

A message
from the

Foundation

THE FUNDRAISING ARM OF THE LIBRARY

WINTER 2013



Room "For-Teen"

New Teen Space "Room 14" is a Hit!

When Room 14 opened in March, Mayor Michael Smith called it "the jewel of the library, which is the jewel of this community." Thanks to the generous gift of the **WVML Foundation** combined with District funding, our community's teens now have their own space to share, learn, create and connect.

Room 14 was designed through an intensive, three-part consultation process that involved West Vancouver's youth. The room has five zones: a hangout area and a group study section in the centre, an individual study area, an area with desktop computers, a fiction reading nook and a meeting room. The book and DVD collections, which the teens rated as their primary reason for coming to the Library, are shelved around the perimeter of the room.

Although it has been over eight months since Room 14 opened, the youth librarians still marvel at its popularity. Like clockwork, the room fills to capacity the moment school lets out, with teens reading on beanbag chairs, working on group projects in the meeting room, and huddling around the monitors of the new computers.

The **Foundation's** contribution also had a tremendously positive impact on the 6 to 12-year-old patrons. Moving the teens freed up space for this younger group to have its own reading lounge-area stocked with popular series fiction, audio books, and graphic novels.

The Youth Department invites everyone - teenager or not - to stop by the second floor and see the **Foundation's** tremendous gift in action!

Library Launches New Website

Last summer, the Library introduced a fabulous redesign of its website that brings the best qualities of the in-person Library experience to your nearest computer. Fully accessible and easy to navigate, www.westvanlibrary.ca leverages the latest technology to bring the community together and promote learning in new and exciting ways. More than just a place to check the hours of operation, book a meeting room or glance at the Events Calendar, this site's possibilities are endless:

- Browse through digital displays of new books, movies and music
- Seek step-by-step guidance on topics like computer basics or social media
- Research online with access to extensive databases
- Review recommended apps for preschoolers to teens
- Register for a computer class or training session on E-Readers

As one resident shared, "West Vancouver Library continues to amaze me. This site is a fabulous upgrade. The only downside is realizing just how much time I can spend on this... I could literally lose hours a day here."

Funding support provided by the **WVML Foundation** (Anna Patrick Estate) and the District of West Vancouver.

December at Your library...

- Dec 4** Opera with Nicolas Krusek
Late Operas of Wagner @ 12:30 pm
- Dec 6** Friday Night Concert
Vancouver Bach Choir @ 7:30 pm
- Dec 8** Family Holiday Concert - All ages @ 2:00 pm
- Dec 12** Holiday News! Tablets & E-Readers @ 10:30 am
- Dec 17** Christmas Puppet Show - 3 years+
Two Shows @ 10:30 am and 4:00 pm
- Dec 18** Christmas Family Story Time *Fun for all Ages* @ 1:30 pm
- Dec 19** Festive Music in the Main Hall @ 2:00 pm
- Dec 20** Philosophers' Café *Santa Claus: Who Needs Him?* @ 12:00pm



Anonymous Donor Comes Forward... and is a Librarian!



Longtime Donor and former West Van Librarian, Sharon Brunzel

When Sharon Brunzel left California in 2004, it was West Vancouver's gain. Having spent 20 years building a wonderful career there, Sharon and her husband decided it was time to come home to BC.

They settled in West Vancouver and it didn't take Sharon long to realize that she wasn't quite ready

to fully retire. She wanted "something", so drawing on her career as a librarian, she found her way to the Memorial Library. The Library gained so much from this. She was technically hired as a "casual librarian" but what she brought was twenty years of expertise in public and environmental health libraries. She was a passionate advocate for consumer health information and she had a vision of what the WVML could do for its patrons.

At the time, the Library's Health and Wellness collection was quite modest, and it would have remained that way but for Sharon's bold decision. She decided to become a donor to the **WVML Foundation** with the goal of improving the collection. Sharon quietly donated for years, never releasing her name, but this year, she has agreed to come forward and share her story.

As a passionate advocate for consumer health information, Sharon envisioned a robust collection of quality consumer health information that would help people become their own

health advocates. These resources would help patrons understand their health issues, but in no way give advice or replace their healthcare specialists. "The role of librarians is not to give health advice," Sharon says, "but to help overcome all the obstacles to being a well-informed patient."

With the funds from the donation, the Library has developed a public collection that is unique in the Lower Mainland. One of Sharon's colleagues, Cathi Campbell, has tended the collection for years, supplementing and replacing books, and she oversaw its move into the cozy alcove dubbed the "Health and Wellness Room". It is a room that people feel comfortable in, privately browsing health material or reading about a health topic.

But Sharon's donation not only funds book purchases. It also funds outreach programs and the expenses of bringing in speakers on health-related topics. Last year, nine health-related programs were offered at the Library and more are planned for the upcoming year involving Vancouver Coastal Health, the Arthritis Society and Canadian Diabetes Association.

Sharon is proud of the Health and Wellness Room, but she says the real thanks go to the WVML Librarians who diligently did the work to create the collection and the room. However, we know her generous and ongoing donation to the **Foundation** is what made it possible. The **Foundation** extends a sincere thank you to Sharon for ensuring that her vision of a vibrant Health and Wellness Department became a reality.



Check out the Health and Wellness Alcove on the Mezzanine Level

Did You Know...?

The **WVML Foundation** supports enhancements to the Library's collections. This funding ensures that the Library can provide people with what they are looking for, when they are looking for it.

- **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.
- **Large Print/Talking Books** West Van's older adults are voracious readers with broad interests. Due to sustained

Foundation funding over many years, the Library's collections in large print and talking book formats have a breadth and depth of intellectually challenging subject matter, as well as plentiful high quality fiction.

- **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.



Wade Davis discusses *Into the Silence* with veteran and former Library Trustee Chair, Harry Greenwood

A Night of Adventure with Wade Davis

On Tuesday, November 19, the **Library Foundation** was delighted to host Canada's celebrity anthropologist and NY Times Bestselling author, Wade Davis. This sold out fundraiser for 160 guests was held at the Capilano Golf and Country Club and raised over \$40,000. Guests were treated to a remarkable presentation about his award-winning book, *Into the Silence*, about the Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest. Wade's remarkable gift for storytelling had the audience captivated all evening and he happily signed books and mingled with guests.

Interestingly, West Vancouver can proudly claim Wade as their own as he was born on Clyde Avenue in 1953. Despite having lived and worked in some of the most exotic locations imaginable like the jungles of South America, the islands of the Far East and the outback of Australia, he continues to maintain deep roots in our community. His future plans include returning to our part of the world as he has recently accepted a position at the University of British Columbia. A prodigious researcher, Wade spoke highly of his appreciation for libraries. Appropriately, Event Chair Jo-Ann Wood presented him with a special thank you gift that he can put to good use now that he is returning to Vancouver – his very own West Vancouver Memorial Library card.



West Vancouver residents Brian and Eleanor Minish with Event Chair Jo-Ann Wood

SOLD OUT!

A Night of Adventure with **WADE DAVIS**

presented by **west vancouver
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this special night possible.**

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