

60 Sixty



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Forward from Dave Obee

How best to describe the sixth decade of the **North Vancouver District Public Library**?

In simple terms, it's about people, not just books. The transformation of the library system was underway by the time it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014. Changes were predicted in that year's history of the library, but much of what happened could not have been foreseen.

In many ways, it was a decade of change and stabilization. Jacqueline van Dyk, the District's director of library services, was at the helm the entire time with a clear vision for the future of NVDPL. The changes reflected her commitment to improving service, and her dedication in her previous role, leadership of the provincial government's libraries and literacy branch.

The first five years of the library's last decade laid a strong foundation for future success. This included the development and refresh of a new policy suite to strengthen governance and library partnerships and a full rebranding to better reflect the library's evolving and welcoming values. A refreshed vision for library services brought cross-system teams into better alignment, enabling consistent and cohesive service delivery across the District. The library entered a period of renewal.



Dave Obee, Author of NVDPL's 50th Anniversary Book: *Fifty! With a Fabulous Future*



Throughout the Pandemic

That steady hand helped as the library dealt with two unimaginable events: The COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020 and a multiple stabbing at a library entrance the following year that took the life of one person, injured several others, and forever left a hand print on the hearts of many staff and community members.

The library closed its doors on March 17, 2020, six days after the worldwide pandemic was declared. The global medical crisis hit close to home; some of the first deaths reported in British Columbia were regular users of NVDPL.

The library worked quickly to ensure service continued, even with closed doors. With fear and uncertainty bringing mental stress to the community, it was important to maintain access. The library invested in additional digital resources and offered programs via Zoom—and since few people understood the software at the time, the library also offered training.

NVDPL introduced a system called Library Takeout, one of the first in BC and Canada. Staff members pulled requests and selected materials, packaged them into brown bags, and delivered them to patrons at curbside. Nearly 1,000 orders were filled in the first week.

When the doors reopened on Tuesday, July 7, staff members were wearing masks and working behind plexiglass partitions. It was not easy, but the library had kept up its community service through the pandemic.



NVDPL in a Decade

35,869 children and teens participated in the Summer Reading Club at NVDPL

18,031,915 total circulation

16,051,670 total visits in person and online

343,526 program attendees

In 2015, NVDPL circulated around 4,400 items every day.
In 2024, we circulated over 5,000 items every day.



Lynn Valley Strong

If there had been any doubt about the value of the library to the community, and the community to the library, it would have been erased in March 2021. Seven people were stabbed, one fatally, just outside the main entrance to the Lynn Valley library.

In the days after the March 27 stabbing spree, the community came together as never before, leaving messages and flowers at the library. Two phrases – “Love Lives Here” and “Lynn Valley Strong” – will resonate in the library for years to come.



Reducing Barriers & New Opportunities

Over the decade, the library's environment changed fundamentally: from print to digital, from individual to community focus, and from consumption of content to creation.

In other words, the library has become a community living room, a learning place, and gathering space. It is so much more than a place to borrow; it is a place to learn, socialize, and create.

In 2021, the library opened StoryLab at the Lynn Valley branch. This is a digital creativity and learning space that allows people to create podcasts, music, digital images, spoken word, and video. The lab has hardware to capture video and audio, digitization tools, and creativity software.

The following year, the Open Door Community Hub was introduced. It is a drop-in space for people to gather and connect with other community members, which helps break down barriers. Individuals experiencing homelessness are welcomed, and the library is living up to its role of being a hub for positive change.

The library also eliminated late fees on overdue books, a move made by many other libraries across Canada. The fees were originally seen as a way to encourage people to return books on time, but it was realized that the fees actually discouraged users.

Of course, the library is about more than books. Since 2022, it has been possible to borrow board games. Over the last few years, the library has introduced Chromebook laptops, e-readers, Radon Kits, CO2 monitors, board games, puppets, puzzles, Caring Community Kits and more. NVDPL's non-traditional collection now includes over 2400 items. The library system is committed to diversity, equitable access, and sharing.

For the past decade, it has been part of NNELS—the National Network for Equitable Library Service—which is dedicated to helping anyone with a print disability. The library has also embraced Pride Week activities and has sponsored child-friendly Drag Storytimes.

With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in 2015, the library increased its efforts to enhance relationships with local Indigenous nations—Skwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish) and səɫ ɪlwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations—through literacy and community projects.

The library hosted an evening of dialogue and discussion in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It also offered outreach story times for First Nations children and hosted an online learning course, Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education, for those who wanted to learn more.

The commitment to Reconciliation has continued. In 2021, NVDPL adopted its land acknowledgement, which recognizes and respects the Indigenous Peoples and communities that have always been, and continue to be, in relationship with this land.

Bricks & Mortar

Along with the changes within the library walls and the services provided over the internet, NVDPL has improved and expanded its physical spaces and outreach.

In 2017, renovations at Lynn Valley improved accessibility and made it more welcoming to the public. Refreshing library spaces to make them more welcoming and more in line with how library users are using spaces today has been a priority for the library.

In 2022, it opened Lions Gate Express Library, a boutique library within the Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre. This library has a curated collection of the latest materials, a cozy reading area, and a holds locker that allows pickups whenever the recreation centre is open.

The library has improved the Lynn Valley Children's Department, which is now a literary forest, and made modest renovations at Parkgate Library. Plans for Capilano are also on the horizon.

By the end of the sixth decade, NVDPL introduced its new Kiosk, an automated self-service solution designed to bring books, media, and essential lending services back to the Lynn Creek community. The Kiosk is the first Envisionware 24-Hour Library machine in Canada, and it joins NVDPL's three full-sized library locations (Lynn Valley, Parkgate, and Capilano) and the Express Library at Lions Gate.



Looking Towards the Diamond Decade

Throughout the last decade, the public library's role has been underscored and redefined in the face of digital, social, and economic shifts and, more recently, the challenges posed by a global pandemic.

Despite a decade of adapting to constant change and rising to new heights, the library has emerged from these experiences stronger, inspired, and with a renewed vision and commitment to serving its friends, neighbours, and patrons in the District of North Vancouver.

Dave Obee
March 2025

Here's to connecting the community, sharing knowledge,
and inspiring stories in its Diamond Decade!

2015

After a celebratory year in 2014, we shifted our focus outward in 2015.

We made great strides as a centre of learning, engagement, dialogue and discovery within the District of North Vancouver. We had over 34,000 residents who attended over 1,150 community programs!

We connected with local organizations and built meaningful partnerships to collaborate on innovative, diverse, and inclusive programming.

In 2015, we facilitated programs with impact, ranging from Newcomer Networking and An Evening in Honour of Reconciliation to the Democracy Café workshops, Community Unconference, and TED Livestreaming events.

We connected with local organizations and built meaningful and longstanding partnerships to collaborate on innovative, diverse, and inclusive programming.

The Library Board also worked to refresh outdated library policies, laying the groundwork for a Strategic Planning process in 2016.

Our libraries were in a period of transition, advancement, and growth.



Spotlight on...

The Whisky Library Fundraiser

First launched in 2015 in collaboration with local donor Allan McMordie, the Whisky Library fundraiser began with a heartfelt vision to honour Trish McMordie, a beloved local teacher and library enthusiast. The after-hours event included tastings of fine whiskies, delicious fare, live music, Scottish pipers, and live literary readings from notable advocates. By its fifth and final year in 2019, the series of annual events had welcomed over 500 people and raised more than \$30,000 for the Trish McMordie Memorial Fund benefitting NVDPL's Youth Services Department. The Library is forever grateful to the McMordie family for choosing NVDPL as the community place to honour and commemorate Trish. Sláinte ("to health" in Scottish Gaelic)!

Reconciliation at the Library

2015 marked a new era in our journey towards Reconciliation as the national conversation on truth, healing, and justice began to take deeper root when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Executive Summary and its 94 Calls to Action was published. Throughout the year, we hosted "An Evening in Honour of the Community Commitment to Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation", "Journeys: An Evening of Community Storytelling", and access to online learning course "Reconciliation through Indigenous Education". This marked just the beginning of our commitment to listening, learning, and honouring Indigenous voices, all of which are just as important today as they were in 2015.



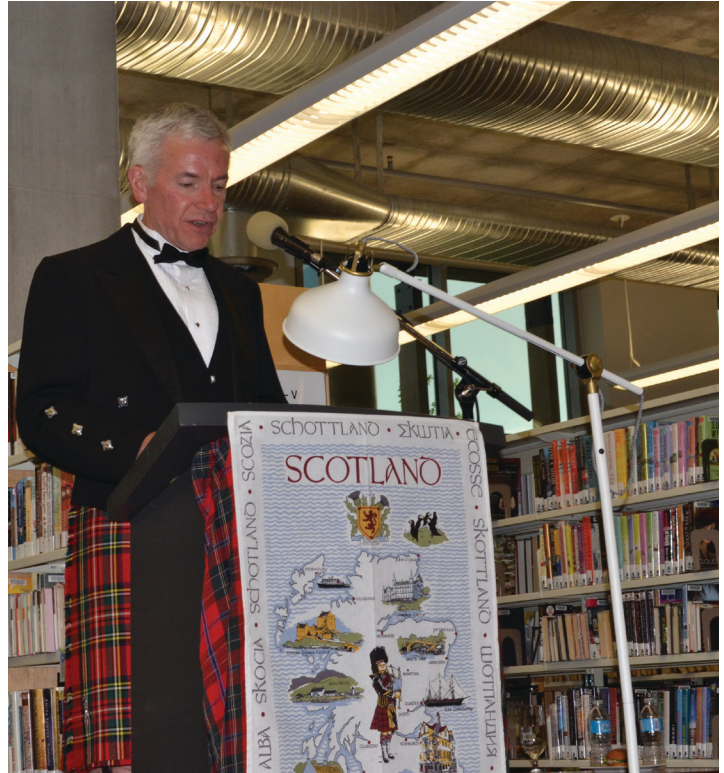
2016

In 2016, NVDPL staff had been working diligently on an organizational transformation, shifting to an integrated, collaborative system that has embraced new community-centric service and programming models for three years.

NVDPL continued its efforts to champion community-led and discussion based programs. We tested new models for our book clubs and made strides to improve digital offerings and technology. We hosted special events such as the Champagne & Chocolate book launch for the District of North Vancouver's anniversary book, a Whisky Library fundraiser, and the North Shore Writers Festival. More than 4,100 local children participated in the 2016 Summer Reading Club!

We also presented a staff-led session, called “Under the Hood: Honest Stories of Disruptive Change in a Public Library” at the BC Library Association’s annual conference, and our 50th anniversary book, written by Dave Obee, won a Community Heritage Award.

We collaborated with the Library Board to develop a Strategic Plan for 2017—2019, a document that would guide our continued evolution.



Spotlight on...

Introducing Shelf Talkers and Read likes

In 2016, the Library launched two exciting campaigns to highlight our fantastic collection of materials: Shelf Talkers and Readalikes. NVDPL staff love to read and we also love to recommend titles to our patrons! What better way to increase the “serendipity” factor of browsing the collecting than by placing suggestions right on the shelves?

Shelf Talkers were staff recommendation write-ups about specific books, and Readalikes were recommendations on similar authors that readers may not have heard of before. These two initiatives would later win American Library Association Awards in 2017.

Parent Child Mother-Goose at the Lynn Valley Care Centre

Working with North Shore Community Resources, the Library hosted a new Parent-Child Mother Goose program at the Lynn Valley Care Centre, an assisted living facility for seniors with complex care needs. Offering this program in a new and unique way helped stimulate impactful intergenerational connections within our community, and gave babies and seniors the opportunity to interact, who otherwise may not have had the chance. One resident stated how nice it was to have contact with children, and Care Centre staff noted residents “often tell their friends about their interactions with the babies.”



2017

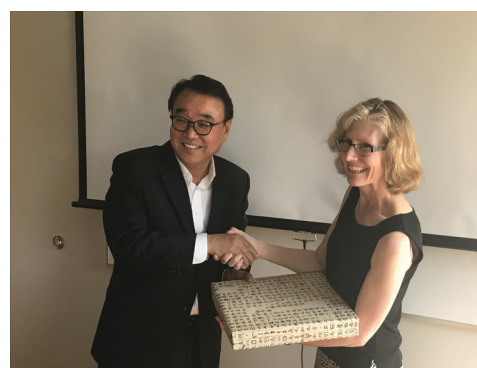
2017 marked the launch of a new Strategic Plan to help guide the Library's new vision to shape the District of North Vancouver's future by inspiring learning, discovery, creativity, and collaboration. At the core of this vision were three priority focus areas: collaboration with our community, transformation of our digital environment, and expansion of community learning.

We continued to form new relationships and strengthen bonds with community partners by offering a variety of events in collaboration, like Library Day at the PNE with InterLINK and Health and Wellness Month with North Vancouver Recreation and Culture.

We expanded community learning by providing new resources like Lynda.com (now LinkedIn Learning) and Mango Languages, offering training opportunities to build digital literacy skills. We hosted almost 1,500 public programs, including author visits, writing workshops, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and more. There was an opportunity for shared learning at every age!

We also expanded our reach into the global community, hosting a delegation of officials from South Korea and winning two American Library Association awards for public relations!

The library developed a vision to revitalize some of our physical spaces, introducing new study space and furniture at Capilano Library. And in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the new Lynn Valley Library, we completed improvements to the welcome desk to allow for greater connection with our patrons.



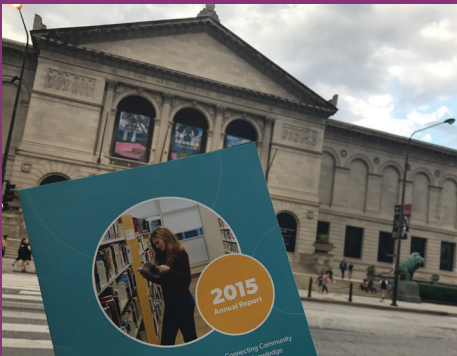
Spotlight on...

Human Library

The library was thrilled to host a Human Library event in 2017. The program promoted the use of respectful dialogue to connect with other community members on a deeper level. “Human books” volunteered to “read” by sharing their diverse life experiences in one-on-one conversations with participants. This Human Library included titles like “Unstoppable: A Full Life with Huntington’s Disease,” “Tales from the Blindside,” “We’re All Queer,” and more. The library provided a safe, neutral space for authentic dialogue, and in the end, 48 wonderful conversations took place.

Library Day at the PNE

Win a bookmark! Win a bag! We joined forces with InterLINK member libraries for a fantastic day in the first-ever Library Zone at the Fair at the PNE. BC library cardholders were rewarded with entry to the Fair for just \$5 when they presented their library card, and fairgoers visited a Library Zone where they were treated to free storytimes with the Canucks, a pop-up mini Maker Space, giant board games-and it wouldn’t be the Fair if there weren’t prize-wheels! The Library met over 500 people throughout the day. It was an innovative way to reward library cardholders and a great opportunity to showcase the diverse range of services and activities offered by libraries today to those who are not currently frequent users.



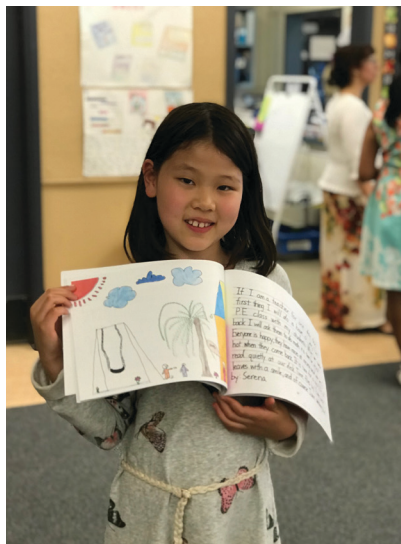
2018

2018 marked another vibrant and exciting chapter in our story. We collaborated with our community, working with over 20 local organizations on joint programming and learning initiatives.

We supported shared community learning by offering over 1,500 programs, hosting a special event for the National Network of Equitable Library Service (NNELS), and introducing two new outreach programs called Brews and Books, and Trail Tales.

We worked to transform our digital environment by offering programs to support patrons build digital literacy skills, and hosted wildly popular youth film camps to help inspire a new generation of creators. And so much more!

Our accomplishments in 2018 reflected libraries' changing role.



Spotlight on...

Taking Literacy to the Streets

We learned that going beyond library walls was an essential part of connecting the community. In 2018, Library staff launched two new programs for two very different audiences! Trail Tales was an exploratory reading adventure held in local parks, connecting literacy and nature. We posted pages of children's storybook: *The Two Sisters* by E. Pauline Johnson, illustrated by Sandra Butt, which tells of the First Nations legend of the "Two Sisters" mountains. With a librarian, participants walked through a park reading the story along the way.

We also introduced a refreshing new program for adults-only called Brews and Books, which paired craft beer and local authors! Library staff curated a series of literary events with local authors that took place at a local craft brewery.

Youth Video Camp

Action! NVDPL hosted the first of many film camps inside the new Learning Lab at Lynn Valley Library to encourage and inspire young filmmakers in our community and nurture their love of cinema. During the 5-day program, youth aged 10-13 worked with film educators from The Cinematheque, using equipment to make great stories for the screen! Interest in the program was so overwhelming that the Library hosted a second camp.

Paws 4 Stories

Reading is a skill that can take a comfortable environment, encouragement, and time to develop. To help foster the joy of reading in young children, the Library partnered up with volunteers from St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog community service program, Paws 4 Stories. At the program, friendly canines—and their "humans"—were paired up with a young reader for twenty minutes. Kids read a book of their choice at their own pace, sounding out words as they go—helping them boost their confidence and develop their reading skills in the judgement-free zone. The program was so popular that it was offered at all locations and continues to this day.



2019

2019 was another noteworthy year as we continued our collaboration with members of the community and expanded community learning. We nurtured collective learning by hosting Massive Online Open Courses, Discussion Lounges, and other discussion-based events.

We hosted nearly 2,000 program sessions, from Seniors' Health and Wellness talks to a another edition of the Brews & Books program to a sold-out Teen Film Camp.

Another major highlight celebrating the 20th anniversary of the North Shore Writers Festival at Lynn Valley Library, and announcing the launch of the North Shore Authors Collection, in partnership with North Vancouver City Library and West Vancouver Memorial Library.

In 2019, we also acknowledged a milestone anniversary: Parkgate Library celebrated 25 years in service to the community. We also broke ground on NVDPL's forthcoming digital creativity and storytelling centre, StoryLab, at Lynn Valley Library.

The year also concluded the library's 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. NVDPL's achievements over the previous three years, carrying out the goals and initiatives of its strategic plan, firmly established the library as a collaborative, connected, and engaged resource for our community.

The momentum of 2019 would carry us forward into a new strategic plan and a few challenging years.



Spotlight on...

Celebrating Children's Indigenous Literature

NVDPL welcomed community members and local educators to an event dedicated to an international resource highlighting the beauty and diversity in children's Indigenous picture books. The event promoted the launch of a brand-new resource called *From Sea to Sea to Sea: Celebrating Indigenous Picture Books*, a digital catalogue of over 100 books by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit authors and illustrators. NVDPL staff member Allison Taylor-McBryde lent her expertise to help curate the list of recommendations. The end result was a fantastic resource that reflects the diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, languages, perspectives, and experiences from "sea to sea to sea" and is updated every year with new titles.

North Shore Authors Collection

The North Shore is home to a burgeoning community of talented authors. Libraries are a natural place to connect local readers to local authors. 2019 marked the inaugural year of the North Shore Authors Collection, a partnership initiative from the North Vancouver District Public Library, North Vancouver City Library, and West Vancouver Memorial Library. From novelists to poets, writers from across the North Shore were invited to submit their work for consideration to have it featured in each library's collection for one year. The inaugural collection showcased the work of 78 gifted writers in our midst!



2020

2020 impacted and changed our community in ways that were beyond our comprehension prior to March 2020. We leaned into our vision of inspiring learning, discovery, creativity, and collaboration in our community.

In March, as fear and uncertainty about the pandemic accelerated, NVDPL staff courageously, safely and rapidly shifted how we deliver core services.

We created NVDPL from Home and invested in digital resources. We preserved community learning and connection by offering virtual programs and kept patrons smiling with lighthearted “window librarianship”.

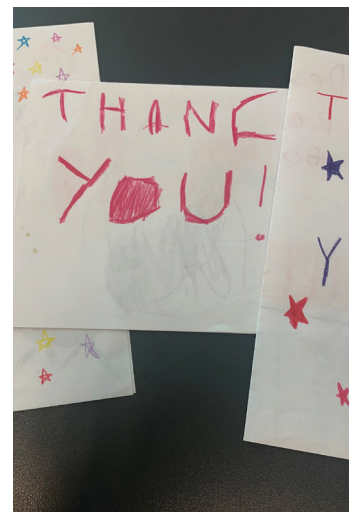
We partnered with North Shore Libraries and TELUS For Good to offer critical connective services to our community’s most vulnerable through the Take Home Technology initiative.

We were proud to be one of the first libraries in the country to creatively develop Library Takeout, a ‘curbside’ model of library service.

We launched a new strategic plan that articulated new goals and actions to work towards meeting changing needs and enriching the lives of community members. We also unveiled a lively and refreshed brand, which was developed to better reflect the vibrancy and essence of our ever-evolving role in the community.

“Just when all of us could spend more time with a book in our hands, the library, along with everything else, had to close. I so appreciated the opportunity to access crucial resources while everything was shut down. The approach NVDPL took was innovative, public spirited, and a vital service to this community.”
– NVDPL Patron

During a year that challenged and changed the world, comments like this sustained us.



Spotlight on...

Going Virtual

When our libraries closed, the way our community interacted, connected, and engaged with one another changed entirely. NVDPL quickly retooled programming to be offered virtually to sustain and meet the demand for programs while our community stayed home. From online trivia nights to social media storytime to a virtual petting zoo, patrons had fun and friendly ways to connect with each other from afar.

Library Takeout

In the early stages of the pandemic, when digital resource use soared, there were many people cut off from critical access to physical materials. Our staff proactively developed Library Takeout – and NVDPL became one of the first libraries in Canada to develop a takeout model of service. The response was heartening! NVDPL's expert staff pulled requests and selected materials, packaged them up, and provided a safe pickup time for a contactless experience. In the first week alone, the library safely fulfilled nearly 1,000 orders with thousands of items.

Building Better Communities

Together with Librarian Paul Taylor, NVDPL was honoured with the BC Library Association's Building Better Communities Award in 2020, recognizing efforts to increase the relevancy and impact of library service through partnership, collaboration, and building trust and relationships where little had previously existed. NVDPL and Paul Taylor curated and facilitated a unique series of community learning programs called MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). During a time when many social issues and crises were gaining significance and, at times, became divisive, Paul Taylor and the library created safe spaces to discuss contentious topics or share new ideas that helped combat isolation and build a sense of community from patrons of all walks of life.



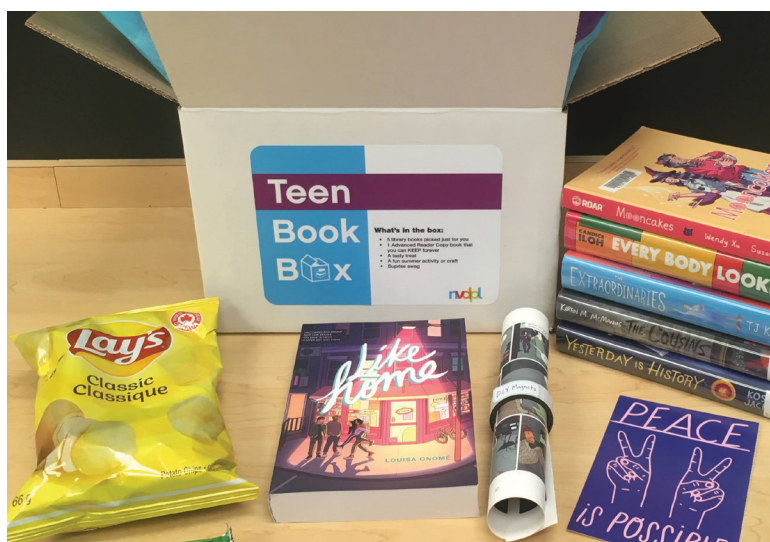
2021

Just when we thought we were through one of the busiest and most challenging years of our history, our team at North Vancouver District Public Library was faced with a new set of obstacles to overcome in 2021. As the pandemic entered its second year, our staff adapted to change after change. As our Lynn Valley community was dealt an unimaginable tragedy, our staff came together with compassion and care—for each other and for our community.

Despite every hurdle, our staff connected with our community. We officially adopted an Indigenous land acknowledgement statement, eliminated late fines, expanded service hours, opened year-round on Sundays, and resumed in-person storytimes. We were honoured with the BCCLA Building Better Communities Award in partnership with North Shore libraries and the BCCLA Community Story Award.

Through programs and resources, we celebrated and honoured diverse voices. We co-hosted the first virtual edition of the North Shore Writers Festival and the first-ever North Shore Reads community book club. We launched new digital resources and developed a summer book subscription program for teens!

And throughout it all, our staff was inspired. We opened our doors to StoryLab and hosted NVDPL's first-ever Digital Storyteller-in-residence program. We launched community-focused special collections, from puzzles to e-readers and more!



Spotlight on...

Goodbye, late fines!

All NVDPL cardholders were given a clean slate when we officially eliminated late fines for overdue material in May 2021! Daily late fines, while intended to encourage the return of library materials, actually created financial and social barriers that discouraged library use—and these barriers disproportionately impacted people in our community who need library services the most. We are grateful to the Library Board and North Vancouver District Council for supporting the elimination of late fines at NVDPL.

North Shore Reads

Initiated by NVDPL staff member Sara Oremland, the first ever North Shore Reads event was brought to life in collaboration with North Shore libraries. Following the “One City, One Book” model, the event brought together 418 from the North Shore and beyond for a special evening with Dr. Suzanne Simard, Shelagh Rogers, and Tsitsáyxemaaat Rebecca Duncan, discussing the featured book: *Finding the Mother Tree*. The book is an illuminating look into the mysterious and inspiring world of trees, paired with personal and heartfelt inclusions about Dr. Simard’s own life.

Devices, puzzles, and games—oh my!

Libraries have always been about sharing resources—we offer books, films, magazines, accessible formats, and digital resources. In 2021, we added puzzles, Dungeons and Dragons Starter Kits, and eReaders to the menu and these new collections are flying off the shelves! By being responsive to our community, we can support learning and information sharing in a variety of ways—and in ways that our community needs. And we get to do it by living our values of embracing exploration, creativity, and fun!



2022

Like many public service organizations in the “Time of COVID,” collective resolve and endurance saw us through a third year of unique challenges. NVDPL staff persisted in making a significant impact on the lives of community members and achieving new heights of accomplishment.

We proudly introduced a brand-new service model at our Lions Gate Express Library, enhancing accessibility and convenience for our patrons in the Lower Capilano area. The new model would inspire other libraries in BC, inviting visits from several library systems in the years to come.

Our commitment to providing diverse resources led to the expansion of our non-traditional collections, including Caring Community Resource Kits, First Language Storytime Kits, CO2 Monitor Kits, and Puppet Kits.

We played a leading role in cataloging efforts for the 2022 North Shore Authors Collection, supporting over 90 local authors and hosting a successful celebration event.

To better serve all community members, we introduced Access Cards, ensuring that individuals without a fixed address can enjoy library services.

Our commitment to inclusivity was showcased through educational displays and events like in-person Drag Queen Storytime, promoting self-love and diversity.

From hosting three Summer Reading Club celebration ceremonies to supporting creators, we continued to engage and uplift our community.

We nurtured a love of reading and lifelong learning in our community, returning borrowing levels to 95% of pre-pandemic levels.



Spotlight on...

Community Creations & Connections

Libraries are not just places for consuming content—they are places for creation! In 2022, NVDPL hosted 50 opportunities for creation, imagination, and play. From coding programs for kids to NaNoWriMo Write-ins for teens and adults, these free programs promote artistic and creative expression in community members of all ages. By championing creative programs, the library can help inspire creativity, build connections, and support the potential of budding creatives in our community.

Introducing the NVDPL Express Library

NVDPL's Express Library, an innovative and unique model for library service, opened at the brand-new Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre situated in the heart of a growing new community in the Lower Capilano area. The boutique library was the first model of its kind in BC, offering a curated collection of the latest materials, a cozy reading area, friendly staff, and a state-of-the-art Holds Pickup Locker, which allows for convenient library pick-ups anytime the recreation centre is open.



2023

In many ways, 2023 was a return to connection, celebration, and our dynamic role in our community. It was also a year of evolution, reminding us of libraries' special role in our lives: they grow with us and adapt to inspire and support every stage and phase of life.

As we emerged stronger from a few challenging years, demand for library services in North Vancouver remained strong. Circulation reached a 10-year high in 2023, with over 1.8 million items borrowed. Our library system ranked 1st in British Columbia for circulation per capita, with residents borrowing an average of 20 items per year.

We launched more community-focused collections, including French Caring Community Kits and Chromebook laptops. With over 1,700 non-traditional items available, including puzzles, e-readers, board games, and more, we were proud to be offering more ways for people to access resources that enrich their lives.

We hosted 1,250 programs with 26,644 attendees. We co-hosted the first in-person North Shore Writers Festival since 2019 at West Vancouver Memorial Library, welcoming over 500 attendees to celebrate the power of stories.

We were also recognized with four PRXchange Awards from the American Library Association.

The Library Board launched another extensive strategic planning process to ensure we continue meeting the needs of our growing community. By gathering input from Library Trustees, staff, and the public, we were shaping a refreshed vision for 2024 and beyond.



Spotlight on...

Digitizing Histories: Connecting our Past, Present & Future

In 2023, the North Shore Digital Libraries project launched, providing free and open access to the stories that shaped our community. The unique collection of digitized North Shore newspapers from 1976-2000 ensures that past, present, and future generations can access the stories, events, and memories that define our community's history. The initiative was launched in partnership with North Vancouver City Library and West Vancouver Memorial Library, with support from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC.

In another collaboration, Tsleil-Waututh Nation speakers utilized StoryLab's resources to record the Hul'q'umi'num' names of local animals in our Audio Booth. These recordings are now part of North Van Arts' interactive online map, the North Shore Culture Compass, contributing to preserving and celebrating local Indigenous languages.

StoryLab is also helping bridge the gaps for beginners and paving the way for new users to explore their creative and digitization projects. The new Digitization Station empowers patrons to preserve cherished personal memories by digitizing materials, including converting old VHS tapes into digital formats. As new technologies and formats emerge, the new service plays a role in helping our community carry their personal memories into future generations.



2024

2024 was another transformative year for NVDPL, especially in technology. We overhauled core systems that support our daily operations, including a new Integrated Library System, catalogue, website, Mobile App, and event management system. Public computing systems were replaced, a 3D Printing service (the first on the North Shore) was launched, and StoryLab saw 855 bookings.

We hosted 6 programs for Indigenous Learning and Reconciliation, and many staff attended three cultural safety initiatives with the Squamish Nation and North Shore Emergency Management, including Paddle Carving, Dance Paddle Painting, and Dance Rattle Making.

New programs included everything from 3D Printing 101 and ukulele play-a-longs to programs to support our commitment to sustainability and climate action awareness, and more! In total, NVDPL offered over 1,500 programs with 31,344 attendees.

In partnership with the District of North Vancouver, we launched BC's first e-cargo bike lending program, offering a taste of an eco-friendly transportation option to our community.

There were renovations galore including a full elevator replacement and new planters at Capilano; new shelving in the Lynn Valley Children's Department, new furnishings in the Silent Study Room, and the introduction of call booths at Lynn Valley; and the start of renovations at Parkgate Library to create new service desks, replace HVAC and electrical systems, update shelving, and more.

Staff collectively read over 580 books in a staff summer reading challenge—an average of 9.7 books a day—just a slice of our total circulation of over 1.8 million items!



A Note from Jacqueline van Dyk

Where will we go next? For over sixty years, NVDPL has been a cornerstone in our community, adapting to changes and evolving with the times. As I reflect on the last decade of NVDPL, I'm filled with pride, gratitude, and excitement for the future.

In just ten years, we've expanded beyond our walls and reimagined what it means to be a library in the 21st century. We've grown our collections to highlight more voices, more formats, more technologies, and more resources in our "library of things". We've built welcoming and accessible spaces and hosted conversations that matter. We've reduced barriers to accessing our services and developed cross-system approaches that allows for greater collaboration in our teams.

This report highlights just a taste of all that we've accomplished, and it certainly doesn't capture it all. None of this would be possible without the support of so many.

To our funders, we're grateful to District of North Vancouver for their ongoing financial support and partnership that allows us to meet emerging needs in our community. We're also thankful to the Province of BC, the Friends of the Library, and individual contributors, for additional resources that enhance service delivery.

To our board members, partners, and community contributors, we appreciate your collaboration that allows us to deepen our impact and broaden our reach.

To our staff, current and former, you are the foundation of every memorable and magical library experience our patrons. Thank you for showing up every day with dedication, creativity, heart, and a commitment to service the inspires and fulfills our community. Your work is important, it makes such a difference in the lives of others.

Together, we have cultivated a deep-rooted love for our library within our community, and we've emerged from the last decade stronger, inspired, and with a renewed vision and commitment to library services in the District of North Vancouver.

As our community evolves, so do we. So, I end as I began: where to next?



Jacqueline van Dyk,
Director of Library Services



Timeline

- 2015** Hosted the first of five Whisky Library fundraisers, programming shifts focus to community connections
- 2016** First Summer Reading Club Medal Ceremony hosted at the District of North Vancouver's 125th Anniversary Celebration; Dave Obee's NVDPL 50th Anniversary Book wins Community Heritage Award; Ready 2 Read program launches
- 2017** Lynn Valley Library's circulation space redesigned for greater connection with staff; hosted a delegation of officials from South Korea; awarded two American Library Association Awards for public relations materials at the ALA Conference in Chicago, participated in Library Day at the PNE
- 2018** NVDPL takes the library to the streets with Trail Tales, an outdoor story walk, and the Brews and Books program at local breweries, hosted a sold-out 5-day Youth Film Camp, staff record content for National Network of Equitable Library Service (NNELS)
- 2019** North Shore Authors Collection launches with North Vancouver City Library and West Vancouver Memorial Library; Lynn Valley hosts 20th anniversary of the North Shore Writers Festival; fifth and final Whisky Library takes place (total of over \$30,000 raised); Book Cart "drill team" debuts at the Lynn Valley Day parade



- 2020** COVID causes total closure of libraries but NVDPL maintains connections: NVDPL is one of first libraries in Canada to offer Library Takeout, shifts programs to NVDPL From Home operation for virtual programming and digital resources, offers “window librarian-ship”, safely reopens doors to community; NVDPL and Librarian Paul Taylor win BCLA “Building Better Communities” Award; NVDPL launches “Take Home Technology” with North Shore Libraries
- 2021** NVDPL supports healing following community tragedy; NVDPL eliminates all late fines; StoryLab opens with limited service; North Shore Reads community book club launches with North Shore Libraries; new collections added: puzzles & Kobo eReaders; NVDPL wins BCLA Building Better Communities Award in partnership with North Shore libraries and the BCLA Community Story Award.
- 2022** A brand new service model launches at Lions Gate Express Library; new collections: Caring Community Kits, First Language Storytime Kits, CO2 Monitors, Puppet Kits
- 2023** NVDPL is 1st for circulation per capita in major BC libraries; Chromebook Laptops now available for lending; NVDPL wins four ALA PR Exchange awards
- 2024** New website and ILS tools launch; preparation to launch NVDPL Kiosk at Lynn Creek, a first of its kind in Canada, returning NVDPL service to the Seylynn area; E-Cargo Bike Lending launches with the District and City of North Vancouver and BCAA



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Appendix

The official name of the library is the District of North Vancouver Municipal Public Library, but it is normally called North Vancouver District Public Library or North Vancouver District Library.

Branch libraries:

Lynn Valley | 1277 Lynn Valley Road

Capilano | 3045 Highland Boulevard

Parkgate | 3675 Banff Court

Express Library at Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre

NVDPL Kiosk at Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre (opened in 2025)

Logos

In its sixty years, the library has had seven logos, the first appearing in the 1973 annual report. Special edition logos were created for the fifteenth and fiftieth anniversaries.

The current brand was introduced in 2020 and designed by ThoughtShop Creative. It featured an official “primary” logo and an informal “secondary” logo. In 2024, the library combined the primary and secondary logos into one.

2020 Primary Logo



2020 Secondary Logo



2024 Logo



List of Trustees

- 2015** Ken Lim – Chair, Frank Sullivan – Vice-Chair, Doug MacKay-Dunn – Council Representative, Matt DeBock, Linda Munro, David Porter, Lucy Cayuela, Mark Jefferson, Sanford Osler
- 2016** David Porter – Chair, Linda Munro – Vice-Chair, Jim Hanson – Council Representative, Mark Jefferson, Ken Lim, Mike Little, Kristine Mactaggart Wright, Allison Rzen, Phil Webber
- 2017** Mike Little – Chair, Linda Munro – Vice Chair, Jim Hanson – Council Representative, Lara Greguric, Mark Jefferson, Colleen MacMillan, Kristine Mactaggart Wright, Allison Rzen, Phil Webber
- 2018** Mike Little – Chair, Linda Munro – Vice Chair, Jim Hanson – Council Representative, Valerie Dong, Lara Greguric, Mark Jefferson, Ana Lopez, Colleen MacMillan, Phil Webber
- 2019** Kristine Mactaggart Wright – Chair, Lara Greguric – Vice Chair, Jordan Back – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Ana Lopez, James Mitchell, Allison Rzen, Phil Webber
- 2020** Kristine Mactaggart Wright – Chair, Lara Greguric – Vice Chair, Jordan Back – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Kulvir Mann, James Mitchell
- 2021** Lara Greguric– Chair, Kulvir Mann – Vice Chair, Megan Curren – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Barb Lawrie, Ana Lopez, Kristine Mactaggart Wright, James Mitchell
- 2022** Lara Greguric– Chair, Kulvir Mann – Vice Chair, Megan Curren – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Barb Lawrie, Ana Lopez, Kristine Mactaggart Wright, James Mitchell
- 2023** Kulvir Mann – Chair, James Mitchell – Vice Chair, Herman Mah – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Lara Greguric, Barb Lawrie, Ana Lopez, Kristine Mactaggart Wright
- 2024** Kulvir Mann – Chair, James Mitchell – Vice Chair, Herman Mah – Council Representative, Gerald Baier, Valerie Dong, Lara Greguric, Barb Lawrie, Ana Lopez, Kristine Mactaggart Wright

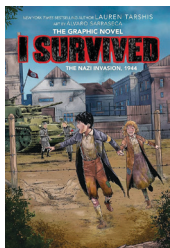
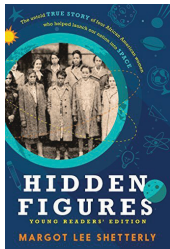
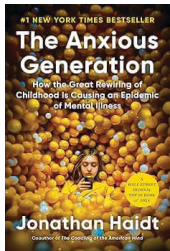
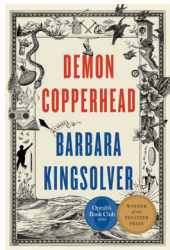
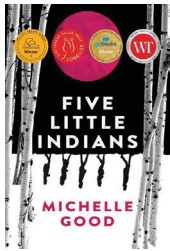
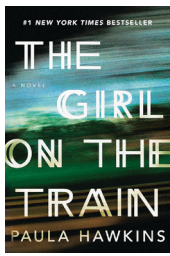


2024 NVDPL Library Board

Friends of the Library Presidents

2015	Rhiann Leung
2016	Noah Sim / Catherine Rickey
2017	Catherine Rickey
2018	Catherine Rickey
2019	Catherine Rickey
2020	Catherine Rickey
2021	Catherine Rickey
2022	Catherine Rickey
2023	Catherine Rickey
2024	Jo-Anne Chilton





Award-winning and bestselling FICTION titles from 2014-2024:

- 2014 *Written in My Own Heart's Blood* by Diana Gabaldon
- 2015 *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
- 2016 *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* by Madeleine Thien
- 2017 *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer
- 2018 *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- 2019 *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood
- 2020 *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good
- 2021 *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr
- 2022 *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- 2023 *Study for Obedience* by Sarah Bernstein
- 2024 *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny

Award-winning and bestselling NON-FICTION titles from 2014-2024:

- 2014 *You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes* by Chris Hadfield
- 2015 *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald
- 2016 *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- 2017 *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown
- 2018 *Educated* by Tara Westover
- 2019 *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle
- 2020 *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- 2021 *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard
- 2022 *The Myth of Normal* by Gabor Mate
- 2023 *Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World* by Naomi Klein
- 2024 *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt

Notable CHILDREN's titles from 2014-2024:

- 2014 *The Boundless* by Kenneth Oppel
- 2015 *Blackthorn Key* (series) by Kevin Sands
- 2016 *The War that Saved my Life* (series) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- 2017 *Wild Robot* (series) by Peter Brown
- 2018 *Front Desk* (series) Kelly Yang
- 2019 *Dragonet Prophecy* (*Wings of Fire* graphic novel series) by Tui Sutherland
- 2020 *Barren Grounds* (*Misewa Saga* series) by David A. Robertson
- 2021 *I survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944.* (graphic novel series) by Lauren Tarshis
- 2022 *Apartment 713* by Kevin Sylvester
- 2023 *Claudia and Mean Janine* (graphic novel series) by Raina Telgemeier
- 2024 *Library Girl* by Polly Horvath

GRAMMY winning albums from 2014-2024:

2014	<i>Random Access Memories</i> by Daft Punk
2015	<i>Morning Phase</i> by Beck
2016	<i>1989</i> by Taylor Swift
2017	<i>25</i> by Adele
2018	<i>24K Magic</i> by Bruno Mars
2019	<i>Golden Hour</i> by Kacey Musgraves
2020	<i>When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?</i> by Billie Eilish
2021	<i>Folklore</i> by Taylor Swift
2022	<i>We Are</i> by Jon Batiste
2023	<i>Harry's House</i> by Harry Styles
2024	<i>Midnights</i> by Taylor Swift



Award-winning and bestselling FICTION titles from 2014-2024:

2014	<i>Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</i>
2015	<i>Spotlight</i>
2016	<i>Moonlight</i>
2017	<i>The Shape of Water</i>
2018	<i>Green Book</i>
2019	<i>Parasite</i>
2020	<i>Nomadland</i>
2021	<i>CODA</i>
2022	<i>Everything Everywhere All At Once</i>
2023	<i>Oppenheimer</i>
2024	<i>Anora</i>

