Strathcona County Library

2015
ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR & CEO

There's a universal thread that runs through the kaleidoscope of activities and services the Library offers, and that thread is County residents. You are the reason for all that we do, and we're happy that this annual report features photos of residents of all ages. Here are some additional highlights of 2015.

Relevant resources.
With the downturn in the Canadian economy, our Career Resource Centre was busier than ever. Our resume tutor began offering group sessions in addition to one-on-one appointments, and we saw a 42% increase in job-related printing, faxing, scanning, and copying, totalling 27,000 pages. These vital services are offered free, thanks to funding from the Rotary Club of Sherwood Park Heartland.

Library programming outside our doors.
During the summer, our staff took our programming outside our walls. For the first time, we offered a *Walk and Talk* book club, combining lively discussions with a little exercise! Youth Services set up a *Story Walk* on Prairie Walk, just opposite the Library, and the Bookmobile hosted outdoor Storytimes. We also tried out pop-up events with Common Ground Café and Millennium Place.

A new Vision and Mission.
In the fall of 2014 we began developing a new Plan of Service, in consultation with a diverse group of 26 community representatives. The 2016-2020 Plan was completed in 2015, along with new Vision and Mission Statements.

Thank You.
As we reflect on everything we've accomplished over the past five years, we want to take a moment to offer sincere thanks to those whose support makes a world of difference to our ability to serve residents:

- Mayor Roxanne Carr and Strathcona County Council;
- The Province of Alberta and in particular, MLAs Annie McKitrick, Estefania Cortes-Vargas, and Jessica Littlewood;
- The Friends of Strathcona County Library Society, who raise a tremendous amount of funds for collections and services through events like the annual Garden Tour;
- Our many volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy, including our hard-working and dedicated Library Board;
- Community partners, whose support has added many innovative dimensions to Library service;
- The many individual donors who care so much about the Library's collections, programs and services;
- Our caring and professional staff; and
- Our patrons, who continue to use and support the Library.

You are all a vital part of what makes our library the thriving organization it is, in the community that we are so fortunate to call home.

Anna Pandos
Chair, Strathcona County Library Board

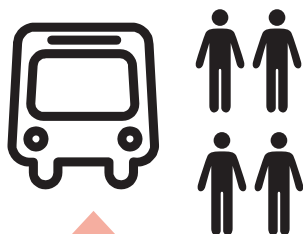**Sharon Siga**
CEO, Strathcona County Library

1512 PEOPLE

Walk through the doors of our central library in the Strathcona County Community Centre

3675 PHYSICAL ITEMS

ARE BORROWED

116 PEOPLE

VISIT THE BOOKMOBILE

Increased by
14%
OVER 2014

2015
DAY IN THE LIFE
of Strathcona County Library

322 DIGITAL ITEMS

eBooks, eMagazines, eMovies, eAudiobooks

ARE BORROWED

Increased by
23%
OVER 2014

205 PEOPLE

TAKE PART IN A LIBRARY PROGRAM

Increased by
14%
OVER 2014

77 PAGES

of free scanning, faxing and printing at the library's Career resource centre

443 TIMES

People log into the library's free wifi service

FIVE YEAR REVIEW

2015 was the final year of a five-year strategic plan that began with the opening of new Library facilities and ended with a renewed focus on community outreach. During 2011-15 the Library:

- Opened a new facility in the Strathcona County Community Centre.
- Launched a new low-floor, universally accessible Bookmobile.
- Implemented a new online catalogue and discovery system.
- Added digital books, audiobooks, magazines, movies and music to download and stream.
- Offered express collections of great titles for all ages with grab-and-go convenience.
- Opened online registration for Library programs.
- Expanded the Library's outreach activities in urban and rural Strathcona. We increased:
    - Outreach visits to schools, preschools, daycares and seniors' centres.
    - Opportunities for caregiving agencies to attend programs at the Library.
    - Bookmobile activities to offer more rural programs and attend more community events.
- Added book drops in Ardrossan Recreation Centre, Bethel Transit Centre, Millennium Place, and P1 of the Community Centre Parkade.

Worked with metro area libraries and community partners* to:

- Explore the needs and preferences of community adult learners.
- Host a shared annual Writer-in-Residence program.
- Offer settlement services to newcomers at the Library.
- Provide free faxing, printing, resume-tutoring and career workshops to local job seekers.
- Offer English language learning classes, language tutoring and language resources at the Library.
- Provide high-speed Internet access at seven locations in the rural County.
- Piloted the ME Libraries service, which now provides all Albertans with borrowing privileges for materials in any Alberta public library, using a single library card.

*Thanks to our many partners: the Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan Community Adult Learning and Literacy Society (CALLS), the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries group (Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, St. Albert, and Strathcona County Libraries), Edmonton Immigration Services Association (EISA), Strathcona County Heartland Rotary Club, Norquest College Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), Alberta Municipal Affairs Public Library Services Branch, and Strathcona County.

NEW PLAN OF SERVICE

Working with the results of a major community consultation, the Library's Board and staff prepared a strategic plan for all of the exciting things it will do to benefit the community during 2016-2020.

These are our five key goals:

1 Residents will have opportunities to connect with each other and with local resources so that they feel engaged in the community.

2 Children from birth to age five will have support to develop their emergent literacy and social skills so that they can continue to thrive and enjoy the benefits of reading and learning throughout their lives.

3 Families and caregivers of children from birth to age five will have support to build their knowledge, skills and confidence so that they can encourage the development of emergent literacy and social skills in their children.

4 Residents will have opportunities to explore topics of personal interest and express their creativity so that they can fuel their curiosity and continue to learn throughout their lives.

5 Residents will have opportunities to develop their information fluency skills to make informed and effective use of information, and their digital literacy skills so they can participate with confidence in digital environments.

Vision
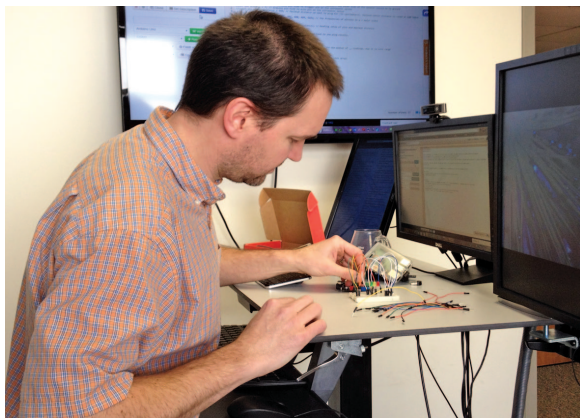The heart of a connected, informed, and inspired community.

Mission
Reaching out across urban and rural Strathcona County, the Library promotes engagement, sparks imagination, and provides the tools for building skills and knowledge.

Marni Panas agreed to be a 'living book" for the 2015 edition of the Human Library

David Hay at our Adult Learner's Day in March.

Courtney Ilkiw helps Owen Oosterveld take his turn in the summer reading game for children.

The Bookmobile's summer "Teddy Bear's Picnic" event.

MORE PROGRAMS

Residents attended programs in the Library, at rural community halls, at preschools, at seniors' centres, and in their own neighbourhoods. Some new programs in 2015 were:

- Interactive movies
- *Discovery Zone* programs
- *Self-Defence For Women*
- *Off the Page*, an open mic night located at Common Ground Community Café

In early July, IVC partnered with the Bookmobile to host a Community Pop-Up event at the Antler Lake Community Hall.

MORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

- The Library offers drop-in technology help, in partnership with the Community Adult Learning and Literacy Society (CALLS).

- The Edmonton Immigration Services Association has expanded the number of hours of settlement services offered for newcomers in the Library.

- We worked with the Information & Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County (IVC) to enhance rural community connections, and we now carry the Sherwood Park/Strathcona County News on the Bookmobile.

Best-selling children's author Todd Parr with young fan Beckett.

Residents logged more than 480,000 minutes of reading out loud as part of our *Read Aloud Challenge*.

MORE READING

The Library's *Read Aloud Campaign* was a year-long event that invited residents to "get caught reading" with family and friends, to join renowned author Todd Parr for reading inspiration, and to participate in the *County Out Loud* challenge. More than 7,400 community members took part, including an enthusiastic group that read along with Mayor Carr in the Community Centre Agora.

County resident Monique MacDonald sent us this Monty Python selfie, photo-bombed by Patsy and a Knight of the Round Table. (Or maybe one of the Knights Who Say Ni. We weren't sure.)

MORE MOVIES

The Library hosted two interactive movie nights in Council Chambers. The feature films were *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *Grease*. Residents were encouraged to come in costume and shout out lines.

Both events were successful and fun. We also co-hosted a screening of *Just Eat It*, a documentary on food waste, in partnership with Strathcona County Utilities.
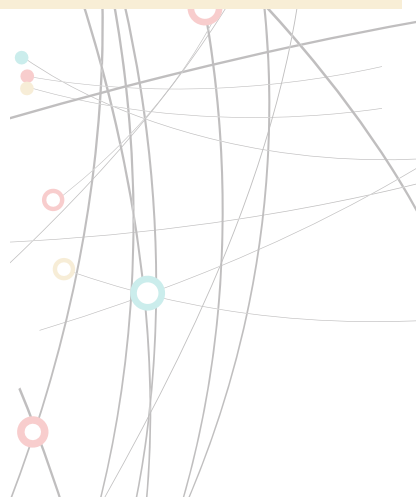
In 2015, the Bookmobile got patrons busy in the kitchen! Here's Bookmobile Manager Diana Balbar with an armload of vegetables for a program session called *Making a Purple Stew*.

One of our littlest Bookmobile patrons tries out a carrot at the *Hoppy Easter* program.

MORE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- Bookmobile programs and potlucks helped to inspire community gatherings at Antler Lake.

- Library pop-ups and a new book bike helped us to connect with people out in the community.

- Digital movies and music provided library patrons with new reasons to visit online.

- More hands-on programs invited residents to come and be creative with their friends and family members.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

For more than thirty years, we've been welcoming Grade One children to the Library with a kit designed to keep them reading throughout the summer.

For the first time in the history of the kits, the 2015 version included something new: a book for each child to keep as a reminder of the landmark year that he or she learned to read, thanks to a sponsorship by Enbridge.

In late June, Enbridge staff came to the Library to mix and mingle with two classes of Grade One kids from Westboro Elementary.
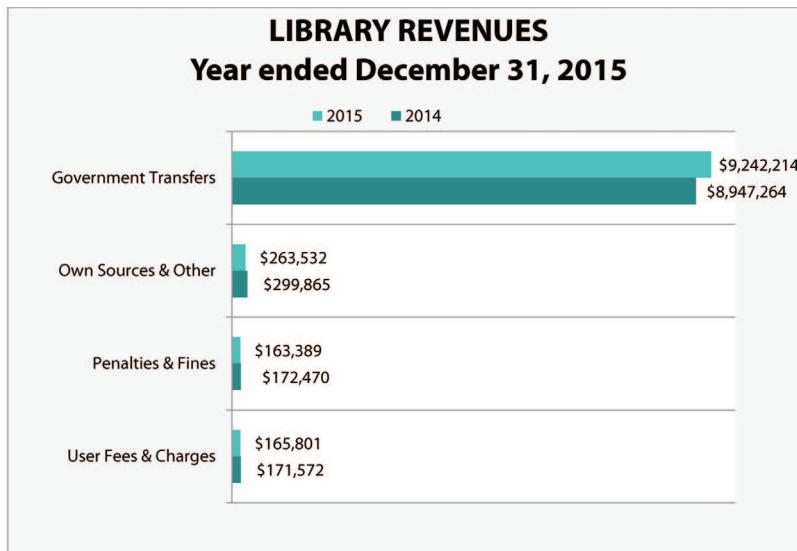
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of Strathcona County Library had another busy year, hosting a wide variety of fundraising events:

- A sold-out *Heritage Tour* in May saw participants spending a sunny afternoon travelling around Sherwood Park and Strathcona County, visiting historic buildings and sites.

- The 15th annual *Garden Tour* was held on Sunday, July 12. The weather was beautiful, bringing out a record number of attendees.

- In August, the Friends volunteered at the annual *Book Sale*.

- The 3rd annual *Books, Bites & Bubbly* wine tasting fundraiser was held at Square One restaurant in October.

- Finally, the annual *Christmas Gift Wrap* fundraiser at Sherwood Park Mall was a great success.
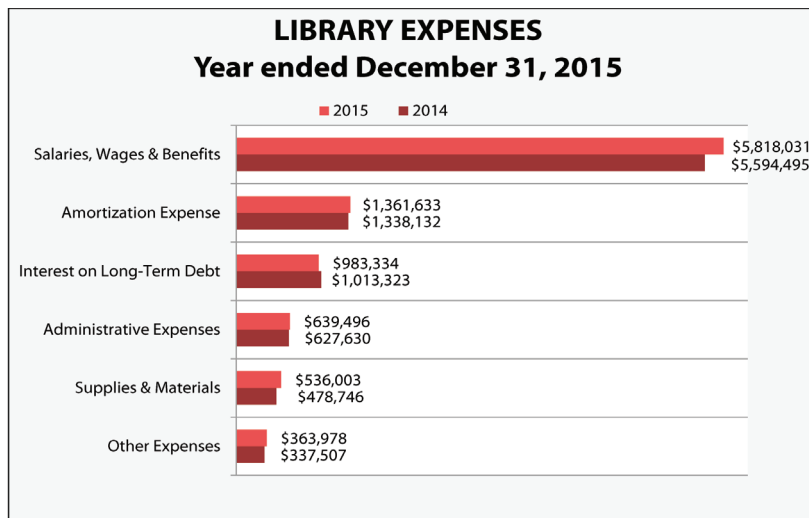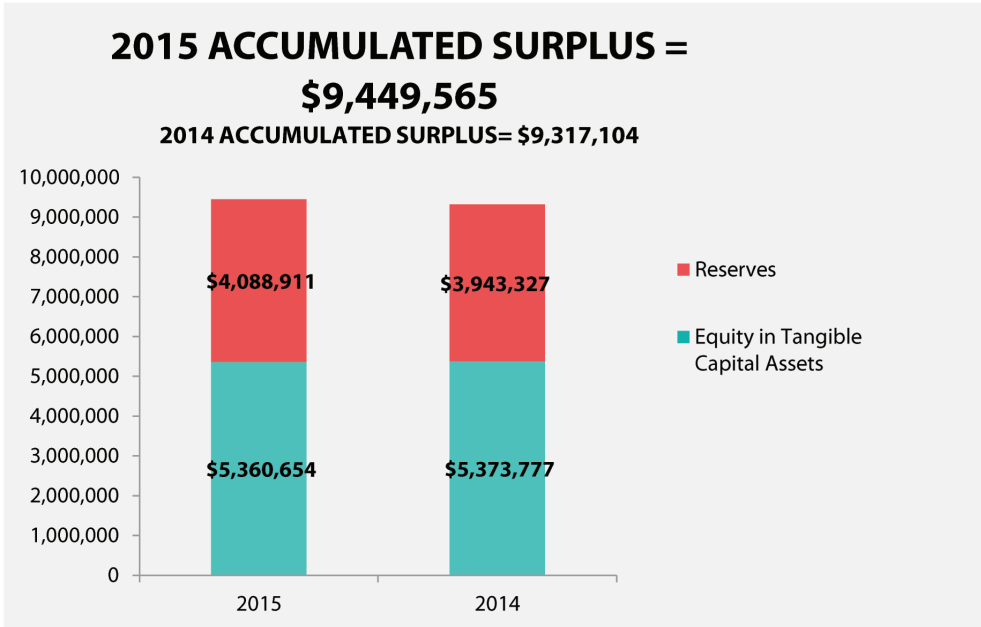
LIBRARY REVENUES AND EXPENSES

LIBRARY REVENUES
Year ended December 31, 2015

■ 2015 ■ 2014

Category	2015	2014
Government Transfers	$9,242,214	$8,947,264
Own Sources & Other	$263,532	$299,865
Penalties & Fines	$163,389	$172,470
User Fees & Charges	$165,801	$171,572

2015 Library Revenues = $9,834,936 (2014 = $9,591,171). Government transfers include amounts from Strathcona County ($8,709,316), Province of Alberta ($513,320) and Government of Canada ($19,578). Revenues from own sources include investment income, community sponsorships, and other miscellaneous revenues.

LIBRARY EXPENSES
Year ended December 31, 2015

■ 2015 ■ 2014

Category	2015	2014
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	$5,818,031	$5,594,495
Amortization Expense	$1,361,633	$1,338,132
Interest on Long-Term Debt	$983,334	$1,013,323
Administrative Expenses	$639,496	$627,630
Supplies & Materials	$536,003	$478,746
Other Expenses	$363,978	$337,507

2015 Library Expenses = $9,702,475 (2014 = $9,389,833). Other expenses include contracted services, instructor fees, professional services, loss on asset disposals and bank charges among others. Administrative Expenses are paid directly to Strathcona County in exchange for services including building maintenance, insurance, personnel services, financial services and other general services. Amortization is a non-cash expense.
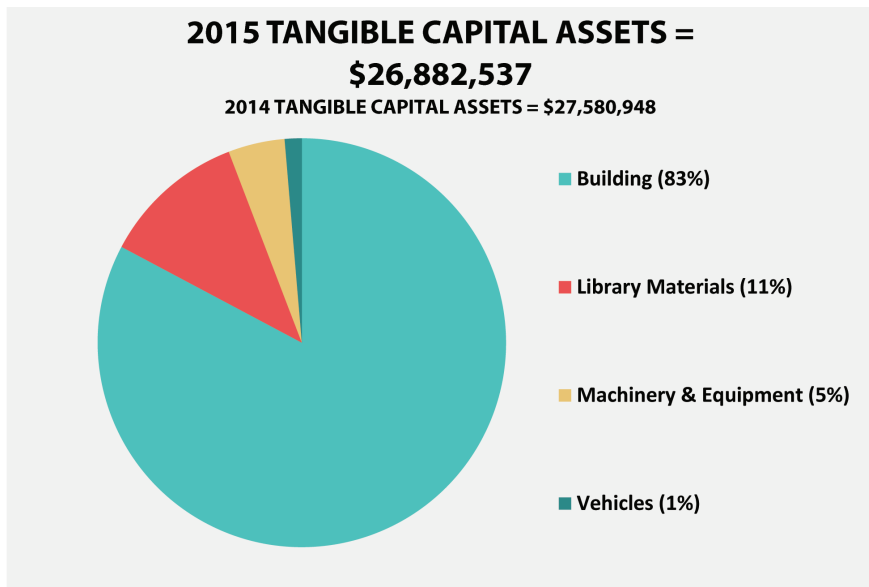
2015 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

2015 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS = $9,449,565
2014 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS= $9,317,104

The Provincial Libraries Act of Alberta requires that public libraries have their annual financial statements audited by an external auditor. KPMG, our external auditor, provided us with an unqualified audit opinion that our financial statements for the year ended December, 31, 2015 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Library and our results of operations, our change in net debt and our cash flows in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.
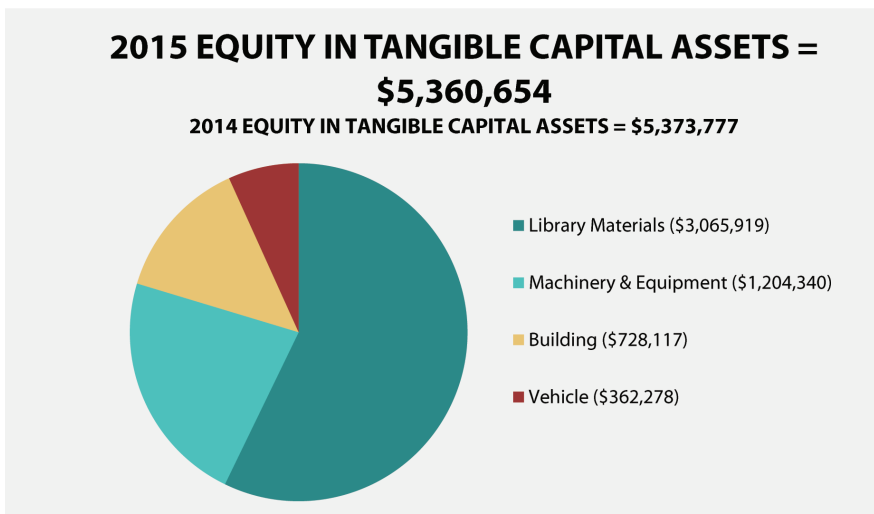
The Strathcona County Library Audited Financial Statements and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 are available on our website at www.sclibrary.ca

2015 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

2015 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS = $26,882,537
2014 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS = $27,580,948

- Building (83%)
- Library Materials (11%)
- Machinery & Equipment (5%)
- Vehicles (1%)

During 2015, the Library invested $667,655 on capital projects to maintain or improve library services. These projects included replacement of library collection materials (books, CDs and DVDs), the purchase of an assistive self check-out unit, and replacement of computer equipment. In addition, $3,165 in library collection materials were donated in 2015.
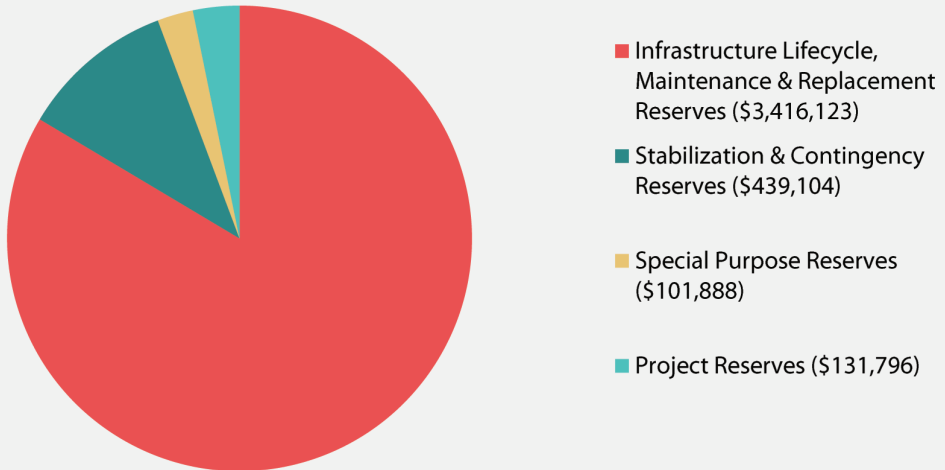
2015 EQUITY IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

2015 EQUITY IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS = $5,360,654
2014 EQUITY IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS = $5,373,777

- Library Materials ($3,065,919)
- Machinery & Equipment ($1,204,340)
- Building ($728,117)
- Vehicle ($362,278)

2015 RESERVES = $4,088,911
2014 RESERVES = $3,943,327

- Infrastructure Lifecycle, Maintenance & Replacement Reserves ($3,416,123)
- Stabilization & Contingency Reserves ($439,104)
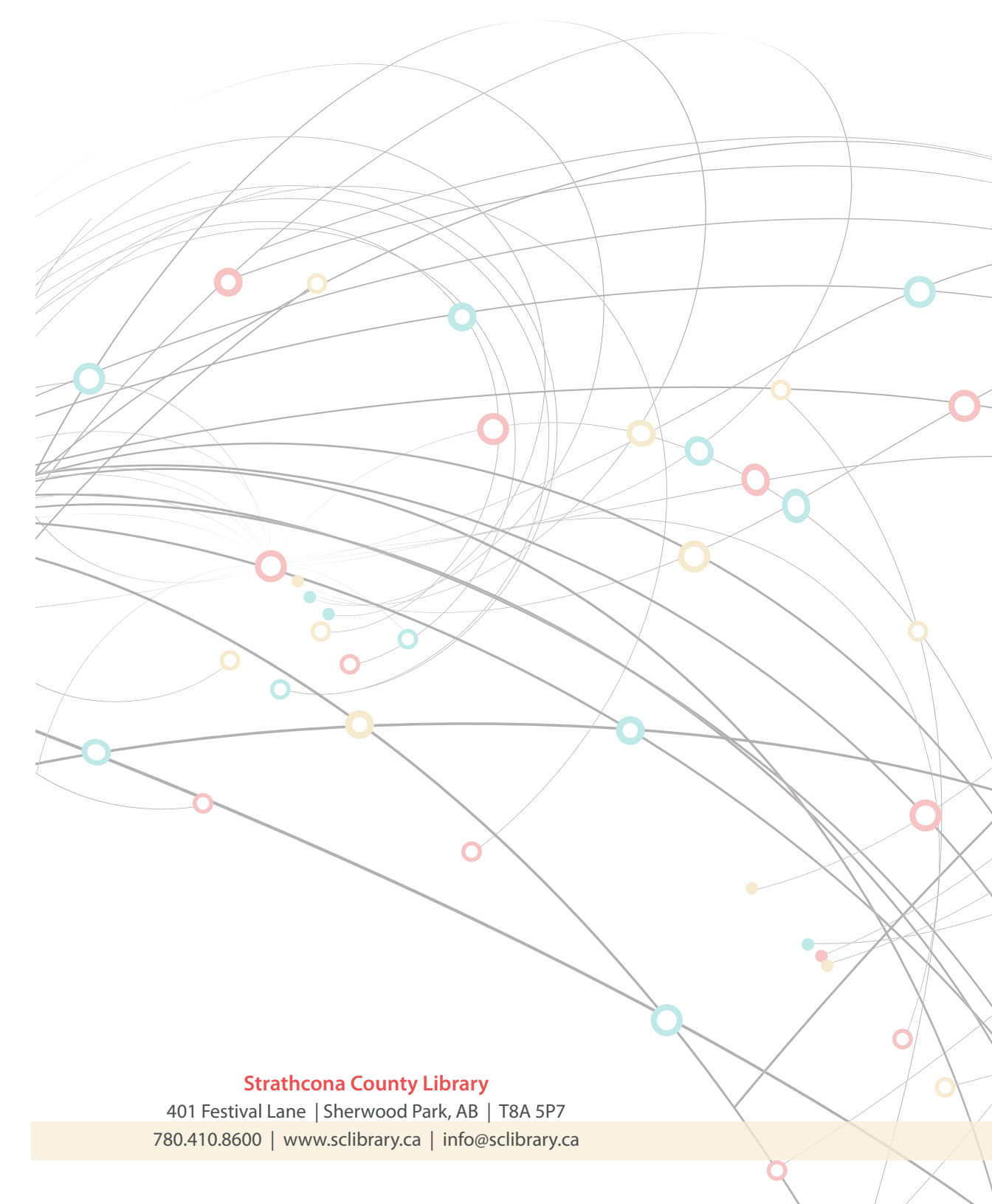- Special Purpose Reserves ($101,888)
- Project Reserves ($131,796)

The **Infrastructure Lifecycle, Maintenance & Replacement Reserves** are funds set aside to maintain and replace the Library's tangible capital assets. This includes the Bookmobile, computer equipment, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) equipment, furniture, and the Library's portion of facility lifecycle costs (for example, flooring, HVAC and roof replacement) in the Community Centre.

The **Stabilization & Contingency Reserves** are funds set aside to allow the Library to maintain operations in the event of an operating loss or some other unforeseen event that interrupts Library services.

The **Special Purpose Reserves** are primarily made up of funds from external sources, like donations or sponsorships, and are used for specific programming.

The **Project Reserves** are funds set aside to fund special one-time projects, for example, the start-up of a new Library collection.