

AUGUST 2024 LIBRARY REPORT

June Circulations: 8,327 including 2,155 eltems

July Circulations: 10,340 including 2,458 eltems

Our little library had **10,340** circulations in July! That's a LOT of customer service, interlibrary loans and shelving. If every item cost \$20, that would be **\$206,800.00 worth of materials** that community members used for free in one month.

As busy as we are in the building, there's even more library usage happening that we don't see: July's circulation total includes **2,458** eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.

Technology

A grateful patron expressed her appreciation after **using library equipment to view her husband's MRI**. It was provided to her on a DVD and she did not own any devices capable of playing it.

A parent asked for help teaching her school-aged daughter to pronounce the sounds of letters. Library staff demonstrated the **early literacy apps** Endless Reader and Endless Alphabet, available on the library's iPads.

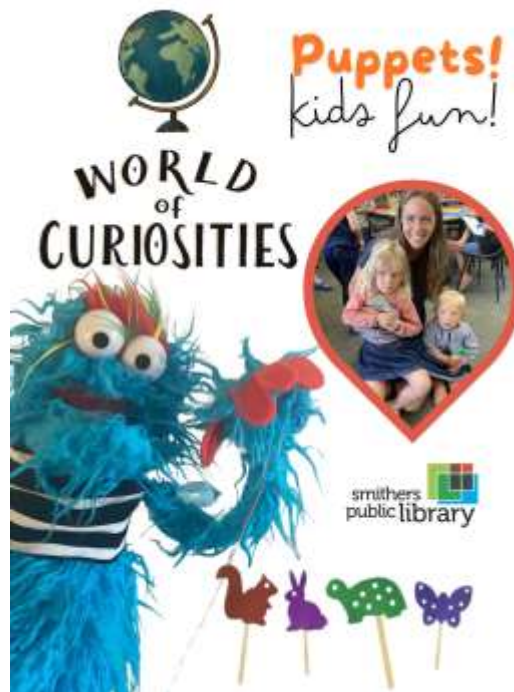
Programs, Events & Outreach

Sandra and Jessica entertained **115 children and caregivers** at the **Show 'N' Shine** and registered kids for the Summer Reading Club.

The Library was pleased to once again participate in the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre's **National Indigenous Peoples Day** celebration this year, which drew over **500 people**. Jessica helped **175 children make orange shirt pins** and Wendy introduced attendees to selected Indigenous books and movies from our collection.



BC Summer Reading Club: World of Curiosities | July 2 – August 9



Jessica visited schools in June to spread the word of the Summer Reading Club. Approximately **150 children** enrolled this year to explore the magic and mystery of the world around us, from the depths of the earth to the far reaches of space. This fun-filled, weekly program ran from July 2nd to August 9th for three different age groups, with **524 attendees**.

Week 1: Geography

Week 2: Mythical creatures and a shadow puppet craft

Week 3: Water Cycle

Week 4: Optical illusions

Week 5: Space travel

Week 6: Memory

Thanks to all of the local businesses who donated prizes or refreshments for the program, including a beautiful cake from Safeway. A big thank you to **Witset First Nation** for their generous donation towards program expenses. **60** people attended the wrap-up party and medal ceremony on August 9.



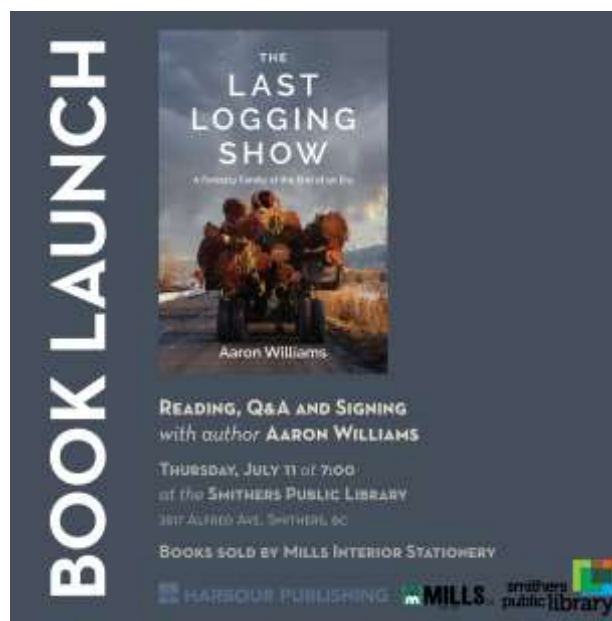
*“A quiet morning filled with books and colouring activity pages from you! Thank you! My kiddos are checking off their summer reading log and enjoying the awesome fruits of your labour. **What an awesome service you provide to our community!!!** They enjoyed their first summer reading club session this week.”* -- Facebook comment



You never know where your library will pop up! Jessica and Sandra entertained families with games, crafts and a Storytime at the **Farmers' Market** in July.

Summer Munchkin Time | July 3rd to 31st (Wednesdays), 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.

This summer, Munchkin Time returned for parents with children up to age 3 (newborns welcome)! **136 attendees** learned new rhymes, songs, stories and fingerplays to share with their child while connecting with other parents of young children.



The Last Logging Show: Book Launch & Author Reading with Aaron Williams | Thursday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

45 people attended an event featuring Aaron Williams. The author of the popular wildfire fighter memoir *Chasing Smoke* returned to Smithers to launch his latest book, this time reminiscing about the generations of his family who logged for a living and where that way of life is headed today.

Friends of the Smithers Library Garage & Bake Sale July 26 & 27

The Friends held a fundraiser for children's books in July, raising a total of **\$2,400!** Thank you to everyone who donated their items, baking skills, time and money towards this good cause, and special thanks to Joan and Al Wilmot who hosted the event at their home.

Story Theatre: The Great Bloom | Tuesday, July 16, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

47 people enjoyed this free, live performance for ages 5-12 and families, sponsored by the Northwest Library Federation.



Teddy Bear Sleepover | Drop off August 13 p.m., pick up August 14 a.m.

It's time for another Teddy Bear Sleepover! Bring your favourite stuffie friend to the library on Tuesday, August 13 for bedtime stories and a goodnight hug. Return the following morning to reunite with your stuffie and find out what they got up to overnight! Thanks to the Library VolunTEENS for stuffie-sitting.



Building

The library's **kitchen floor was replaced** in July. An **outdoor ramp** will be built the week of September 16th to make the library's **emergency exit** by the parking lot **accessible**. All of these building improvements are being funded through our **provincial Enhancement Grant** received in 2023.

Grounds

Another fire occurred in the encampment beside the library on August 5 while the library was closed for the BC Day holiday. No one was injured, but two tents were destroyed and three more were damaged.



Funding

The Library received our 2024 **provincial grant** letter at the end of June, outlining the usual annual grants for public libraries from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs: Per Capita Operating Grant (\$26,592), Resource Sharing Grant (\$5,194.56), BC OneCard Grant (\$10,250), and Literacy and Equity Grant (\$18,000). The province added a one-time \$10,887.04 Library Enhancement Grant which will be spent in 2024 on books, extra copies of e- and eAudiobooks, mugs for events, and replacing outdated staff computers. The grant monies, totalling \$70,923.60, should arrive shortly.

Staff & Training

We bid farewell to staff members **Reuben Brintjes** and **Jessica Generoux**.

Staff attended **online training** on **homelessness and housing**, the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner's **Hate to Hope** program, creating **autistic-friendly libraries**, **legal advice** for public libraries regarding intellectual freedom-related issues, **accessible customer service**, and the **National Network for Equitable Library Service** (services for print-disabled patrons).