

**Mother Reader and Her Children** by Ron Romanowski  
For Winnipeg's St. John's Library Branch 100<sup>th</sup>,  
1915–2015

I remember mother reader and her children  
once giggling towards their stories  
where their books of weather  
breathed in the library like leaf-filled air  
where favorite pages were turned as if finger-lit

The children always bustled as on a first day of creation  
mumbling in their paper hive like sleepy bees:  
the baby mouthing her books under mother's watch,  
the boy in his snuggery of picture story pirates,  
the girl tracing embossed titles with her fingertips

Mother always promised the library  
to which they could always return  
to what was continually being composed;  
breathing, gathering as stories,  
since paper became so hot with them,  
marred them in an essential way  
(and was marred with age), yet always continued  
in the leaves of books on seemingly endless stacks

## **Reaching Out to Winnipeg by Ron Romanowski**

The new statue of St. John's alumnus and war hero Andrew Mynarski created by Manitoba sculptor Charlie Johnston was unveiled June 12<sup>th</sup> at Vimy Ridge Park on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg. The dramatic statue of Victoria Cross winner Mynarski reaches out a hand to passersby, seeming to ask everyone to share in his heroism.

At the statue's unveiling many spoke to having been touched by Mynarski's heroic act of attempting to save a fellow bomber crewmember on a mission over France in 1944.

St. John's alumnus Leonard "Kroppy" Kropinski remembered Mynarski as a mischievous pal who had skipped school with him. Alumnus Bill Zuk was instrumental in the creation of the statue and acted as master of ceremonies.

Other alumni present were Lorraine McLean, Greg Woloszyn and Ron Romanowski.

As well as the Andrew Mynarski VC School Choir and Band and an Air Force colour party, another of the highlights of the event was the salute by an RCAF fighter jet, which roared over the crowd at near supersonic speed, and had flown all the way from an airbase in Alberta to honour the hero.