

# LIBRARY REPORT



**March 19 to April 15**

Highlights for March and April showcase the Library working to support its strategic framework. We held several literary themed programs in these months, which show how we are inspiring and supporting a community of learning and a culture of reading. We also provided engaging spaces to create knowledge and share stories through innovative programming. Finally, with important staff and Library Board training events, and our work to install new self-checkout machines at each of our branches, we worked to nurture an engaged, adaptive organization.

## **INSPIRING AND SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING AND A CULTURE OF READING**

In March and April the Library inspired and supported a community of learning and a culture of reading with three programs: Parent-Child Mother Goose, Poetry Month and Read Local BC.

### **Parent-Child Mother Goose**



This Spring, the Library is involved in the delivery of two Parent-Child Mother Goose sessions: one held at Lynn Valley Library, the other held at the *I hope family centre*, located adjacent to Maplewood Farm. Library staff are co-leading both sessions in partnership with other organizations. At Lynn Valley Library, we're hosting a bilingual English/Spanish Parent-Child Mother Goose session in collaboration with North Shore Community Resources. At the *I hope family centre*, our Outreach Coordinator for Children and Teens, Alison Campbell, is leading a session of PCMG in partnership with Family Services of the North Shore.

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program is a group experience for parents and their babies (from birth to 12 months) that introduces adults and children to the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs and stories together. With these programs, parents gain skills and confidence that enable them to create positive family patterns during their children's crucial early years, and babies benefit from enjoyable, healthy early experiences with language and communication. Not only that, but the program helps to connect parents at a time at a time when the very much need this support and connection!

## Poetry Month



April is National Poetry Month! To celebrate, the Library has scheduled a series of fun free events, several of which are offered in partnership with other community organizations, including North Vancouver City Library, West Vancouver Memorial Library, Sherwood Park Elementary School and the Elders Council for Parks.

Events include:

- Eat Your Words: Poetry Writing Workshop at Capilano Library on Saturday, April 11
- A Trio of Poets: Panel Discussion as part of the North Shore Writers Festival on Saturday, April 18
- Earth Poetics in the Park: with Deep Cove poet, Trevor Carolan in partnership with the Elders Council for Parks on Thursday, April 23
- A Feast of Poetry event in partnership with North Vancouver City Library on Friday, April 24
- My Many Colored Days: Presentation by the Sherwood Park Intermediate Choir on Thursday, April 30

Plus, we're sharing lots of rhymes and poetry in our regular early literacy storytimes, and each of our branches is featuring some beautiful and creative poetry displays, including a "poet-tree" at each of NVDPL's three locations, as well as fun and interactive activities including Lego poetry and more!

## Read Local BC



Read Local BC is a project of the Association of Book Publishers of BC that celebrates the extraordinary depth of BC publishing. Running from April 1-22, the campaign features publishers, authors, bookstores and libraries from across the province. In addition to book displays at each of our branches and social media promotion, the Library participated by hosting an event called Secrets, Booze & Rebellion: Vancouver's Unknown History With Eve Lazarus, Daniel Francis, and Aaron Chapman on April 15. We had a great turnout with 56 attendees despite it being the first playoff game for the Canucks! Each of the authors shared entertaining anecdotes from their recent books about Vancouver's interesting historical underworld. It was a great tribute to our local author talent for Read Local BC.

## PROVIDING ENGAGING SPACES TO CREATE KNOWLEDGE AND SHARE STORIES

In March and April, the Library held several programs that allowed community members to discover their creativity, create knowledge and share stories. Here are a few highlights:

### Building Our Log Cabin on Mount Seymour in 1948

On Wednesday, March 25, Parkgate Library hosted an event in partnership with the Elders Council for Parks in B.C. called Building Our Log Cabin on Mount Seymour in 1948. The main feature of the event was a presentation and slide show by Ross Regan, which documented his cabin-building experience, as well as cabin and ski culture on Mount Seymour in the 40s and 50s. At this presentation, the 42 audience members were not simply passive observers, but active participants: many people shared their own experiences building or owning cabins on Mount Seymour and there was lots of discussion and questions among those attending. In addition, there were representatives at the event for the Mount Seymour History Project and the Elders Council Heritage Project who made connections with participants in order to record local history. Overall, it

was a wonderful event facilitated by the library, where participants had the opportunity to share stories with each other and collaborate towards the recording of local history.

### **Spring Break Programming**

Spring Break took place March 9 to 20 in North Vancouver. While the Library's regular storytimes took a hiatus during these two weeks, it was certainly not a quiet time in the Children's Departments of each of our branches! Throughout the break, the Library hosted a variety of programs, all of which were designed to encourage creativity, exploration and learning among our young patrons. We held drop-in Lego programs at each of our branches, as well as movie and craft events. At Parkgate Library, we held several new types of programs: a Family Dance Party, an interactive puppet show called "The Story of the Herring" in partnership with the Elders Council of B.C., and a Parachute Playtime, which is a storytime where pre-walkers have the opportunity to crawl on and explore under a six-foot parachute. These examples demonstrate how the library is embracing the strategic framework goal of nurturing an engaged, adaptive organization by experimenting with new types of programs with the community.

### **Providing Space for Capilano University Students**

In mid-April, the Library experienced increased demand for study space from Capilano University students. At our Lynn Valley Library, we were able to accommodate a request from a Capilano University theatrical group to use our Program Room as a rehearsal space. According to the performers, the Library was "a lifesaver!"

## **FOSTERING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

In March and April, the Library launched four teen volunteer programs. These programs not only allow local teens receive the volunteer hours that they need to graduate, they also help teens get more involved in their community, fostering collaboration among the generations in North Vancouver. Here is a brief listing of each of these four programs:

### **Book Buddies**

Book Buddies is a one-on-one reading mentoring program for children aged 6 to 11. It is especially useful for those who could benefit from some extra support and encouragement. Children meet weekly with a trained teen volunteer to read aloud to each other, choose books to take home, and do literacy activities. This Spring, Book Buddies is being hosted at Lynn Valley Library. One thing that we're seeing now is teen book buddy volunteers coming back after having been little buddies while in elementary school. These teens remember having a good time as kids with the program and now want to pass along the good experience.

### **Lego Robotics**

Following the success of our Lego Robotics program held at Parkgate Library over the course of the Winter, we're offering Lego Robotics this Spring at Capilano Library. This is a program where students in Grades 5 to 7 build robots. The teen volunteers help and guide students along the way, teaching digital literacy skills. For more information on this program, see the February 2015 Library Report.

### **Tech Tutors**

While teen volunteers teach children about digital literacy in our Lego Robotics programs, they teach adults with our Tech Tutors program. Tech Tutors is being held at Parkgate Library this Spring. It's a program where

adults can come get their tech questions answered by local teens.

### **Teen Advisory Group**

Our Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meets monthly to talk about what they want to see in their library, to do fun activities and to volunteer. In March, we had 10 teens come to the meeting, several for the first time. We took “bookface” pictures, where you combine your face (or other body part) with a book cover.



*One of the many bookface photos taken at our March TAG meeting.*

## **NURTURING AN ENGAGED, ADAPTIVE ORGANIZATION**

In March and April, the Library worked to nurture and engaged, adaptive organization with two staff and board training events: TOP Training and a course on Corporate Governance in the Not-for-Profit Sector.

In addition, the Library has been working on installing new self-checkout machines at each of our branches, which showcases how the library is actively evaluating and measuring outcomes and impacts of Library services.

### **Trustee Orientation Program (TOP)**

Several Library Board Trustees, including David Porter, Ken Lim and Sanford Osler, and management staff members, including Jacqueline van Dyk, Andrea Freeman, Corinne McConchie and Nicola McLaren, attended BCLTA’s Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) on Saturday, March 28 at Lynn Valley Library. TOP is a comprehensive look at the roles and responsibilities of library trustees in British Columbia. Participants are introduced to the provincial context for public library leadership, including legislation and services, community advocacy, current issues and strategies for success.

### **Corporate Governance in the Not-for-Profit Sector**

Our Business Manager, Nicola McLaren, attended a seminar on March 26, put on by the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC (CPA-BC) called Corporate Governance in the Not-for-Profit Sector. The two-hour seminar explored some of the unique governance challenges facing not-for-profit organizations, and is built around CPA Canada’s “20 Questions Directors For Not-For-Profit Organizations Should Ask” series.

### **Installing New Self-Checkout Machines**

In March we started the implementation of new self-checkout machines. One new self-checkout machine was installed at each library at the beginning of March, and feedback gathered from patrons in comment books has been overall very positive, and has been used to inform the implementation. On April 1, we added the ability for patrons to pay fines at the new self-checkouts by credit or debit. We will be rolling out the remaining five self-checkout machines in the second half of April.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS – MONTH OF MARCH

- **Adult Programs:** We held 43 adult programs with a total attendance of 538 people.
- **Newcomer/ELL Programs:** We held a total of nine newcomer and English Language Learning (ELL) programs with a total attendance of 67 people.
- **Teen Programs:** We held two programs with a total attendance of 40 teen.
- **Children’s Programs:** We held 56 children’s programs with a total attendance of 1620 children with their caregivers.
- **Traffic:** Traffic (measured by gate counts) went down by 4 per cent in March 2015 as compared with March 2014.
- **Circulation and Holds:** Year-over-year print circulation statistics have decreased by 3 per cent in March, while hold statistics increased by 3.5 per cent.
- **Digital Circulation:** Digital circulation increased in March by 12 per cent as compared to the previous year.
- **Virtual Visits:** Our virtual visits have decreased by 5 per cent in March 2015 as compared to March 2014. A factor in this decrease is our re-launching of the Library website in July 2014. After the re-launch, we saw an initial drop in traffic to the site, and traffic is now gradually climbing back up. This is not uncommon, as it can take some time for a re-launched site to rise back up in search result rankings, which are the largest source of website traffic.