

Librarian's Report April & May 2017
Wendy Wright, Library Director

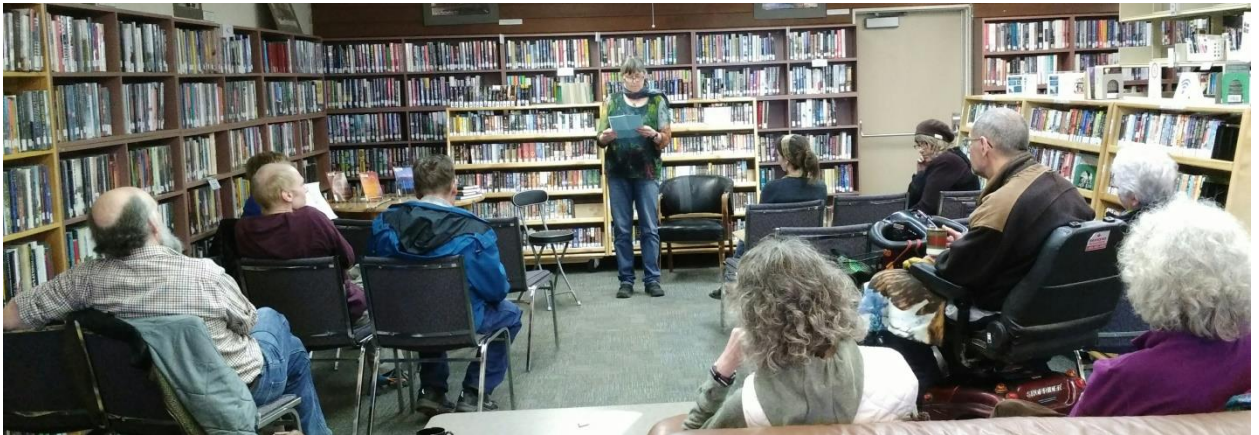
- The library was honoured to receive the inaugural **Building Better Communities Award** from the British Columbia Library Association during the annual BCLA conference in Vancouver this April. We wish to thank the Town of Smithers for nominating us, and all of our staff, board, volunteers, community partners, funders and patrons for their vital support that made this work possible. The award was celebrated at the library's **annual barbeque** that honours our many dedicated **volunteers**. Thanks to **Wally and Wendy Bergen** for donating a beautiful work of art by **Roy Henry Vickers** symbolizing

people working for the benefit of the entire community.



Programming

- 14 people enjoyed a unique presentation on **How to Read a Play** by playwright **Catherine Banks**, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. Catherine also facilitated the donation of 12 plays to the library through Playwrights Canada Press. An unprecedented number of plays were checked out at the end of the evening.
- The brilliant northern BC essayist and poet **Sarah de Leeuw** launched her new work **"Where It Hurts"** with a reading at the library in April. At the launch Sarah connected with local residents and spoke of the door libraries opened for her growing up in remote Haida Gwaii.
- The library observed National Poetry Week with a **Poetry Coffeehouse & Open Mic** (Sheila Peters reads her work in the photo below).



- Members of the **Smithers Wellness Local Action Team** gave a presentation on **Child & Youth Mental Health**, focussing on anxiety, depression, and local resources.
- The **Bulkley Valley Youth Writers Workshops** wrapped up with a weekend at a writers' retreat and a book launch for a published anthology of the group's work. Congratulations to our young writers! Big thanks to all of the program sponsors and to **Melissa Sawatsky** and **Emily Bulmer** for mentoring these talented young people.

Ongoing Programming & Facility Usage

- **Babytime, Toddlertime, Storytime** and the **United Way's Teen Night** ended in mid-April and will resume in the fall.
- **LEGO & KEVA** attendance dropped during the warm April sunshine.
- The **United Way Volunteens** will soon gear up to assist with the Summer Reading Club.
- The **gaming group** and the **Book Club** continue to enjoy meeting at the library.

- **Wetzin’Kwa’s Book Lovers’ Night Out** will take a summer break after June. BLNO has developed a core group of about 12 regular attendees, with approximately 8 others who occasionally drop in. The average number at monthly gatherings is 6-8 rotating members, with several more borrowing and reading the chosen book even though they cannot attend the meeting. Altogether, BLNO has engaged 32 different community members, with 7 more saying they would attend if it were on a different night. Participants value the discussions, and some meetings last 2 hours. BLNO members are a diverse group of men and women ages 20-70, some long-time residents and others new to the community. Thanks to Wetzin’Kwa for making this monthly magic happen.

Community Outreach

- The Friends and the Library once again shared a booth at the **Northwest Trade Expo**.
- Melissa and Wendy W. participated in a reconciliation dialogue workshop facilitated by Reconciliation Canada. We were grateful for this educational and thought-provoking opportunity to meet with some of our Witsuwit’en community members and leaders to further our understanding of reconciliation.

Reports & Funding

- An application for the July 2017-June 2018 funding cycle has been submitted to the **United Way of Northern BC** for **teen programming**.
- An **auditor** from Edmison Mehr chartered Accountants presented their report on the library’s 2016 financial records to the Board Co-chairs in April.
- The library’s **Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)** was submitted to the Libraries Branch in April.
- The library has applied for a “**Go Wild**” grant to purchase one traditional and one digital **microscope** with prepared slides for community use.
- The **Annual Survey** (statistics) will be submitted to Libraries Branch in **May**.
- A grant application requesting **Program & Event Coordinator** wages will be submitted to **Wetzin’Kwa** Community Forest Corporation in May.
- Thanks to the **Bulkley Valley Credit Union, Seabridge Gold, Hy-Tech Drilling** and **Canada Summer Jobs** for generously contributing towards hiring an Indigenous Summer Reading Club student. We await news on one more grant application towards the program.

Staff & Training

- Congratulations to **Sandra Schuffert** on completing her **Children’s Services** course through Langara College with flying colours. Sandra chose to write her term paper on **inclusion** in libraries and has lots of new ideas to bring to her programs.

- The director attended sessions on reconciliation, serving indigenous community members, children's services, marketing, and collaborating with museums and archives at the **BCLA conference** in April.
- **Tina Edwards** has been rehired as one half of our 2017 **Summer Reading Club** team. Welcome back, Tina!

Building

- The need for a dedicated **Teen section** was evident in these photos from a rainy May afternoon. The youth had to either squeeze into miniature furniture in the Children's Room or take to the floor in the main reading area. There were so many of them that they did both.

