

Director's Report Sechelt Public Library

October 26, 2023 – November 29, 2023

By Leianne Emery

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1. Cover Photo



The cover photo, which is of the inside of a card, makes more sense when you see the front of the card. Rudolf's nose lights up when the circuit is completed! We love that our children's card making program will be teaching science and technology!

2. Highlights for November

- Massive gas leak outside the library
- Magazine / public computer area now showcases nine beautiful SSC Camera Club photos
- Cognitive Care Kits being processed and cataloguing
- Funding and Service Agreement completed and with councils for approval
- Literacy Coalition activity planning for 2023 completed
- SPL Website layout overhaul still underway
- BC Government "Typical Week" completed
- 2nd shipment of black slanted shelves received and rejected
- Staff Halloween costumes a hit
- Our SPL website's Genealogy page and resources a hit with two local boy scouts
- UMO comes to the Sunshine Coast with SPL as a likely vendor
- SPL and Sechelt Hospital Foundation's "Med Talks Diabetes" as a vendor
- SPL to partner with Elder College for Spring program offering
- Interlink anticipates SPL to be a net lender
- Outreach to Mom e Mom at the Sechelt Nation and Babies and Bellies in Pender Harbour
- Fog machine sets alarms off

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3. Funding and Service Agreement

A Funding and Service Agreement has now been written in final form by the negotiating representatives (Tina SCRD, Dave Douglas DOS, Leianne SPL and the sNGD. The language was updated, small errors were fixed and the new baseline for 2024 and 2025 funding calculated.

Although there were 6 options on the table (see Library Directors Report for June 2023 – page 3), the choice made by all funders was to lower the funding levels we received in 2023 from the DOS and the sNGD to match the lower funding level received by the SCRD. The SCRD gave both libraries, Gibson and Sechelt, 7%. New 2021 census population data was also used. The local government partners wanted to maintain the same prorated formula as the original Funding and Service Agreement intended. This ultimately takes what would have been a 3% increase from local government funders for 2024 down to a 1.66% increase for 2024 from the 2023 budget. This lowered level of funding is the new baseline for all funding partners in the funding agreement for 2024 and 2025. The dollar loss was approx. \$13K

The SCRD brought the new Funding and Service Agreement to the committee of the whole on November 9 and it was passed through on November 23rd. We had understood that a budget submission and presentation was not required with the new SCRD rules this year and our Funding Agreement in place. Apparently, as we were told today, this is not the case and the SCRD still requires full paperwork to be submitted. We will be submitting to Round 2 of the SCRD budget presentation – but not doing a presentation - on January 22, 2024.

The District of Sechelt will be bringing the new Funding and Service Agreement before the DOS council soon. The DOS does not require us to do a budget submission or presentation.

The sNGD has yet to make the outstanding 2023 payment of \$9505. We do not yet know if they are bringing the new Funding and Service Agreement before their council. We have asked.

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 November 17-19 raised \$2126.

The FOL will be having their Christmas appreciation party on Thursday Dec 7th and the Library will be supplying the flowers for table beauty and giveaways.

5. Book Displays for November

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 November.

Climate Action Week Remembrance Day (including actual photographs and postcards from WW1 and WW2 Biographies of authors Holiday Cooking

6. Great Gas Leak

On November 16, 2023 a Fortis contractor working on connecting gas lines right outside the library created a severe gas leak that resulted in the harsh odor of gas permeating the air for about 1.5 hours. Although we were prepared to evacuate the library if necessary, the Library and the District of Sechelt were told to leave all the doors and windows closed on the north and east side and only exit via the main library doors on the south side. All emergency vehicles were attending.





7. Laser tag, the FOG machine and alarms

To add to the excitement and ambiance of our second "laser tag" after hours at the Library, we purchased a FOG machine. We tested it in the foyer and it worked like charm. It was rated for indoor use (but in hindsight we now know that this ins in relation to respiratory consumption). On Friday November 24th, Sam and Charlotte plugged in the FOG machine for 20 minutes then turned off as the FOG level was sufficient.

10 minutes later the fire alarms go off!!!

The Sechelt Fire Department attended as did Dylan as a building representative of the District of Sechelt. Over the space of 1.5 hours the following procedures were done to reduce the FOG:

- 1. The library's circulation fans were turned on
- 2. The windows were opened
- 3. The air supply was turned on take outdoor air to inside
- 4. The exhaust fans were turned on to take smokey air out of the library

The fire alarm system is the detection system and the sprinklers are the suppression system. The suppression system (the sprinklers) was not activated as they would have required extreme heat to melt the sprinkler heads.

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8. Sudden and Unusual Power Outage

Power Outage Wednesday November 1, 2023.

The power outage:

At approximately 3:00PM the Sechelt Library experienced a power outage of unusual nature. Half of the building lost power, resulting in some systems continuing to run while others did not. Speculation is that we lost power to one "Leg" of the power panel. (Typically, in North America power is delivered via two 110V connections to the power panel, one on the left side, one on the right. This allows for both 110V and 220V connections from the same panel. These connections are referred to as "Legs")

Power loss in the Library:

Power was lost to the circulation desk, the reference desk, half of the overhead lighting, and the staff room. Several of the public computers, the public printer, the room of requirement and the kitchen maintained power. Power was also lost to the computer closet where our network and internet devices are installed.

Battery Backups for the Server and Networking Equipment:

When the power was lost, the Staff server and networking equipment switched to battery backups. These backups were able to run for the duration of the power outage, allowing us to still access internet and our Wi-Fi network as most of our Wi-Fi antenna are powered through the network systems and not the wall plugs.

This setup allowed our Square reader point of sale system, which has an internal battery, to continue to run and process payments. This was very important as several patrons requested monthly bus passes during the outage, the patrons having been directed towards the library by the aquatic center which lost all access to their systems.

During the power outage, to accommodate patrons, the staff resorted to pen and paper records of books and library card numbers with the intention of manually entering the records once power and access was restored.

Partway through the outage the laptop typically used in the room of requirement for one on one sessions was moved to the reference desk, as its internal battery and Wi-Fi connection allowed for access to the SITKA system for processing book withdrawals. Staff were in the process of running an extension cord from a known working outlet to the reference desk for the laptop when power was restored.

Aftermath:

The power outage lasted from 3:00PM to 4:30PM. After the power outage the battery backups were examined and determined to have 1/3 of a charge remaining, allowing us to confirm the two-hour run time of the backup systems. Once power was restored the refence desk, circulation desk, and staff room computers were powered on and it was determined that no noticeable damage had occurred to the systems. Staff manually entered the library card and barcodes of books borrowed during the outage without incident.

9. Story in the Coast Reporter

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10. Typical Week

As part of our annual BC provincial funding, we are required to complete extensive annual statistics and reporting which is due each March the year following. Some statistics are more easily calculated if done over a one-week period. This week is designated by the BC province libraries branch as "typical week" and is in late October each year. For "typical week" we pay very close attention to only 4 main statistics:

- 1. Interactions
- 2. Public computer use
- 3. In-house use of materials
- 4. In person visits

Although we do calculate the above stats on an annual basis, the data collected in an intensive one week focus for at least two of the above, is likely more accurate than the data collected over a year.

For example, "in house use of materials". On an annual basis, when we see books or items someone has left on a table, typically in the morning before opening or at the end of the day, we will take those books and enter them into our Sitka system as "in-house use". This will recognize a "circulation" on that particular book, magazine or library item. During "typical week" we will actually make <u>hourly</u> rounds to pick up books and items left on tables (or other) but we will <u>also</u> watch how many of our materials are also being used by persons at the time. Of course, if a person uses or reads an item during the time we are not watching – and puts it back on the shelf properly, we would never know about it. As with all statistics, they are not an exact science.

Public Computer use stats would be the same done on an annual basis or during "typical week".

Interestingly enough, although in person visits should be the same from an annual perspective or "typical week", it does not exactly capture the true numbers of persons coming into the library as our main programming area, the Community Room, is outside of our library area when the patron counter is working. Most libraries, such as Gibsons and others, have programming rooms actually inside the library whereby those program attendees are counted as in person visits easily.

So, our actual one week (6 days) "Typical Week" results were as follows:

Interactions	1,136
Public Computer Use	155
In House Use of Materials	288
In Person Visits	1,821

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11. Literacy Coalition Activities for 2024

Sechelt Library is part of the Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition and meets regularly to jointly plan, promote and put on events with all other coalition partners (Sechelt Library, Gibson Library, SD 46, Writers Festival, Capilano University, Kallie George author, Credit Union etc...). Our plans for 2024 will now include the following activities:

- 1. Sock sale
- 2. Family Literacy Day 2 live performances on January 26, 2024 of "Penny Pom Pom and Fae the Garden Fairy" (from Haida Gwaii) at Roberts Creek Hall for over 400 children (set up, snacks, take down, logistics etc)
- 3. Book for babies 2024
- 4. Books for all kindergarten kids
- 5. Human Library

12. Living Wage on the Sunshine Coast

As we worked hard in the last contract negotiation to make our unionized staff's wages more equal to that of Gibson Library by the end of 2025, we are also cognizant that some of our staff wages are just a few cents about the Living Wage.

Excerpt from the Coast Reporter:

Lower Sunshine Coast's living wage hits \$25.61

Fifth highest calculated cost of living in B.C.

Bronwyn Beairsto, Editor Nov 8, 2023 8:44 PM

Cost of living continues to soar on the Sunshine Coast – but its rise has slowed.

The just-released living wage estimate for the lower Sunshine Coast in 2023 is \$25.61 per hour – 5.4 per cent higher than it was in 2022.

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This follows an astronomical <u>22.8 per cent increase</u> in the living wage calculation for the Sunshine Coast between 2021 and 2022. The 2021 calculation was \$19.79 per hour and the 2022 calculation was \$24.30 per hour.

The <u>Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC Office (CCPA-BC)</u> and <u>Living Wage for</u> <u>Families BC</u> dropped its <u>Metro Vancouver living wage update report</u> on Nov. 8, with the Sunshine Coast Foundation concurrently releasing a <u>localised assessment</u>.

The living wage is based on two parents working full time to support the basic needs of a family of four in a community with what the regional report describes as a "conservative, bare bones budget" for a "decent if still very modest standard of living."

The calculation takes into account housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, phone and internet, clothing, education and contingency. It does not take into account debt payments, retirement saving, education saving, home ownership, caring for an ill or injured family member or an emergency cushion.

By the numbers:

The Coast's 2023 living wage is the fifth highest of the 19 B.C. communities that participated in this year's initiative.

The highest living wage in B.C. went to Clayoquot Sound at \$26.51 per hour, followed by Daajing Giids in Haida Gwaii, \$26.25; Golden, \$25.78 and Metro Vancouver, \$25.68. The lowest calculated living wage was \$20.64 per hour, for Dawson Creek. Powell River's living wage was calculated at \$25.06.

Last year, the Coast's living wage was the third highest calculated in B.C.

– With files from Keili Bartlett

13. Black Slanted Shelves

After <u>two</u> rejected shipments (due to extensive damage during shipping) of black slanted shelves, we now eagerly await a third shipment now in production at the manufacturer. These capital assets are not covered in an operating budget, but we have had a commitment from the Friends of the Library to cover the costs.

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14. BC Transit and the UMO System

Sunshine Coast transit is anticipating "Umo" to launch in the Sunshine Coast transit system in January 2024 and are looking to Sechelt Library to be one of their vendors. We took on the responsibility and additional workload for selling paper transit tickets for the SCRD during covid when the rec centre would not do it but "Umo" is a different system requiring more technology and staff time.

As a vendor, we would have Umo reloadable cards that need to be activated by us and then provide to customers for them to either load themselves (using an app) or that we would load for them using a Umo merchant portal. The merchant portal, which we would have to have on our circ and reference computers, does not complete payment transactions, it only loads fare products to customer accounts, so we would also then have to take customer payments via our library square.

Umo vendors would be contracted directly with BC Transit. Currently we are contracted through the SCRD. For a transition period of up to one year when the paper fare cards are still being offered, we would have to work with two vendors.

From January 1 – Oct 31, 2023, our staff have conducted over **1,060 individual transactions** on behalf of the SCRD, adding to an already very busy workload.

15. Late October (Halloween) + November activities















Lowry Olafson Concert was enjoyed by many on Nov 25th

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Cardboard crafts



Storytime Nov 4



Pumpkin Carving



A class visit to Sechelt Library - Roberts Creek Outdoor School, Thursday Nov 23

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16. Sechelt Library Genealogy and the Boy Scouts

Hi there, Leianne!

I'm reaching out to you because the Sechelt Library Genealogy/Family History Toolbox page has been super helpful for my son **Brody** and his cousin **Brycel** They are boy scouts currently in the process of earning their Genealogy badge... and they thought the page was especially useful.

The boys are really enjoying boy scouts together and are really taking an interest in learning about their family history! They have been enjoying it so much that they actually spend a lot of time at home wanting to learn more! It's super cool to see them have so much excitement about this. As an invested parent, I want to be as supportive as I can with my son with everything he wants to do and learn so I've been assisting with some research. I'm even learning more about our family tree – it's super fascinating!

Together, we wanted to send you this thank you note! So thank you so much for all of your help. The boys wanted to share another genealogy resource with you to express their excitement and gratitude: <u>https://www.hmy.com/researching-your-familys-history-from-ships-passenger-lists/</u>

Their leader of course highly encourages the boys to take the extra time at home to develop skills and passions, so it would be awesome if you could add the site to the Genealogy/Family History Toolbox page so the boys could show their leader at their next meeting.

It would be great if you could get back to me within the next couple of days. Their next meeting is actually this coming Thursday. Hope to hear from you soon!

Susan, Brody & Bryce

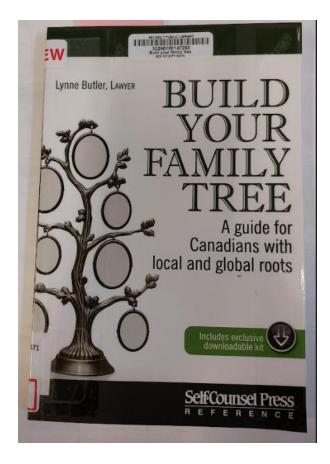
Follow Up:

We were happy to include this new resource in our Library website's Genealogy/Family History Tool Box Collection and the boys could let everyone at the Boy scouts know!

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17. Sechelt Library Genealogy and a new book

In a new book just out entitled, "Build Your family Tree", Sechelt Library has been listed as one of a few Family Search affiliate Libraries. This gives additional resources to those who use the Family Search online resource while in our library.



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BC Wills Indexes 1861-1981

18. Program Guides – December

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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.

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"

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



DECEMBER 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE



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2023 BC LIBRARIES VIRTUAL AUTHOR SERIES

Brandi Morin: On the Frontlines of Indigenous Land Defence.

Thursday, December 7, 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

Probate: A Step-by-Step Guide.

Tuesday, Dec, 5, 12:00-1:00 Community Room We will be showing a live webinar on the law aspects of Probate. 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

Monday: Tuesday: Wednesday: Thursday: Friday: Saturday: Sunday:

10-5 Dec 25 CLOSED 10-5 Dec 26 CLOSED 10-6 10-5 10-5 10-4 CLOSED

CONTACT

(604) 885-3260



HOLIDAY EVENTS

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.*

Cookie Decorating

Saturday, December 16, 12:00-3:00 All Ages Community Room

Come decorate yummy cookies with us! Sign up for a 30 minute time slot and receive all you need to decorate your festive holiday cookies. Registration Required.

A Dickens Christmas

Monday, December 18, 3:00-5:00 All Ages Community Room

Join local actor, Richard Austin, for a reading of A Christmas Carol, along with festive refreshments and treats. Please bring an item for the food bank to spread holiday cheer. Space is limited. **Registration Required.**



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ADULTS

Stitchin'

Monday December, 4, 11, 18, 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 December 25 & January 1

Card Making with Ruth

Thursday December, 14, 10:30-11:30 Community Room Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. *Registration Required*.

Chair Yoga

Class One Mondays, December 4, 11, 18 12:00-1:00 Class Two Mondays, December 4, 11, 18 1:15-2:15 Community Room & Zoom

Join Bobbie Seale-Cobisky for this gentle form of yoga. Register for a 2 month session: December and January. In person space limited. Zoom link on our website for class one. Registraion opens Nov. 27. No session on December 25 & January 1

Astronomy Group Meeting

Friday, December 8, 7:00-9:00 Community Room & Zoom Presentation by Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club. Registration Required.

Welcoming Communities

Fridays 3:00-4:00 Sechelt Library Teen Area Are you new to Canada? For help in getting settled, accessing services, learning skills, making connections in the community or learning English, Sunshine Coast Welcoming Communities can help! For more information, call Lea Bautista at (604) 212 2716 (LeaBautista@capilanou.ca) Drop-Ins Welcome

Colouring Club for Adults

Wednesday, December 6, 13, 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.

Sechelt Seed Saving Library Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 1:30-3:00 Community Room Join the Sechelt Seed Saving library for a meeting to plan next years events. New ideas, and new members welcome. If not able to come please email your ideas or leave a suggestion at the seed cabinet.

SPL Book Club

Wednesday, December 20, 11:00-12:00 **Room of Requirement** Read Spare by <u>Prince Harry</u> in preparation for the next book club meeting. **Registration Required.**

SPL Writing Group

Saturday, December 9, 10:15-11:30 Room of Requirement Join us for the first meeting of our new writing group led by local author Jocelyne Gregory! Registration Required. All skill levels welcome.

Book Launch: Winter of Siege by Jan DeGrass

Friday, December 1, 1:30-3:00 Community Room

Local author Jan DeGrass will launch her latest book: Winter of Siege. In this historical novel set in 1941/42, a young woman must travel the perilous ice road to the besieged city of Leningrad, Soviet Union, in a desperate search for her mother. Drop-Ins Welcome

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SFU Writer's Studio:

Writing Consults

Saturday, December 9, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 Room of Requirement

Free 45 min consultation with local author Jocelyne Gregory (MFA) on seven pages of your poetry or prose. Please provide samples 1-2 weeks before the appointment. **Registration Required.**

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday December 5, 12, 19, 5:30-8:00

Sechelt Library

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

Registration Required.

Ancestor Hunters

Tuesday, December 19, 10:00-12:00 Community Room Interested in your family history? Come join our group of dedicated ancestor hunters. New members welcome. Registration Required.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Fall Family Storytime

Saturdays, December 2, 9, 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 December 2: Starr the Great Dane No session December 16, 23, & 30.

Ornament Making

Thursday, December 14, 3:00-4:30 Ages 7-12 Community Room

Come make some holiday-themed ornaments and earrings out of modeling clay! We'll bake our creations so they're ready to gift, wear and hang from the tree. Supplies Provided. *Registration Required.*

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday December 5, 12, 19, 5:30-8:00 Sechelt Library

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

Registration Required.

Teen Book Cafe

Thursday, December 21, 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.

Youth Book Club

Wednesday, December 13, 3:30-4:30 Age 9-12 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 *Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs. Snacks Provided!

Registration Required.

Teen Anime Club

Friday, December 8, 22, 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.

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19. Sechelt Library at Sechelt Hospital Foundation's Med Talks

The Sechelt Hospital Foundation invited Sechelt Library to attend the "Med Talks" (focused on diabetes) at the Ravens Cry Theatre on Monday Nov 27th. Our role would be as a vendor or service provider that had something to offer the attendees in the way of diabetes management—low sugar food options, exercise, education or other supports.

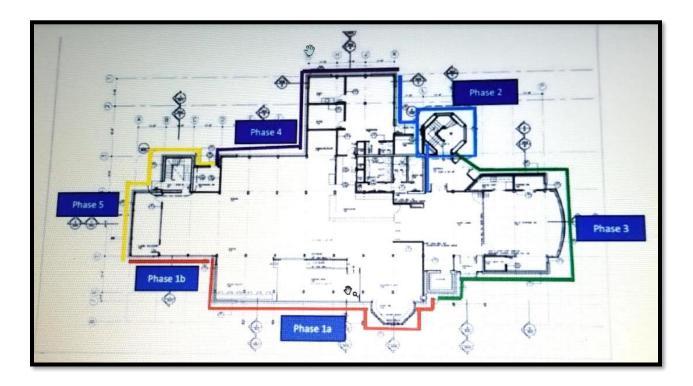
We put together a display and Jeff attended as our library representative.

Date: <u>Monday, November 27th from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m</u>. Location: Raven's Cry Theatre, Sechelt, B.C.



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20. Building Repairs



On November 24, 2023, the District of Sechelt building committee team, Jessica and Leianne from Sechelt Library and SR Engineering met online to receive an update from SR Engineering as to the status of the 1st and 2nd phase of planned building repairs. The first phase on the building south side is marked in the above photo in the colour orange and is.

During the meeting there was much discussion about activities and timelines, options still outstanding with regards to the tower, the permitting process, removal of the wisteria and trellis, windows and safety. Phase 1 is expected to commence in 2024.

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21. Bev will be missed

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bev Shaw, the owner of Tailwind Books in Sechelt. In addition to staff at Sechelt Library dealing with Bev and Tailwind Books on a professional basis for many years, many of our staff knew her personally. She will be greatly missed by so many.



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