

Sechelt Library

Flood, Restoration and Service Update

Wednesday January 24, 2024

The Flood:

Early morning Wednesday January 17th extensive flooding was discovered in our library building. Water was pouring in from the ceiling most of that day. The actual cause is 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 level. Floors, ceilings, walls, electrical systems, lighting, equipment, furniture and parts of our library collection were all impacted by the water damage. District of Sechelt building maintenance staff alerted us very early Wednesday morning and library staff who were able to travel to the building through the snow, worked diligently all day to move everything 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. The building foyer and public washrooms were also impacted.

Restoration:

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

Floors:

- Water was “raining” from the ceiling, pooling all over the front of the library and flowing down the ramp into the children’s area. It continued to drip from the ceiling most of the flood day.
- Restoration work was ongoing for three days to dry the carpets. Further cleaning and antimicrobial treatment will be done

Ceilings:

- Severe water damage occurred to drywalled ceilings in the entire front half of the library, the foyer, the hallway and public washrooms. Those ceilings have now been completely removed. Lighting systems were also destroyed.

Walls:

- All shelving was removed from walls in order to assess moisture damage. Some walls showed visible damage and all showed moisture readings. Restoration work is being done to eliminate any moisture and repair all damage.

Library Services:

Anticipated Closure Duration:

At this point, we anticipate being closed for at least 4 weeks. This timeline may change and we will advise when more is known.

Library Hours:

Although public access to the library is not possible during the restoration process, our staff will still be available via email and phone from 10:00 to 5:00 Monday to Saturday. Hold pickup will also be between 10:00 to 5:00 Monday to Saturday staff entrance door located at the back of the library.

Book Drops and Item Return:

Book and item return will also be possible from 10:00 to 5:00 Monday to Saturday. Please return your library items to a staff member at the back staff entrance door. Please ring the bell! Our book drops at the front entrance will remain closed. No fines will be incurred during our closure. Although items can be returned at this time, all due dates will be extended until we re-open.

Order and Pick-Up of Books and Library Items:

Our library staff have now extensively reorganized the “stuffed” back half of the library and, as such, we can now physically access most of the library collection – although not all as some parts of the collection remain “unreachable”. This means that library patrons can place a “hold” on most items in our library catalogue (books, DVD’s, magazines, ukuleles, STEAM kits etc). Interlibrary loans will also be available. When your “hold” is ready, we will be calling each patron with instructions for pickup. To serve our Pender Harbor patrons, we will continue with the free weekly courier service between Sechelt Library and the Pender Harbor Reading Centre. This applies to Sechelt Library items only.

Membership Renewals:

All memberships expiring in January and February will be extended to April 1st. If you have any concerns, please call us.

Online Services:

Online services remain available.

One on One Appointments:

All one-on-one assistance appointments, including technology, genealogy, accessibility and exam invigilation are cancelled until further notice. We are assessing options going forward.

Programs and Events:

January programs and events have been cancelled. After weighing options for February, we have now made arrangements for a limited number of programs to take place at other facilities and all those already registered will be notified.

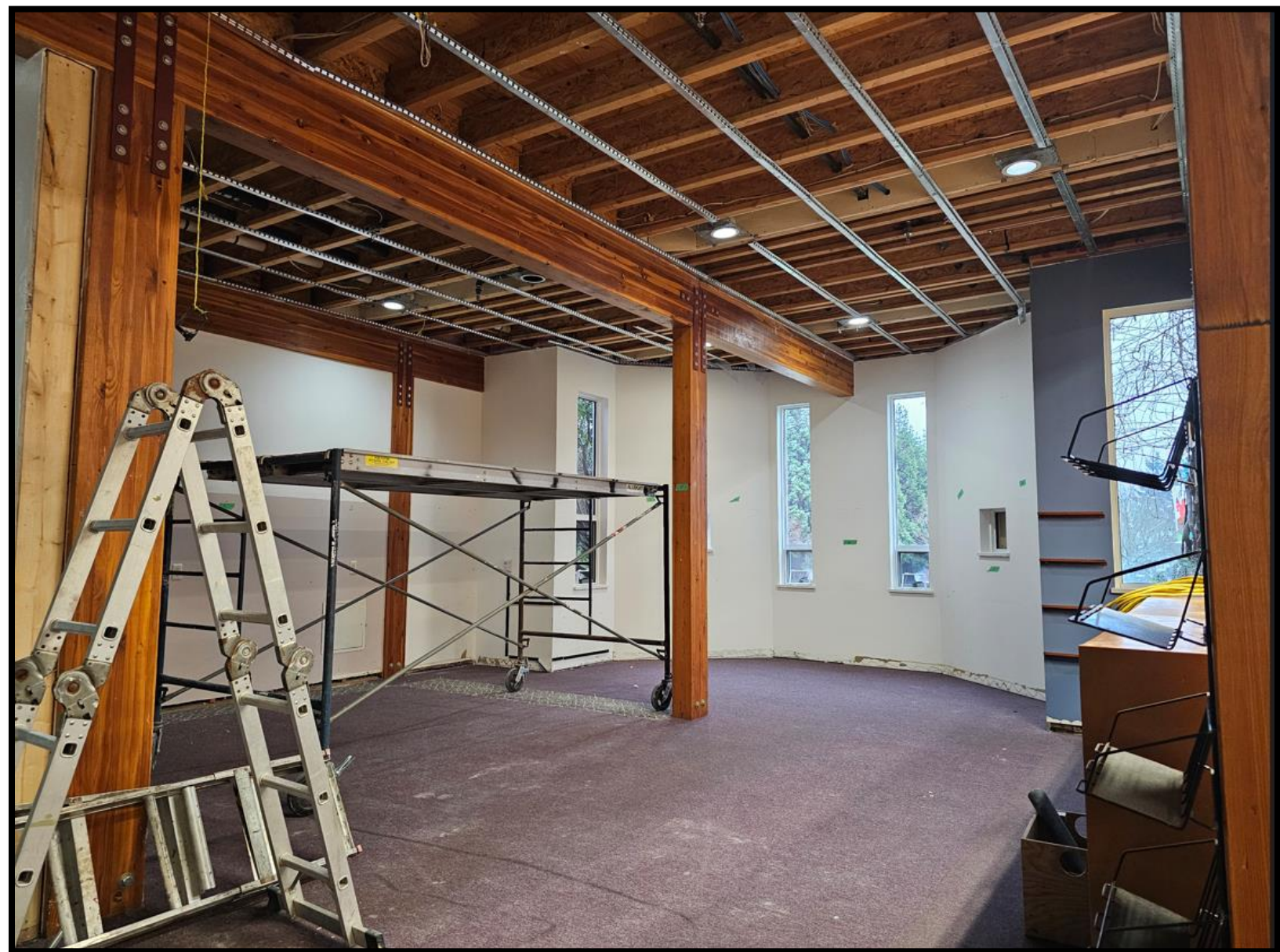
Book Faires (Friends of the Library)

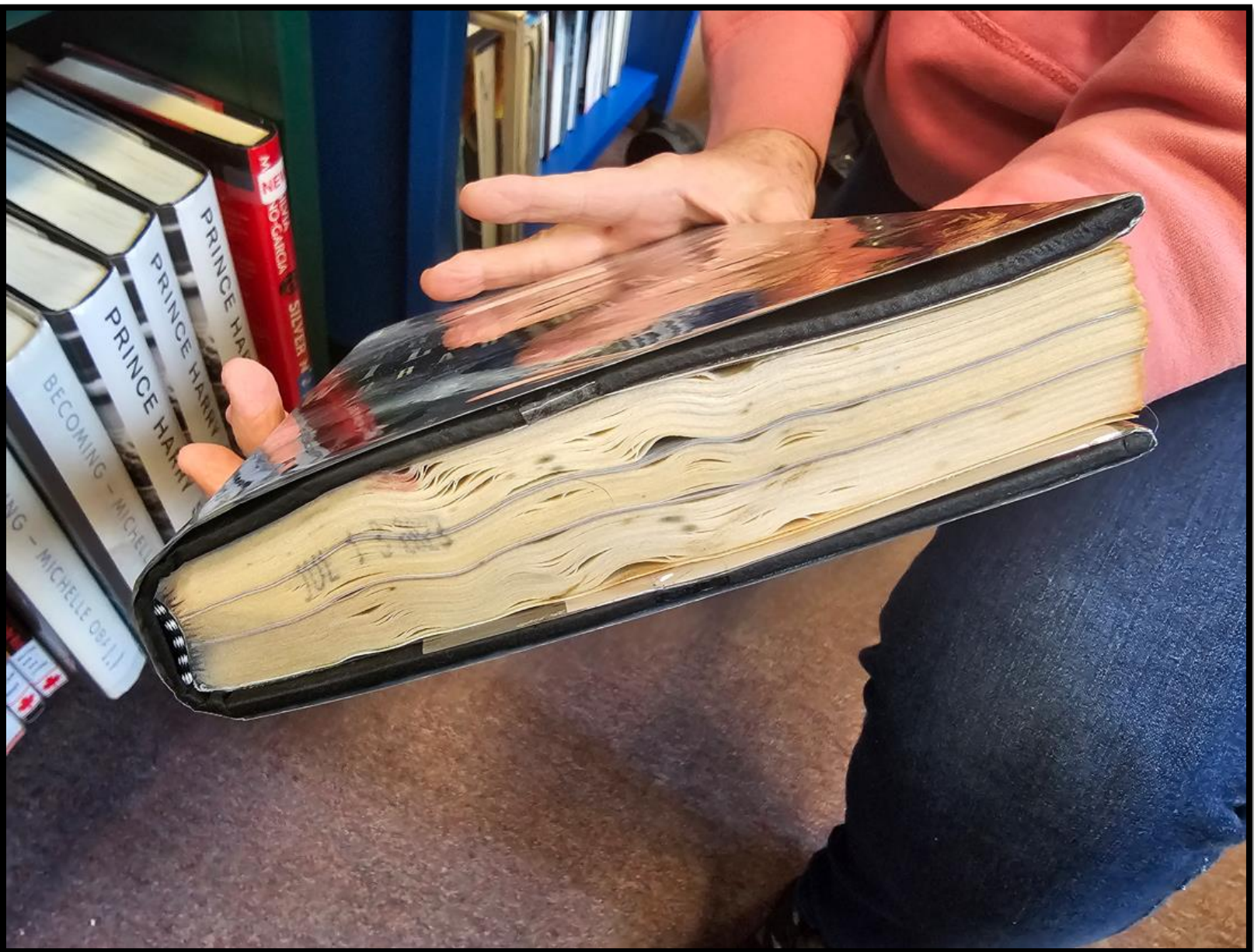
Unfortunately, it was necessary to cancel the February 16-18 Book Faire. We know this will be a disappointment to many!

Updates:

We will be updating all our social media, website homepage, phone messaging and outdoor signage on book bins and entrance doors when new information becomes available.

Photos:





We understand the inconvenience this has caused to our patrons. Please know that we are working diligently to restore our library to a safe condition as soon as possible.

Thank-you,
Sechelt Library Staff