

Annual Report 2017



Space to think

MESSAGE FROM THE

Chair, Board of Trustees and Chief Librarian



Ann Hopkins

Chair, Board of
Trustees
Sechelt Library



Margaret Hodgins

Chief Librarian
Sechelt Library

Public libraries are often linked to quality of life measures in communities but recently the roles they play in community health are also being better understood. The current media attention to the dangers of social isolation (particularly for seniors), the importance of the sense of belonging (particularly for newcomers), and the new challenges facing us with digital citizenship (particularly for those on the other side of the digital divide) are not new challenges for libraries.

To address social isolation and belonging, libraries need to actively work at being welcoming, inclusive and breaking down barriers to anyone who needs information or knowledge but has challenges accessing it. In the 21st century, this almost certainly involves digital literacy. The American Library Association's digital-literacy task force offers this definition: "Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills."

It is important to note that in 2017, the Sechelt Public Library served thousands of people by providing free internet access, free WIFI, free print and digital information, and free assistance navigating personal technology devices—smart phones, ipads, tablets, laptops—and digital



environments (government forms on the internet). However, the skills, infrastructure and resources needed to provide these services requires a carefully managed process of change that includes updating our physical environment.

When we began this process with a Canada 150 grant, focusing on accessibility at our entrance and magazine area, we quickly realized that larger improvements to our space were needed. We thank the District of Sechelt for the funding of architectural plans that will now allow us to present a vision to the community that we can actively fund raise toward.

Change has included the reorganization of our staff—who now work in teams—so that they can feel supported within the library and share expertise. We will never lose sight that library staff is our greatest asset or that the library is here to support the community. We believe in people helping people. If you haven't been to the library in a while please drop by, sign up for a Tuesday Talk, learn about researching your family history or get some advice on great apps for your tablet. We look forward to seeing you.

2017 Accomplishments

Digital Literacy

The library is busier than we have seen in years and while the business of lending books is still going strong the library's role in the community of providing equal access to information has expanded... to digital literacy.

In response to the community's need for information and instruction on day-to-day technology use, a new position was created in July 2017 — Technology Education Coordinator — and the response has been phenomenal. Over 1100 people have benefited from both one-on-one and workshop learning opportunities: learning how to set up email accounts, understanding the Cloud, downloading and printing government forms, accessing the library's collection of free e-books and digital magazines are just a few examples.

In addition, a \$4000 Telus grant was awarded to the library to develop to a pilot mobile maker space project for all ages.



Space to grow



Mental Health Week

Mental health is identified as an indicator in the *Sunshine Coast's 2017 Vital Signs: "A Vital Focus on our Vulnerable Communities."* In 2017, the library celebrated its first Mental Health Week to break down barriers and bring awareness to an issue that is often hidden and misunderstood. During this week, the library partnered with authors, advocates, the Vancouver Coastal Health mental health team and others to discuss the facts and share resources that can be used to support ourselves and loved ones.

Poetry Month

For the month of April, poetry came alive inside the library and spilled out (literally) onto sidewalks, in a poetry line stretched between trees and illustrated on blue jeans! A true celebration of the poetry that is all around us. Thank you to the students who created beautiful sidewalk poems, our local poets, workshop leaders and our contest winners! It was a huge success!



Staff Passion and the Community Benefits

Learning about the unique experiences of your family history is an intriguing and unending journey that the library supports with free access to [ancestry.ca](https://www.ancestry.ca) Library Edition but with personal support from staff. Teresa Eckford is well known for her passion for history—she not only leads a Historical Fiction book club, provides one-on-one sessions with [ancestry.ca](https://www.ancestry.ca), and maintains the library's family history research resources, she also gives presentations about these resources at Elder College and throughout the Coast. Interested in exploring your family tree?

Visitors' Comments and Photographs

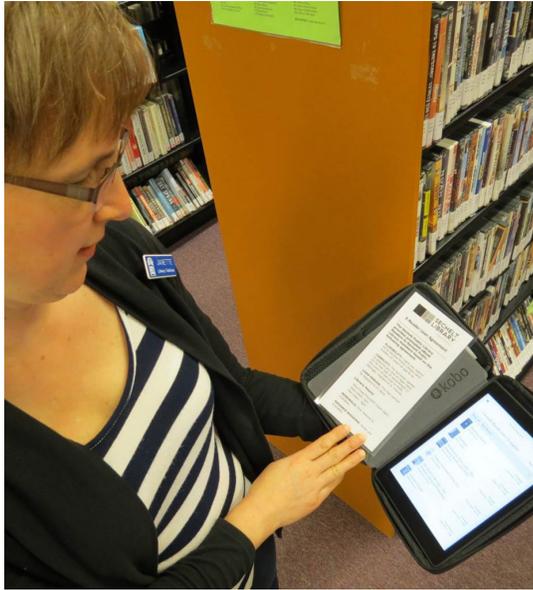


"I was treated very kindly the day I came in and got a library card. Sophie was wonderful. I look a little rough around the edges; this never has stopped any of your staff from treating me with respect and kindness.

As I took out more books I could see the conditions of them and urged my mom to consider donating to the library to upgrade what I know to be an asset to the community. My mom loves children and I could see an upgrade was needed.

As a teen I left home to seek my own way. The library saved me with heat and rooms full of knowledge. I never forgot this or the kind people who worked there."

Jeff, December 2017



"We appreciate all you do, and in particular, I appreciate the degree to which you have created a welcoming space."

Timothy



"Thank you for all your assistance and friendship. You good people certainly model the notion of service to the rest of us. Congratulations!"

G. Pennington, Dec 2017

"To our librarians, who keep the ship of knowledge sailing. And who always treat their patrons as people, rather than interchangeable units."

Kaye and Roberta, Dec 2017



2017 Fact & Figures



46,642 Reference and general questions responded to by staff



14,065 Public computer sessions



17,463 WiFi users



Volunteers worked
1794 hours

128,430 Visitors

4,146 Participants in
offsite library programs

2,200 Attendance
for all children's
programs



1,946 Adult participants in
programs



1,190 people
assisted with
technology questions



193,390 Books, magazines,
ebooks, DVDs borrowed

8,246 Interlibrary loans
lent & borrowed

879 New library
memberships

2017 Financial Highlights

Operating Revenues

Government funding	676,989
Library Revenues	17,713
Donations/Grants	86,503
Interest Income	225
TOTAL:	\$781,430

Capital

SPL Foundation donation	129,512
TOTAL:	\$129,512

Operating Expenses

Admin	558,183
Operations	181,141
Amortization of Tangible Assets	19,595
TOTAL:	\$758,919

Community Partners

Special thanks to the Friends of the Sechelt Public Library

Arbutus Sounds Chorus

Arrowhead Club House

Authors, Educators and Poets –

Chris Czajkowski, Doug Smith, Frances

McGuckin, Margriet Ruurs, Mary Burns,

Michael Hart Izen, Grant Lawrence, Barbara

Higgins, Bruno Huber, Jane Covernton,

Michael Oswald, Richard Austin, John Pass,

Philip Jagger, Wendy Humpreys Tebbutt, Jay

Sherwood, Victoria Maxwell, Shelley Harrison

Rae, Penny Allport, Dr. Joerg Jaschinski,

Mary Spytz, Caitlin Hicks

BC Federation of Writers

Caitlin Press

Capilano University

Cascadia Centre – Roberts Creek

Chatelech High School

CKAY FM

Coast Cable

Coast Cultural Alliance

Coast Reporter

Community Resource Centre

Davis Bay Elementary

District of Sechelt – Arts & Culture Department

École du pacifique

Exotic Fruit Nursery

Federation of BC Writers

Festival of the Written Arts

Gibsons & District Public Library

Gibsons Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

Grandmothers and Grandothers

Halfmoon Bay Elementary

Harbour Publishing

Local Weekly

Kinnikinnick Elementary

Madeira Park Elementary

mom-ay-mon Child Development Centre

Nicholas Simons, MLA

Ocean Avenue Community Garden

One Straw Society

Pender Harbour Community School

Pender Harbour Ocean Discovery Station

Pender Harbour Reading Centre

RCMP

Ruby Lake Lagoon Society

Sechelt Farmers Market

SC Arts Council

SC Botanical Gardens

SC Community Foundation

SC Conservation Association
SC Elder College
SC Festival of the Written Arts
SC Hospice Society
SC Humanist Society
SC Literacy Coalition
SC Pride
Sunshine Coast Community Solar Association
School District 46
Sechelt Hospital Foundation
Sechelt Indian Band
tems swiya Museum
Therapeutic Paws
Tours of Exploration
University of Victoria – Self Management BC
Vancouver Coastal Health Mental Health
Volunteer Income Tax Program
Welcoming Communities
West Sechelt Elementary School



The Team

Library Board of Trustees

Ann Hopkins *Chair*

Susan Egerman *Treasurer*

James Mandick

Bev Shimazaki

Gillian Smith

Jack Young

DoS Representative: Darnelda Seigers

SCRD Representative: Garry Nohr

Library staff and years of service

Rose Toenders (26 years)*

Lolly Mackenzie (20 years)*

Beth Dodds (19 years)

Donna Walsh Wheeldon (16 years)

Lorinda Waite (13 years)

Janette Hellmuth (11 years)

Lynndie Dzuris (10 years)

Teresa Eckford (9 years)

Margaret Hodgins (4 years)*

Sophie Gawn (3 years)

Jeff Wadge (2 years)

Clarie DeVries (1 year)

Sherryl Latimer (1 year)

Sam Iversen (1 year)

** full time employees*



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