthorne, Judith, 1953-

Dinosaur hideout / Judith Silverthorne. -- Regina : Coteau, c2003. 177 p.

Summary: Daniel finds a fossil never seen before near his secret hideout.

Daniel and his hermit neighbor discover a unique dinosaur find. Their  
Secret is eventually discovered and helps to rescue the town in an unexpected way.

ISBN 1-550-50226-3 (pbk.)

1. Canadian fiction. 2. Prairie Provinces--Fiction. 3. Dinosaurs--  
Fiction. 4. Paleontology--Fiction. 5. Saskatchewan--Fiction. I. Title.

Walters, Eric, 1957-

Ricky / Eric Walters. -- 1st ed. -- Toronto : HarperCollins, c2002. 168 p.

Based on actual characters in the author's life, including himself.

Summary: At Ricky's school, Mr. Johnston, the science teacher, has lots  
of animals in his classroom. When these animals are destroyed by vandals,  
Ricky and his friend, devise a way to raise money to replace the teacher's  
beloved boa constrictor. Who knew a boa would be so hard to transport.

ISBN 0-00-639195-8 (HarperTrophyCanada, pbk.)

1. Pets--Fiction. 2. Animals--Fiction. 3. Science teachers--Fiction.  
4. Boa constrictor--Fiction. 5. Fund raising--Fiction. 6. Schools--  
Fiction. 7. Canadian fiction. I. Title.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Gilbert



## REPORT OF THE SNOW WILLOW BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE 2003-2004

This year's Snow Willow Book Selection Committee had eight members: Joanne Beltramini, Barbara Lunney, Muriel Drew, Jessica Cammer, Diane Walker, Ann Gagnon, Marian Dimen and John Haas who served as the chair. Three of the members had served on the Committee in the previous year: Muriel, Jessica and John. Joanne Beltramini was instrumental in recruiting several of the other members.

The Committee received fewer books from publishers this year than last and this was a concern. Publisher's catalogues were reviewed and a list of further books to consider was drawn up. Other books were added to the list from sources such as the newspaper and periodicals.

The Committee's first meeting was October 29 and there were a total of six meetings, one over supper at the Chimney Restaurant. We worked quickly to establish a list of potential books and eventually came up with a "flexible" short list of sixteen to twenty books. The final selection of our ten titles was difficult, but we reached a consensus and feel we have come up with a good list.

There are no non-fiction books on this year's list. This is largely due to a lack of suitable non-fiction books from which to choose.

The books we have chosen are: (alpha by title)

*Charlie Wilcox's Great War* by Sharon E. McKay "A Teen in the Trenches"  
Penguin Canada

*An Earthly Knight* by Janet McNaughton "Historical Fantasy/Romance"  
Harper Trophy Canada

*Firedrake*, by Ann Ewan "A Bline Girl, A Madman and a Wizard"  
Thistledown Press

*The Girl with a Baby* by Sylvia Olsen "Teen Mom"  
Sono Nis Press

*Lesia's Dream* by Laura Langston "From the Ukraine to the Prairie"  
Harper Trophy Canada

*More Than You Can Chew* by Marnell Tokio "Anorexia"  
Tundra

*Raging River* by Pam Withers "White Water Adventure"  
Walrus

*Run* by Eric Walters "A Hero and a Misfit"  
Harper

*Theories of Relativity* by Barbara Haworth-Attard "Survival on the Street"  
Harper Trophy Canada

*Throwaway Daughter* by Ting-Xing Ye "Adoption: Search for Identity"  
Doubleday Canada

The Committee feels there is a good mix of male/female protagonists, subject matter, writing style and age appeal in this list.

It is sad to note that six of the nominated books were ones that we did not receive copies of from publishers. This meant that a number of books had to be purchased to make up the three sets of nominated books. Also, three books went missing, two of them nominated books which had to be replaced.

The Committee also had a number of concerns that came up during the course of our work:

- The time available for selecting the books is quite short and comes at a time in the school year when most of the members of the Committee were quite busy with their work. It had been suggested that it would be good to have some student members of the Committee, but it would be almost impossible for students to read the number of books Committee members have to read as well as their own schoolwork.
- Related to the first point is the number of books students are required to read in order to vote for the Willow Award. It is suggested by a majority of the Committee that the number be reduced from four to three.
- The age range for the Snow Willow Award is too wide. Books that appeal to a grade seven student are too juvenile for a grade twelve student and vice versa. The Committee suggested that either the Snow Willow award be made into two awards or that the younger grades be added to the Diamond Willow group.

Another question that came up in our discussions was whether or not "graphic novels" ought to be considered. In a year when a graphic novel about the life of Louis Riel was published and became a best seller, this is a very relevant question.

All the members of the Committee indicated that they would likely be willing to serve again next year if asked with the exception of Barbara who will be living in Ontario.

It was a pleasure for me to work with this wonderful group of people.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Haas, Chair

Addendum: At the March 27, 2004 meeting of the SYRCA Board, it was decided to suspend the Snow Willow Award for the year 2005. Only 192 votes were received for the 2003 nominees. It may be that those who are now voting in the younger age categories will continue to read and vote when they get older, but that won't be until 2006 or later. JRH

## Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice - The Willow Awards, Inc. is an entirely volunteer-run charity. Thanks for your hard work and dedication:

### **2003 Launch, Nipawin School Division**

*Committee: Teacher-Librarians Joan Baxter, Carrot River; Pat Newton, Nipawin; Margaret Rice, White Fox, Elaine Rospad, (Chair), Nipawin*

*Staff, students and community members who contributed to making the Launch such a wonderful event.*

### **Selection Committees**

**Snow Willow (Regina):** *Joanne Belltramini, Barbara Lunney, Muriel Drew, Jessica Cammer, Diane Walker, Ann Gagnon, Marian Dimen, John Haas (Chair)*

**Diamond Willow (Saskatoon):** *Ann Atchison, Shona Iverson, Sheree Rutherford, Bev Brenna, Judith Beninger, Saache Heinrichs, Jane Glen, Elsbeth Dormuth, Lynn Gilbert (Chair)*

**Shining Willow (Saskatoon):** *Carry Dueck, Ione Langlois, Florence Barton, Pat Taylor, Verna Demers, Jessica Latshaw, Cheryl Smith, Terry Clark, Denise Rosmo-Wiegers, Hedie Borne, Sandra Ellis-rollack, Valerie Blain, Carol Thiessen (Chair)*

### **Education Kits**

**Snow Willow:** *Liz Roberts, Rock Glen*

**Diamond Willow:** *Linda Chomos, Esterhazy; Debbie Mervold, Sheelbrook; Terry Parsons, Esterhazy; Melinda Schentag, Esterhazy; Charlotte Raine, Langenburg; Cindy Wilson, Lumsden; Stephanie Olsen, Moose Jaw; Elsbeth Dormuth (Chair), Saskatoon*

**Shining Willow:** *Margaret Cowie, Regina; Sandy Howe, Regina; Donna Lindstrom, Regina; Bonnie Miles, Regina; Ruth Munro, Regina; Jeff Ruf, Regina; Janice Ryan, Regina; Wendy Tingle, Regina; Chris Wilke, Regina; Donna Koch, Regina; Margaret Steger, Regina; Chris MacLennan (Chair), Regina*

### **Noodles & Books II Silent Auction & Dinner (Regina)**

*Muriel Drew, Eleanor Matz, Marion Perry, and all Board Members and friends who donated or participated.*

### **Desktop Publishing**

Poster/Ballots and Bookmarks: *Marion Perry, Murray Perry*

Letterhead Design: *Murray Perry*

Newsletter and Annual Report: *Eleanor Matz*

Voter Database: *Val Gerrard*

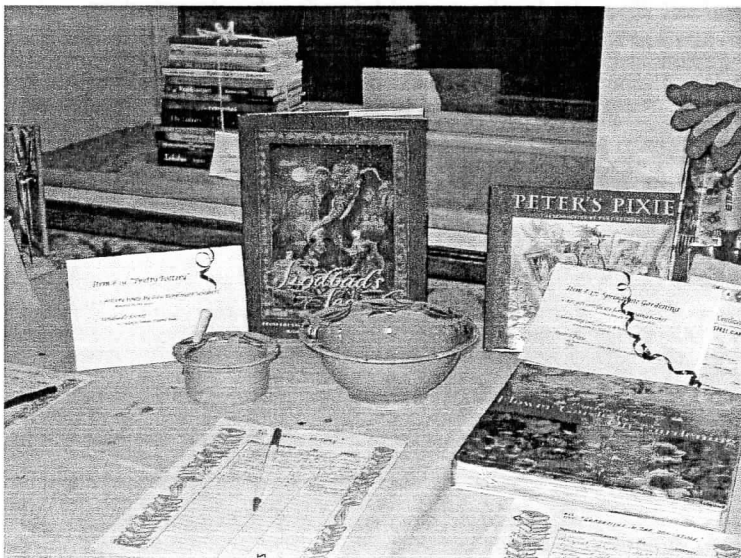
### **Web Site**

*Maureen Erlendson, Kathy Stedwell*

*Jeff Ruf, Marion Piche, Claire Isaac (Chair)*

*Marion Perry, Margaret Steger, Eleanor Matz, Claire Isaac, Marilyn Andrews, Chris MacClennan*

Committee: *Joanne Beltramini (Chair), Mary Scott, Chris Wilke, Mary Sue Muldoon, Susan Kohuch, Dawn Kesserling, Marion Perry, Margaret Steger*  
*Staff, students and parent associations of Jack MacKenzie School and St. Gabriel School*



# SYRCA MEMBERS 2004

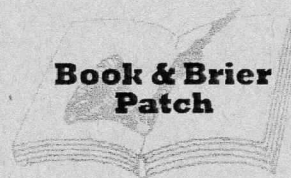
5H - Joanne Hrynuik's Class	Pilot Butte School	Gagnon	André
Aksomitis	Linda	Gagnon	Ann
Andrews	Marilyn	Galvin	Glenda
Arendt	Dorothy	Garnett	Ruth
Arnstead	Chris	Gilbert	Lynn
Atchison	Ann	Glen	Jane
Barton	Florence	Grant Road School	
Beltramini	Joanne	Haas	John
Biffart	Wanda	Hamelin	Tammy
Bircham	Doris	Haug	Frances
Book & Brier Patch		Heinrich	Saache
Borderland S.D. No. 68		Hengen	Rita
Braun	Michele	Hladky	Christine
Brockmeyer-Klebaum	Donna, Dr.	Hoffman School	c/o C. Raine
Bruce Dale Press		Hoiland	Esther
Bruce Dale Press	Box 2259	Hopkinson	Valerie
Buffalo Plains S.D. No. 21		Huyghebaert	Jacalyn
Cairns	Linda	Hysuik	Carmen
Cammer	Jessica	Isaac	Claire
Carter	Jan	Janssen	Donna
Cherland	Meredith	John M. Cuelenaere Public Library	
Cocks	Cheryl	Jubilee School	
Cowie	Margaret	Kimmit	Darcy
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Dorion	Betty	Kincaid Central School SRC	
Dormuth	Elsbeth	Kindrachuk	Irene
Drew	Muriel	Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon	
Dubord	Susan	Koch	Donna
Dueck, Carry	McNally Robinson		
Erlendson	Booksellers	Kral	Naomi
Eston-Elrose S.D. No. 33	Maureen	Langenburg High School	C. Raine
Evans	Edna	Langlois	Ione
Fahlman	Sylvia	Lawrence	Jeff
Flaman	Janice	Leggott	Judy
Foran	Bryan	Lind	Karen
Fox	Elaine	Lohans	Alison
Frobisher School Staff		MacGowan	Judy
Gabora	Sharon	MacLennan	Chris
		Makelki	Rosemary
		Matz	Eleanor
		McArthur	Wenda
McBain	Marlene	Sawatzky	Bob
McDermid Community School		Saylor	Barb
McPherson	Maureen	Schiessler	Patricia A.
Merkosky	Janet	Schindel	Joan
Mervold	Debbie	Silverthorne	Judith
Miller	Joan P.	Slade	Anne
Moneo	Barbara	Slade	Arthur
Moose Jaw & District Reading Council		Smotra-Cook	Violet
Moosomin S.D. No. 9		Soulier	Sheila
Neal	Mary	South Sask. Reading Council	
Nicholson	Judy	Spruce Home School	
Olson	Stephanie	St. Augustine School	
Ostrander	Judy	Steger	Margaret



# SYRCA MEMBERS 2004

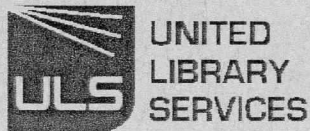
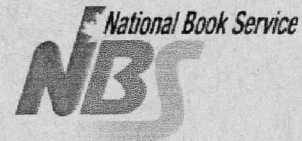
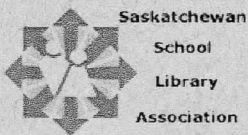
Outlook S.D. No. 32		Stouce	Charmaine
Perdue School		Stuart	Ann
Perry	Marion	Sunningdale School	c/o D. Humenick
Petrisor	Kendra	Taylor	Pat
Piché	Marion	Thiessen	Carol
Pott	Gail	Thunder Creek S.D. No. 78	
Prairie West S.D. No. 75		Trites	Rae
Raine	Charlotte	ULS -- David Larsen	
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Regina Public Library		Walker	Diane
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Rockglen S.R.C.	c/o Don Eklund	Whittick	Sandra
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