

MARCH 2023 LIBRARY REPORT

February Circulations: 9,333

Library Love

A **102-year-old patron** visited the library to check out books this month.

Programs & Events

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Intellectual freedom is a core value of public libraries.

This year the library raised awareness of Canadians' right to read what they want and make up their own minds about it in a number of ways:

- **Displays** of banned and challenged books
- An [interview](#) on CICK Community Radio,
- A [video](#) with MP Taylor Bachrach, Mayor Atrill, Councillor Sam Raven and teacher Perry Rath (many thanks to all, as well as Phil Briennesse for his videography skills)
- A **presentation** on libraries and intellectual freedom with an update on recent book bannings, followed by a fun evening of **Banned Book Trivia**

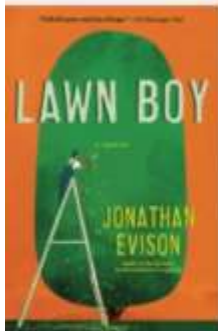
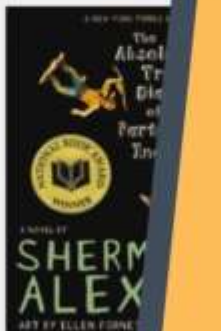
There have been a **record number of book bans and challenges** in United States libraries (school and public) over the past two years. More than 50 organised groups in America circulate long lists of books, mostly by or about people of colour or LGBTQA2S+ people, and demand they be removed from libraries. Many appear as delegations to Town Councils, school boards and library boards. Library staff and school board trustees who speak against banning these books have been vilified and harassed. **The same thing has begun happening in Canada.** Some groups even call on their members to report library staff or trustees to the police and publicly state they should be arrested for having certain books in their libraries.

Last month, one Canadian group called the RCMP, stating that Chilliwack School District libraries contained "child pornography", a common claim in recent book banning attempts. The RCMP investigated and found the allegations unwarranted.

No, books in Chilliwack school libraries aren't child pornography, RCMP says

By Simon Little, Global News

February 22, 2023 <https://globalnews.ca/news/9505240/chilliwack-school-books-not-child-pornography/>



BANNED BOOK TRIVIA NIGHT

Celebrate your freedom to read
with an update on recent book
bannings and a fun trivia night!

FUN! PRIZES!

Friday,
FEB 24

7:00
PM



@ **Smithers Public Library**
Talk: 7:00pm | Trivia: 7:30pm

For more information:
250-847-3043
smithers.bc.libraries.coop



To mark BC Heritage Week, the Library and the Bulkley Valley Museum partnered in a screening of the documentary *Unarchived* at the Old Church.

FILM SCREENING



In community archives across British Columbia, local knowledge keepers are fighting for a more inclusive history through family photos, newspaper articles and deeply rooted memories. History is what we all make of it.

Thursday Feb 23rd
7pm
The Old Church
Free admission!

**In celebration of
BC Heritage Week**

BULKLEY VALLEY
museum

smithers
public library
DISCOVER
TOGETHER

ONE
NFB
FNO

WETZIN'KWA
COMMUNITY FOREST CORPORATION

59 visitors attended a non-instruction day program on puppet-making and creating plays run by **9 VolunTeen leaders**. Thanks to **Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corp.** for their ongoing funding for VolunTeens and non-instructional day programs.



Free NID Fun!

**Friday, Feb 17
9:30 - 11:00 AM
Smithers Library**

Join us for a fun-filled morning of puppet making! This event also includes ideas about how to start creating a puppet show or play.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Generously supported by  

**smithers
public library**  **DISCOVER
TOGETHER**

Smithers Public Library

3817 Alfred Avenue, Box 55
Smithers, British Columbia V0J 2N0 | 250-847-3043
smithers.bc.libraries.coop

Ongoing Programs & Facility Usage

- Weekly **Babytime, Toddlertime** and **Storytime** programs supported by the Friends of the Smithers Library
- **LEGO Time** continues Thursdays from 2:00-4:00.
- The March **Book Lovers' Night Out** was cancelled due to illness
- Smithers Boardgame Group plays at the library from 1-5 on the third Sunday of each month
- A local Book Club meets at the library once a month

Funding

The provincial government announced that a one-time, \$45m grant from 2022 surplus funds will go towards public libraries, to be spread over 3 years. More details to come.

Professional Development

Wendy attended a webinar for public libraries on BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

During Freedom to Read Week, Wendy and her BCLA intellectual Freedom Committee Co-chair gave a virtual presentation to the BCLA Public Library Interest Group and hosted Banned Book Trivia online for library trustees. Wendy spoke to Telkwa Reading Centre Board members and volunteers about libraries and intellectual freedom.

Melissa is attending training webinars on the new software LibraryAware.