

Librarian's Report March 2017
Wendy Wright, Library Director

February Stats

- **Circulation: 8,904**
- **Visits: 9,449**
- **Public Computer & WiFi Sessions: 1,526**

Programming

- Local human rights and employment lawyer Lisa Feinberg presented "**Keeping Our Libraries Free: Expression and Censorship in the Digital Age**" to mark **Freedom to Read Week**, an annual initiative of the Canadian Book and Periodical Council. Thanks to Lisa; to Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation; and to Ivy Wright for the refreshments.



- Journalist and author **Gwynne Dyer** will tour some Northwest Library Federation communities in fall 2017. The library is actively seeking funding partners in hopes of including Smithers in Mr. Dyer's itinerary. The last time he spoke here his audience filled the Della Herman Theatre.

Ongoing Programming & Facility Usage

- Babytime, Toddlertime, & Storytime (Storytime attendance up considerably in 2017); LEGO & KEVA Thursdays, the United Way's Teen Night, D&D, Volunteens, and Geek Night; Wetzin'Kwa's Book Lovers' Night Out, Magic: The Gathering; and a Book Club.

Reports & Funding

- The library's **annual report** has been submitted to the **Libraries & Literacy** branch of the Ministry of Education.
- A **\$1,400.00** cheque from **The Bulkley Valley Community Foundation** (BVCF) has been received for the Tech Kits: Phase Two project. The kits purchased with these funds have been well-used by local families.

2017's BVCF application for five new Tech Kits has been rejected. The library continues to seek funding for a programmable drone and Sphero robot to encourage and support computer coding skills. Both of these items are used as teaching tools at Smithers Secondary School.

- The Friends of the Smithers Library's **Canada 150** grant application through the BVCF to assist with this summer's **reconciliation event** has been rejected. Alternative sources of funding are being pursued.
- The library's 2016 financial records have been examined by the Town and are undergoing their annual **audit**.

Staff & Training

- The director attended a 3-day course in Prince George on management in a unionized environment and a webinar on emerging technology trends for libraries.

Volunteers

- Thanks to Wally and Wendy Bergen for building handsome frames for the library's original artworks by James Madam.

Building

- The older furnace required maintenance and repair in early March, as did the front doors in February. These expenses point to a need to increase our building maintenance budget line.