

Director's Report

Sechelt Public Library

September 20, 2024 – October 30, 2024

By Leianne Emery

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1. Cover Photo

Sechelt Library staff's hodgepodge kitchen cabinets have outlived their usefulness, quality and functionality. The frig freezer requires Velcro to strap it down tightly as it no longer stays shut on its own. The toaster oven balances on three legs because the fourth leg stood on a void (missing) counter space. Storage for kitchen items is almost negligent. And, as we also use this kitchen to store program food items and do program and event prep, the kitchen also has to function for those purposes. Quality of existing cabinets and storage capacity are an urgent issue. The kitchen is long overdue due for an overhaul, rethink and redesign.

Note of interest: We had to remove the small cabinet (pictured on cover) in preparation for 3 areas of painting projects we now have going on in the library. We took this cabinet (shown in two of the cover photos) out on Friday morning at 10am and had a pickup and disposal arranged for 4pm. At 4pm, when the pickup vehicle arrived, a homeless person had already claimed this piece and had his belongings in it. This is the state of our downtown core.

A kitchen renovation will be discussed at the Library Board Meeting.

2. Highlights for September 20 – October 30

- Contents Insurance Claim (Flood) compensation reimbursement snail slow
- Construction Underway for Phase 1 Building restoration with DOS Parks and Signia
- Telus Grant \$\$\$ received
- Staff education planning – 3 staff
- 3 painting projects
- Kitchen renovation planning
- Langara Practicum student started at Sechelt Library
- Beth Dodds announces retirement for end of November 2024
- Ceiling fans and outstanding issues with the flood restoration
- Furniture purchase with FOL funds

3. Friends of the Library Book Faires

Book Faires hosted in the **Sechelt Library Community Room:**

October 18-20 \$760.60 (despite torrential downpours and SSC annual Art Crawl)

November 15-17

4. Staff Retirement

Longtime staff member, Beth Dodds, has announced her official retirement will be at the end of November 2024. Beth has served in Public Service for almost 26 years with the Sechelt Library and currently holds the position of Public Service and Interlibrary Loan Supervisor.



Beth (and Rose and Lorinda) back in the day... Can you spot Beth?



"The Original Cast" - July 1999



Director's Report

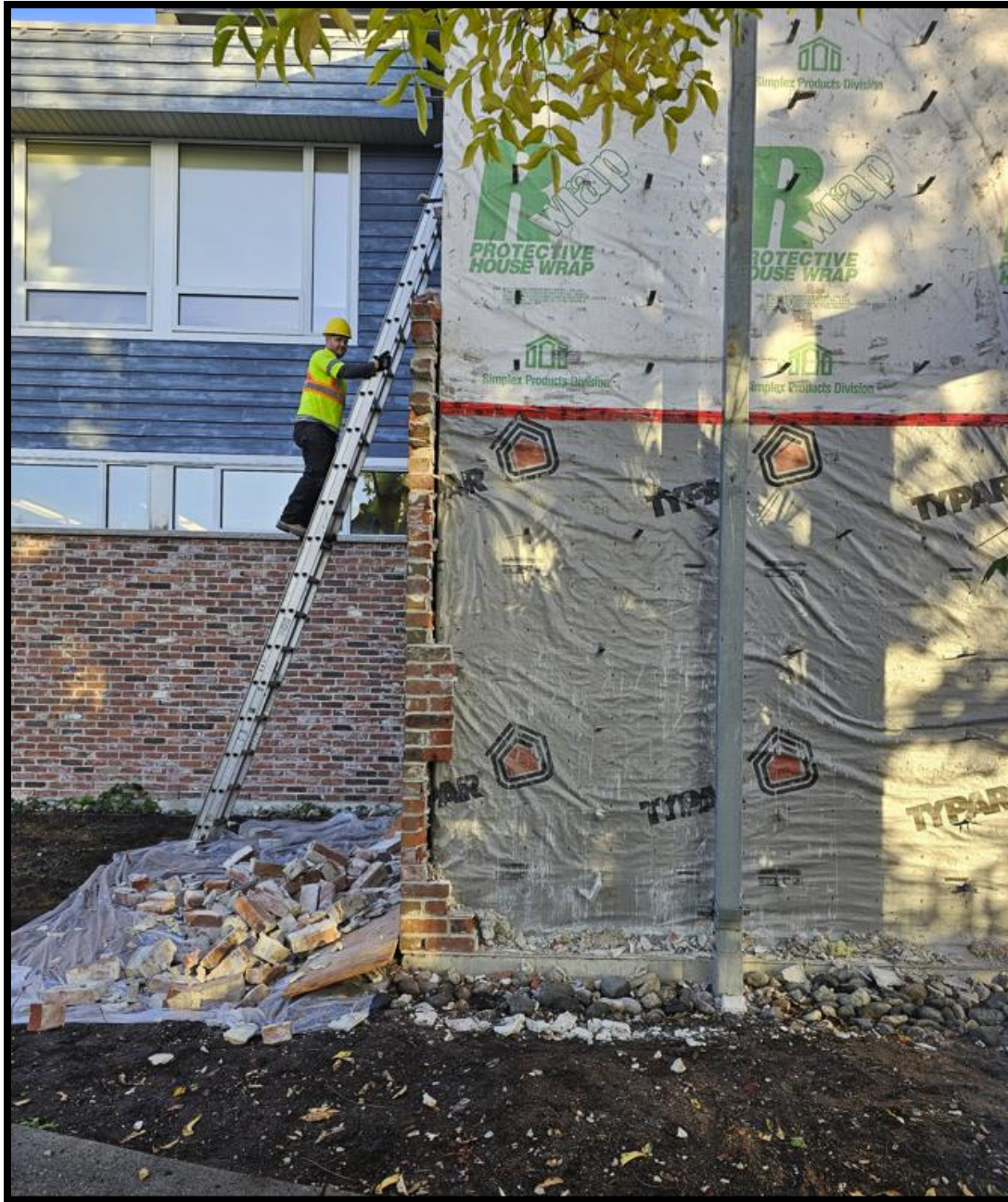
Prior to and since her retirement announcement, I have been pondering possible succession plans for both Beth's retirement and an upcoming retirement we will have in 2025. Not an easy task. There can only be so much movement internally as many of our positions require library specific education.

5. Langara Practicum Student

We have signed an agreement with Langara College to do a Practicum with one of their students in the Library and Information Technology program. Dave Cox, a current staff member at Gibsons Library, will be with us on Mondays and Tuesdays for two months. All our library tech staff and reference team will be taking different segments of oversight for Dave's practicum and we are happy to be mentoring another up-and-coming trained Library Tech!



6. Building Remediation – Exterior of DOS / Library Building



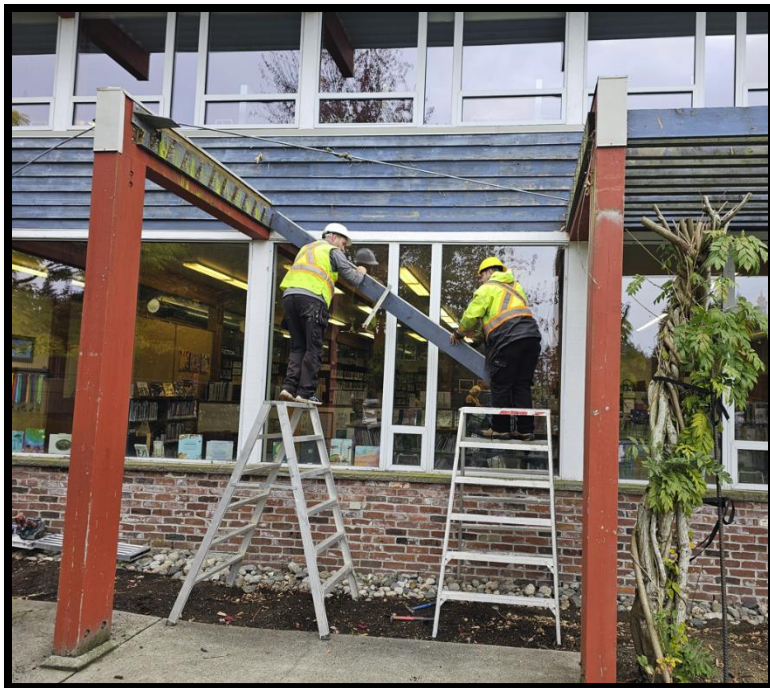
Brick Removal



Siding removal revealed the extent to which the wisteria grew into places it should not have been growing. The 3 wisteria trees have now been cut back but not removed altogether.



*Sanding of all the beams
back to a natural state*



*Piece by piece removal of
the overhead lattice (2
levels)*

As a reminder, here are the items being addressed in the south side restoration:

Basic south side restoration will include:

1. Wall rot assessed and repaired (inside and out)
2. New windows installed
3. Siding removed and replaced with new fiber-cement siding (ie. hardie-board)
4. New aluminum awnings on both levels
5. New building trim
6. Refresh of all exterior beams and posts
7. Landscape improvements and beautification of lawn, benches and sitting areas
8. Trim or remove all wisteria
9. Removal of large tree and removal and relocation of rose bushes away from the building

The anticipated new construction schedule is as follows:

Mid-September 2024:

Exterior Foliage Removal:

DOS Parks Department removes foliage from south side of the building. This includes taking down the large tree beside the Coast Reporter bin and cutting down the wisteria to an 8ft trunk height. If the wisteria roots are impacting the foundation, they will be removed altogether. Where possible, all foliage possible to be saved for use in other areas of Sechelt. **COMPLETED**

September 27, 2024 and onwards:

Set up of Exterior Security Fencing:

After the exterior foliage is removed, Signia will set up security fencing from approximately the area of the Coast Reporter Bin all the way down the south side sidewalk to the west side of the building (near rec centre). The garbage bin and bike rack will be relocated. The gravel path through the lawn area will still be open to the public wishing to walk through. **COMPLETED. The DOS relocated the garbage bin right next to the new library exterior return bins so we, for various reasons, had to request a new location for the garbage bin. Interesting to note, and as some of our patrons have pointed out, the new garbage bin they used is not considered “accessible”, but it is bear proof. A dilemma for sure in the current design of bear proof garbage bins vs accessibility.**

Site Work Trailer and Construction Waste Bin Placed:

Signia will be placing their office site trailer, construction material waste bin, and scaffolding in the first five parking spaces at the rec centre nearest to the library. **COMPLETED**

Exterior Wall Assessment:

Signia will commence assessments on the building's south side exterior walls. The wall exterior will be removed to assess the extent of the damage and rot to the wall structures. These results will determine the extent of the necessary repairs on the structure and the interior. **ONGOING**

Interior Wall Repair:

Repairing the interior of the south side wall will affect the library - programs, collection accessibility, and space available to the public. Signia will complete all necessary work one section at a time as to minimize impact on the library, staff and patrons. In each section, it will likely be necessary to move some parts of the collection, furniture and other items while work is proceeding. Some sections, like biography, can remain but shelves will be covered in poly. If the collection cannot be moved, it will impact public accessibility for a short period of time. Signia will block each section off with protective poly and barriers.

The basic construction sections will tentatively be 1 teen area, 2 children's areas (between the beams), magazine/public computer and biography.

Window Replacement:

All south side windows will be removed and replaced. After the windows arrive (date not yet known), the contractors should be able to replace one or two windows per day.

Other Exterior Work:

1. Removal of wooden trellis on both floors and replacement with new aluminum awnings
2. Removal of exterior siding and replacement with new pre-painted hardy board
3. Removal of brick walls, likely only under the large windows (if necessary) and replacement with fibre-cement siding (ie. hardie-board)
4. Removal and replacement of exterior trim
5. Placement of special trim for mounting seasonal Christmas lights
6. Sanding and restoration (to a natural color) of all reddish colored beams and posts
7. Restoration of all exterior wooden benches
8. Improvements to the landscape and sitting areas

Note:

All construction power will be routed from the current electric car charging station in the front of the library (not the back). This electric charging station will not be available to the public for the duration of the construction.

7. Insurance Claim - Contents

Ongoing claim reimbursement from the 6 different insurance companies which share the AON policy is slow and painful.

8. October Programming Photo Highlights

30 people were in attendance at October's "Tea with Winnie". Richard Austin delighted the audience with his reading of various stories from *Winnie the Pooh*.





All the Winnie the Pooh books in our collection were on display



Tea and Fresh Cookies were served



*Ruth's card making classes
(part of the group)*



**The finished product from DIY Halloween
candle holder**

9. Canada Summer Jobs Program

The application deadline has moved up! We will now have to apply to the Canadian Government for our 2025 summer student before the middle of December 2024.

10. Grant Application to Telus

We put together a virtual reality program concept and applied for funding through a Telus Grant a couple of months ago. GOOD NEWS! We were advised we would be receiving this grant and the funds have now actually arrived! This grant (\$6k) will cover costs for computer equipment for virtual reality, virtual reality headsets, and virtual reality programs we will use in programming.



11. Teen Shelving Location Renaming Project

We are working on a project to rename the “Teen” books to “Young Adult”. This change aligns with the direction that other libraries are taking for that section and also how publishers now describe these books. We are hoping this change will encourage even adult patrons to also read more from the newly named “Young Adult” section as well as be more palatable for actual teen patrons.

The shelving location in Sitka (or catalogue system) has been changed to Young Adult and we are working on changing all spine labels to align. Eg:

Teen Graphic CUTT	to YA Graphic CUTT
Teen F CUTT	to YA F Cutt
Teen 306.7 CUTT	to YA 306.7 CUTT

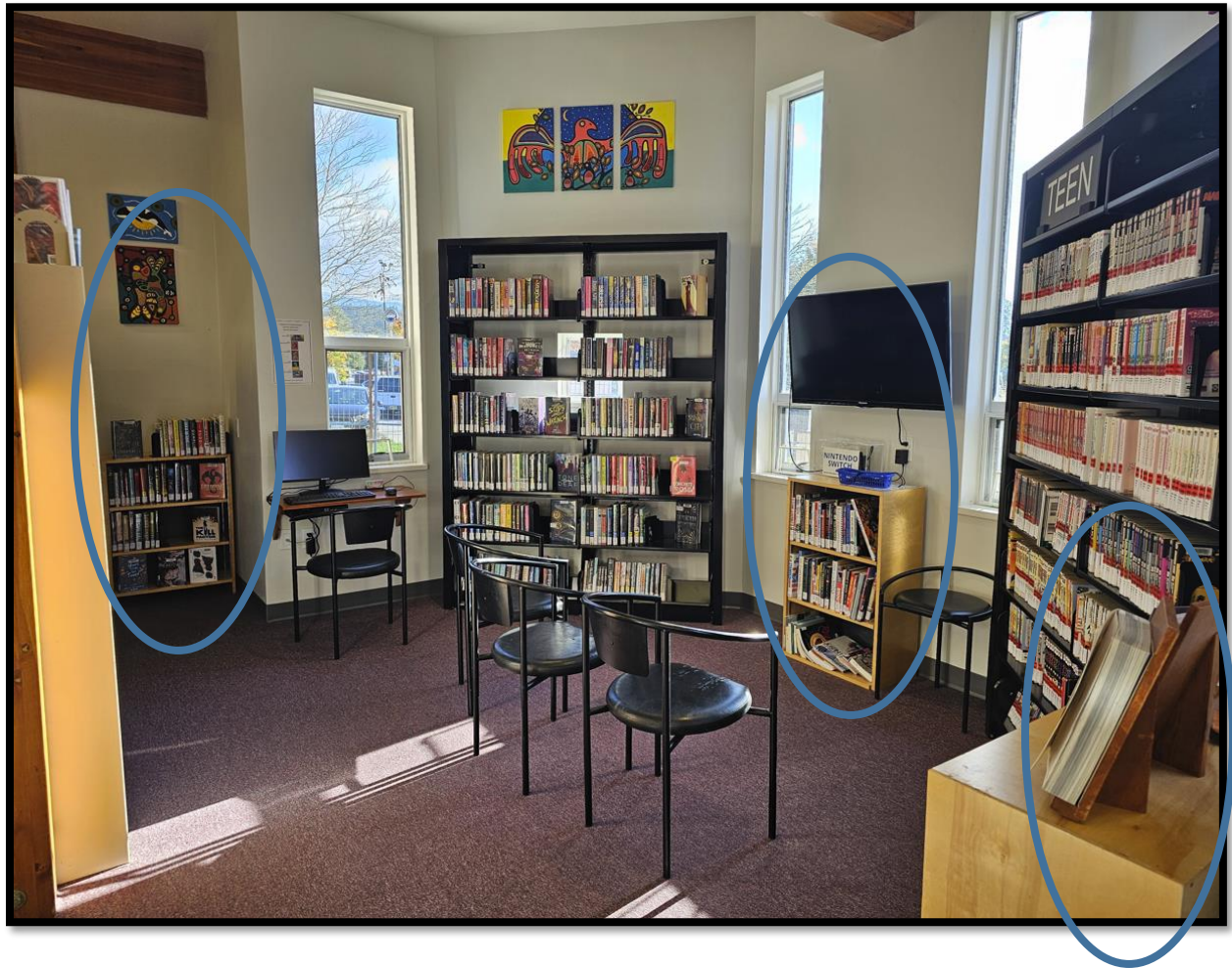
Our Manga books will stay the same.

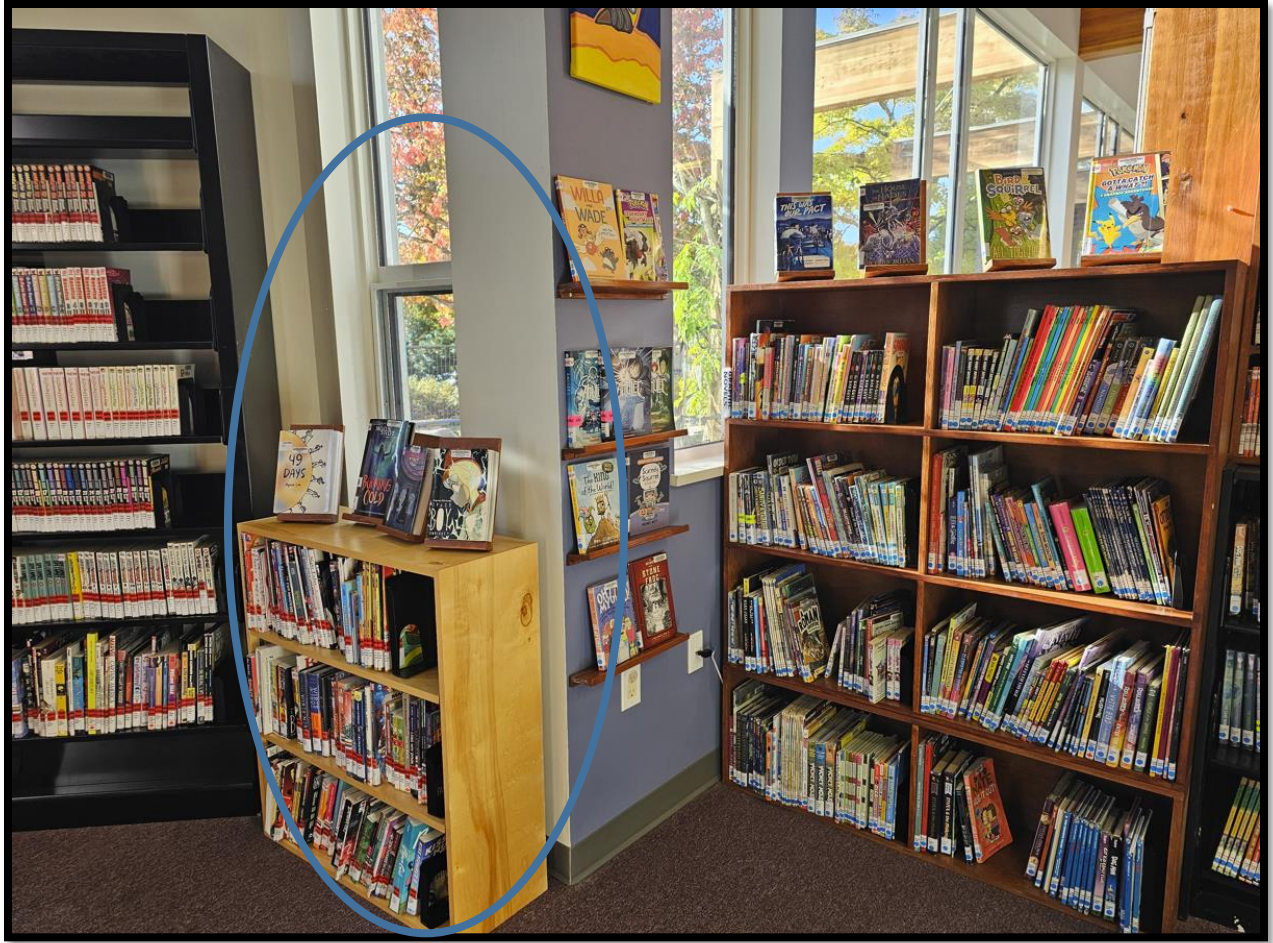
Note: If we had a physically larger library, we would likely move the Young Adult section altogether... As you can see below, due to a lack of space, teens have to hang out and use the table in the Junior area...



12. Furniture Project in the Teen area

A substantial amount of furniture and books in the teen area were affected due to the January 17, 2024 flood. Some of the new teen area shelving has already been re-purchased and will be reimbursed on flood claim. Some sections of this area still need updating and improving and will not be reimbursed on flood insurance. We have been busy analyzing, measuring and obtaining pricing in three areas that need a more long-term solution and to be able to optimize usable areas.





As we are only funded by our local government funders for an “operational budget”, we are not financed to cover the cost of any capital purchases we need - such a library shelving. We felt this was a great opportunity for the Friends of the Library to be involved and assist us with the purchase of a durable long-term asset. We made a proposal to the them and they happily accepted.

One shelving unit is already under way with our local carpenter, Rob, who has done all our beautiful wood work in the library, and the other two will be metal library shelving (\$5,000) ordered from a library shelving supplier. The metal shelving will likely be a three-month lead time and Rob’s piece will likely be done within the next two weeks.

13. Painting Projects

Three areas in the library that were in dire need of patching, filling and repainting are:

1. two of my office walls
2. the kitchen
3. the ramp heading into the children area.

Jonnita Janot, who has painted many of the walls in our library to date, is here again helping to improve the quality and professionalism in our library with her expedient and quality painting. We will use our operational maintenance budget to cover these costs.