Foreword by WVML Foundation Chair, Andreas Thompson

It is widely acknowledged that our Library is a cornerstone in the community of West Vancouver, constantly evolving and adapting to the changing times, ‘The Lab’ that opened in March 2018 being the latest step forward in this evolution. It’s impossible to pinpoint one thing in particular that makes the Library special, truly a case of the whole outweighing the sum of the parts, with the WVML Foundation being one of the many parts.

The West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation was incorporated in 1986. It undertook many years of well purposed fund raising, however, the pivotal events that intrinsically shaped both the Foundation and the Library were the substantial bequests of two West Vancouver residents, Robert Leslie Welsh (2000) and Anna Patrick (2001). Their bequests, and others, have created a funding legacy for future generations that today enables the Library to do more and go further than could be achieved through District funding alone. The Library, the Library Board and the Foundation are extremely grateful to all contributors, past, present and future. We thank you all for your support and recognize that without this support our Library would not be what it is today.

In this, our annual newsletter, a number of the new Foundation Directors share their perspectives together with further evidence in support of the importance of digital literacy. I hope you enjoy it and we look forward to seeing our supporters in the Spring of 2019 for the annual donor and sponsor appreciation evening.

Andreas Thompson, Chair WVML Foundation

Your Public Library card is good medicine!

Have you ever thought of your West Vancouver Memorial Library card as a prescription for better health? As a physician I have often thought about the numerous health benefits of our community library. There is a reliable body of scientific research suggesting public libraries play an important role as partners for health.

Mental activity has been proven to slow down the aging process and strengthen neural connections. The concept of neuroplasticity, the ability of the brain to “rewire” or change throughout our lifetime is not new, but research and advanced neuroimaging (MRI) has confirmed that the formation of new neurons can happen at any age. Activities such as reading, playing a musical instrument and learning a new language all promote brain health. Try the New York Times crossword or Sudoku to give your neurons a workout!

The West Vancouver Memorial Library is a gateway for many types of health information. The collection in the Health and Wellness department is impressive. Specialized reading materials include: medicine, seniors care, self-help, physical and mental health, psychology, diet and nutrition, relationships, anatomy, lifestyle, spiritual healing and pharmacology to name a few. There are journals, magazines and newspapers with the latest health topics and best practices. And don’t forget the friendly, smart, helpful West Vancouver Memorial librarians who can help you find information on your health topic of choice! If you are interested in learning from experts and want to ask questions, consider our guest lecture series, topics include Macular Degeneration, Alzheimer’s Dementia, and Parent Child relationships for Mandarin speakers.

Social participation and quality of life.

Your West Vancouver Memorial Library’s welcoming and restorative vibe promotes social connections and decreases social isolation. The term therapeutic landscape is often used to think about spaces that have a positive impact on mental health and well-being. As human beings most of us have the need to feel connected to others, our families, our friends, and our community. We know that social isolation is associated with disease and depression. Seniors are especially subject to the effects of isolation. There are many programs tailored to the needs of seniors including digital literacy and social media.

Your Library card is a prescription for good medicine!

By Dr. Lorinda Spooner, Director WVML Foundation

Donors & Sponsors Appreciation Evening

In previous years the annual donor and sponsor appreciation evening has been plagued by classic West Coast weather. In an effort to counter the weather the Foundation is moving the event to Spring 2019. Save the date - April 12th, 2019

SAVE THE DATE
Digital Literacy for All

In last year's Foundation Newsletter, I spoke about the Library's focus on Digital Literacy and 21st century learning, and the Foundation's efforts to help fund that reality. This year I'll share with you some of the amazing work by the West Vancouver Memorial Library that the Foundation was able to sponsor because of your incredible donations and support.

THE LAB

Your donations allowed the Foundation to partner with the District of West Vancouver to split the $327,433 to create a state-of-the-art digital learning space we call The Lab, which opened to the public on Thursday, March 1, 2018. Over 150 people from the community joined Council members, Library staff and the Foundation in a collective gasp of amazement when the Lab lights came on. This new learning space is designed for all ages in our wonderful community, whether it's our youth who will one day be working in technology-infused jobs that don't even exist today, or helping our senior community members learn skills that are critical for them to feel included in today's increasingly modern world.

DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

Your donations also allowed the Foundation to provide an additional $87,500 in order to fund a year of programs across ages. The programs are broken into five progressive streams that start people from users of technology to ultimately creators:

USE IT Learn the basics of using devices and software through guided, hands-on instruction. Computer essentials are a gentle introduction for those just getting started with a new device and other classes teach participants how to use all of the different functions – you'll know more in no time.

SHARE IT Preserve and share your personal and community memories by converting home movies, slides, photographs and even family recipes into digital files. One patron at a Device Clinic learned how to customize her Will by digitally attaching photos and files of her personal effects to share with her executor. If you have memories that you want to keep digitally, or other items you want to digitally share, drop on by The Lab and learn how to do it for free.

DEVELOP IT Write basic code, scripts and programs to make computers and electronic circuit boards work. Whether it's visiting Brownie troops coding Dash & Dot robots or a mother proudly signing her name in Farsi on a Tinkercad, programming skills will become a part of our everyday life in the near future. At Digital Play, a 1st grader programmed our robot “Dot” into a Magic 8 Ball. While mom programmed it to answer “No” 80% of the time, Dot somehow predicted 100% of the time that the boy could have ice cream for dinner!

CREATE IT Communicate effectively online with digital media: blogs, videos, podcasts, websites and social media. While our youth seem to communicate digitally a bit too much for our liking, many of our senior community members are happily learning that they aren't being left behind, and keep in touch with family members around the world.

IMAGINE IT Explore emerging technologies and big ideas with guest speakers and resident experts. One of our most popular sessions was with Ronald Meza of Coastline Robotics, who spoke about “Drones: A Look into the Future”, and even let excited participants pilot a drone on a simulator.

OTHER GREAT PROGRAMS

Your contributions help the Library to deliver other high value programs for Digital Literacy and literacy of all kinds. Our popular TED Talk events let community members access the live event for free rather than the US$8,500 to attend just across the Lions Gate Bridge. This year, the West Vancouver Booktopia Literary Arts Festival for Young People provided over 2000 children and teens with workshops, crafts and even puppet shows alongside artists including Indigenous authors and for the first time Mandarin language content like The Monkey King.

With your help and continued support, we look forward to even more rewarding programs in 2019.

The Ministry of Education defines digital literacy as “the interest, attitude and ability of individuals to appropriately use digital technology and communication tools to access, manage, integrate, analyze and evaluate information, construct new knowledge, create and communicate with others”. To learn more read about the Digital Literacy Framework on the Ministry’s website.

Eric Winsborrow, Director WVML Foundation
A New Director’s Perspective

The Library has always played a very important part in my life, but until relatively recently, my visits were primarily, surprise, to borrow books! Having retired in 2017, and having a little more spare time, I decided to see if I could “give back” to the Library for the many hours of reading pleasure I have received. From the original idea of shelving books, I ended up becoming a Director on the Foundation Board – an interesting journey! Given that my work life has been mainly in administration, I was also asked to take on the role of Secretary of the Board.

In the past few months I have explored so many more aspects of the Library which – although I knew there were many resources available to the community – I had never really investigated. In a very short period, I went to two movies in the Welsh Hall – ones which I had really wanted to see and missed – a Friday concert, an iPad class in the new digital Lab, and the launch of the “Honouring Reconciliation: Hearing the Truth activities”. And do you know that you can also come to the Library and listen to the TED talks – free? At a Foundation Donor Recognition event I was chatting to some seniors who said that it was a long time since they had read a “paper” book, since they do all their borrowing online!

What I did not realize until now is the hugely important role that the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation plays in making so many of these activities possible. Although the core funding may be in place for larger projects, the generous contributions made to the Foundation by both private and public donors enable the purchase of special equipment or furniture, and also provide sustained funding for music and special collections.

West Vancouver is indeed very fortunate to have such a wonderful facility in the heart of the community. In my Director’s role, I look forward with anticipation to learning about and participating more in the continuing development of our Library resources.

Rosemary Murchison, Director WVML Foundation

An Evening with Will Ferguson

The West Vancouver Memorial Library’s sixth annual Fundraising Author and Dinner Event was held on October 23, featuring acclaimed Canadian author, Will Ferguson. Held at the Capilano Golf and Country Club, the evening began with a cocktail reception and book signing of his latest novel, The Shoe on the Roof.

Ferguson’s works certainly are diverse and when asked about this diversity, he simply stated that otherwise he’d be bored.

Foundation Chair Andreas Thompson welcomed everyone to the event, including mayor-elect Mary-Ann Booth, returning Councillor Craig Cameron and returning school board trustee Nicole Brown. WVML Director Jenny Benedict thanked the sponsors for their ongoing generous support of the Library through the Foundation. Such community support has helped build and maintain The West Vancouver Memorial Library as one of the best and most used in the country. The financial support allows for the continuation of the high quality, wide ranging programs and services that the Library provides to the West Vancouver Community.

The highlight of the evening was the entertaining and engaging address by the celebrated author, Will Ferguson. He relayed his life journey from origins in small town northern Alberta to his 2012 novel, 419, for which he was awarded the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the 2013 Libris Award from the Canadian Booksellers Association for Fiction Book of the Year. From his humorous and delightful recounting of his early years of writing through to his cross Canada book tours, it was easy to see why he is a three-time recipient of the prestigious Leacock Medal for Humour. We are most grateful to Mr. Ferguson for his address and for sharing his amusing experiences and insights with us.

A special thank you to the event organizing committee members, Linda Jones, Cynthia Garston, Rosemary Murchison, May Wang and Felicia Zhu, whose dedication and hard work made this year’s event so successful.

By all accounts, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we invite and encourage you to attend next year’s event.

Terry Hodgins, Director WVML Foundation
Thank you to our donors and sponsors

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