

OUR STORY



NEW LIBRARY TO BE OFFICIAL WAR MEMORIAL



In 1947, a majority of West Vancouverites voted for a new library to be the official War Memorial. The brief by the War Memorial Committee to the West Vancouver Council stated, "A public library exemplifies the spirit and meaning of free democratic institutions. Its shelves are open to writers of all opinions. It is free from political influence. Its services are available to all classes of society and all economic, racial or religious groups. One of the first acts of the totalitarian states was to purge the libraries of all volumes expressing enlightened democratic principles. As a memorial to our fallen, we submit that a public library is uniquely suitable."

The Municipality set aside two lots across from the Memorial Arch and \$2,000. The public raised another \$18,000. Architect R.A.D. Berwick donated the design, and five West Vancouver contractors voluntarily completed the construction. The donations of labour, furnishings and expertise were valued at upwards of \$40,000.

On November 11, 1950, the West Vancouver Memorial Library officially opened. The dedication of the completed Library building, given the street number 1950 by the municipality, was an astounding effort and a great achievement for the community.

ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

The West Vancouver Memorial Library opened its door on November 11, 1950, and has commemorated Remembrance Day every year since. The Friends of the Library host a reception in the Library following the ceremony at the Memorial Arch.

OUR HISTORY

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The West Vancouver Library Committee commissioned the Book of Remembrance to record the names of the 70 West Vancouver men who gave their lives in World War II. A memorial shrine was created with the book encased in a crafted glass and wood lectern. The book's pages are still turned regularly to rotate the soldiers' names. Two drawings of soldiers by Unity Bainbridge now hang on either side of the lectern.



HARMONY

The stained glass window "Harmony" was created by John Henry Dearle in 1931 and is a reproduction of Sir Frank Dicksee's painting of the same name currently housed at the Tate Gallery in London. Dearle, the chief designer for Morris & Co. in England, designed the window as a commission piece for Henry Athelstan Stone of Vancouver in memory of his son. It was presented to the West Vancouver Memorial Library in 1950 by the officer's sister. The inscription reads: "To the Memory of Lieut. Horace Gordon Stone, only son of Henry A. and Beatrice H. Stone of the city, who died on Active Service December 15, 1918."



1969

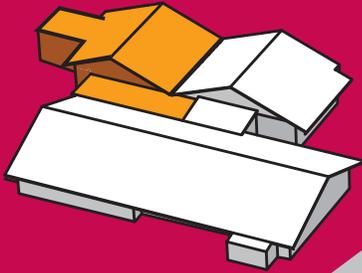
The Bookmobile delivers Library services to residents in Eagle Harbour, Cypress, Glenmore, Caulfeild, Capilano and Park Royal.

1986

The WVML Foundation is established and raises \$2M in its first capital campaign.

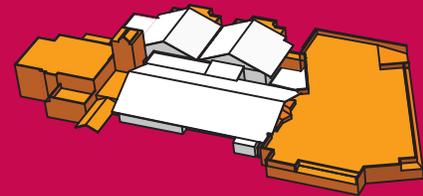
1962

Addition of the Jubilee Wing.



1950

Construction of the original building, now the Main Hall. The Library opens on November 11, 1950.



1977

Addition of the East and West Wing, with rooftop parking.

Mr. and Mrs. Carver Plumtree (wood sculptures) become permanent residents of the Library.



1957

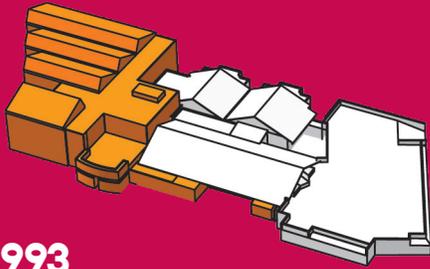
The Library is honoured as North America's busiest library.

Addition of the South Wing.

1978

The Library develops a Historical Photo Collection.

OUR EVOLUTION



1993

Demolition of the 1977 East Wing, replaced by the current four-storey East Wing.

1997

The Library adds public access Internet stations and installs its catalogue on the Internet.

2003

The Library circulates over 1,000,000 items.

2010

First library in Canada to lend e-readers.

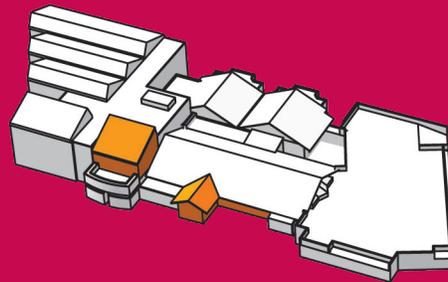
2008

RFID (radio frequency ID) is implemented for automated check-in/check-out.

2011

Replacement of the roof to protect our collections and art valued at \$7M.

Library achieves LEED Silver for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance.



2001

Robert Leslie Welsh bequeaths \$2.2M to the Library to be used for the enhancement of musical resources and programs.

Self-checkout is installed. Patrons can check out their own materials rather than waiting in line.

2005

Addition of the East Wing Storyhouse and main entrance vestibule.

2012

Launch of our Digital Collection at digital.westvanlibrary.ca.

Lower Level Waterfall Lounge opens.

2013

Room 14, a space for teens, opens.

Launch of our new website with 30,000 online resources.



2002

Anna Cecilia Ernestine Patrick bequeaths \$1.4M in memory of her late husband, William Ronald Clouston Patrick.



2015

Updated Courtyard opens.

LIBRARY PARTNERS

BC Library Association
BC Library Trustees Association
BC Libraries Branch
BC Libraries Co-operative
Fraser Valley Regional Library
NewToBC
North Vancouver City Library
North Vancouver District Public Library
Public Library InterLINK

PROGRAM PARTNERS

3D604
Alzheimer Society of BC,
North Shore Branch
Ambleside Orchestra
Arthritis Society, Vancouver
Coastal/Northern Region
Baha'i Community of West Vancouver
Capilano University
Coho Society of the North Shore
Family Services of the North Shore
Harmony Arts Festival
Kay Meek Centre
Laudate Singers
Lighthouse Park Preservation Society
Lions Gate Hospital
North Shore Community Resources
North Shore News
North Shore Schizophrenia Society
North Shore Writers Association
People's Law School
Simon Fraser University Continuing Studies
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre
TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival
West Vancouver Child and Family Hub
West Vancouver Community Foundation
West Vancouver District Cultural Services
West Vancouver Museum
West Vancouver Streamkeeper Society
The Writers' Union of Canada

We support our community, and



FUNDERS

District of West Vancouver

Public funds gathered through municipal taxation and administered by the District of West Vancouver provide approximately 88 per cent of the Library's annual operating budget. Public funds also support the Library's capital projects, including infrastructure renewal, facility improvements, technology and equipment. The Library works collaboratively with all District divisions.

West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation

In 2016, the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary. The Foundation provides an avenue for private donors and corporate sponsors to partner in a legacy of giving and support. Generous contributions to the Foundation have transformed physical spaces including the East Wing, the Welsh Hall, the lower floor waterfall lounge, Room 14 and the courtyard.

OUR COMMUNITY TREE

and our community supports us



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Eyedeal Group
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Heritage West Vancouver
Kiwaniis Society of West Vancouver
North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership
North Shore Multicultural Society
North Vancouver Museum & Archives
Properties Family Hub
Royal Canadian Legion
Vancouver Coastal Health
WECAN (Welcome to the Early Childhood Access Network)
West Vancouver Archives
West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
West Vancouver Historical Society
West Vancouver Police Department
West Vancouver Sunrise Rotary Club
White Cane Society

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Decoda Literacy Solutions
iSchool@UBC
Langara Library Technician Program
North Shore ESL Committee
West Vancouver Schools

VOLUNTEERS

Adult Volunteers
Digital Buddies
English Language Learning Volunteers
Teen Advisory Group

Friends of the Library

Founded in 1951, the Friends of the Library are active contributors and quiet supporters, many of whom have served for decades. They fundraise through booksales, sidewalk sales, the Shred-It event and the book cart. In addition to sponsoring programs, collections and small projects, they contribute to the welcoming character of the Library with hospitality and floral arrangements.

BC Libraries Branch

The BC Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Education provides four grants annually: Operating Grant, Resource Sharing Grant, BC OneCard Grant and Library Literacy Grant. These grants support resource sharing, community partnerships and activities supporting the BC Education Plan, BC Jobs Plan and equitable access to library resources.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Physical Space

In our Library, comfortable lounges, meeting rooms and study spaces support a wide variety of activities and states of mind. Quiet areas foster deep concentration, while gathering places welcome relaxation or vibrant conversations. Our study spaces combine physical comfort with digital convenience and allow group collaboration. People come to think, to chat and to learn.

Quiet Areas Study Carrels Peter J. Peters Reading Room	Gathering Places Main Hall Lounge Musto Lounge Waterfall Lounge Courtyard	Group Study Collaborative Study Booths	Meeting Rooms Welsh Hall	Spaces for Youth Picture Book Circle Story House Room 14 Kids Area
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Public Computing

Community Computing Centre, Computer Training Room, Multimedia Lab, Room 14 and Kids' Computers

With their library card, people can reserve and use computers with Internet access, Microsoft Office Suite, Photoshop Elements, scanning, collaborative computing and multimedia functionality.

Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the Library, including in meeting rooms.

Printing, copying and faxing are offered for a fee. Wireless printing from any location is also available.



Digital Space

The Library's website, westvanlibrary.ca, is the central access point to our digital collections and services. It tells the story of the Library and connects people to the resources and services at our physical location.

The digital experience offers:

- A repository of trusted resources with digital objects in text, audio and video formats
- Explore Your Topic and Homework Help pages curated by staff
- Online technology tutorials
- An interactive catalogue, Bibliocommons, with features to rate and review favourites, make lists and keep digital reading shelves
- Lists of new, recommended and award-winning books, movies, music and apps
- Listings of events and online program registration
- Reading lists by topic and genre

The Library is on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube, with daily posts and an active, growing group of followers.

OUR SERVICES



EXPERT INFORMATION ASSISTANCE

Our staff deliver customer service in person, by phone and by email at four locations:

2nd Floor Youth Information, Main Floor Information, Main Floor Account Services, Lower Level Information

Drawing on our in-depth research skills and broad knowledge, we:



The Assistive Services team provides Library services to homebound older adults, those in assisted living facilities and visitors to the Library with accessibility challenges.

COLLECTIONS

Physical

West Vancouver Memorial Library has sustained a reputation over the years both in our community and among other libraries for the depth and breadth of our collections. This reputation is a direct result of annual sustained funding contributed by the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation.

Our holdings include over 250,000 items in a variety of formats:

Board and picture books	Paperback and hardcover books	Ereaders	Music and audio CDs	DVDs	Newspapers
Energy meters	Magazines	Kits	Orchestral sheet music	iPads	Puzzles

Notable collections include:

- Art books
- Book club sets and Staff Picks
- Grow-a-Reader and Wee Musician bags
- Health + Wellness
- Large print and talking books
- Music
- West Vancouver history
- World languages

The Library's physical materials are a shared community resource that may be borrowed by residents, students, District and school employees, business owners in West Vancouver, and members of public libraries in the InterLINK federation.

With a West Vancouver Memorial Library card, people may borrow physical materials from any of the 82 InterLINK member branches. Through interlibrary loans, cardholders may also borrow from special and academic libraries.

Online

The Library's repository of trusted digital resources on our website, westvanlibrary.ca, includes:

Ebooks and e-audiobooks	Streaming e-music	Video streaming	Online magazines and newspapers from Canada and around the world
West Vancouver historical photographs and documents	Articles from popular and scholarly journals	Language learning software	Reference sources



PROGRAMS

Our programs build community, promote literacy, support life-long learning, teach skills, showcase collections and services, connect people with ideas and culture, and foster public discourse.



We offer over 850 programs a year in such areas as:

Adults

- Author talks celebrating literary talent
- Newcomer settlement and integration programs including conversation circles and discussion groups for practising English language skills
- Lifestyle and educational presentations and discussions on topics of community interest
- Technology classes to develop skills with mobile and desktop devices, applications and social media

Youth

- Summer Reading Club for pre-readers, elementary school children and teens
- Raspberry Pi computational literacy classes
- Booktopia – A Literary Arts Festival for Young People
- Book Buddies reading practice
- Early literacy Storytimes designed to prepare young children for reading
- Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meetings

Movie screenings of thought-provoking and entertaining films

All ages

Music concerts and lectures featuring high quality performers and knowledgeable speakers

June 2017