West Vancouver’s Living Memorial

On November 11th over 1,000 people crowded onto Marine Drive in front of the library to attend West Vancouver’s Remembrance Day ceremony. It was a moving ceremony marked by bagpipes, flypasts and the laying of 77 wreaths by local organizations. It was a beautiful day to watch the veterans march past along with representatives from the Navy, Army, Air Force and the West Vancouver police, fire and ambulance services.

This year’s ceremony was particularly poignant after the recent terrorist attack and murder of a Canadian soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa in October.

It is no coincidence that West Vancouver’s Cenotaph is directly across the street from the library. After the Second World War the people of West Vancouver were looking for a project to serve as a memorial to those from our community who gave their lives in the world wars.

It was decided that a library would serve as an ongoing living memorial to West Vancouver's war dead. The new library was opened on Remembrance Day, November 11, 1950. It is why the library is known as the West Vancouver Memorial Library. It’s also the reason that the library is home to the memorial shrine Book of Remembrance near the main entrance.

The library is often said to be the heart of West Vancouver, where our community comes together. Never is that truer than on Remembrance Day, when we come together to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy.

To honour your loved ones, consider a donation to the West Vancouver Memorial Library. Call the WVML Foundation Office at 604 925 7425 or visit us online at http://www.westvanlibrary.ca/support-us/donate-foundation

December at the Library

SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION

Opera with Nicolas Krusek  Wednesday, December 3, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Welsh Hall

Friday Night Concert – Vancouver Bach Choir
Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m., Main Hall

Sunday Afternoon Concert – The Laudate Singers
Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., Main Hall

Festive Music in the Main Hall with Jerri Mercer
December 17, 18, 19, 2 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Main Hall

For more information and events check out the full calendar on the website http://www.westvanlibrary.ca/events/calendar
On November 14th, over 400 fortunate people filled the WVML to enjoy a stellar concert with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra’s Maestro, Bramwell Tovey. This special concert commemorated the 100th birthday of our late benefactor, Robert Leslie Welsh. Everything about this concert from the chairs and lighting, the beautiful Kawai Grand Piano, and, of course, Maestro Tovey’s appearance, was made possible through Mr. Welsh’s generous bequest.

Mr. Welsh was a quiet, retiring resident who lived in West Vancouver for almost 20 years in the 1980s and 90s. He grew up in tumultuous and hard times, escaping the troubles of Northern Ireland as a teenager to grow into manhood on a prairie farm in Saskatchewan during the Great Depression, and then serving on the home front in WWII. His background fostered an appreciation for things that he thought benefited the public good: namely, music and our Library.

His bequest has made our Library a rich musical environment with amenities and resources that support music appreciation, inspiration and education. We were able to build the Welsh Hall, with its state-of-the-art sound system, to host music lectures and children’s concerts. We have purchased extensive collections of sheet music, music books, CDs, DVDs and online music for our community to share. Most recently, we acquired a collection of orchestral scores and parts, originally part of the CBC Radio Orchestra Collection in Toronto, featuring standard repertoire and works from the Golden Age of Radio. As well, our special Friday night concert series that attracts world-class performers and up-and-coming musicians is thanks to Mr. Welsh.

The West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation carefully manages his bequest to ensure that it will last all of our lifetimes and beyond. We are most grateful for his generosity and the musical legacy he has given all West Vancouver residents.

Your Support Makes a Difference

Thanks to the donations made by you, WVML Foundation is able to fund enhanced programs, collections and facilities that would not be possible by municipal funding alone. Your donations ensure that the Library is a very special place for local citizens and visitors. Here are a few of the many ways you have made a difference:

- **Consumer Health Books**
The latest consumer health materials are purchased each year using Foundation funds, allowing our community to enjoy up-to-date titles on such subjects as Alzheimer’s, diabetes, arthritis, alternative medicine, diet and exercise.

- **Concert Series and Music Programs**
A generous bequest in support of music from the estate of Robert Leslie Welsh allows the Foundation to provide outstanding musical performances. Enjoy Christmas concerts throughout December and upcoming concerts by such artists as the Paperboys, 1659 and Sweet Scarlet.

- **Tablets and E-Readers**
The Foundation supports the Library’s collection of tablets and e-readers ensuring that we have a selection of e-readers and tablets with a variety of e-books and apps for you to try and compare.

- **Bestsellers**
Multiple copies of bestsellers are purchased each year using Foundation funds, allowing our community to enjoy new, award-winning titles without long hold times.

- **Persian Fund**
Established in 1988, the Library’s collection of materials in Farsi is one of the largest in British Columbia and attracts visitors from all over the Lower Mainland. The collection is rich in the history, poetry and literature of Persia, and also includes modern and popular titles.
An Evening with Joseph Boyden

One hundred and forty-eight guests were thoroughly entertained on Thursday, November 20th at the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation’s 2nd Annual Eminent Authors Dinner featuring Joseph Boyden. The evening began with a reception where Joseph happily mingled with guests, signing everything from his books, to tickets and even hands! Maria LeRose, the evening’s host, introduced Joseph as the winner of Canada Reads 2014 for The Orenda, 2008 Scotiabank Giller prize winner for Through Black Spruce, Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize (2005) for Three Day Road and international bestselling author; a very appropriate speaker for a room filled with readers. The legendary buffet at the Capilano Golf and Country Club satisfied guests as they listened to Joseph Boyden’s extraordinary performance.

For over an hour, the audience listened, laughed and sang as Joseph told the story of the creation of his three novels. Surprised and delighted, the audience discovered Joseph had hidden musical talents as he punctuated his talk with the harmonica and mouth harp. Fitting to the evening’s cause, we learned that he might not have become a writer had his mother not regularly brought him and his 10 siblings to the library to explore and find their way in the literary world.

Amusing, entertaining, informative, the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation’s 2nd Annual Eminent Authors Dinner was truly a great evening that raised over $50,000. That money will be used to ensure our library remains a place to come and explore, and to cultivate future Joseph Boydens.
Thank you to our donors

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