

## Librarian's Report – July 2014

Wendy Wright, Library Director

### Partnership Presentations:

- June 16 – In Our Backyard – Wellness Options – third in a series of talks exploring local alternative health practices. Attendance: 13
- July 2 -- Tourism Smithers presented information during the first day of the Summer Reading Club about fun activities for families around the Bulkley Valley. Attendance: 8
- July 3 -- Orchestra North's "Classics on Main" event was rained out; nevertheless, musicians moved from our tent into the Children's Room where they treated patrons to a few pieces. Attendance: 25

### After Hours Use:

- Ongoing usage: Smithers Tabletop Gaming group (12 participants), Book Club (5 participants)

### Teen & Youth Programming:

- Every Friday during the summer is Teen Night with varying activities and a snack.
- The Teen Summer Challenge, modeled on a Hamilton Public Library program, is being greeted with enthusiasm; teens complete a set of challenges alone or in a group and document them online for a chance to win a prize.

### Summer Reading Club (SRC):

- 84 people attended the Launch Party on June 27. The program is divided into three age groups, each meeting once a week for stories, games, crafts, and activities for the older kids. Local teens have volunteered to assist with the younger children. Over 150 kids aged 3-12 have registered in the Club, with new registrants at every session.

### Community Involvement:

The Library adds value to community events and reaches out to people who may not be aware of our services.

- The Library participated in Canada Day celebrations at Bovill Square with kids sharing the title of their favourite book and registering for the SRC. Free Internet access was provided to the public through our mobile WiFi hotspot.
- Summer Student Skeena Lawson assisted with kids' crafts and activities at the Midsummer Music Festival and promoted our Tween Tuesdays program.
- Wendy and Skeena partnered with Community Literacy Coordinator Jenny Lester in a Literacy Tent at the July 12 Farmer's Market, providing Storytime entertainment, a literacy-based craft, and SRC registration. Jenny distributed free books and information about learning opportunities in the Valley. We received many positive comments about being out in the wider community; one onlooker, watching us help kids learn their letters, donated \$20 to the Library. Attendance: Storytime 20, craft table 67.

### Community Partnerships and Needs Assessments:

- Wendy attended the SCSA AGM to hear about the many projects and services happening in the Bulkley Valley and met with Literacy Outreach Coordinator Jo-Anne Nugent to explore collaboration opportunities. The Library will promote and host one of Jo-Anne's programs in the fall, and together offer a wealth of programs for Family Literacy Week in January/February 2015. Jo-Anne expressed the need for a welcoming programming space in the community.
- Skeena joins the Bulkley Valley Child Development Centre's (BVDC) Literacy Tent in Moricetown on Thursday afternoons in July with stories and crafts. Wendy and Wanda will visit the BVDC in September to tell staff about Library programs. Staff will distribute Library pamphlets to their clients.
- Jenny Lester of SCSA promoted the Summer Reading Club through her Literacy Tent at Bovill Square in June.

#### Technology:

- Internet abuse incidents have dropped from three per week to a single incident since we instigated preventative measures.
- Telus continues to experience difficulties upgrading our Internet service.
- The Library's Twitter account (smitherslibrary) has been revived. We now have an Instagram account (SmithersLibrary) for teens.

#### Friends of Smithers Public Library:

- Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation has awarded the Friends a grant towards a new audio visual system. Combined with grants from the Bulkley Valley Credit Union, the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation, and the Friends, this project can now be put in motion.
- The Bulkley Valley Child Development Society has supported the Library's Mother Goose on the Loose early literacy program with a "MOST for Children" grant.
- BC Web donated two brand-new book carts to the Library.
- The United Way of Northern BC has confirmed funding for 2014/15 Teen Night programming.

#### Statistics:

- We have changed which figures we count when tracking database and website usage, beginning with our June monthly statistics report. This will initially appear as a sharp decline but will more accurately reflect what our patrons are actually using. We have also ordered a people counter for tracking Library usage.