

Sechelt Library AGM 2017: Chair's Report

- 2017 was an exceptionally busy year and we made significant progress on all four of our strategic priorities which are: programs and services, technology, governance and facilities.
- Our strategic plan expires in 2019 and our Chief Librarian's successful realization of operational goals meant that in 2017 we made some key updates to the plan adding new initiatives like fundraising.
- The library is busier than ever. We issued 900 new library cards and welcomed 124,000 visitors – an increase of 19 per cent in five years.
- Programs: Programming has increased significantly with the addition of a part time Community Outreach and Programming Coordinator. Over 2,200 children and over 2,000 adults attended programs. Adult programs are held off site as the library has no programming or meeting room. Programs are on a wide range of topics both serious and light hearted -- for example, on the more serious side -- financial literacy and mental health; on the lighter side chocolate and olive oil.
- Governance: A comprehensive review and rewrite of the policy manual , and introduction of new policies was launched in 2017 and is scheduled for completion in Spring 2018.
- Technology: The world is changing and digital literacy is now the norm for navigating information and communication technologies. Libraries are hubs not only for literacy in the conventional sense, but also hubs for digital literacy.
- Today, change is a constant. Over the last four years the library has been undergoing a process of managed change to modernize and remain contemporary in the digital age.
- IN 2017 we served thousands of people by providing free internet access, free WIFI, free print and digital information, and free assistance navigating personal technology devices – and digital environments (from government forms on the internet to saving photos to the Cloud).
- A new position of technology education coordinator was created. This has been hugely successful reflecting pent up demand. IN addition, is enabled us to provide extra services and technical support to the Madeira Park elementary school and the Pender Harbour reading room.
- Facilities: Part of the larger picture of change management is having the facility to support changes. Our library is 21 years old and dated. Various compromises over the years have resulted in less than optimal work flow and use of the space. In 1996, technology was an afterthought .
- We are grateful to the DOS for funding a plan for a renovation by Dialog Architects which would meet the library's current and future needs .
- The first phase of the renovation was the Canada 150 project to replace the metal barriers with glass doors and remove the service desk which was begun in 2017 and scheduled for completion in February 2018.
- We adopted Fundraising as a new strategic priority to support the renovation. The library held its first gala event to raise matching funds for the Canada 150 project. Fundraising for the larger project will continue.

- I would like to commend our Chief Librarian who has initiated and implemented change management so successfully over the last four years. This is a considerable accomplishment.
- In closing, we are grateful to all those who make our library such a success. Our funders, the District of Sechelt, The Sunshine Coast Regional District, The Sechelt Indian government District, the Province of British Columbia and the Canada 150 Community infrastructure grant; the board of trustees, the politicians on our board, Councillor Darnelda Siegars for the District of Sechelt and Director Garry Nohr from the Sunshine Coast Regional District as well as the Friends of the Library, our dedicated volunteers and our exceptional staff.