



**Director's Report**  
**Sechelt Public Library**

**September 28, 2023 – October 25, 2023**

**By Leianne Emery**

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## 1. Cover Photo

We have had some new additions this year to our aging Halloween decorations. A gigantic furry spider spinning a web in a children's area window, a cauldron full of smoky vapor and a very vocal caged black raven that somehow knows when a library patron walks nearby...

## 2. Highlights for October

- Magazine area / public computer area photo frames set up and ready for SSC Camera Club
- Replacement for Outdoor Book/Audio Return bins ordered
- More needles (a baggie full) found in Book Drop
- CRA/Service Canada Super Clinic coming Friday
- Cognitive Care Kits being processed and cataloguing
- Funding and Service Agreement still being worked on
- Literacy Coalition activity planning underway
- 2-day woman's public toilet shutdown
- Complete SPL Website layout overhaul underway
- BC Government "Typical Week" underway

## 3. Funding and Service Agreement

Progress is being made on completing a workable and updated Funding and Service Agreement. The SNGD population addition made by Census Canada (21 persons now added to the official population count -  $744+21 = 765$ ) will now change all the excel calculations made to date, by us, for the funders on prorated contributions.

## 4. Friends of the Library

The amazing volunteers at "Friends of the Library" (FOL) work tirelessly to put on Book Faires throughout the year and raise funds for "extras", like capital purchases, for the Library. The Book faire on October 20, 32 and 22 raised \$1,235.

## 5. Book Displays for October

Our unique displays highlighting specific areas of intrigue, holidays, celebrations, seasonal activities, unique subjects from our collection, subjects that match our programming activities, unique world and local events or highlights are as follows for the month of October.

- Family History
- It's a Mystery
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- BC Shakeout (earthquake)
- Staff Picks
- Halloween
- Word of the Month - lycanthropy

## 6. Website Overhaul

We are currently overhauling the website in order to make it more logical, efficient, simplified, easier to maintain and of course include more accessible oriented practices. The revised website plan is written out on paper but will take some time to implement fully as Teresa is the only one who can and will be implementing the actual changes. It is a very time-consuming task but the wait will be worth it.

## 7. Meeting with local MLA Nicolas Simons

The three Library Directors from Gibsons (Heather), Sechelt (Lianne) and Powell River (Rebecca) met with Nicolas Simons, MLA, Powell River Sunshine Coast on October 3, 2023.

In our conversation, we focused on these areas:

- our programs and services that were tied to provincial priorities and responsibilities: health, social services, housing, emergency preparedness, reconciliation, local/provincial economies, education, accessibility, and government services
- the challenge we faced with provincial funding interfering with local funding and the confusion that surrounded the provincial marketing and wording (I will speak more about this in the Board meeting)
- challenges related to current funding levels: what are we not doing currently or what would we have to cut back if a permanent funding lift is not received. Such as: reduced hours, fewer Storytimes etc. and what that might mean to our communities.

This is the message all libraries sent to their local MLAs in preparation for our meetings:

**To: Nicholas Simons, MLA Powell River- Sunshine Coast**

**Re: October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with Library Directors from Powell River, Sechelt and Gibsons Public Libraries**

**Key Messages of BC Government Ask:**

On behalf of every public library across our province, the BC Public Library Partners request the Government of BC allocate sustained funding to support BC public libraries through an increase in annual funding to \$30 million dollars per year. A core funding increase to \$30 million a year would maintain the current balance of 14% of funds going to shared, provincial services and 86% of the core funding going directly to public library systems.

BC's 71 public libraries, with 250 locations, serve as critical social infrastructure. These free and inclusive hubs provide safe and healthy public spaces, welcoming everyone in the community, acting as formal and informal pathways for learning in a safe, knowledgeable, and caring environment. Libraries contribute to local and provincial economies as employers, consumers, and by providing resources and support for entrepreneurs and job seekers. Basic literacy breaks down many barriers, enabling individuals to proceed to additional education and build their economic mobility.

The role of libraries continues to evolve and expand in response to social changes and community needs and demands. **Much of that expansion is tied to provincial priorities and responsibilities: health, social services, housing, emergency preparedness, reconciliation, local/provincial economies, education, accessibility, and government services.** As community hubs, we are increasingly an integral part of emergency plans for communities as they prepare for, and respond to, the impacts of a changing climate.

The BC Public Library Partners and our partners in communities throughout BC are grateful for the BC Government's one-time contributions. Without increasing the annual provincial grant for public libraries in BC to a sustainable level, libraries will find it difficult to continue to operate without cutting services such as reduced hours or fewer story times.

With adequate, stable, and sustained provincial funding, BC's public libraries will meet their communities' existing needs and continue to effectively respond to emerging needs tied to social changes and pressures.

Provincial funding is an essential support directly to local libraries and indirectly via sectoral infrastructure and organizations that help facilitate efficiency, leverage economies of scale to achieve savings at a provincial level and ensure libraries can support their communities throughout the province.

## 8. Some Interesting Stats Q1-Q3

### From January 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023:

1. Jason has done 319 one-on-one tech appointments with patrons in our library's Room of Requirement. This doesn't count the total of regular, non-scheduled questions that Jason - and all the library staff - answer or problems they solve for patrons every day.
2. 22 people wrote an exam with our free exam invigilation services
3. Staff have made over 940 individual transactions with the sale of SCRD's Sunshine Coast transit tickets. That is a lot of staff time for a total commission to date of less than \$1000 but is a great service for our community.
4. Almost 25 people have had a private genealogy appointment with Teresa learning how to search their family history
5. Over 250 people in our community have had repairs done - for free - by the incredible team of Repair Café volunteers that work from our library on the second Saturday of each month.
6. As an example week, our automated patron counter for last week shows a 30% increase in library traffic over the same period last year

Week 4	This Year	Last Year	Changes
Sun, Oct 15	0	0	-
Mon, Oct 16	294	243	▲ 20.99%
Tue, Oct 17	268	246	▲ 8.94%
Wed, Oct 18	243	35	▲ 594.29%
Thu, Oct 19	313	291	▲ 7.56%
Fri, Oct 20	340	291	▲ 16.84%
Sat, Oct 21	238	189	▲ 25.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>▲ 30.97%</b>

7. In August 2023 we had 8,163 visitors in the library. This monthly number to date has averaged between 6,125 per month and 8,163 per month.



8. New library memberships to date since January 1<sup>st</sup> are 666... So, in the first ¾ of 2023, we have already hit 93% of last year's total library memberships.
9. We have averaged 290 people per day in the library since January 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. Almost 100k items have been checked out of our library since January 1<sup>st</sup>.
11. Almost 25 persons have been able to speak with Janette about accessibility options that may be well suited to their needs.

## 9. Program Guides – October

As you saw from our October Program Guide, we had a multitude of programs and events during the month – many of them new and some now overcapacity. There are still some exciting events to come in the remaining few days of October if any of our Board Members (or others) would like to partake: Candy Guessing Game, Jack-O Lantern contest, pumpkin carving, dungeons and dragons, Halloween costume contest, spooky story walk, card making with Ruth, stitchin, chair yoga, Uke jam, uke lessons, Service Canada/CRA Super Clinic, Movie - Little Shop of Horrors (and snacks) and the ever- popular Mario Kart Tournament.



*Gail eyeing the candies in the Candy Guessing Game*

As Halloween falls on a weekday this year (a Tuesday), the staff are going to dress up! Here is an example of a costume you will soon see on our library floor...





## 10. Program Guides – November

### ONE-ONE-SUPPORT

#### **Genealogy Tutoring** FREE

Curious about your family history? Want to discover your family tree?

**Appointment with Teresa required.**

#### **Tech Assistance** FREE

30 minute one-on-one sessions with our local tech expert. **Appointment with Jason required.**

#### **Accessibility Services** FREE

One-on-one assistance with Daisy audio players, accessibility programs, and resources for individuals with visual impairments or other print disabilities. **Appointment with Janette required.**

#### **Repair Café** FREE

*Saturday, December 9, 10:30-2:30*

Free, while you wait, repair to domestic appliances and devices by volunteers from Gibsons Repair Café. Basic mending of clothes also offered.

**No repair cafe in November.**

#### **Knitting Repairs** FREE

*Saturday, December 9, 10:30-2:30*

The Spinners and Weavers Guild will be joining us to provide guidance on how to repair your knitted items.

### BOOK FAIRE

#### **Organized and run by volunteers of "Friends of the Library"**

Fri, November 17 12:00 - 5:00

Sat, November 18 10:00 - 4:00

Sun, November 19 12:00 - 3:00

Community Room at the Sechelt Library

Donations are welcome but limited to 1 box of books on Friday or Saturday only, during Book Faire hours.

**Please do not put donations in the Library's book returns!**



# NOVEMBER 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE



## 2023 BC LIBRARIES VIRTUAL AUTHOR SERIES

**John Vaillant: Our New Fire Weather**

*Wednesday November 8, 6:30PM - 8:30PM*

**Online Only**

Please visit the Sechelt Library website for the link to the live event. Thanks to our library federation, InterLINK, for hosting and arranging this series of virtual author events.

## PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

### Dealing with a Death

*Tuesday, Nov, 14, 12:00-1:00 Community Room*

We will be showing a live webinar on the law aspects of Dealing with a Death. We will act as host and ask your questions during the Q&A portion. **Registration Required.**

## REGISTRATION


**All programs are FREE!**

Call (604) 885-3260 or visit the library to register.

## LIBRARY HOURS

<b>Monday:</b>	10-5 Nov 13 CLOSED
<b>Tuesday:</b>	10-5
<b>Wednesday:</b>	10-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	10-5
<b>Friday:</b>	10-5
<b>Saturday:</b>	10-4 Nov 11 CLOSED
<b>Sunday:</b>	CLOSED

## CONTACT

 (604) 885-3260

 [info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca](mailto:info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca)

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

### In Flander Fields

by

**John McCrae**

In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

\*This work is in the public domain.



## ADULTS

### Stitchin'

Monday Nov, 6, 27, 10:30-11:30

#### Community Room

Bring your knitting/crochet/stitching project and enjoy a friendly stitchin' session with other crafters. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**

**No session on November 13 & 20.**

### Card Making with Ruth

Thursday Nov, 9, 23, 11:00-12:00

#### Community Room

Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. **Registration Required.**

### Chair Yoga

Mondays, Nov 6, 27, 12:00-1:00

#### Community Room & Zoom

Join Bobbie Seale-Cobisky for this gentle form of yoga. Zoom link on our website.

**No session on November 13 & 20**

### Astronomy Group Meeting

Friday, Nov 10, 7:00-9:00

#### Community Room & Zoom

Presentation by Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club. **Registration Required.**

### Colouring Club for Adults

Wednesday, Nov 8, 29, 4:00-5:00 Ages 16+

#### Room of Requirement

Join us for a fun and relaxing session of detailed colouring. Supplies provided.

**Space is limited. Registration Required.**

### Christmas Cracker Workshop

Friday, Dec 1, 11:00-12:30 Ages 16+

#### Community Room

Learn how to make a set of 4-6 homemade Christmas Crackers. All supplies provided.

**Registration Required. Space is Limited.**

### Coming Soon:

#### Sechelt Library Writing Group

Are you interested in joining a writing group led by local author Jocelyne Gregory? Contact the Sechelt Library to express your interest.

### SPL Book Club

Wednesday, Nov 15, 11:00-12:00

#### Room of Requirement

Read *Five Little Indians* by [Michelle Good](#) in preparation for the next book club meeting.

**New members welcome. Registration Required.**

### Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Nov 28, 1:00-2:30

#### Room of Requirement

Read *Chip War* by [Chris Miller](#) in preparation for the next book club meeting.

**New members welcome. Registration Required.**

### Ancestor Hunters

Tuesday, Nov 28, 10:00-12:00

#### Community Room

Interested in your family history? Come join our group of dedicated ancestor hunters.

**New members welcome. Registration Required.**

### Lowry Olafson Concert

Saturday, Nov 25, 2:00-4:00

#### Community Room

Local singer-songwriter, and keynote speaker Lowry Olafson will be performing a concert for all ages in his signature style. He has released nine CD and toured the globe with his music.

**Registration Required.**

## ALL AGES

### Laser Tag!

Friday, Nov 24, 5:30-8:30

#### Sechelt Library

Grab your friends and join us for an evening of laser tag! All equipment provided. See website for more info.

**Space is limited. Registration required.**

**Registration opens November 8 at 10:30am.**

**Call or come into the library to sign up for a timeslot.**

## Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, 5:30-8:30

### Sechelt Library

Adventure begins at the library! Join the party for exciting adventures in imagination every Tuesday at the Library. **Registration Required.**

## Art Supply and Toy Swap

Saturday, Nov 4, 10:00-12:00 Accepting Donations

Saturday, Nov 4, 12:00-3:00 Swap

### Community Room

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Bring your unused art supplies and gently used toys and swap them for something new to you.

**Limit of one box per household of donations.**

**We reserve the right to reject damaged items.**

## CHILDREN & TEENS

## Fall Family Storytime

Saturdays, Nov 4, 18, 25, 10:30-11:00 Ages <5

### Children's Area or Outside

Recommended for families with children five and under. Join us on some Saturdays for a drop-in Family Storytime for books, songs, and play.

**No Registration Required.**

**Special Guest Nov 18: Starr the Great Dane**

**No session November 11.**

## Drop-In Lego

Wednesday, Nov 1, 15, 29, 3:00-4:30 Ages 4-12

### Children's Area

We're bringing back this family favorite! Come and build anything you can imagine at this drop-in program. **No registration required.**

## Kids Card-Making

Saturday, Nov 25, 2:30-3:30 Ages 4-8

### Room of Requirement

Local card-making buff Ruth Moore, will be leading this card-making and crafts class. Supplies Provided. **Registration Required.**

## Cardboard Crafts

Thursday, Nov 9, 3:00-4:30 Ages 6-11

### Community Room

In honour of BCLA Climate Action Week, come join us for a cardboard craft program where we will make cool props and costumes.

**Registration Required.**

## Retro Video Games

Thursday, Nov 16, 3:00-4:30 Ages 10-18

### Community Room

Join us after school to play some games. We'll have Nintendo Switch, Super Nintendo, and Wii U available. Snacks provided. **Registration Required.**

## Teen Book Cafe

Thursday, Nov 23, 3:30-4:30 Ages 12-18

### Community Room

Come hang out with fellow book lovers! Listen to an audiobook while you colour, make a bookmark, relax, and chat about books. Snacks Provided!

**Registration Required.**

## Light-up Card-Making

Thursday, November 30, 3:30-4:30 Ages 5-9

### Community Room

Play safely with electricity to make light-up holiday cards. We'll make some light-up cards for you to take home and then play with Squishy Circuits.

**Registration Required.**

## Youth Book Club

Wednesday, Nov 8, 3:30-4:30

### Teen Area

Join us at the library to discuss books. Call the library or email sam.iversen@secheltlibrary.ca to register and borrow a copy of *Amulet: The Stone Keeper* by Kazu Kibuishi. Snacks Provided!

**Registration Required.**

## Teen Anime Club

Friday, Nov 10, 24, 3:00-4:50 Age 9-18

### Community Room

Join us at the library to watch anime and discuss manga. We will be watching anime thanks to Crunchyroll. Snacks Provided! The content is rated PG13 or TV14A. **Registration Required.**

## 11. Needles (once again) in the Book Drop


In early October, we were once again taken aback at the site of a baggie full of used needles hidden among the books in our outdoor magazine / DVD drop. Fortunately, none of our staff were injured by the needles but there will come a time when this might not be the case. It is beyond angering and frustrating. Although the District of Sechelt were notified, we also called “Straight to the Point”. This is a Vancouver Coastal Health funded organization that does immediate needle clean up in various communities including Sechelt. Strait to the Point advised that there must have been an overdose as well as two of the needles were Narcan.

<https://www.vch.ca/en/service/vancouver-needle-distribution-and-recovery-van#short-description--12791>



## 12. Patron Comments

Dear Teresa  
I would like to thank  
you sincerely for  
assisting me on a  
one-on-one Ancestry  
appointment on Friday  
6<sup>th</sup> October. You found  
where my Grandmother's  
routes were in Tipperary  
Ireland and I am very  
grateful for that.  
Best regards and  
Thanks again



A set of keys found in the parking lot was turned into the library and, because of the Sechelt library card attached to the key ring, we were able to track him down. He was ever so grateful.

Thursday September 14, 2023

"I want to compliment the library on its efficiency, the wonderful staff and how welcoming it is." Linda H.

Sept 14, 2023

"Everyone's so nice in this library. There's great energy here"

Sept. 16, 2023

Positive comment about our "no pets" policy. Patron very pleased.

Monday August 20, 2023

a gentleman was asking for directions to a local business but said before leaving "what a beautiful library!"