

Friday January 19, 2024

SECHELT LIBRARY CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING

The Flood:

Early morning Wednesday January 17th we discovered extensive flooding had occurred in our building. Water was still pouring in from the ceiling most of that day. Actual cause under investigation by the District of Sechelt.

Damage:

The flood affected the District of Sechelt on the second floor and the Sechelt Library on the main floor. Water damage affected floors, ceilings, walls, lighting, equipment, furniture and parts of our library collection. District of Sechelt building maintenance staff alerted us very early Wednesday morning and moved what they could out of immediate danger. Library staff that could make it despite the snow, worked diligently all day to move everything else possible out of danger. What was in the front of the library is now “stuffed” into every nook and cranny in the back half of the library. These efforts saved most of our collection, artwork and equipment from further damage. Significant damage was also incurred to the building foyer, public washrooms and some parts of the Community Room.

Restoration:

Coast Wide Restoration was onsite immediately to work with the District of Sechelt and the Sechelt Library. Their professional restoration services will be doing everything to make our space safe again for the public and staff. The three main areas are: floors, ceilings and walls.

Floors:

- standing water was all over the front of the library on Wednesday 17th and water was still pouring in most of that day
- restoration work was ongoing for two days to dry the carpets. Further cleaning and antimicrobial treating will be necessary
- the in-floor heating was not harmed

Ceilings:

- the entire ceilings must come down in all affected areas. Lighting is also coming down.

Walls:

- all shelving must be taken off (if affixed) or away (if movable) from the walls in order to access moisture damage in the walls. Some walls show visible damage and all show moisture. Remediation work is being done to eliminate any moisture and fix all damage.

Library Services:

Library Hours:

Although we must remain closed to the public during the restoration process, we will still be available via email and by phone from 10:00 am to 4:30 Monday to Saturday. Hold pickup will be between 10am and 4:00pm Monday to Saturday.

Anticipated Closure Duration:

We anticipate being closed for at least 2 - 4 weeks. This timeline may change but we will advise when more is known.

Book Drops and Item Return:

Our book drops are currently closed so please hold on to your items to be returned until we re-open. No fines will be incurred during our closure. All items that are currently checked out will be automatically renewed for you.

Holds:

All library items currently “on hold” in our library or “on hold” in the system and in transit will be processed and available to our patrons. Even if you have received email notice, we will be calling each patron with instructions for pickup.

No further holds on Sechelt Library items or other interlibrary loans will be available at this time but we will re-assess this in the next week.

Membership Renewals:

We will be extending all membership that will be expiring in January and February to April 1st. If you have any concerns, please call us.

Online Services:

If you are having any trouble with online services, please contact us.

One on One Appointments:

All one-on-one appointments, including technology assistance, will be cancelled until further notice. We are assessing options going forward.

Book Faires (Friends of the Library)

The January 19-21 Book Faire is cancelled.

Programs and Events:

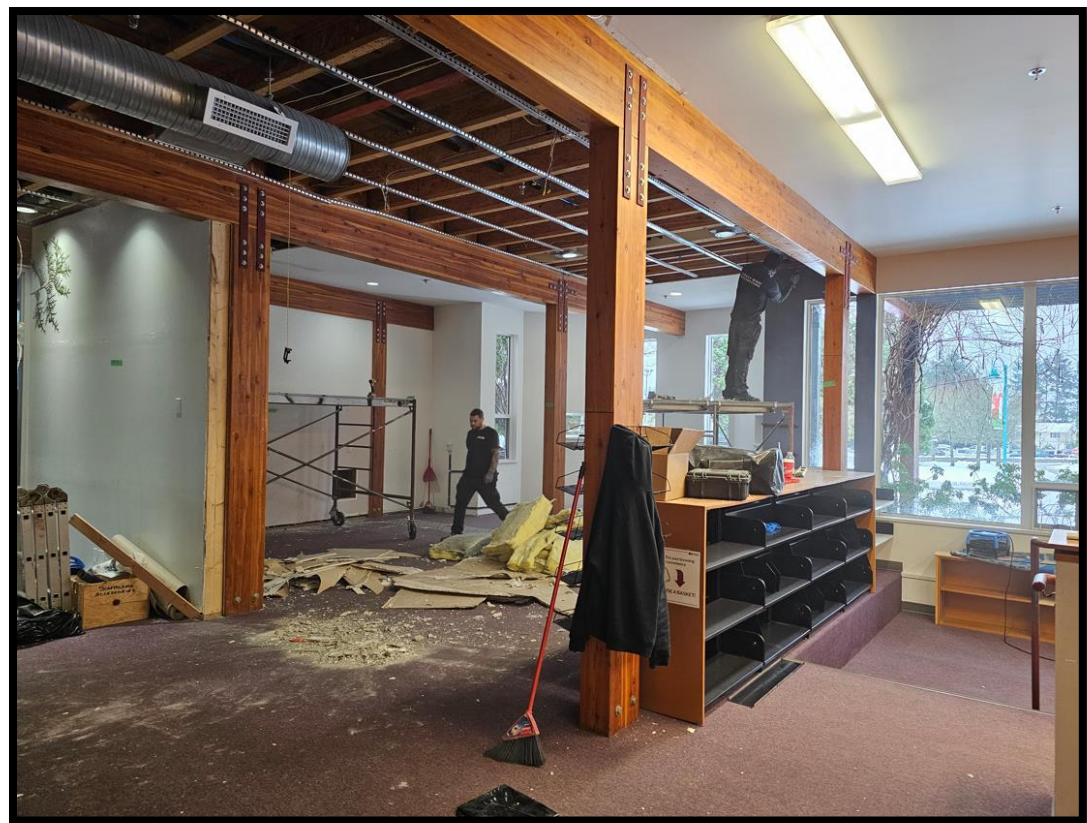
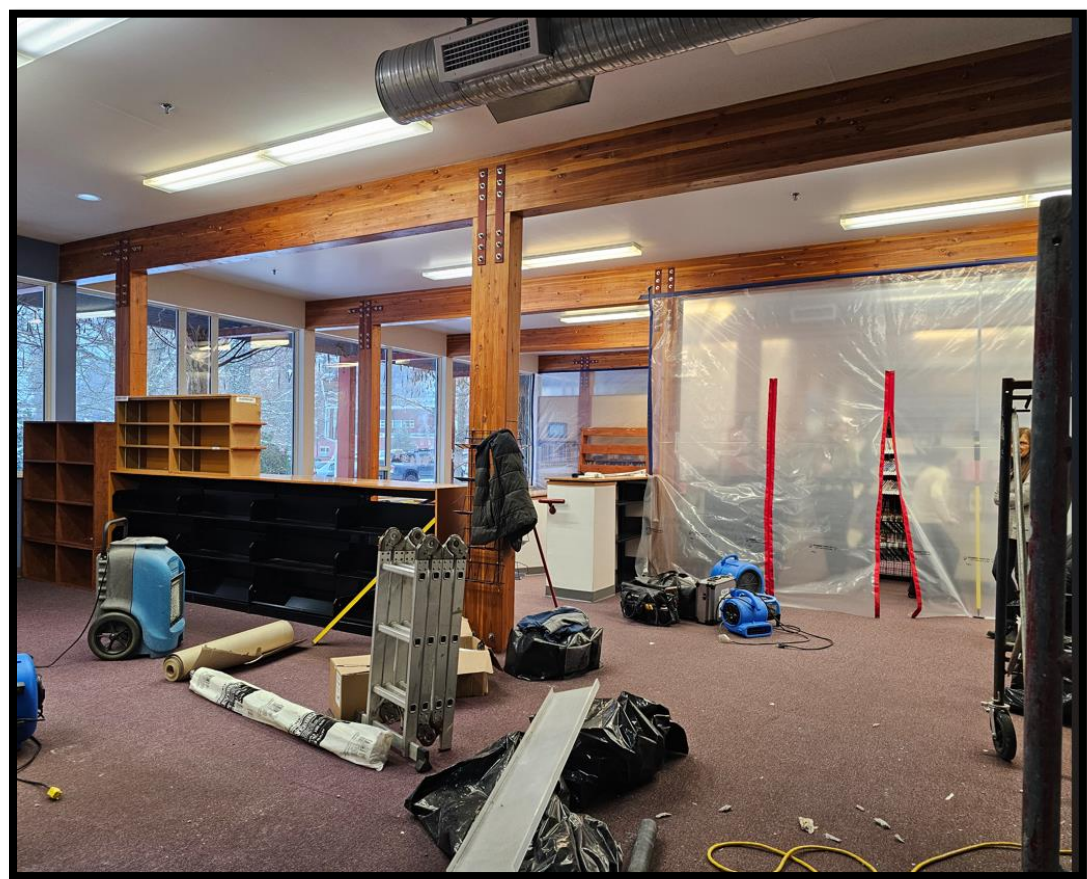
January programs and events have been cancelled. We are assessing options going forward.

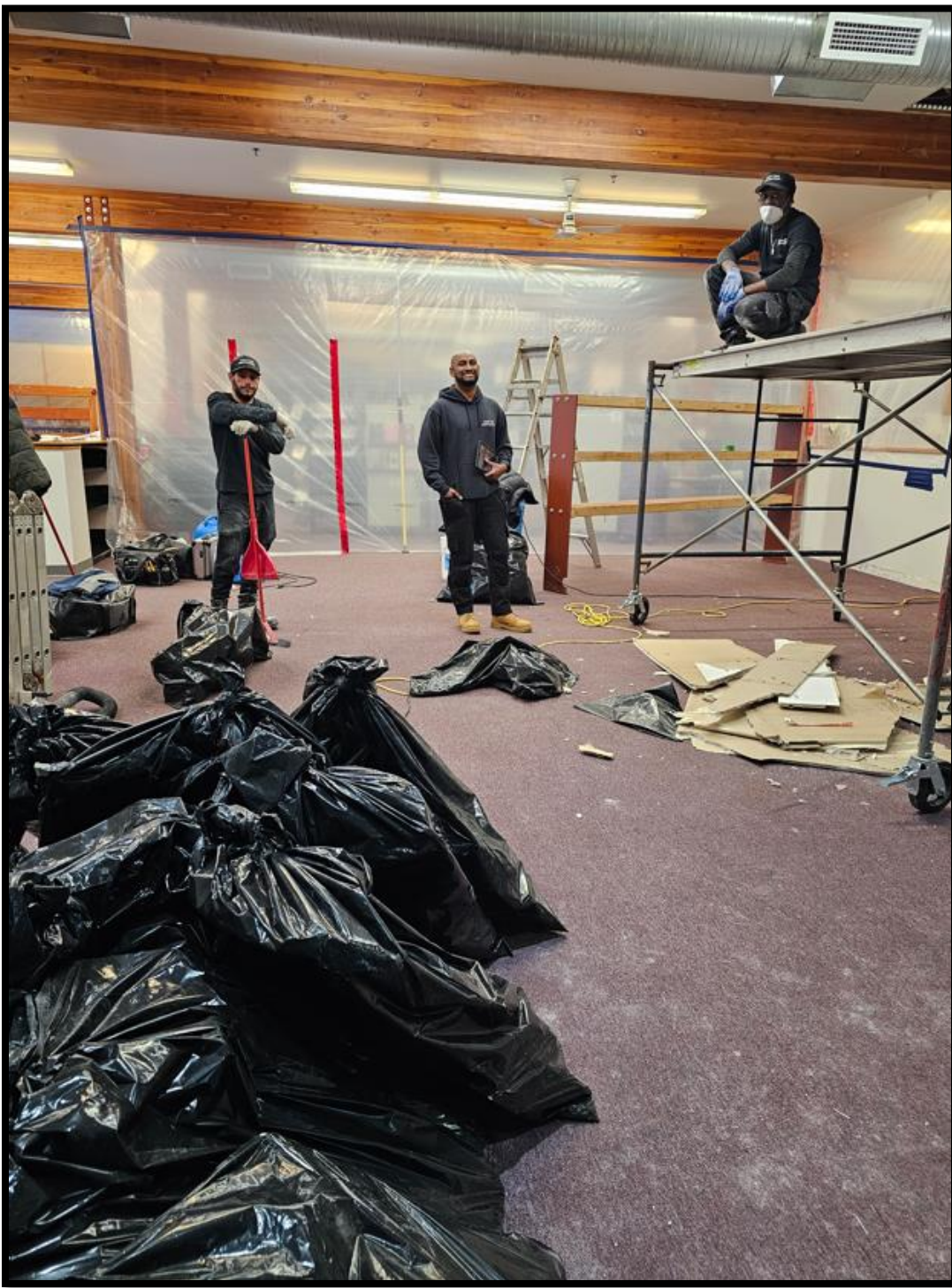
Updates:

We will be updating the following when new information becomes available:

1. Sechelt Library Facebook
2. Sechelt Library Twitter
3. Sechelt Library Instagram
4. Sechelt Library phone messaging
5. Sechelt Library website homepage

Photos:





We understand the inconvenience caused to our patrons and we are working diligently to restore our library to a safe condition as soon as possible.

Thank-you,
Sechelt Library Staff