

## FOREWORD

Our fall newsletter highlights some of the collaborative work between the Library and the Foundation over the past year. Together we continued to provide the much-needed services for our patrons of all ages and stages of life, even as needs continued to change during COVID-19. This was made possible by a committed contribution of **\$428,350** from the Foundation in 2021, a **53%** increase from our 2019 financial support.

These past two years have been extremely challenging for everyone. You will see from the articles in this newsletter how our collections and programming have been enhanced with increased spending for e-collections, livestreamed events, and improvements to our Readers' Rooftop to support the community.

In 2021, we launched our new **BOOKS+beyond** campaign. We have raised over **\$20,000** so far. Every dollar from this campaign is hugely appreciated and each year the Library, together with the Foundation, decides how best to use that money for programs and collections that benefit our community.

*Thank you for supporting your Library.*

**Stephanie Hall**, Director, WVML  
**Heather Kaart**, Chair, WVML Foundation

中文版本链接

برای متن فارسی این روزنامه به این لینک مراجعه کنید.  
[wvml.ca/foundation/news](http://wvml.ca/foundation/news)



When Jeanine Arsenault's friends are in town, she brings them to the West Vancouver Memorial Library. "It's a place we're really proud of," says Jeanine. "It has something for everybody. It's just a homey, comfortable place to be." The Arsenaults found something for everyone in their family when they started visiting the Library.

"When our son needed to be somewhere after school, he would come to the Library and do his homework," explains Jeanine, "and when my mom moved here from Ottawa, she would come read the *Ottawa Citizen*. She felt a real connection to home." Thirty years later, the Library remains an important part of Jeanine and her husband's lives. Before the pandemic, the Peter J. Peters Reading Room was always part of their routine. "We would walk down to the beach, come back by way of the Library, get our favourite mags or newspapers, and settle in for a little bit of time by the fireplace. It's such a cozy place."

Cozy yet mighty, the Library "really punches above its weight for the size," says Jeanine. "The community activities are tremendous. We've been to TED talks, and concerts put on through funding from the estate of Robert Leslie Welsh."



*"We derived a lot of pleasure, and got a lot out of the Library...We wanted to give back to that."*



Jeanine's family, enjoying the special programs like these that are made possible through WVML Foundation funding, decided to become donors in 1998. "We derived a lot of pleasure, and got a lot out of the Library," says Jeanine. "We wanted to give back to that." The Arsenaults have continued giving back for the last 23 years.

Funds from the WVML Foundation have ensured the Library could keep calm and carry on during the unprecedented challenges that came from the COVID-19 pandemic. The WVML Foundation committed over \$400,000 in donations to support the Library's response to COVID-19, including the pivot to virtual service and the creation of the popular Readers' Rooftop.

Jeanine watched the pivot from her balcony which overlooks the Library. "I could see umbrellas set up every day on the Readers' Rooftop," says Jeanine, "and see how well used they were." This affirmed Jeanine's feelings about the Library. "I thought this was a fabulous response during COVID, it shows how they respond quickly to the needs of the community," shares Jeanine. "How great is that? You could still get your books, sit and read and you were safe. It is wonderful. It's more than a place to get books."

That the Library is more than a place to get books is what Jeanine hopes people in the community know about this space. "Libraries are evolving," explains Jeanine. "There's encouragement to use it as a meeting place, a reading place, a community place." Jeanine is looking forward to getting back to tea and chats with friends in the courtyard and appreciates the work the WVML Foundation does to create opportunities for Library patrons to connect. "It's an important job that they have, to enhance our experience at the Library." says Jeanine, "It's a big responsibility, but it's so, so important to our community."



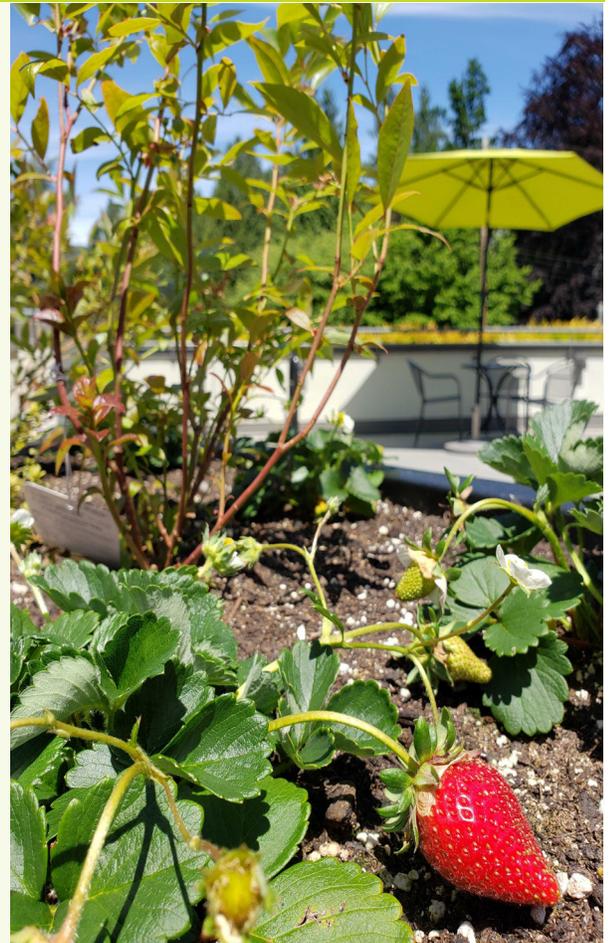
## KEY INVESTMENTS

While many Library services needed to change during the pandemic, the Foundation was always at the ready to support the subsequent changes in funding needs.

In 2021, the Library reallocated several Foundation-funded budgets to enable a **\$15,000** boost to ebook collections. This reflects the increased demand for digital collections as a result of the pandemic.

Similarly, the Foundation supplied an additional **\$5,000** of funding from the estate of **Robert Leslie Welsh** to support the added costs that came with livestreaming **Friday Night Concerts**. Patrons have been enjoying these high-quality livestreamed concerts and have requested the Library continue to offer livestream concerts, even after they return to being held in-person, for accessibility and convenience.

The Library also invested more Foundation funds into the **Readers' Rooftop patio** that first opened in 2020. The patio now features a food garden tended by volunteer **Master Gardeners**. This space has been very popular with patrons while the pandemic has limited the amount of indoor seating at the Library.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### E-CONTENT DOWNLOADS

In 2020, the Library's e-content downloads increased by **52%** compared to 2019, and the trend is continuing into 2021.



**“ I watched the Bach to Piazzolla concert. It was simply wonderful! Thanks to the library for making this possible in a time when live concerts are not possible. Much appreciated. ”**

**“ We know it is not the same as being tucked into the Library space on a Friday night, but right now that does not matter. What matters is that musicians are being supported to keep on playing the music that sustains, nourishes, and keeps us going through these challenging times. ”**

### BOOKS+BEYOND

Gifts to our **BOOKS+beyond** campaign will ensure that the Library can continue to meet the continued demand for virtual programs and services like this at this time.

**Do you know what your donation to the WVML Foundation could do?**

 **\$30** a new book in the Library's collection

 **\$150** two more Device Clinics offered

 **\$500** one of our popular monthly Tech Talks

 **\$1,000** a class set purchase of new technology for kids

 **\$5,000** a new and exciting virtual event

If you wish to donate, please visit [wvml.ca/donate](http://wvml.ca/donate).

## Introducing our NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Anjili Bahadoorsingh Director



Pedaling furiously home, with my bicycle-basket piled high with books from my local library: one of my earliest memories of life in Canada, after immigrating from Trinidad in 1979. It is this love of our public library which I hope to impart on my two teenaged daughters, and indeed, the next generation! A corporate lawyer for 26 years and a West Van resident for 19 years, I look forward to continuing to contribute to our invaluable WVML, having previously served as a Trustee for 4 years.

### Patricia Bowles Chair, Engagement Committee



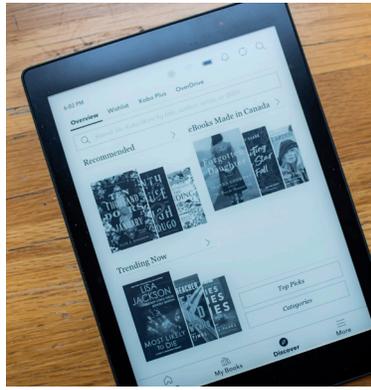
As lifelong library users, my family were avid readers. One of the key reasons I moved here nine years ago was because of this Library. It is the highlight of my retirement years and feeds my voracious reading habits on a weekly basis.

My professional career began in the then newly emerging world of Canadian book publishing. After leaving publishing I embarked on a 45 year in career in communications – spanning corporate and government positions along with non-profit volunteer positions.

Since moving to West Vancouver, I have been deeply involved in the community as Vice Chair of the Kay Meek Arts Centre, a member of the District's Community Engagement Committee, Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, and a member of Enhance West Van's Engagement Committee.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

The WVML Foundation invites applications from prospective Board members. The Foundation is particularly interested in applicants with legal, fundraising, or financial/accounting experience. Application forms can be found at [wvml.ca/foundation](http://wvml.ca/foundation).



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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Alternatively, you can set up monthly giving or consider leaving a legacy gift to continue to create impact for the future.