

## Librarian's Report April 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

### Stats (February 2015):

- Visitors = 5,958
- Total items circulated = 8,318
- Public computer and WiFi sessions = 1,600

### Adult Programs:

April is National Poetry Month.

- Local poets **Jennifer Skin Wickham** (Smithers) and **Fabienne Calvert Filteau** (Hazelton) treated the community to a rich evening of reflection strongly rooted in our regional landscape and history on April 20. The **Poetry Coffeehouse** was packed with 26 people and standing room only. Based on patron feedback we will hold more events of this type in the future, including an open mic poetry night.
- Two **BC Book Prize nominees** read at the library on April 16: **Kayla Czaga**, a poet, and **Gabrielle Prendergast**, author of two teen novels in verse. Nine people attended.

### Staff:

- Wanda Belisle is stepping down from her role as our Children's & Youth Programmer but will remain on call as back-up. Thanks to Wanda for the dedication and creativity she brought to the position. She will be missed by staff and patrons alike.
- We welcome Nicolette "Nicky" Davis as our new LA II – Children's & Youth Services. Nicky is a newcomer to the Bulkley Valley and comes to us with both library and teaching experience. Her hobbies are music, improv theatre, and role playing games. Clearly, our young patrons have a lot of fun ahead of them!

### Children's Programming:

- **Mother Goose on the Loose (MGOL)** – 74 participants.
- **Family Storytime** -- 45 attendees
- **LEGO Thursdays** – 50 builders
- Our seasonal children's programs have ended until the Summer Reading Club begins in June, and will reappear in the fall under the new names **Babytime**, **Toddler time**, and **Preschool Storytime**. Thanks to the Friends of the Smithers Library for purchasing the tabletop puppet theatre enjoyed by local children during Spring Break.

### Teen & Youth Programming & Services:

- Minecraft (an engineering computer game that allows players to interact with one another) was presented twice with great success. Some classrooms are using special versions of Minecraft to teach specific subject to their students in an engaging format. Dungeons & Dragons continues. Wanda and Nicky have planned a fantastic roster of upcoming activities for youth; now we must wait to see whether we receive the funding to carry them out.

### After Hours Use for March:

- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** (thrice monthly) – 39 attendees
- **Scrabble** (thrice monthly) -- 15 attendees
- **Book Club** (monthly) -- 10 attendees

### **Community Needs Assessments:**

- The director attended an information session on this winter's homeless count presented by the Smithers Action Group Association (SAGA). Public libraries across North America serve as important refuges for those who have no safe or warm place to spend their days. Time spent being treated respectfully in an inclusive public space helps marginalized individuals remain a part of their community and mitigates the alienation that can occur when people struggle with challenges.

### **Funding:**

- Huge thanks to Smithers' two **Pharmasave** stores and the Friends of the Smithers Library. Pharmasave raised over **\$1,800** in March to refresh and build the library's **Beginning Readers** collection. Three cheers for Tinka, Mike, and their staff!
- A grant application has been submitted through the Friends of the Smithers library to the United Way for additional Teen and 'Tween programming money over last year's request. The extra money would allow the library to run programming the entire length of the school year.
- The federally-funded CAP YI computer tutor program has ended. The position is now funded by the Town of Smithers until the fall and will run at reduced hours until the next federal grant cycle begins in October.
- Our request for funding from Canada Summer jobs has been approved. The Summer Reading Club Summer Student position will be posted shortly.

### **Publicity:**

- The library has received a great deal of media attention recently: *CFTK-TV* – iPads, cultural centre; *Interior News* – iPads, Read Local BC promotion, Pharmasave donation, need for a new library, author events, cultural centre; Moose FM radio – iPads and DVDs, author events; *CICK radio show "In the Shadow of the Mountain"* – author events. Thanks to the media for getting the word out about all of the free events and materials available to them, and for their further promotion through social media.
- Intrepid Councillor Phil Briennesse demonstrated the library's new MaKey MaKey outside the Bugwood Bean coffee shop by creating a giant foot piano. Thanks for showing everyone how it works, Phil! The MaKey MaKey and other Technology Kits purchased with a Bulkley Valley Community Foundation grant will make their next public appearance at the Northwest Trade Expo, then be available to patrons for 7-day check-outs. Thanks, too, to Phil for sharing library events through [Smithersevents.com](http://Smithersevents.com).

### **Technology:**

- A self-checkout has been installed opposite the circulation desk for patrons who simply want to quickly check out items in hand or prefer privacy. Thanks to Wally and Wendy Bergen for transforming the old children's computer desk into a handsome self-checkout station.

### **Collection:**

- Smithers Interior News publisher Grant Harris has generously donated a subscription to Newspapers.com to the people of Smithers through their public library. Historical issues of the Interior News will eventually be digitized and mounted on this site. We are sorting out the technicalities of providing onsite-only patron access to this site and will have it in place soon.
- The VHS collection has been discarded. New DVDs arrive regularly, and are circulating rapidly.

### **North Coast Library Federation (NCLF):**

- Federation director Lauren Wolf from New Westminster toured the library on April 15. The NCLF held their AGM and strategic planning session in Smithers on April 18.

**Libraries & Literacy Branch:**

- The library has submitted our 2014 Annual Report to the Libraries & Literacy Branch of the Ministry of Education. Branch Consultant and public library expert Cindy Ralph toured SPL on April 17. She offered positive feedback on our recent technological updates, collection development, and especially our focus on moving beyond the library's walls to participate in community events and meet with other local organizations. Cindy commented that we are taking all the right steps to ensure we remain relevant to our community.

**Partnership Events:**

- Acting on feedback from Smithers teens, the library and WorkBC planned a Student Job fair that would connect local employers with Smithers Secondary School teens seeking summer jobs. Unfortunately, the only time this event would work without students missing classes is after school from 3:30-5 p.m. when the library is already filled to capacity with regular patrons. The event has been cancelled due to the lack of a separate room for programs/events, but we hope to offer it when the library has a larger space.