

## Sechelt Library 2016 AGM: Chair's Report

- 2016 was an exceptionally busy year and we made significant progress on all four of our strategic priorities: programs and services, technology, governance, and facilities.
- We welcomed over 120,665 visitors, an increase of ten per cent over 2015 and signed up a thousand new members.
- We launched a new logo with the signature line “space to think” as we marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library in its present location.
- Programs: Adult programs increased by 15 per cent and Children’s programming increased by 47 per cent. The recent hire of a programming and outreach coordinator will further increase and improve our programming.
- Governance: In terms of governance, the main change is that the Foundation was dissolved and the funds have become a capital Reserve Fund of the board. The policy manual is undergoing a major review with much of the work completed in 2016 and includes new policies for Finance, the Capital Reserve Fund and Fundraising.
- Technology: demands continue to increase, however, given the current dated facility that was built in a pre-digital era we are limited in terms of what we can offer which brings me to our last strategic priority which is facilities.
- Facilities: the building now needs to provide better accessibility to collections, easy access to technology and flexible spaces to accommodate collections, people and programs.
- With these demands in mind, we moved forward with a renewal plan designed by the architectural firm DIALOG to repurpose the existing space. The redesign will allow for future expansion but the first priority is to renew a dated and compromised space and bring the library up to code.
- The renewal is also expected to result in operational and workflow efficiencies that will minimize staff time currently spent on routine and repetitive tasks.
- We first approached the renewal by presenting a cost benefit analysis to Sechelt Council (An excellent piece of work by our Chief Librarian)
- We continued by developing the design concept from the grass roots up. We consulted with the community and staff at workshops as well as through two community surveys of more than 1,100 people. Seventy six per cent supported the project.
- We’re about to begin a fundraising campaign with the theme “Inspire, Learn, Grow, Give.” The goal is \$500,000 of which we have \$123,000, and \$50,000 of that is a Canada 150 grant which was the catalyst for the project.
- Total project cost is estimated at \$1.5M but this is a high level concept and the district of Sechelt voted a further \$102,000 to refine the design and costs to the pre tender stage. Further funding options will be reviewed in late Spring.
- In closing we are grateful to those who make our library such a success. Our funders, the District of Sechelt, The Sunshine Coast Regional District, The Sechelt Indian government District and the Province of British Columbia and the Canada 150 Community infrastructure grant; the board of trustees, the politicians on our board, Darnelda Siegars for the District of Sechelt and Garry Nohr from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the friends of the Library, our dedicated volunteers and our exceptional staff.