

# DIRECTOR'S

## Q2 Report

April 1 – June 30, 2022



**Library Director:** STEPHANIE HALL

**Library Board:** Alastair Nimmons (Chair), Cynthia Garton (Vice-Chair), Petra Cottier, Dieter Diedericks, Richard Fisher, Nora Gambioli (Council Representative), Andrew Krawczyk, Sahar Sanajou, Koichi Ronald Shimoda, Jatinder Sidhu, Tracy Wachmann, Lorena Yu, Felicia Zhu.



### INSPIRING STORIES

#### **We went late fee free!**

Of our **35,234** adult cardholders, **1,486** had been blocked due to outstanding fines. On May 3, we eliminated late fees—unblocking these accounts and waiving fees from tens of thousands more accounts.

We heard from one patron who was grateful for this change, because her husband has Alzheimer's and returning books on time can be challenging for them.

Another said:

*"There are many reasons that a person may not be able to bring back the materials on time. Wow. So impressed by this decision."*

# OVERVIEW



April saw the joyful return of in-person programs and outreach for WVML. More than **1,300** patrons attended in-person programs at the Library, from **Paws 4 Stories**, to **Book Club Socials**, to **Digitization Drop-Ins**, and more. In addition, meeting room and seating capacity has increased. This means that our Library's services have now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

We also continued to offer livestreamed and asynchronous programs. The 2022 **North Shore**

**Writers Festival**, funded by the Friends of the Library, returned to its virtual format, and more than **200** people tuned in live to the events. Attendees enjoyed a dynamic conversation between author Kim Thúy and Margaret Gallagher; a jovial discussion between author David A. Robertson and Michael Redhead Champagne; an inspiring workshop with the **North Shore Writers' Association** featuring the talents of author and playwright Tetsuro Shigematsu; a heartfelt and fun evening with Amber Dawn, moderated by Jen Sookfong Lee; and an engaging and inspiring event with multi-talented writer and moderator JJ Lee. The ninth annual Literary Trivia Night, hosted by Grant Lawrence yet again, returned in-person this year.

*"Very cool to interact with creative sorts all over, especially being in Ontario!"*

## STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

### Learning



- The Youth Department's **Build + Play** kits containing a STEAM building toy and a book to inspire play have been popular, circulating **40** times so far.
- This year's **Reading Link Challenge**, a partnership with West Vancouver Schools to celebrate the sport of reading, reached **353** student participants from **11** schools. Because it was virtual this year, Bowen Island Community School was able to compete for the first year ever.

*"Thank you for creating an amazing liaison between our local library and schools!"*

- Thanks to a collaboration among BC libraries, we can now provide access to more than **125** years of digital news archives from three of BC's oldest and most respected newspapers: *The Province*, *The Times-Colonist*, and *The Vancouver Sun*.
- Staff resumed one-on-one, in-person **Device Clinics** with many appreciative patrons:

*"I could not have had a more patient or articulate teacher."*

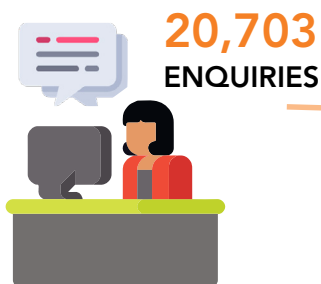
### Inclusion

- We translated the signage for our **World Language** collections. Now, these signs are in the language of the collection to better serve more members of our community.



- The Library coordinated four sessions of **Indigenous Storytelling** by Ta Síiyuxwa tl'a Skwxwú7meshulh (The Elders of the Squamish People) at Chief Joe Mathias Recreation Centre, Squamish Public Library, and WVML. More than **180** grateful patrons attended these sessions, including three West Vancouver Schools classes.

## OPERATIONS



**143,972** Virtual visits  
In-person visits **75,972**



**CHECKOUTS 194,578**  
Physical **162,048**  
E-content downloads **32,530**

**Q2**  
April 1 –  
June 30



**864**  
New library cards



**8,805**  
**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**  
**2,545** Adult  
**6,260** Youth (Early Years, Kids, Teens)



**Online database views 18,401**



- Our ever-popular English language learning program, **English Corner**, returned to the Welsh Hall, while our virtual **English Conversation** Online class continued. One virtual participant said:

*"These virtual classes had been amazing and my dad looks forward to each and every one of them since they started... it's been more than just learning English for him—it's been a window to the world."*

- Our **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee** embarked on the process of evaluating the Library's inclusion efforts using the Global Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Benchmarks, with support from **Commons Consulting**.

### Community

- In partnership with **Diving In, West Vancouver Community Arts Council**, and **West Vancouver Schools**, we presented **Renewal: Teen Eco-Art Exhibit** in our gallery, featuring impactful works of art created with collected trash.
- **Adopt-a-Fish**, hosted in partnership with the **West Vancouver Streamkeepers**,

was a huge success! Many families attended to release more than **300** smolts into the river and enjoy a Fishy Family Fun Storytime on our rooftop.

- In-person outreach activities resumed. Staff visited the **Seniors' Activity Centre; Walk for Alzheimer's; Ready, Set, Learn;** and the **Bridge Festival**, offering materials to borrow, new library card sign up, Summer Reading Club registration, and more.



- During June's heat warning, the Library served as a **cooling centre** for the weekend. Our year-round seven-day-a-week regular open hours were approved by the Library Board in November 2021.

## Integrity

- We hosted **TED 2022: A New Era**, streamed live from the Vancouver Convention Centre April 11 – 13. More than **300** attendees enjoyed talks on medicine, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and more. One patron travelled from Yukon to attend:

*"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you, the WVML Foundation and the West Van Library for offering this stimulating offering."*



- Our second **Big Ideas** lecture, funded by the WVML Foundation, featured **Dr. Melissa Lem** in conversation with **Dr. Kaylee Byers** on the topic of climate change and your health.
- **Friday Night Music** concerts resumed with vintage jazz group Black Gardenia. Nearly **200** patrons attended in the Main Hall, with just under **40** tuning into the livestream from home.

## WVML FOUNDATION

Four new Directors were appointed for their first two-year term, and two directors re-elected for further two-year terms at the Foundation's Annual General Meeting. **Heather Kaart** was re-appointed Chair of the Foundation.

We are delighted to welcome **Carol Chestnut**, **Andrew Tao**, and **Sarah Zhang**. The Foundation is also happy to welcome **Ronald Shimoda** who will serve as Trustee Liaison. The two re-elected directors are **Douglas Brown** and **Rosemary Murchison**.



The Foundation is still seeking applications from those with financial backgrounds. Please consider applying at [wvml.ca/foundation](http://wvml.ca/foundation).

## FRIENDS

The Friends of the Library hosted another **Shred-It** fundraiser on Saturday, May 14 and raised over **\$3,000**. These funds support Library programs like **Summer Reading Club**. This important program, which already has more than **1,000** kids registered for this summer, is designed to help stop summer learning loss.

