

DIRECTOR'S MIDYEAR Report

January 1 – June 30, 2023



Library Director: STEPHANIE HALL

Library Board: Tracy Wachmann (Chair), Andrew Krawczyk (Vice Chair), Petra Cottier, Dieter Diedericks, Cynthia Garton, Bahar Hafizi, Alastair Nimmons, Sahar Sanajou, Koichi Ronald Shimoda, Sharon Thompson (Council Representative), Lorena Yu.



INSPIRING STORIES

Our Accessible Services team launched a new program: Library Bound Tea Social. This monthly program is a great opportunity to connect with new friends and participate in fun activities for those who cannot get to the Library independently.

"What a brilliant initiative. The library is always so creative with your programs!"

This new program complements the highly valued book delivery service run by the Accessible Services department for those who can't routinely make it to the Library. We recently heard from one participant's daughter who lives abroad:

"I am not able to physically be with Mom very often. It heartens me that there are caring people like yourselves enriching her home-bound life. She often praises your service, and I wanted to share my appreciation as well to you both. Many thanks."



OVERVIEW

The Library Board welcomed **Bahar Hafizi** and West Vancouver Councillor **Sharon Thompson** to the Board. At the January 18 meeting, the Board elected Trustee **Tracy Wachmann** as Chair and Trustee **Andrew Krawczyk** as Vice-Chair.

The Board appreciates the service of departing Trustees **Richard Fisher**, **Jatinder Sidhu**, and **Felicia Zhu** and wishes them well in their future endeavours.

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Learning

- Our brand-new **recording studio** opened and in the first three months, we oriented nearly **60** patrons on how to use the studio and its equipment.



Candis Callison and Angela Sterritt in conversation.

- This Spring, we offered a new music lecture series: **Monday Afternoons at the Opera with Mikki Reintjes**.
- **Summer Reading Club** registration opened on June 1 and we expect more than **1,500** kids to enroll in the program. This incredible initiative aims to prevent summer learning loss by encouraging kids to read for at least 15 minutes daily throughout the summer.
- On June 13, the **Big Ideas lecture series** kicked off with an event that showcased **Angela Sterritt**, an acclaimed journalist and author, in conversation with Candis Callison, a professor and fellow journalist. More than **100** individuals attended the event.
- During the first half of the year, the technology team offered almost **100 classes for adults** and also provided **39** one-on-one device clinics.

"Thanks so much for your 1-million-star library and tech centre."

Inclusion

- Staff presented a cultural mash-up event, **Robbie and Rabbits**, celebrating Lunar New Year and Robbie Burns Day, to a packed Welsh Hall.

"I feel so blessed we could celebrate Lunar New Year here in our local community."

- The Library arranged a haft-seen table and featured live music to mark **Norooz**. Additionally, our librarians curated various resources to encourage the learning and comprehension of Iran's political state.

OPERATIONS



83,599
ENQUIRIES

TOTAL VISITS 456,219
Virtual visits **266,824**
In-person visits **189,395**

CHECKOUTS
408,686

Physical **335,762**
E-content downloads **72,924**



MIDYEAR
January 1 –
June 30

1,900
New library cards



16,805
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

6,412 Adult
10,393 Youth (Early Years, Kids, Teens)



38,692
Online
database
views



- We installed **new exterior book drop bins** to address an accessibility challenge with our previous after-hours book return slot. Now, patrons can return items to the Library anytime without climbing stairs.
- We presented another series of Indigenous Storytelling by **Ta Siiyuxwa tl'a Skwxwú7meshulh** (The Elders of the Squamish People),

attended by rapt audiences and three school groups.

"This is the best library! You stay so current and really provide programs that are important and relevant."

- This year's **Booktopia: A Literary Festival for Young People** was presented by the Youth Department in partnership with West Vancouver Schools. The festival featured an author talk in French with **Mélanie Watt**, the creator of *Scaredy Squirrel*, and a talk accompanied by a live drawing demonstration with author and illustrator **Ben Clanton**.

"This will undoubtedly help our French Immersion students not only read more French but also help in their understanding of French culture and language."

- The 23rd annual **North Shore Writers Festival** returned in-person for the first time since 2019. The festival, a partnership with **North Vancouver City Library**, **North Vancouver District Public Library**, and **West Vancouver Memorial Library**, was hosted in West Vancouver this year.

"This type of event enriches the community and encourages more participation with our local libraries. Thank you!"

- We partnered with the **West Vancouver Art Museum** to present **The Bricktacular West Coast Modern Show**, an exhibition featuring LEGO® recreations of iconic West Vancouver homes. Part of West Coast Modern Week, the exhibition opened on May 5

with a reception attended by more than **200** people. Hundreds more visited the Library to admire the display.



- Staff participated in outreach events at the **West Vancouver Community Cultural Festival**, **National Indigenous Peoples' Day**, **Seniors' Activity Centre**, **Squamish Nation Elder's Centre**, and more.



Kendra Sakamoto (Librarian) and Tracy Wachmann (Board Chair) holding the Eureka Award.

Integrity

- In April, our Library was presented with the **British Columbia Library Association Eureka Award** for our innovative climate change programs.
- Four Library volunteers recently won a **West Vancouver Community Award**: Board

Trustee **Koichi Ronald (Ron) Shimoda**, Foundation Engagement Chair **Patricia Bowles**, Foundation Treasurer **Mehran Farmanara**, and Accessible Services volunteer **David Woodhouse**. These volunteers work tirelessly to make our Library a special place, and we are so grateful for them.

- Our **2021 Impact Report** and **Welcome Campaign** for new WVML patrons each won **PRXchange awards** at the annual American Library Association conference.
- The project to build **new exterior stairs** in the west surface parking lot was completed, and the stairs were reopened for public use.

WVML FOUNDATION



In 2000, West Vancouver resident **Robert Leslie Welsh** bequeathed his estate to the Library to support music programs and collections. More than 20 years later, this gift still funds significant enhancements to the Library, including the new **Recording Studio**, **Friday Night Concerts**, **Wee Musician Kits** for kids, and more.

This legacy gift, carefully managed by the **West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation**, will continue growing and last all our lifetimes and beyond. The Foundation's skilled stewardship of these funds makes our Library a special place.

WHAT LEGACY DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE?

Amplify your future impact through planned giving:

- Gifts in Wills
- Gifts of Marketable Securities
- RRSPs and RRIFs
- Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Gifts of Residual Interest in Property

For more information on legacy giving, visit wvml.ca/legacy or contact the Foundation at **604.925.7425**.

FRIENDS

The 2023 **Shred-It Fundraiser** was a success! The Friends raised over **\$3,000** to support library programs like **Summer Reading Club**, the **North Shore Writers Festival**, and more.

If you'd like to support the Library, consider joining the Friends as a member! The Friends rely on membership to support Library programs and services.

Applications may be picked up in the Library.

