

Librarian's Report July-September 2016 Wendy Wright, Library Director

Highlights from a very busy summer...

Children's & Youth Programming

- This year's **Summer Reading Club (SRC)** was a success on many counts. Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation and the Bulkley Valley Credit Union generously donated wages for a second person to assist with the program, enabling the library to perform **more outreach** than before and attract a **more diverse** group. With **two staff**, we were also able to **accommodate seven children with special needs**. Registration numbers were the same as last year (151) but weekly attendance was significantly higher. Many parents told us that this year's program was the best yet! Next year we will again seek funding for two SRC staff.

Outcomes from feedback survey:

- 50% of the respondents reported that they read almost every day.
- 40% of the respondents developed a new interest.
- 60% of the respondents learned something new.
- 40% of the respondents signed up for a new library card.
- 50% of the respondents made a new friend.

Thanks to all of the many sponsors and partners who enriched the 2016 SRC: MOST for Children, Bulkley Valley Credit Union, Bulkley Valley Wholesale, RBC Foundation, British Columbia Library Association, The Province of BC, Friends of the Smithers Library, and the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation, Safeway, the United Way of Northern BC, Big Smiles, Mountain Eagle Books, SpeeDee, Subway, Smithers Feed, Shoppers Drug Mart, The Dollar Store, Extra Foods, and Dan's Source for Sports.



SRC Wrap-up Party & Medal Ceremony; First 2016 medal recipient

- Sandra ran a new youth program this summer funded by the United Way of Northern BC – **Volunteens/Voluntweens**. Young volunteers assisted staff with the Summer Reading Club, preparing decorations, helping small children with games and crafts, and acting as Reading Buddies. They proudly assisted with the library's **Fall Fair Parade float**, helping distribute **1,800** Hogwart's acceptance letters and train tickets for the Hogwart's Express! The program provides opportunities for youth have fun together, be in a leadership position with the little ones, and gain experience for their résumé or put community service hours towards graduation. Although the program began with mostly `tweens, some teens joined as the summer progressed, and others have inquired since school resumed, creating a varied group of youth with different backgrounds and abilities. The summer Volunteens were so enthusiastic that they asked the library to extend the program through the school year. Volunteens now assist with the planning, preparation and delivery of Non-Instructional Day programs. They are a joy to work with and appear to have a great time!



Parade Crew. Special thanks to SRC student Tina Edwards for envisioning our first float and spectator giveaways!

- Volunteens lent their creativity and sense of fun to the library's first annual **Teddy Bear Sleepover**. After an imaginative Bedtime Storytime led by Sandra and Tina, children tucked in their fuzzy friends at a library sleepover just for stuffies. When the children came to pick up their teddies the next morning they were treated to a slide show of their stuffies' nighttime shenanigans and took home a photo collage as a keepsake. Thanks are also due to the Volunteens' parents who assisted with the collages.

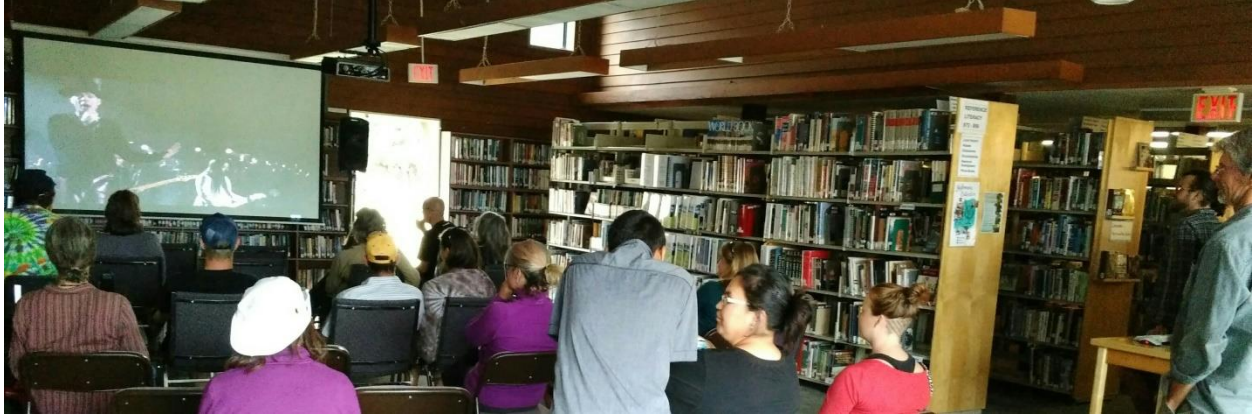


Teddy Bear Sleepover

- SRC staff visited four local playgrounds with **Stories in the Park**, reading to children and distributing free books from Smithers Community Services Association.
- The Northwest Library Federation and Friends of the Smithers Library presented two **robotics workshops** for ages 9-14 using **LEGO Mindstorms**. Both sessions were full with waitlists.
- Vancouver's **H. R. Macmillan Space Centre** visited the library in July, treating families to an engaging presentation on outer space and a turn looking through a solar telescope.
- Kids went home having expanded their vocabularies after September 19th's **Talk Like a Pirate Day Storytime** (and staff went home with sore throats!).

Adult/General Audience Events

- The library livestreamed **The Tragically Hip's** Kingston, Ontario concert in August. 46 people from toddlers to seniors enjoyed the concert over the course of the evening. Thanks to Lynnda for suggesting the event, to George Stokes for lending his speakers for the patio, and to the Friends of the Library for the party snacks!



Tragically Hip concert

- The second annual **Campfire Cookout & Singalong** grew this year, with new partners and double the attendance (70), including more seniors. The Town of Smithers joined the Friends of the Smithers Library and Smithers Community Services Association in making the event possible, while Bulkley Valley Wholesale generously donated the beverages and hot dog wieners for this all-ages community event.



Campfire Cookout & Singalong

- **Orchestra North** entertained the public with their enchanting music on the library's patio in August.

Outreach and Partnerships

- SRC staff partnered with MOST for Children in a **Moricetown Literacy Tent**; presented Storytime at the **Farmers' Market**; assisted at MOST's children's area at the **Bulkley Valley Exhibition**; and offered a fun activity at the **Main St. Merchants' Festival**. They also visited local **schools** and a shopping mall promoting the SRC in late June. The library and the Friends had a table at the Bulkley Valley Exhibition, and library programs for children and youth were promoted at **Community Registration Day** in early September.
- The library was honoured to participate in **National Aboriginal Day (NAD)** celebrations on June 21, contributing face-painting, original colouring sheets of the Wet'suwet'en clans by local artist James Madam, and a reading area stocked with First Nations books. The face-painting was very popular and we welcomed assistance from visiting youth volunteers. The library thanks the **Town of Smithers** for the **Community Engagement Funds** that made our participation possible. We look forward to more joint projects with our NAD committee partners: the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre; the Town of Smithers; the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR); the Bulkley Valley Museum; and MOST for Children.



National Aboriginal Day

- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) collaborated with the library and other NAD partners to envision, and create promotional materials for, **Indigenous Reading Month**, highlighting Aboriginal books, DVDs, newspapers and music at the library throughout June.
- We were very fortunate to host a **Wet'suwet'en Language Workshop** led by elder Lillian Morris in June in partnership with our NAD committee members. Attendees requested a follow-up session which will take place in October.

- The library brought their Raspberry Pi2 microcomputer, a monitor, and a keyboard to the **Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association's Raspberry Pi Bake-off** in August, only to be gifted with the latest Raspberry Pi model (3) from StartUp Smithers shortly after. Library patrons will enjoy the new Pi's built-in WiFi.

Reports & Funding

- **WetziKwa Community Forest Corporation** has invested deeply in free community programming by generously funding our temporary **Program & Event Coordinator** position through July 2017. Melissa is already juggling many projects at once as she plans a rich and varied roster of events. Watch for everything from health, science, and legal presentations to a Human Library in the coming year.
- The federal **CAP YI** funding that the library relies upon to support a **Computer Tutor** for half of each year is **no longer available** to us. The funding program's focus and qualification parameters have changed, making it difficult to find appropriate candidates. Luckily, **Seabridge Gold** has donated **\$2,500** towards interim Computer Tutor funding, enabling us to hire a student for approximately 4.5 hours per week through March 2017. We hope to have a new Computer Tutor by early October.

Staff

- We bid fond farewells to **Tina, Chanelle, and Will**. Good luck in your next adventure!
- **Heidi Brown** joins our team as a casual Library Assistant I. Heidi holds a Master's degree in Library & Information Science (MLIS). She has worked in public libraries, special libraries, museums, and First Nations settings in addition to having her own research business. Her skills and enthusiasm make her a welcome addition to our team.
- **Erin Hart** also joins us as a casual Library Assistant I. Erin has given her time to the library as a regularly scheduled volunteer since moving to the Valley a couple of years ago. She has strong organizational and project management skills and a great love of libraries. We are delighted to welcome her in this new role.

Building

- **Peter Vandergaag Construction** donated **custom-built new shelving** that enables the **Juvenile Non-Fiction (JNF)** collection to be housed in the Children's Room for the first time. (Previously, it was interfiled with the adult non-fiction on 8' high shelving units.) Roughly half of the JNF books have been relocated, and their **circulation has already risen by 43%** over the 2016 monthly average. Additional shelving is being built to hold the complete collection, with the Friends of the Library substantially contributing towards the project.
- Thanks to the Town of Smithers for installing a **heat pump** near the end of the summer; it has kept the library much more comfortable. Thanks also for removing the **park bench** beside the library and replacing it with a more comfortable picnic table for park users in the shade of a tree.

Media

- Thanks to our local and regional media for keeping the public aware of all the free library programs and events for their enjoyment all summer long. It seems like the library was always in the news! With appreciation to the Smithers Interior News, MooseFM, CICK, and CBC.