





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), sə́lílwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh Nation), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation). We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial.



MAYOR'S Message

Few institutions say more about a community than its library.

The West Vancouver Memorial Library has long been one of the quiet cornerstones of our civic life—a place where curiosity is nurtured, ideas are explored, and neighbours of all ages find connection. For generations, it has been far more than a building filled with books. It is a gathering place, a refuge, a classroom, and a bridge between past and future.

My connection to our Library is both personal and longstanding. My mother was a member many years ago, and I have had the privilege of serving as a Trustee. In the 1990s, during my earlier term as Mayor, I was proud to support the significant renovation that helped shape the welcoming space we know today. To see how that investment has continued to serve our community—evolving to meet current needs while preserving the Library's spirit—is deeply gratifying.

This past year's Diamond Jubilee celebration and the 75th Anniversary fundraiser were powerful reminders of how strongly our community values its Library. The remarkable support shown through the WVML Foundation reflects something important: in West Vancouver, we understand that knowledge, culture, and lifelong learning matter.

Today, the Library continues to adapt—expanding accessibility, embracing new technologies, supporting seniors, newcomers, families, and young readers alike. In a rapidly changing world, the Library remains one of the few places where everyone is welcome, without barrier or expectation.

Strong communities are built not only with roads and infrastructure, but with ideas, opportunity, and shared spaces. Our Library provides all three.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Board, staff, volunteers, and supporters whose dedication ensures that this treasured institution continues to thrive for generations to come.

**Mark Sager,
Mayor**



BOARD CHAIR + DIRECTOR Letter

On November 11, 1950, the West Vancouver Memorial Library opened its doors, and within two years, use of the new facility had grown from 5.95 circulations per capita to 8.59. Today, including print and electronic circulation, it is more than 20 circulations per capita. Add to this the many additional services, from tech help to instructional programs, workshops, and our beloved music programming, and this septuagenarian is aging well!

A major theme of 2025 was celebrating 75 years of library service in our community. We hosted a special-edition Big Ideas lecture with Douglas Coupland, commissioned a LEGO model of our building (with grant funding from the West Vancouver Foundation and West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation), and collected stories and photos of our community's history for our digital collection.

2025 wasn't only about the past—we looked ahead, too: we analyzed the findings from our 2024 User Survey and made some important changes. In tandem with necessary seismic upgrades, we renovated our Mezzanine floor and added more mixed seating for individual and group study. We established sound levels throughout the Library in response to community feedback, too.

We also looked ahead to new horizons in learning and technology and examined how AI will fit into our organization and instructional work. As the community looks to the next 25 years, we began work on a robust infrastructure planning process to continue to grow and evolve to respond to its changing needs.

Through it all, we've seen a consistent thread of a love of learning in this community and an emphasis on service quality—from 1950 to 2025.

Andrew Krawczyk, Board Chair

Stephanie Hall, Director



THE LIBRARY Family

The Council-appointed **Board of Trustees** is instrumental in ensuring that the leadership, policies, relationships, financial resources, and infrastructure are in place to support the Library's success. The Trustees set the strategic direction for the Library's development.

Our inspiring **staff** deliver on the strategic plan set forth by the Trustees with tremendous agility and inventiveness.

Volunteer groups contribute time and expertise to make our Library exceptional, from supporting English language learning programs, to shelving, and more.

Since 1951, the **Friends of the Library** have been energetic supporters of the Library, many of whom have volunteered for decades. They contribute all the proceeds from their Shred-It day and Book Cart sales back to the Library, supporting programs like Summer Reading Club and the Library's welcoming character.

The West Vancouver **Memorial Foundation** works with private donors and corporate sponsors to enrich our community through enhanced library services. In 2025, the Foundation funded collections, sound system improvements, the Library Bound Tea Social, and high-profile programs like Big Ideas lectures and our Friday Night Concert series.

STRATEGIC Highlights



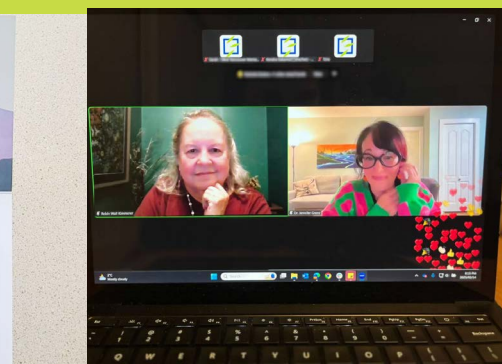
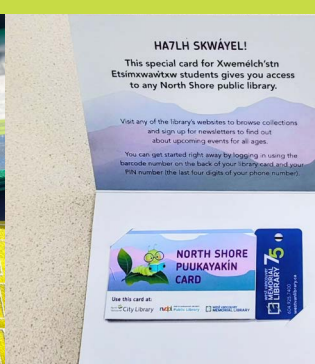
COMMUNITY

- As part of our **75th anniversary** and to foster a sense of community pride, we launched a callout for community photographs from 1950 to present. We received more than **350** submissions and uploaded **150** to our digital.westvanlibrary.ca archival collection.
- We took our pop-up library to the **Senior's Health Expo, National Indigenous People's Day, North Shore Pride Alliance Picnic, Squamish Nation Powwow, and the North Shore Newcomers Expo.**
- We launched a quarterly **Small Businesses e-newsletter** promoting our programs, services, collections, and resources targeted to business owners.
- The Library continued to support community safety programs, serving as a cooling centre and presenting **Emergency Preparedness 101** with **North Shore Emergency Management** and **West Vancouver Fire and Rescue.**



INTEGRITY

- **Tsitsáyxemaat Rebecca Duncan** won the **British Columbia Library Association's Eureka award** for her collaboration on adding **Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim Language Kits** to our collection.
- We partnered with **North Vancouver District Public Library** and **North Vancouver City Library** to provide **Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw/Capilano Little Ones** students with **Puukayakín (library) cards** that work at all three library systems.
- We analyzed **1,466** local resident responses to our **2024 Library User Survey**, which highlighted the relationship between library service and wellbeing and provided actionable feedback, like implementing sound level zones in the Library.
- Our most popular program of 2025 featured Indigenous botanists and authors **Robin Wall Kimmerer** and **Jennifer Grenz**. More than **2,000** people tuned in for this **WVML Foundation**-funded virtual Big Ideas event.





LEARNING

- Library staff created a suite of artificial intelligence classes for community members and then shared this curriculum with other libraries around BC.
- Environment and sustainability programming continued through 2025 with **Adopt-a-Fish**, **climate cafes**, and our **mason bee lending program**, which was featured in the American Library Association journal. We also presented **Robert Dash's** photography exhibit *Food Planet Future* in partnership with the **UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum**.
- More than **20,000** youth, from pre-readers to teens, attended literacy and educational programs like the **Reading Link Challenge**, with an additional **2,175** participating in **Summer Reading Club**.
- Through our strong partnership with **West Vancouver Schools**, library staff provided several pro-d sessions for educators and presented **365** students with their **first-ever WVML card**.
- The **Sound Artist in Residence** program, designed to animate the Recording Studio, returned with the appointment of **Dr. Liam Hockley**. At the peak of his residency, **Recording Studio** bookings reached **98%** capacity.



INCLUSION

- Following recommendations laid out in our **2024 Accessibility Plan**, we applied for a grant from the **Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund** and installed an **accessible lift** to our rooftop parking lot and community demonstration garden, *Swáýwi Temíxw*, where summertime gatherings and concerts are held.
- Library staff piloted a program to provide **device help at care homes** to help people better connect with friends and family.
- In July, our Board formally adopted an **Equity Statement** as part of the Library Board Policy.
- We hosted our first **Pride Bingo**, in partnership with the **North Shore Pride Alliance**. Seventy-seven attendees played bingo, laughed, and danced at this sold-out celebration hosted by the renowned **Carlotta Gurl**.



Leave us a message!

We're collecting your stories about the Library. It could be a favourite memory, a significant impact, a moment of community... tell us what we mean to you!



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Celebrating 75 years

In 2025, our focus was on our community and its 75-year relationship to our Library. Heartfelt tributes came to us in many forms—donated photos for our digital archives, a memoir collection called **West Vancouver Library Stories** (which featured a story about an in-library romance!), and bite-sized personal stories collected from a special display featuring a mid-century rotary phone and desk.

"I love the West Vancouver Library," a little voice proclaims on one phone recording. In another, an older patron says, "I've been coming to the West Van Library since I was maybe six years old, and I'm now six decades older than that. It is and has always been a magical place."

Many familiar faces were part of our celebrations, too. Artist **Emma FitzGerald**, whose hand-drawn pieces we exhibited in 2020 and 2025, sketched the Library for our permanent art collection and some limited-edition anniversary merchandise. We commissioned a **LEGO model of the Library** by West Vancouver-raised **Paul Hetherington**, complete with the iconic features in miniature: *The Plumtrees*, *Harmony*, and the Accessible Services delivery car parked out front.



Douglas Coupland (who also spoke at our 50th anniversary) joined us for our marquee **Big Ideas** event with **Marsha Lederman**. Celebrations wrapped up with a Foundation gala that told the story of the inspiring grassroots movement to establish a public library in West Vancouver, raising more than **\$60,000** for the Library at the same time.

This year of stories reminded us that our Library is not just a building or a collection of books. It is a living entity, entwined with the lives of the people it serves.

Discover more stories at wvml.ca/75.

2025 By the Numbers



397,838
Library visits

124 average
visits per hour



677,899
virtual visits



TOTAL VISITS
1,075,737

SERVICES
TOTAL ENQUIRIES
226,483



HELP DESK



529,891
own device
WiFi sessions

2,547
Accessible
Services
deliveries



20,090
public
computer
sessions
6.3 sessions
per hour!

167
digitization
sessions

1,717
Recording
studio hours
booked
↑91%



TOTAL PROGRAMS
1,402 average 116 per month



Total
attendance: **34,872**
↑11%

YOUTH
Programs: **808**

20,185 participants



ADULT
Programs: **844**

14,687 participants

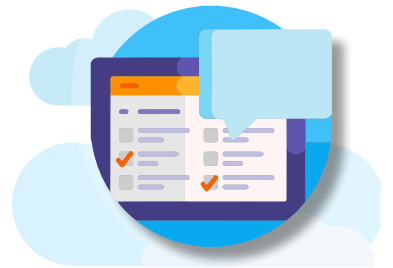
NEWCOMERS
Programs: **107**

1,733 participants





CIRCULATION
physical + digital
958,510



112,371
database
views
↑17%



702,110
physical items
circulated



144,029
digital downloads

Most-circulated adult title (248):
The Women
by Kristin Hannah

Most-circulated youth title (329):
Jujutsu Kaisen
by Gege Akutami

Our **28,819** active cardholders borrowed an average of **33** items each in 2025.

WEST VAN COAST MEMORIAL LIBRARY
westvanlibrary.ca



Photo: Abby Luciano, North Shore News

COLLABORATION Makes Us Strong

Supporting language preservation with Tsitsáyxemaat

Expanding on the **Sḵw̱wú7mesh Sníchim** (Squamish Language) language kits launched in 2024, we collaborated once again with Sḵw̱wú7mesh Sníchim speaker and knowledge keeper **Tsitsáyxemaat Rebecca Duncan** to launch a storytime version of the kits.

The Storytime Kits feature seven stories and beloved children’s songs in Sḵw̱wú7mesh Sníchim and English with accompanying felt boards for tactile play. Learners can read and sing along to Etsím Kw’át’an/Little Mouse, Tsitseyáchis Estl’éptl’epx Wexés/5 Green and Spotted Frogs, Tl’étxem Sts’úkw’i7/Slippery Fish, Txwta7 ta Stséktsek/Dear Forest,

the Hokey Pokey Song, Etsím Etsím Sxwexwekwíchn/Itsy Bitsy Spider, and Iyá7yulh Tl’a Tsuáx̄en by Xwemilut.

Like the original language kits, each storytime kit is accompanied by a Yoto player with audio cards to play the stories and songs for learners to follow along with at home.

Circulated **101** times in the first three months, the kits have been a popular addition to the Library’s collection that open doors to language revitalization and culture. Tsitsáyxemaat hopes the kits will spark interest and conversation for people from all walks of life.

“ If we could share our language, and if they could take that on, that would just be so beautiful,” she said. “The language is really rhythmic and beautiful, just like this land, so I think creating those relationships and opening it up for conversation, I think that’s a good start there. ”

Tsitsáyxemaat

KEY Investment



The new and improved Mezzanine

Our renovation of the Mezzanine level was not optional—required seismic upgrades meant that we had to remove every shelf, the carpet, and each of the 35,000 books housed there.

We took this opportunity to make some low-cost improvements. Using an economical approach laid out in our 2022 Facility Space Plan, we reconfigured the space to add 30 new collaborative seats and improve sightlines, allowing visitors to see the beautiful bones of the original 1962 design by Thompson, Berwick, Pratt, and Partners.

Another goal of this renovation was to reunite the non-fiction collection into one home in the West Wing and relocate the popular World Languages collection to the Mezzanine to give it the space it needed. This was a complex move that involved handling nearly every book in our Main Floor collections, which our circulation staff organized seamlessly.

This investment reflects the Library's commitment to maintaining spaces that are inclusive, accessible, adaptable, and responsive to evolving community needs.

We prioritized local vendors for this project, with seating and lighting by Inform Interiors (Vancouver), booth seating by Velles Furniture (North Vancouver), and wooden furnishings and shelves by Eyford Construction (North Vancouver).

As one teen told staff, "Dude, it's so fancy!"

DONORS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

\$5000+

Margaret Jackson
Pieters-Horstman Foundation
Yvonne Wagner

\$2500 – \$4999

Stephanie Hall
Jeryll Krogseth
Junmei Zhao &
Hamish Somerville
Elizabeth Tompkins
Jan Van Rooden

\$1000 – \$2499

Atkinson Fund
Michael Bolton
Patricia Bowles
Ruth Brodie
Jan M Davies
Karen Davis
The Dawn & Axel Rehkatsch
Foundation
Helpalittle Foundation
Susan Herd
Bill Koch
Barbara Lacey
Dan & Cindy Le Dressay
Reay & Lynda Mackay
Jon Palfrey
Peter Rozee & Fanny Patterson
Helen Storey
Jane & Robert Strang

\$500 – \$999

Gladys Botnen
Gail Bouskill
Jenny Bunning &
Andrew Mollard
Byzantium Books
Timothy Caulfield
Pamela Clark
William Coulter
Paula da Rosa
Max Hager
Catherine Harasym
Gerald Hedding
Martin Jones
Heather Kaart
Andy Krawczyk & Janice Rae
Donna Mackey
Mary Miller
Margaret Murray
Dennis Perry
Sherrill Purves
Vincent Scali
Shelagh Van Kempen
Norma Young

\$250 – \$499

Sherri Armstrong
Anjili Bahadoorsingh
Hannelore Baumgart
Scott Brownlie
Dorothy Byrne
Allan Catacutan
Carol Chestnut
Darlene Clarke Hole
Penny Collett
Barbara Collingwood
Margaret Corbett
Dieter Diedericks
Frances Dowdeswell
Caroline Duncan
Pauline Fitzgerald
Eva Francis
Edward Frazer
Louise Given
Padraig Gooderham
Louis & Jani Guzy
Willa Harasym
Allyson Haug
Mary Lansdell
Joanne Larsen
Trevor Lautens
Marlene Lougheed
Bill Marchant
Tammy Matthew
Charlotte &
Patrick McLaughlin
Victoria Mendes
John Moir
Anne Morley
Rosemary Murchison
Robert Sanderson
Rozmin Sayani
Jatinder Sidhu
Janet Simpson
Zhaoqi Song
Joanne Unruh
Helen Vanee
Frances Vice
Lloyd & Natalie Warnes
Jennifer Webb
Karen Williams
Sandra Wilson
Margaret Worthy
Anna Zaitzeff

\$100 – \$249

Donald Allan
Nini Baird
Christine Banham
Geri Barnes
Nora Batchelor
Michelle Brazeau
Jeanne Cady-Brown
Mary Jo Campbell

Kate Clifford
Barbara Colquhoun
Axel Conradi
Robert Cooper
Shirley Cutts
Cynthia Des Brisay
John Elliott
Mary Louise Farnan
Julie Flowerdew
Violet Foo
Heather Fraser
Nora Gambioli
Ildiko George
Vahid Ghafarpour
Barrie & Ann Gillmore
Teresa Godinho
Jan Guenther
Mei Mei Guo
Joyce Hales
Mary Hamm
Shan He
Linda Heel
Silvia Heinrich
May Henry
Margaret Hill
Jane Jones
Rosemarie Kahnau
Sheila Kerr
Sheila Lamb
Jacqueline Lane
Ross Lewis
Merle Loyst
Janice MacDougall
G.B. John Mancini
Drena Margarita Gomes
Nancy Martin
Bruna Martinuzzi
Joan McLeod
Ailve McNestry
Sharon Milbourne
Patricia Morris
Donald Murray
Charles Perrin
Patsy Pollak
Amy Pressman
Laila Radage
Carol Ann Robinson
Marilyn W. Ross
Sonja Sanguinetti
Behnaz Sepahdari
Charlaine Shepherd
Margaret E. Shugg
Jillian Stirk
Janet Tennant
Lorne & Wendy Topham
Joy Tutsch
Nadine Urquhart

Kay Vinall
Tracy Wachmann
Rosalyn Walton
Thorie Whyte
Kay Wiewel
James Wilson
Robert Wyckham
Peng Xu
Juan Yang
Ying Zhou

Up to \$100

Emma Arnell
Nancy Beaty
Merla Beckerman
Hal Bell-Irving
William Brymer
Donna Chan
Lea Chmelauskas
Chris Cunningham
William Currie
Polly Evenden
Mirjana Galovich
Sukhdev Gill
Julia Hedley
Patricia Hepburn
Erin Hood
Bev Hurlburt
Adrienne Jones
Alaina Kotowski
Michael Lynch
Laura McConville
Donna Mihm
Sayeeda Nathoo
Leonie Page
Donald Robertson
Catherine Schachtel
Heidemarie Schmidt
Gloria Shaw
Maureen Sherman
Jacqueline Smith
Jane Srivastava
Jan Timmer
Jimmy Carl Whitehead
Marianne Zandron
Hongjie Zhu

**We gratefully acknowledge
other gifts from Donors
who wished to remain
anonymous.**

This information is provided
by the WVML Foundation.



Staff and the Library Family celebrate the re-opening of the Mezzanine level.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

District of West Vancouver
West Vancouver Memorial
Library Foundation
Province of British Columbia
Public Library InterLINK
Friends of the Library
Government of Canada
Courthouse Libraries BC

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Sarah Jane Photography

LIBRARY BOARD

Andrew Krawczyk
Tracy Wachmann
Annabelle Donovan
Bahar Hafizi
Emma He
Heather Kaart
Wilma Marais
Patricia Morris
Alastair Nimmons
Sahar Sanajou
Sharon Thompson
Helen Vanee
Lorena Yu



1950 Marine Drive, West Vancouver | 604.925.7400 | info@westvanlibrary.ca | westvanlibrary.ca

 [WestVancouverMemorialLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/WestVancouverMemorialLibrary)  [west-vancouver-memorial-library](https://www.linkedin.com/company/west-vancouver-memorial-library)  [westvanlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/westvanlibrary)  [WestVancouverLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/WestVancouverLibrary)

