

Librarian's Report: December 2014 - January 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

Library service highlights from 2014 included: a greater presence in the community; more programs and participants than ever before; and a circulation increase by more than 6,300 items.

Areas of focus for 2015 are: ongoing assessment of community needs; offering events that appeal to younger adults; expanding the library's DVD selection; and solving space constraint issues.

Teen & Youth Programming & Services:

- **Author Reading** – Alisha Sevigny read from her new teen novel *Kissing Frogs*. Afterwards, Alisha helpfully shared tips on the writing process and how to get published, even reading and critiquing a story written by a talented attendee.
- **Outreach** – Wanda spoke to 268 teens and 10 staff members at Smithers Secondary School, describing programs and services; demonstrating eBook downloads; and collecting valuable feedback. The most frequent requests from the teens were for movies, computer games, music concerts, and food. Their most common complaint was that the library was too quiet. Having a separate seating area for teens would encourage this group to make use of their library.
- **Teen Christmas Cookie Party** – 14 teens created seasonal no-bake cookies and a craft. Thanks to the United Way of Northern BC for continuing to fund Teen Night events.

Children's Programming:

- **Family Movie Morning** – 26 children and caregivers enjoyed the classic cartoon *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and a seasonal snack during school holidays. This was the first movie shown using the new A/V equipment donated by the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation, Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation, the Bulkley Valley Credit Union, and Friends of Smithers Library.
- **Santa Storytime** – 27 people came to hear a story, make a craft, sing carols, and sit on Santa's knee.
- **Mother Goose on the Loose (MGOL)** – 58 parents and tots participated in the December program, then wrapped up the season with a Christmas party. In response to patron feedback, a snack will be served at future MGOL programs.
- **Family Storytime** -- 45 listeners
- **LEGO Thursdays** – 38 builders

Community Events:

- **World AIDS Day** – Positive Living North (PLN) invited patrons to drop by their table at the library and make a red ribbon to raise awareness. PLN offered information about AIDS and local services.
- **Montreal Massacre 25th Anniversary Memorial** – 20 people attended a ceremony of remembrance for the victims, hosted on the library's patio.

After Hours Use for December/January:

- **Scrabble** (thrice monthly) 16 attendees
- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** (thrice monthly) 34 attendees
- **Book Club** (monthly) 15 attendees

Staff:

- We welcome Melissa Sawatsky back to the library. Melissa worked with us on casual and contract bases before winning her permanent Saturday shift on the front desk. Congratulations to Melissa on her new job, and her new baby!
- Congratulations also to our bookkeeper Erica Adema, who welcomed her second daughter in January.

Friends of Smithers Public Library:

- The Smithers Interior News Digitization Committee has learned of another initiative with similar goals and is awaiting more detailed information before proceeding further with their project.

Technology:

- BC Web has generously donated a screen and wall mount for behind the circulation desk. The screen will be used to draw patrons' attention to "invisible" items such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, and digital magazines; highlight new books and DVDs; and promote services and programs.
- Three iPads purchased with a grant from Spectra Energy are loaded with early literacy apps and awaiting backordered case inserts. Installation should be complete by the end of January.

Community Needs Assessments and Partnerships:

- Wendy met with library staff at Lake Kathlyn Elementary School to discover the interests and challenges specific to Lake Kathlyn students. School library staff will promote public library programs and services, and the public library will collect authors and subjects popular with Lake Kathlyn students.
- Wendy toured the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre and learned about the needs of the Centre's community members. A safe, warm place to spend time and/or socialise, and free WiFi were the top priorities listed that the library can provide. Quiet was mentioned as being off-putting for some people who might otherwise visit the library. Dze L K'ant staff's suggestions around teen programming will be incorporated into the library's 2015 offerings, and promotional materials are being developed for display in the Centre.
- The library attended School District 54's *iPads in the Classroom* education forum in December to learn how this technology is being utilised by local teachers and students. Apps recommended during the presentation have been incorporated into the library's app offerings, and attendees were made aware of the upcoming informal learning opportunities for students on public library iPads.
- Wendy attended the *Ignite the North* community forum on supporting innovation, participating in conversations about community makerspaces and the needs of local teens.
- The library has partnered with Smithers Community Services Association and MOST for Children to plan an exciting roster of events for *Family Literacy Week* and *Family Play Day* at the end of January.