

Librarian's Report July 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

Stats (June 2015):

- Visitors = 6,182
- Total items circulated = 8,399
- Public computer and WiFi sessions = 1,770

Adult Programs:

- Members of the **Shire of Tir Bannog**, a local chapter of the **Society for Creative Anachronism**, regaled approximately **300** community members in front of the library during the Main St. Festival. History enthusiasts dressed in medieval garb demonstrated textile-making, games, calligraphy, arrow-crafting, and swordplay. All ages enjoyed the group's re-enactment of the Middle Ages, with kids and youth lining up to battle armoured knights, children learning simple weaving techniques, and adults inquiring about historical warfare details.

Outreach:

- The library booked Bovill Square to participate in the **Main St. Festival** by offering free Storytime entertainment and colouring; however, as it turned out that no other tables were on that block, festival-goers did not venture beyond the main festival area and no one came to Storytime. After the library's tent blew away twice, we left the festival early. Despite the poor location, 16 children signed up for the Summer Reading Club at the library's tent.
- **Smithers Community Services Association (SCSA)** and the library partnered to hold a **Campfire Cookout & Singalong** at Riverside Park. The event grew out of a discussion about the importance of song as an early literacy tool. **45** people came to the Singalong. Many parents thanked us for holding the event, said they had a wonderful time, and asked if we would repeat it next year. SCSA and the library have decided to make it an annual tradition. Thanks to the **Friends of Smithers Library** for donating the library's share of the food.
- The library has again partnered with **MOST for Children** in a **Literacy Tent**. Madison takes stories and crafts from the Summer Reading Program to **Moricetown** four afternoons in July to reach children who are unable to travel to the program in Smithers.
- Madison represented the library in the children's area of the **Midsummer Music Festival**. A Storytime was planned, but as the children were very busy with crafts and activities she assisted them instead.

After Hours Use for June:

- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** (3 x monthly) – 29 attendees
- **Magic: The Gathering** (3 x monthly) -- 14 attendees

Staff:

- **Will Kiiskila** joins the team as our new **Computer Tutor**. Will originally approached the library inquiring about volunteer opportunities to teach computer skills to community members. Will is a Smithers Secondary School student who plans to eventually study Computer Science in university.

Children's & Teen Programming:

- Nicky and Madison promoted the **Summer Reading Club**, **'Tween Tuesdays**, **'Tween Book Club**, and the **online Teen Summer Challenge** to an astounding number of kids, teens, and teachers through class visits, school assemblies, and the Main St. Festival. **95** children have registered, and **94** people attended the first week of the program.
- **Teen programming** will take a break over the summer as last year the sunshine proved more popular than indoor programs.
- **LEGO Thursdays** – 23 builders

Funding:

- **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest** has generously awarded the **Friends of the Smithers Library** funds to hire a part-time **Programs & Events Coordinator**. The Coordinator will host evening and weekend programs and events such as author readings, Philosophers' Cafés, and an adult book club. The funding will cover 12 hours per month from September 2015 through May 2016 and provide many more free opportunities for the community to discover, engage, learn, and be entertained.
- 100 of the popular **Books for Babies** packages were delivered to **Public Health** nurses to distribute to new Bulkley Valley parents. The packages consist of a cloth bag containing a board book, children's music CD, and library program pamphlets. The Friends of the Smithers Library make this project happen each year by soliciting funds from groups such as **PECSF (Provincial Employees Community Services Fund)**.
- The annual federal **PCNA/CAP YI** grant for the library's Computer Tutor has been approved (420 hours fall 2015 through spring 2016). The funding start date has not yet been announced.

Technology:

- A **small 3-D printer** has been donated to the library and will be installed in August. The mini printer will act as an introduction to the concept for community members and enable them to experiment with printing small downloaded object files or creating their own designs. Biodegradable plastic filament made from corn will be used as the library does not have the separate, well-ventilated area necessary to use stronger, finer plastics safely. A public demonstration will be held after installation.

Publicity:

- **Moose FM radio** recorded an interview about the **Technology Kits** funded by the **Bulkley Valley Community Foundation**. Circulation increased immediately after the interview aired. Thanks to our local media for letting people know about the opportunities available to them.

Volunteer Barbeque:

- **60 guests** attended the library's annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque. Mayor Bachrach reiterated the Town's commitment to building a cultural centre that includes a new library, and Board Co-chairs Wally Bergen and Corry Tremblay spoke of the changing face of libraries as they transform to stay relevant in today's world. The library relies on our loyal volunteers – shelveers, book sale helpers, Board members and others -- to raise funds for special projects and keep things running smoothly.