

Library Report June 2019
Wendy Wright, Library Director

Staff & Professional Development

- This summer is the ***** 40th. anniversary of Kathy Wilford joining the library*****. Over the years Kathy has served in every position on our staff, from Interlibrary Loans and Processing to Acting Director. She is the de facto Keeper of Memories for our organization and indelibly linked to the library in the minds of a large portion of our community. Kathy's warm and welcoming presence has set the tone for the library for four decades and we thank her for countless moments of grace and wisdom.
- We regret to announce the passing of library volunteer **Linda Smith**. We are glad to have known her for the brief time that she was a part of our library community.
- **Jacob Cachia** has joined us as a **Summer Reading Club Student**.
- We hope to have the **Indigenous Student: Summer Reading Club** position filled soon.
- Smithers Library staff (**Melissa** and **Wendy**) and Board members (**Wally**) **presented sessions at various conferences** in May and June including the BC Library Association, the BC Library Trustees Association, the Beyond Hope Conference for Northern BC Libraries, and a New Library Director Bootcamp.
- In addition to the many topics covered at the conferences above, recent staff **professional development** includes **Occupational First Aid Level 1** certification, a GLAM sector symposium and a BC Library Directors' Association meeting, as well as webinars on **Unbundled Legal Services** (family law) and **programming** for adults in their 20s and 30s.
- An interview with **Wendy** was featured in the **BC Museum Association's** journal Round-Up column "Lunch with Owl" for their GLAM sector issue.

Outreach

The booth shared by the library and art gallery showcasing the new building project won Best Information Booth at the Northwest Trade Expo.

- The library added face painting to annual **Schnai Dai** festivities on Hudson Bay Mountain.
- Jacob and Wendy signed children up for the Summer Reading Club and promoted upcoming events at the **Farmers' Market**, sharing our tent with SCSA's Summer Step-Up Tutoring who provided a craft.
- Sandra is leading many **class tours** to encourage kids to visit over summer holidays.

Reports & funding

- The library's **SOFI** and **provincial statistics** survey have been submitted.

Ongoing Programs and Facility Usage

- Babytime, Toddlertime, Storytime, Wetzin'Kwa's Book Lovers' Night Out (BLNO) and the Book Club will **break for the summer**. BLNO continues to attract new participants including Telkwa men's book club members and a Smithers tourist.
- LEGO/KEVA, Board Games, and Magic: The Gathering continue.

Incidents:

- An iPad was stolen in May. A window and a door sustained damage during the incident.

Events:

- The library marked National Poetry Month (April) with a **Poetry & Song Coffeehouse**.
- Positive Living North launched their clients' new photography collection "**Reflections of Hope**". Both of these events were supported by **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation**.
- April's **Science Extravaganza** Non-Instructional Day Program featured local scientists leading kids through activities involving geology, biology, electricity, and a 3-D sandbox. Thank you to our partners SD54, the Exploration Place, Eclipse Geomatics, SCWIST and the Library VolunTeens.



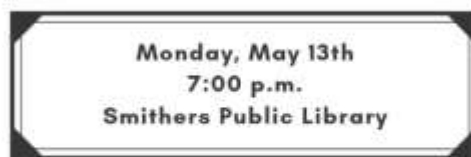
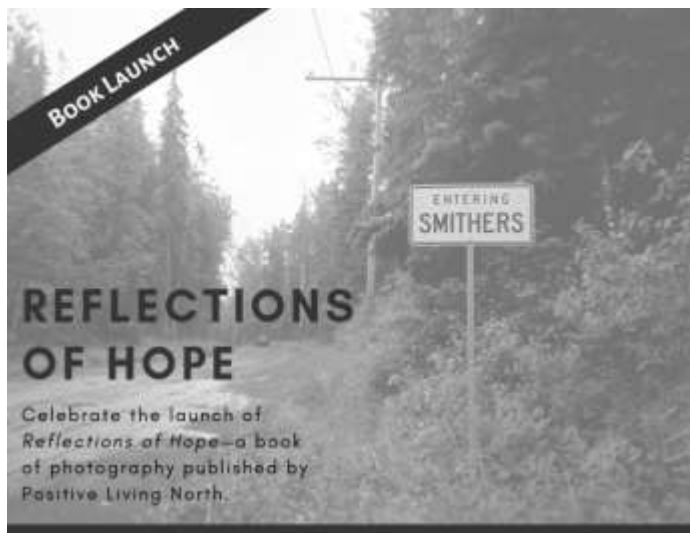


Enjoy a rousing evening of poetry & music with special guests Grace Hols, Peter Haines, and Dorothy Giesbrecht.

Bring a poem or song to share during the open mic!



Coffee, tea & snacks provided



The purpose of this project was to foster inclusion and create space for discussions on what it means to belong, as well as to provide an opportunity for individuals to express themselves artistically.

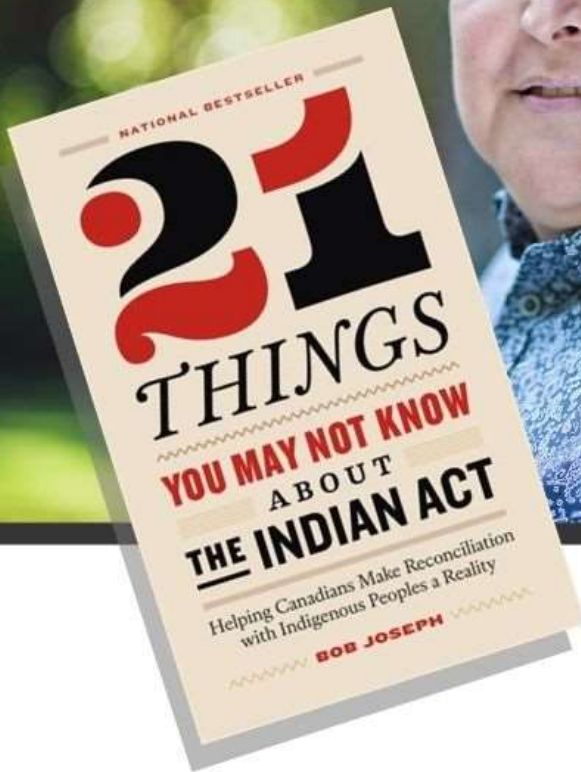


- **AFFNO** showcased their mobile lending library of **French books** on our patio one afternoon.
- The 2nd annual **Pride Storytime** attracted **31 people** including families from Hazelton and one family encompassing three generations. This year's attendance was **triple** that of the first year.
- The library participated once again in the **Smithers Pride Community Celebration**, displaying our LGBTQA2S+ materials and sharing our tent with the **Bulkley Valley Museum** who were collecting local LGBTQA2S+ oral history. **465** hamburgers and hotdogs were served, putting attendance at an estimated **500 people (!)** of all ages.



- **156 people** attended a lecture on the Indian Act by cultural trainer **Bob Joseph** at the Della Herman Theatre. His book ***21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality*** is a **Canadian bestseller** and recently won a **BC & Yukon Book Prize**. Local booksellers Interior Stationery sold **40 copies** at the presentation.

"An **invaluable** resource...
The time is right for this book."
Shelagh Rogers



"This pocket-size primer is a **perfect introduction** to a troubling legacy with which Canadians continue to wrestle."
Publishers Weekly

Join celebrated author Bob Joseph for an insightful presentation and Q&A about the Indian Act, past and present.

MONDAY, JUNE 17TH
DOORS AT 6:30 PM
STARTS AT 7:00 PM
DELLA HERMAN THEATRE

FREE ADMISSION
ARRIVE EARLY TO ENSURE SEATING

His **Canadian bestseller**, *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act*, won the **2019 Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award**.



Thank you to the Bachrach family, the Wright family, and all the individual donors who made this event possible.



smithers public library



WETZIN'KWA
COMMUNITY SOCIETY

Prestige
LITERARY SOCIETY



BULKLEY VALLEY
museum



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Bulkley Valley
Research Centre

The library is grateful for the community support for this event that enabled so many people to learn about this important topic in an accessible and engaging format. We wish to thank all of the sponsoring organizations and individual donors who made it possible to bring this event to Smithers:

The Smithers Bridging Committee
Organizing Against Racism & Hate

The Law Foundation of BC, who are committed to make legal information more available to people of BC through public libraries in their communities

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation

The Town of Smithers

BC Government & Service Employees' Union

School District 54 Aboriginal Education

The Bulkley Valley Museum

The Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge

The Wright Family

The Bachrach Family

Melissa Sawatsky

Mandi Schwarz

A special thanks to Karen Miller at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Bulkley Valley Research Centre.

- Our first **Repair Café (monthly, May through October)** was a great success. Community members brought their belongings in need of repair to the **Creation Station** at 3866 Railway Ave. where local volunteers shared their skills and knowledge with their neighbours, teaching them how to fix the items and reducing waste in the process. Volunteers fixed clocks, chairs, a camp stove, three bicycles, electronics, a toaster, and sharpened people's tools. **The "fix rate" was 100%!** Many people, including families with children, came by to check it out saying they would return next month with items in need of repair. The volunteers were proud and happy, people with repaired items were delighted, and the volunteers' hands-on teaching increased the confidence of those learning new skills. Our first Facebook post about this program received 107 Likes and 64 Shares! This program is supported by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and Wetzin'Kwa.



Repair Café

Toss it? No way!

Smithers Public Library presents

What do you do with

A CD player that no longer opens?

A toaster that no longer works?

A sweater with moth holes?



Repair Café is

repairing broken items together, professional advice, encounters and inspiration

Costs?
A voluntary contribution



QUESTIONS?

Visit the Repair Café event page on our website or call 250-847-3043.



WHERE?

Creation Station
3866 Railway Ave
Smithers, BC



WHEN?

May - Oct 2019
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Last Wednesday
of the month

CLOTHES • FURNITURE • ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES • TOYS • BICYCLES • ETCETERA



For more information:
smithers.bc.libraries.coop



- **Magician Leif David** returned to Walnut Park to delight **over 200 children**, punctuating his show with information about books, libraries and the Summer Reading Club. SD54 and the Northwest Library Federation supported this free event which was open to the entire community.
- Community members participated in **SKIN: The Game** to explore local incidents of racism. SKIN was a partnership event with the Smithers Bridging Committee, the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre, the Province of British Columbia, courthouse Libraries BC and Wetzin'Kwa.



Impact Reports:

- A patron who immigrated to Smithers within the past year with very little English has passed her International English Language Testing System exam using textbooks borrowed through the library's interlibrary loan service. Her family has recently joined her in Smithers and she can now teach them English as well.

Services:

- The library has been inundated with requests to proctor exams since Coast Mountain College ceased to **invigilate examinations for distance learners** in January. We usually invigilate around 14 exams per year but now receive requests for about **6 per week**. At present we are the only invigilators in Smithers, yet without separate rooms for quiet study or for noisy programs, and with limited staff hours, we cannot fully meet the demand for this service. Online courses are an increasingly popular, accessible and affordable way for people to pursue higher education and a career without needing to move away from their home community. The college is currently looking to hire an invigilator but in the meantime we are limited in our ability to deliver this service.