

Director's Report
Sechelt Public Library

March 27, 2021 – April 23, 2021

By Lianne Emery

Introduction

What does a 911 call, a seed catalogue, a Scavenger hunt, a book migration and a stabbing all have in common? April 2021!

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1. 911

On Wednesday April 21, 2021 we had an incident involving an anti-masker which elevated to the point we had to call 911 for the safety of staff and patrons. Thank-you to Dave Douglas at the District of Sechelt for assisting me in dealing with this obnoxious individual while we awaited police arrival. It came to my attention afterwards that the Gibson's Library also had an incident last week involving this same individual but did not have to call the police as he left in a swearing/yelling tirade on his way out the door. The police advise he is new to the Coast.



Figure 1 Obnoxious disrespectful individual

Library staff everywhere, deal with hundreds of people every day and that includes, addicts, drunks, mentally ill, belligerent and dangerous criminals like Lynn Valley Library did. What this shows, among many things, is the need for library staff to be well trained in dealing with emergency situations. We are currently working on a plan to have additional training in first aid, de-escalating dangerous situations and others. Having a safety plan in place is crucial and I will be revisiting our emergency phone numbers and safety plans in near future.

2. The Stabbing at Lynn Valley Library

On Saturday March 27, 2021, there was a horrific stabbing incident at the Lynn Valley Library. Yannick Bandaogo, 28, was charged with 2nd-degree murder after attacks that left 1 dead and 6 injured. Senior staff were away from the library that day but the staff working did an amazing job we have heard. They

were devastated for the loss of life and the injuries that occurred. They have been receiving unbelievable support from the community and have had professional help in dealing with this incidence.

Library staff everywhere, deal with hundreds of people every day and that includes, addicts, drunks, mentally ill, belligerent and dangerous criminals like Lynn Valley Library did. What this shows, among many things, is the need for library staff to be trained in dealing with emergency situations. We are currently working on a plan to have additional training in first aid and in de-escalating dangerous situations.



A letter written by Jacklyn Van Dyke, Director at Lynn Valley Library

Dear colleagues,

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the love and the support that I have received from so many of you over the last few days. Libraries are part of a strong network and we hold each other up in normal times. This time of darkness has certainly been no different. We have received many beautiful sentiments from libraries and patrons across the country—and it is helping us move forward. I apologize if I have not gotten back to you sooner, but I will.

Our hearts are broken for the injured and the woman who was killed and we are mourning with our community for this tremendous loss. We've focused all of our attention over the last few days on ensuring our staff and volunteers are well supported in their healing. We connected over our grief with professional support, received visits from North Vancouver RCMP and Fire Services, the Mayor, our Board chair, and even a therapy dog. This morning, we opened our doors to cheers and smiling (masked) faces from our patrons. It feels good to return to some sense of normalcy.

I also wanted to send you my support during this time. For a close-knit community like ours in North Vancouver and Lynn Valley, the news is devastating. But I also know that because this event happened in a civic space, the impact is being deeply felt across so many communities and your libraries are also being inundated with questions about what happened. The public library has an important role to play to help inspire and delight our communities in times of heightened anxiety and fear. And while we're also healing from the events that unfolded, we'll be there for our community in their healing, too. On behalf of our library, I'd like to thank you for being there for yours, too.

We want our community to know they are safe coming back to the library. I cannot speak highly enough of the courageous actions witnessed here on Saturday. Library staff and volunteers did all the right things, and they stepped up in different ways to bring their best to an unimaginable situation. Seeing how people came together to support in this time was incredibly heartening during this dark time.

Our community is showing us that they are choosing love. We see it plastered all around Lynn Valley: our community is reclaiming this space and we are, too. If you haven't seen [this piece from the North Shore News](#), it's worth a read.

I can appreciate there might be more questions and once things settle down, we're happy to share more about our experience.

Sending you my thoughts and gratitude,

Jacqueline

Jacqueline van Dyk

Director of Library Services | North Vancouver District Public Library

1277 Lynn Valley Rd., North Vancouver, BC V7J 0A2

Tel: 604-990-3740 | cell: 604-561-7048

3. Meetings and Partnerships this Month

ABCPLD Meetings (4)
Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Province of BC Stats Meeting
DOS / SIGD / Sechelt Library Health Communities Grant Liaison
CUPE 391 Union Rep

4. Funding Payments

The DRAFT Funding and Service Agreement addresses the percentages and timing of each of the Funders obligations.

	Beginning of Q1	Beginning of Q2	Beginning of Q3	Beginning of Q4
DOS	30%	30%	20%	20%
SCRD	25%	25%	25%	25%
SIGD	50% January 5	50% May 31		

We have received Q1 payments (unadjusted for new budget) from the SCRd and DOS.

We have received Q2 payments from the DOS (unadjusted).

5. 5-Year Funding Agreement

The signing process had commenced with the SIGD to sign first, then to go the SCRCD, then to go to the DOS. It has hit a snag with the SIGD and it is being dealt with.

6. Provincial Grant Report and Statistics

The Province of BC gives libraries (municipal, public, regional) grant monies each year. In 2020 we received \$77,183. This has not changed in years. The reporting and submissions we are required to do are onerous but necessary. This year, prior to May 15th, we will have to submit the following:

- Technology Grant Report (completed and submitted)
- Provincial Funding Grant Report (completed and submitted)
- SOFI (Statement of Financial Information) (completed and submitted)
- Typical Week (completed and submitted)
- Provincial Stats (currently still working on them. They are due prior to May 15th)

7. Provincial Grants for 2021

On April 21, BC Library Directors met with guests Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Nicola Marots, Strategic Advisor. It was a productive first meeting that aimed to help bring Tara up to speed with the different library associations in BC and the work of the Partners as an advocacy arm representing the interests of public libraries.

One tangible outcome is that Tara agreed to meet quarterly with the Partners so we can build a close working relationship. There was a mutual desire expressed to find areas that we can both work on together. And there was a clear invitation to engage them in our advocacy efforts. Overall, a very good meeting!

We were also certainly relieved to hear that - HOPEFULLY ALL GOING WELL - come June we will at least receive the same provincial funding levels we received in 2020. Although we are relieved it was not a decrease, as we were led to believe it might be under the previous education ministry, we are not pleased. To note, there has not been an increase in library funding by the Province of BC since 2009. This is not OK. Libraries are continually being asked to do more and more with less and less. It also puts much more pressure, year after year, on local Municipal and Regional funders (eg. District of Sechelt, SCRCD and SIGD) to compensate for the BC government in funding their local libraries.

8. Grant Applications

MJ and I applied for three grants in March.

We were advised on March 25th that we received a grant from United Way Healthy Aging for an Itech package of 5 Samsung tablets, tablet covers, data and technical support with Geek Squad. This was made possible by a donor to the United Way for seniors' technology. Talia and I attended the course on April 15th to go over our requirements and obligations. It seems to me that the data package attached to each of these devices is grossly underestimated in terms of streaming requirements but Talia and I will be developing a plan for how to market these and make available. Of course, in addition to the very time-consuming STEAM kits and soon to come Dementiability kits, our three catalogers (Rose, Janette and Teresa) will have 5 Tablet Kits to catalogue and process (besides all the books!).



9. Iris Loewen Foundation

The Iris Loewen Endowment Fund was established upon the retirement of Chief Librarian Iris Loewen in May 2009 to celebrate her many accomplishments in service to the Library and is managed by the Sunshine Coast Foundation. Annual interest payments from the endowment fund are used to support special library programs and services. The Sunshine Coast Foundation has just awarded us a grant of \$1318.00 for 2021! This was in excess of what we anticipated for this year which was about \$1100. The SSC Foundation made the decision to give us an increased amount due to COVID. Thank-you!

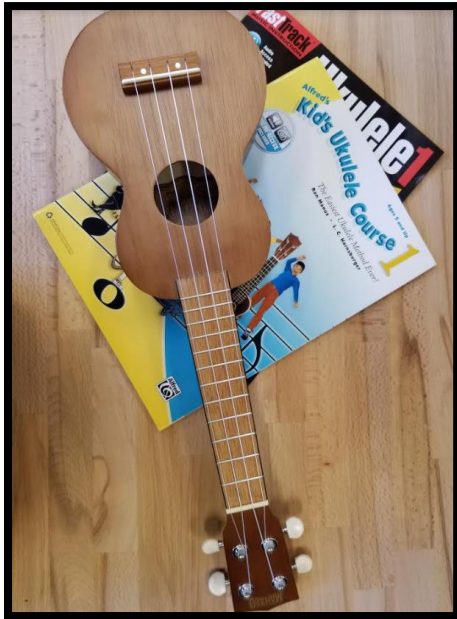


10. T3010 Registered Charity Information Return

MJ has commenced work on this annual federal charity reporting due June 30th.

11. STEAM kits

STEAM = Science, technology, engineering, art and math. \$3600 of our technology grant has gone towards the first 24 STEAM kits. We also received a \$100 donation towards “a music program” so we decided to put that \$100 towards the development of STEAM kit #25 - a Ukulele kit with ukulele, case and music books. So far, 12 STEAM kits have been fully catalogued and processed. They are in demand and go out as soon as they are available.



12. Programming for April

We recognize that although not everyone loves ZOOM, it is at least a connection that can be made and an activity that can be enjoyed. Some of our programs can be done outdoors if we are not leading or encouraging groups to congregate. We have developed a new format for our Programming Brochures that we used in March, April and now May. April included many events were quite successful are/were as follows:

Fun and Games

E B F S E H S O L A G A P
 N U R O I L H Y A T D H P
 I L Y U O T A S N N P I T
 H B L R I L L T O O N E F A
 S S F S G G E M I A U Y U
 N O R S U T A A S H I B R
 U N E L S I R T A E V G U
 S E T I D A E R Y R R T S
 S H T R I R R N G O I H Q
 E B U P M Q F G W K T E K
 X M B A D A I S Y R Q K S
 A A R B O R W E A T H E R
 T M B W A L L E R B M U P

April	Diamond	Grow
Arbor	Earth	Rain
Aries	Easter	Sunshine
Bulbs	Eggs	Taurus
Bunny	Fool	Taxes
Butterfly	Galoshes	Umbrella
Daisy	Grass	Weather

4	1	2	9		7	5
2			3		8	
	7		8			6
		1	3		6	2
1		5			4	3
7	3		6	8		
6			2			3
		7		1		4
8	9		6	5	1	7



Registration

All programs require registration.
 Call (604) 885-3260 to register.

Hours

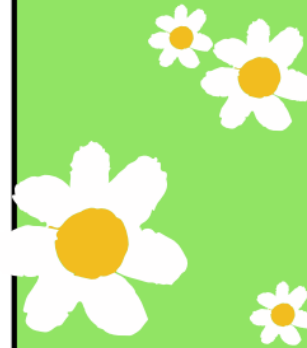
Monday:	10-5
Tuesday:	10-5
Wednesday:	10-6
Thursday:	10-5
Friday:	10-5
Saturday:	10-3
Sunday:	Closed

Contact

☎ (604) 885-3260
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 📷 @secheltlibrary
 📱 @secheltlibrary



April 2021 Program Guide



Tax Clinic

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 Free in-person tax program for eligible clients. Call (604) 885-3260 to register for an appointment with Terri.

Genealogy

Mondays, Fridays
 Curious about your history? Want to discover your family tree? Appointment required.

Ukulele Jam

Fridays, 11:30-1:00
 Socially distanced outdoor fun ukulele for all levels (weather permitting). Hopefully starting May 7!

Stitchin'

Friday, April 30, 11:00-12:00
 Learn to crochet with Sam. Supplies provided for simple "mask extender / ear saver".

*All programs require registration.
 Call (604) 885-3260 to register.

Tech Help

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
 Have a technology question? Want to learn how to use your device? Appointment required.

Book Club

Tuesday, April 13, 1:00-3:00
 New General Fiction Book Club meets monthly on the 2 Tuesday. This month's book is *The Pull of the Stars*.

Spanish Cafe

Fridays, Intermediate+, 2:30-3:30
Beginners+, 3:30-4:30
 A friendly way to practice and improve your Spanish conversation with Marcy.

POUND

Thursdays, 9:30-10:30
 Fun drumming inspired fitness classes with MJ Leitner! Visit Sechelt Library website for more information.

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30
 Join instructor Julie Morgan for this gentle form of yoga that can improve your flexibility, concentration and strength, while boosting your mood.

Card Making

Thursday April 1 & Thursday April 15, 11:00-12:00
 Join Ruth Moore for a fun card-making class! All supplies provided to make awesome cards & bookmarks.

Writers Group

Thursday, April 22, May 6 & 8, June 3 & 17, 12:00-2:00
 A friendly writing group for writers of all levels. With local writer and instructor Anthea Penne.

Repair Cafe

Saturday, May 8, 10:30-2:30
 Free, while you wait, repair to domestic devices by some neat people. Visit the library on May 8 for this service.

April 2021

Kids Programs

 **Storytime with Talia and Sheepy** 

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00
Join Talia and Sheepy for a fun, interactive, and educational storytime!

 **Scavenger Hunt** 

Saturday, April 3, 10:00-2:00
Enjoy a socially distanced, outdoor scavenger hunt this Easter weekend. Pick up your instructions at the library then go for a walk to find your clues.

 **Crafting Class** 

Monday, April 12th, 2:00-3:00
Join Ruth Moore for a creative crafting class. All materials provided. Registration required.

Keep an eye out for more programs starting in May!





April 2021

Fun and Games



M	P	N	E	S	T	A	I	H	W	F	D
B	U	K	Q	A	P	N	D	R	A	I	N
I	Z	D	L	H	E	W	R	E	R	C	B
R	G	T	X	E	F	R	O	G	M	J	U
D	N	F	R	B	A	S	P	R	I	N	G
S	A	G	D	W	Y	F	J	H	B	O	S
T	E	L	K	O	B	U	D	S	M	P	C
N	V	E	S	R	H	G	I	X	A	B	W
Y	G	T	D	M	O	L	P	F	Y	E	I
S	R	V	A	S	J	K	I	T	E	C	N
A	O	M	E	L	T	H	B	R	S	W	D
C	W	U	P	I	D	F	T	M	Q	A	R

Buds	Green	Melt	Tree
Bugs	Grow	Mud	Warm
Birds	Kite	Nest	Wind
Drop	Leaf	Rain	Worm
Frog	May	Spring	







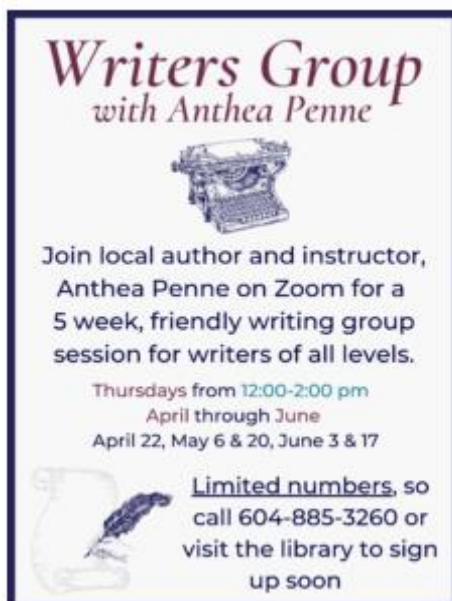
Figure 2 card making classes - thank you Ruth Moore



Figure 3 Sam setting up the Scavenger Hunt and some of the excited participants

13. May Program Guide

Our May Program Guide is completed and is already going out to patrons. Special highlights are the **Mom and Me StoryWalk** for Mother's Day, the **Seed Catalogue** (already in the library), **Writers Group and Chair Yoga!** We were able to access funds from the SSC Literacy Coalition (to which we are an active participant) towards the purchase of 7 different books (in duplicate because we have to tear them apart – ouch) to be used in our Mom and Me StoryWalk as well as 6 future StorkWalks. Thankyou Literacy Coalition!



Fun and Games

Each phrase below is a clue for an answer that begins and ends with the same letter.

1. A continent at the south pole
2. Payment to a stockholder
3. Physical exertion done for fitness
4. One television show in a series
5. One who reviews and gives judgements
6. A brief advertisement
7. A place for performers
8. An amount over and above what is needed
9. A great work of art or literature
10. A ray of moonlight
11. An edible seed of a bean plant
12. Accepting of others
13. Handwriting skill
14. Blue-green
15. An official list of names
16. One thousand years

		6	7		9	2		5
		1			8			9
5	3			2				8
9	8	7	4	5				6
	6							3
3				9	2	5	8	7
4			7				6	2
1	7		9			8		
6	3	2		5	7			



Registration

All programs require registration.
Call (604) 885-3260 to register.

Hours

Monday:	10-5
Tuesday:	10-5
Wednesday:	10-6
Thursday:	10-5
Friday:	10-5
Saturday:	10-3
Sunday:	Closed

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- 📘 @secheltlibrary
- 📷 @secheltlibrary
- 📱 @secheltlibrary



May 2021 Program Guide



Seed Catalogue

Monday-Saturday during library opening hours

How it Works:

1. Apply for your free membership at the library
2. Check out seeds right away
3. Plant the seeds in your garden
4. Enjoy growing your plants
5. Harvest the seeds
6. Return the seeds to the library

Writers Group

Thursday, April 22, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17, 12:00-2:00

A friendly writing group for writers of all levels. With local writer and instructor Anthea Penne.

Book Club

Tuesday, May 11, 1:00-3:00

New General Fiction Book Club meets monthly on the 2 Tuesday. This month's book is *The Pull of the Stars*.

Stitchin'

Friday, May 28, 11:00-12:00
Learn to crochet a very cool project with Sam!

Repair Cafe

Saturday, May 8, 10:30-2:30

Free, while you wait, repair to domestic devices by some neat people. Visit the library on May 8 for this service.

Card Making

Thursdays, May 13 & 27, 11:00-12:00

Join Ruth Moore for a fun card-making class! All supplies provided to make awesome cards & bookmarks.

POUND

Thursdays, 9:30-10:30

Fun drumming inspired fitness classes with MJ Leitner! Visit Sechelt Library website for more information.

Spanish Cafe

**Fridays, Intermediate+, 2:30-3:30
Beginners+, 3:30-4:30**

A friendly way to practice and improve your Spanish conversation with Marcy Solis de Ovando.

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30

Join Julie Morgan for this gentle form of yoga that can improve your flexibility, concentration and strength.

Ukulele Jam

Fridays, 11:30-1:00

Socially distanced outdoor fun ukulele for all levels (weather & COVID protocols permitting).

Genealogy

Mondays, Fridays

Curious about your history? Want to discover your family tree? Appointment required.

Tech Help

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Have a technology question? Want to learn how to use your device? Appointment required.

*All programs require registration except Repair Café and Seed Catalogue. Call (604) 885-3260 to register.

Youth Programs



Storytime with Talia



Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00

Join Talia and Gretta for a fun, interactive, and educational storytime! See website events calendar for details.



Storytime with Sam



Thursdays, 3:30-4:00

Join Sam for stories and songs. Parent participation encouraged! See website events calendar for details.



Crafting Class



Monday, May 21 (pro-d day), 1:00-2:00

Join Ruth Moore for a creative crafting class. All materials provided. Registration required.



Mom & Me Story Walk

Monday, May 3 - Sunday, May 9, All Day

Children will take a socially distanced walk through Rockwood, starting at the Sechelt Library. Come during opening hours.



Youth Book Club



Tuesday, May 11, 3:30-4:30

Calling all book lovers! Join us to discuss books. Age 9-13. Registration required.



Teen Book Club



Tuesday, May 11, 3:30-4:30

Calling all book lovers! Join us to discuss books. Age 13-19. Registration required.

May 2021

Fun and Games



msosbol: _____
 rwam: _____
 rbisd: _____
 wgor: _____
 owsefrl: _____
 nptla: _____
 hcaht: _____
 ipncic: _____
 ulspit: _____
 gpsrni: _____
 aym: _____
 ciprh: _____
 niar: _____
 rhate: _____
 arnedg: _____

Flowers	Earth	Blossom
Birds	Tulips	Plant
Garden	Picnic	Hatch
May	Rain	Warm
Spring	Chirp	Grow



SECHELT
LIBRARY



14. Volunteer Income Tax Clinics

Sechelt Library continues to host tax clinics with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program with our tax prep volunteer, Terry, who prepares returns for eligible patrons. Demand for this free service has been very high and we have added as many days as possible in the Room of Requirement for Terry to prepare taxes and help patrons. To date, in Sechelt Library alone, Terry has prepared 150 tax returns and we currently have appointments which will and another 50 at least. **A total of at least 200!** This is incredible.

15. Services in the Library – Q1 Statistics

As you are all aware, we offer many services in the library - almost everything being **FREE**.

Here are some **Q1 2021 highlights (January 1 – March 31)**.

TECH HELP:

Free ½ hour appointments for “Tech Help” with our Tech Education Coordinator, Talia. We assist patrons, young and old (mostly older), with technical assistance on their phones, tablets, Ipads, laptops and computers. This service is invaluable to patrons in our community and they tell us how appreciative they are every day.

101 one on one appointments with Talia

COMPUTERS, WIFI and INFORMATION OF OUR WEBSITE:

Free use of computers in the library, and free WIFI inside and outside the library.

Computer Users: 1,035

WIFI Users: 3,202

Website Visits: 10, 967

GENEALOGY TUTORING

Hour long appointments in one on one genealogy tutoring with Teresa. As Teresa has many other focuses in the library she can offer two appointments per week for this service – and she is always in demand. We have Ancestry Library Edition for our library users and, based on the quality of our services and knowledge, our library has also been designated as a Family Search Affiliate Library

21 people discovered their family origins and family tree through our one on one appointments with Teresa.

TRANSIT TICKET SALES:

This is a new service since Dec 2020 that we have been working with Sunshine Coast Transit on. Our Q1 2021 sales have been:

4 adult passes

12 senior/youth passes

72 books of ten tickets

16. The Great Migration

What's a librarian to do when the non-fiction shelves are way too full at one end and six huge shelves down the line they are slack? The great migration bit by bit... Thank-you Jeff and Beth.



17. Seniors Directory – Coast Reporter

In the April 30th edition of the Coast Reporter there will be **Seniors Directory** published. They have not printed one for years and have been working on it for a while. We have placed an ad, written a 100 word article and submitted photos. Hopefully all will be included.



SECHELT LIBRARY
Space to Think

- **Friendly Staff**
- **Technology Help**
- **Programs & Classes**
- **eBooks & Audio books**
- **Newspapers & Magazines**
- **Public Computers**
- **Printing, Faxing, and Scanning**
- **Genealogy Tutoring**
- **Reading Options for Print Disabilities**

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Sechelt Library – Something for Everyone

If your day in the library changes your life in some positive way then we have done our job. If you have a question – ask. If you need assistance - ask. If you want something you can't find – ask. Whether it's a seed exchange, technology help, genealogy tutoring, large print books, a special program or class, a photocopy or just an intriguing, educational or inspiring book – there is something for everyone. As Albert Einstein said, “The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

See you there!
Sechelt Library Staff

18. Volunteer Appreciation

We have also created an ad which will be published in the Coast Reporter on April 23rd to specifically honor our many wonderful volunteers.



SECHELT LIBRARY

Gratitude for our Volunteers

Thank-you to Diana Lofstrom for over 30 years of service to the Sechelt Library as a staff member, board member and volunteer! Congratulations on your retirement!

Thank you to Terri Fjaagesund for the incredible number of hours you spend helping Sechelt Library patrons file their taxes as part of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Thank-you to all our volunteers who contribute in so many ways to the success of the Sechelt Library.

With gratitude,
Sechelt Library Staff



19. Hosting ZOOM AGM's

This week we hosted a 5:30 pm -8:30pm AGM for the Vaucroft Improvement District. We had been working with them for a couple of months to support them with a place and the technology to host a ZOOM AGM meeting. The general sentiment at the library is that if we can make someone's life a little easier we will do it. Thank-you to Gillian for working late...

20. Union Job Reclassification

Long overdue, we are now beginning the process of going over the job descriptions and classifications for our union positions – which is all positions except mine. Our current union rep, Claire, and previous union rep, Sam, are working together to support me in this process. As we now have a fixed budget, it is important to note that although I have built in some anticipated wage additions to accommodate this process. Hopefully we will work together well for the benefit of staff and the library.

21. Grant Application Joint Project

The District of Sechelt, the SIGD and the Sechelt Library are partnering on a grant application for Health Communities. The District applied for a \$7500 grant from the Sunshine Coast Foundation to hire two liaisons to work with all three groups and come up with a strategy for this grant application. I met with Rebecca Klady, one of the liaisons hired, this week to go over some of the ideas that the Sechelt library came up with in response to this Healthy Communities Initiative. There are some exciting initiatives being discussed by all parties.

Related article from the Coast Reporter that came out prior to my meeting with Rebecca:

Reconciliation group launches move to revitalize shíshálh, Sechelt borders

A stretch of pebbled shoreline and a roadway flecked with chain link fence dividing shíshálh and District of Sechelt lands could become sites for the community and beyond to walk a few steps down the path of reconciliation.

Apr 15, 2021 10:14 AM By: Sophie Woodrooffe



Interpretive signage on the pier at Friendship Park, with shísháhlh Nation lands in the background. The existing signage focuses mainly on settler history. Sophie Woodrooffe Photo

A stretch of pebbled shoreline and a roadway flecked with chain link fence dividing shísháhlh and District of Sechelt lands could become sites for the community and beyond to walk a few steps down the path of reconciliation.

The initiative, still in its infancy, is being planned by those involved with the siyaya reconciliation movement, including newcomer and Salish Environmental Group founder Aaron Joe, who presented an idea for revitalizing the waterfront at the bay of ch’atlich or Trail Bay and removing chain link fencing along Xenichen Avenue at a District of Sechelt council meeting last week.

“I’ve been thinking about this for quite some time,” Joe told council on April 7, adding he had been searching for a way to contribute after being encouraged by his mother and shísháhlh Nation elder Valerie Joe to join the movement.

“I’d like to be part of a movement that acknowledges our past but also demonstrates how we can move forward,” he said.

Joe shared elements of what he described as an “opportunity of a shared project on the waterfront,” including building a pavilion at the end of the pier at Friendship Park, installing lighting and upgrading the path along shísháhlh Nation land.

An interpretive sign already located on the pier largely focuses on settler history. The group has suggested installing “shísháhlh and settler historical information on the pier creating a gathering place on the water,” according to a letter submitted to council by former chief and siyaya co-founder Garry Feschuk.

Friendship Park stands adjacent to shísháhlh Nation land and was built by the Rotary Club of the Sunshine Coast–Sechelt, while the pier is operated by District of Sechelt.

The landmarks at the dividing line between shísháhlh Nation and the District of Sechelt are conspicuous for anyone walking the shoreline from Selma Park to Snickett Park, known by some as “Rock to Rock,” especially now as the nation has kept its roads closed to non-members to protect the Indigenous community during the pandemic.

Additional interpretive “Rock to Rock” signage has been proposed along the shoreline of the bay of ch’atlich (Trail Bay).

Xenichen Avenue, which runs from Porpoise Bay through Sechelt and parallel to Friendship Park, also divides the two jurisdictions, with chain link fence obstructing some locations.

At the meeting, Joe said after sharing his idea with members of the syiyaya movement and with Sechelt Mayor Darnelda Siegers, “it seemed to make good sense that we start to look at taking some of the fences down on the border between the shíshálh Nation lands and the District of Sechelt.”

Removing the fencing has been a long-standing desire of some shíshálh Nation elders, syiyaya co-founder Nancy Denham told Coast Reporter after the meeting. “Elders suggested bringing down the wall years ago,” she said.

An art installation walkway project along the section of road from McDonald’s to Friendship Park, with artwork from shíshálh Nation and Sechelt artists, has been proposed.

“As this new initiative evolves, we envision many more ideas and projects will come forward,” said the letter.

The District of Sechelt has applied for a \$7,500 “start-up” grant through the Sunshine Coast Foundation, and at the meeting council voted unanimously to support the multi-year project in principle.

Shíshálh Nation council was also expected to vote to support the project in principle at an April 14 meeting, after Coast Reporter’s print deadline.

Sechelt council also approved using \$5,000 from the council contingency fund to assist with project management costs, including retaining Rebecca Klady and Brian Johnson to initiate community outreach and to apply for provincial and federal grants to cover costs once project ideas are finalized.

“We’re going to start very quickly now [and] try to talk to as many people as we can, try to identify different projects that can all be connected into some broader vision of moving forward in the right direction together,” said Johnson at the meeting.

“It will culminate towards the end of June with some grant applications, to see if we can’t move some of these projects forward.”

A steering committee has also been established, which includes Aaron Joe, former shíshálh Nation chief Calvin Craigan, Siegers and Denham.

The group will be seeking both grants and local contributions, said Johnson, and if grants are successful, the district would be reimbursed.

Garry Feschuk, who introduced the concept at the April 7 meeting, referenced Sechelt/shíshálh Hospital as another example of how the two jurisdictions have collaborated in the past.

The band donated 10 acres of land to move the hospital from Pender Harbour to its now central location in Sechelt.

“I’m really looking forward to having a proposal put into detail with the help of both the Sechelt Indian Band and the District of Sechelt, to have ideas to make that into a reality. It will be a showcase of how First Nations and outside communities can work together,” he said.

In his letter to council, Feschuk noted the syiyaya movement is also planning a ceremony for the survivors of residential school.

He said work must continue to help heal survivors of residential school, who inspired the movement in the first place following the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls to Action.

“Reconciliation is not an easy process,” said Feschuk. “I really think it may take a million steps before we get to full reconciliation, but we’re well on our way.”