



The Library's West Wing – Where it All Started

Supporting your library since 1986

The Library Foundation was established in 1986 by far-sighted citizens who understood that a great public library would not be possible through public funding alone. The West Wing of the Library was developed and since then, the Foundation, Municipality, and the Library have worked together, in a strong partnership, to determine where private support can have the greatest impact and at the same time, not supplant the public's responsibility for funding the basic operations of a strong library system.

The Foundation has continued to raise funds for the Library building improvements, equipment, furnishings, books and other materials, programs and services. The Foundation is a registered not-for-profit society that receives, invests and administers funds received from bequests, donations and fundraising campaigns. **Over \$1.2 million has been transferred to the Library in the past five years alone** and it is with great pride that this year, the Foundation is celebrating 25 years of service in the community.

Save the Date - Nov 4

On Friday, November 4, the Foundation is pleased to host a special night at the Library – A Passport to...Italy! **We invite you to an enchanting evening of La Dolce Vita featuring fabulous food, wine and music from the region.** Gelato, opera, espresso, fashion, and so much more... be sure to save the date!



A Passport to...Italy!
New Fundraiser for Fall 2011

A message from the new director of Library Services



Jenny Benedict

I am honoured to serve as the seventh head administrator of the West Vancouver Memorial Library. The Library has a special place in the heart of West Vancouverites and is widely recognized as the “cornerstone of the community”. In 2010, the Community Survey reported a 98 percent satisfaction rate for Library services, a distinction that the Library

has held in the three previous surveys conducted in 2001, 2004 and 2007.

Our friendly assistance, in-depth collections, comfortable seating areas, accessible public computing, engaging programs and robust online services attract nearly 43,000 people to our facility and 27,000 to our website each month. Above all, our collections are the number one reason why people of all ages visit. We circulate more than 1 million items annually.

With a new 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, we have a bright future ahead of us in a world where the volume of knowledge is increasing at a faster rate than ever before, the means of distributing it and accessing it are available to everyone, and the need to develop patterns of lifelong learning are paramount for examining the new concepts and technologies that are constantly before us.

We are deeply grateful for the support that we receive through the Foundation. **The West Vancouver Memorial Library is exceptional because of your contributions that help us fulfill the library's mission statement:**

“The Library is open, free and welcoming to all. We connect people with ideas, information and the world of imagination. We are the cornerstone of an engaged, democratic and literate community.”

Jenny Benedict, Director of Library Services

A time to Share

By Ann Hamilton

IRENE GRAHAM, a modest, poised lady of dignified grace, is sitting in a cozy nook called The Musto Room – a premium meeting place behind the stacks – at West Vancouver Memorial Library. In front of her is a steaming cup of tea from the library’s cafe. It is a blustery, cold, wet, grey day. Yet, despite the objectionable weather, Irene is here at the library’s request, to reservedly share her personal story of giving. “I am not comfortable talking about myself. I wasn’t brought up where you talked about donations,” she says. “But if it will help the library, then I am willing.”

Her selfless determination is as clear as her passion for the library. “Think of all the free things the library has to offer, the sheer variety!” says Irene. She is right: resources, concerts, youth groups, movies, author readings, public lectures, art galleries, children’s programming, books, computer classes, research assistance, and story times. But it comes at a cost that is only partly covered by the municipal purse and Irene wants people to realize how important it is for everyone to do their supportive bit. “We (each of us) are responsible to help provide for what the budget doesn’t cover. Give a little bit or give what you can. It is a collective effort,” she insists.

She firmly stands by her convictions. Irene, born on Vancouver Island, and her late husband Scotsman Jock Graham, have been giving generously for decades to help fund library needs. When Alzheimer’s disease tragically claimed Jock’s life 12 years ago, Irene continued donating in her husband’s name. “I loved him very much. He was a man of enormous integrity, very high standards, and wit,” she says warmly. “Alzheimer’s is hell on earth and the worst thing to happen in my entire life.” She stood by her husband caring for him until the illness forced him into specialized care for the remaining three months of his life. They had been married 39 years.

Her eyes sweep across a number of books on the table. These particular materials deal with mental health issues, especially Alzheimer’s. Neatly placed inside each book is a nameplate that simply says: *Donation in Memory of Jock Graham*. It is a lovely way to honour her husband and keep his name alive. “Jock thought we were so lucky to have the library. I think he would be very pleased that I am doing this for him... that it is the right thing to do, to support the library.”

After Jock died, Irene continued to donate to a number of causes including the UBC Brain Research Centre. Her plan was simple: try to give back to the community, try to help others by funding research for hope and resources to inform and perhaps comfort. Her generous annual donations to the



Irene Graham, shows a book on Dementia purchased with funds donated in memory of her late husband, Jock Graham.

library helped purchase books, equipment, and various resources. More recently, monies have been directed towards mental illness materials and an honorarium for a lecture on dementia during Seniors’ Month at the library.

Irene visits the library once or twice a month. She especially enjoys who-done-it mysteries. And she appreciates seeing the joy in children who are visiting, inspired to read, engage, and learn to value the library. “I love to see the little kiddies going out with their piles of books. I enjoy seeing their art on the walls and their sense of pride, knowing their work is being recognized beyond the school and their classrooms.”

“Jock thought we were so lucky to have the library. I think he would be very pleased that I am doing this for him.”

All of a sudden, Irene shares a bright, warm smile prompted by a childhood memory. She was five years old when she met her own first librarian in Victoria on Vancouver Island. She had a profound impact. “There was this wonderful public library and the Children’s librarian was the sweetest woman. She was matronly and had short hair with a large barrette on the side. We all adored her. She took the fear out of going into this strange space filled with books. She took my hand and showed me around, and made suggestions. She is the one who made me love libraries. You never know what kind of impact you are going to have on them (children) later in life.”

Irene and the late Jock Graham, are making a wonderful impact too – through their generous annual gifts.

“I’m just somebody in the community who believes in the library,” she insists. She is good at sharing too. Thanks Irene and Jock!

Your Support Made a Difference!

BOOKtopia – Once again the Foundation was the lead sponsor of the 7th Annual West Vancouver Children's Literature Festival. Your donations helped continue a tradition of bringing top authors to the Library and Kay Meek Centre to inspire West Van youth to develop a passion for literacy.



MP John Weston, wife Donna, and Festival Chair Fanny Patterson at BOOKtopia's Opening Reception

Talking and Large Print Books for the Reading Impaired – Thanks to donations, the Library was able to purchase an additional 240 titles for our growing population who can no longer read regular print materials. Audio and large print books are very costly for individuals to purchase and are a good example of materials well shared.

Enhanced Collections – Almost 900 books have been added to the popular bestseller and other important collections. The Library now has a first class Health and Medicine section, with a wide range of up to date works. Our Best Sellers fund enables us to buy more copies of the newest books which mean shorter wait times for in demand titles.



Welsh Hall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones and Les Welsh

The Welsh Hall – A special celebration was held to introduce this fantastic new all-purpose meeting room and concert facility in January. The Benefactor's nephew, Les Welsh, flew in from Ontario to attend this special engagement. Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Foundation Chair Nicole Brown, and former Library Director Ann Goodhart, gave speeches to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution from the Estate of Mr. Robert Leslie Welsh that made this new room and so many other music-related services possible.



Programs, Events and Concerts

Summer Reading Club - Always a wildly popular program with West Vancouver Youth, your donations helped to support this program that draws hundreds of students each year into the library and gets them reading during July and August.

E-Reader Lending Program – Your library is on the leading edge! E-Readers (Kobo, Sony, Kindle) are now available for loan and are loaded with 50 titles each. Patrons can drop by for a demo any time, or attend one of our increasingly popular Wednesday morning staff show-and-tell sessions.

Preschool Programs – The Parent Child Mother Goose program was hosted with experts from North Shore Family Services. A wonderful way to give parents the tools to make daily life with young children easier and more joyful through songs, rhymes and stories.

Music Concerts - In 2010, the Library offered 59 youth and 31 adult music-related programs. One of the most popular was the Friday night concert series attended by 900 people. The 6 concerts included a particularly well-attended performance by Appalachian folk musician Dirk Powell as part of our ongoing partnership with the Vancouver Jazz Festival.



Imelda Davis, seen at the Dundarave table of the Computer Centre, learned how to use the computer, got help obtaining an email address, and has participated in several free computer-based learning sessions at the library.

2010 Financial Highlights

- Funds transferred to the Library \$181K
- Fundraising & Other Revenues \$278K
- Investment Income \$325K
- Foundation Expenses \$108K

Thank you to our 2010 Donors

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London Drugs Foundation

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Up to \$99

The full list of donors, including the names in this category (up to \$99), are featured in the Foundation display case in the main lobby of the library.

In Memoriam

Wilson Barbour

Karen Brown

Nellie Green

Bertha Martel Drolet

Anne Mowatt

Rose Naumann

Ali Rakhshandeh

Dennis Roy Case

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