



*“ This Library is one of the most valuable institutions to the community. ”*

*~ Library member*





Chief Librarian  
Tracey Therrien



Library Board Chair  
Anni Holtby

## A message from the Chair & Chief Librarian

2019 was another bustling year for our patrons, staff, and board. As the stats on the inside pages illustrate, the library continues to grow as we 'Discover, Create and Connect' together.

Libraries are public spaces and community hubs, welcoming residents and visitors alike. As a public space, you may have witnessed

and first-hand how well-used our facility is. Staff have designed programs for all ages that include author talks, community book clubs, Lego Club, and Tech Hub. Our Library of Things continue to grow with the addition of Ozobots, and our Online Resources now include Acorn TV.

In addition to programs on site, staff take the library out to the Slocan Valley, Kokanee Park Nature Centre, schools and Mountain Lakes & Lake View residences, bringing resources to folks who may not be able to get to the Library. We connected our elected officials with citizens during the Council-dating and showcased participatory democracy in action.

The Board discussed topics and trends at board meetings to be more informed in order to support our amazing staff. We have learned tools to advocate for increased funding resource and reached out to community organizations to discover similar strategic priorities. Our Centenary Committee got underway planning various creative programs and events to celebrate the library's 100th birthday in 2020.

The Library is extremely appreciative of our many committed



“ I would not be able to read books without the Library visits. ”  
~ Senior's Outreach user

## Strategic Priorities

### Community Needs

- ◆ **Outreach:** library staff took programs and services out on the road visiting communities, senior's centres, schools and participating in community events. Staff taught online safety to seniors at Learning in Retirement, delivered books to residents of Mountain Lakes and Lake View and held story times in the Slocan Valley and at Kokanee Park.
- ◆ **Digital Literacy:** as the need for digital literacy skills continue to grow the Library supported training needs by offering one-on-one tech-training: Book-A-Librarian. Community members met with librarians to tackle their technology questions. The Library was a successful recipient of a technology grant to purchase editing, recording and digitization technology and offer training to be implemented in 2020.

### Spaces to Connect

- ◆ **Community Events & Space:** we bring people together by facilitating community events and offering a free-welcoming space available to everyone. The Library offered a number of community book clubs for all ages, bringing people together to discuss topics and issues that are important to them. Library staff and Board continued to promote the Library as a barrier-free space adapting policies and procedures to ensure new-comers, visitors and long-time residents alike, are welcome and valued at the Library.
- ◆ **Community partners:** the Library continued to grow and strengthen partnerships to support the changing needs of community. The Library hosted parenting workshops, hosted the Community Navigator pilot project, and delivered the Reading Link Challenge at local schools. Working in collaboration with partners such as Community Services, Nelson at its Best, and School District 8 allows the Library to serve and reach more individuals.

### Sustainability

- ◆ **Advocacy:** Board and Staff continued to work with local, regional and provincial agencies and associations to advocate for public libraries and improve



# By the Numbers

## Financial statement:

2019 unaudited	
Operating Income	\$ 52,619
City of Nelson	\$ 642,529
RDCK Area South H	\$ 64,348
RDCK Area F	\$ 90,445
Province	\$ 87,561
Donations	\$ 20,676
Project Grants	\$ 102,723
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,061,289</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 722,588
Office Management	\$ 46,848
Building Operations	\$ 102,070
Equipment & Furnishings	\$ 15,780
Programs	\$ 8,385
Collections	\$ 80,900
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 976,570</b>
Net Income (tech grant to be spent in 2020)	-\$ 84,718

## Key statistics:

### On site traffic:

- ◆ Library members: **11,440**
- ◆ Library visits: **139,505**
- ◆ Items borrowed: **197,256**
- ◆ Public computer sessions: **22,032**
- ◆ Programs: **370**
- ◆ Program participants: **9,149**
- ◆ Outreach programs: **78**
- ◆ Outreach participants: **2,053**

### Online Library:

- ◆ Online visits: **50,201**
- ◆ Online training sessions: **456**
- ◆ Database & online library sessions: **15,729**
- ◆ e-book & e-Audiobook downloads: **32,243**

“ We love the Mother/ Daughter book club it has brought up lots of interesting topics for us to discuss as a family ”

~ Book club participant

4,531 new BOOKS!  
1,174 NEW members!  
630 daily CHECK OUTS!  
446 DAILY visits!

“ Thank you for the training, I'll use it to stay in touch with friends & family. ”

~ Facebook workshop participant

## The Friends of the Library

The Friends have been fundraising for the Library for 37 years. In 2019 they donated \$13,363 through book sales, grants and donations. The Friends are great Library champions, spreading the word of the importance of reading and promoting the Library as a welcoming space in the community. Thank you to the time dedicated by the generous members of The Friends, and volunteers. A special thanks to Co-Chairs Margie Perks and Miriam Williams.



Friends present their annual donation to Chief Librarian.

## 2019 Donors & Grant Funders

Thank you to all the generous individual and local business donors who helped us improve and expand access to essential programs, collections and services. In 2019 the Library received grant funding from Columbia Basin Trust, Friends of the Nelson Elders, Osprey Foundation, BC Employees Fund, Nelson & District Credit Union, BC Courthouse Libraries, BC Francophone Affairs Program, the Kootenay Library Federation and Government of Canada totaling close to \$102,000.

# Highlights

## Adult Services

Author presentations included fiction, poetry, nonfiction popular events that informed, educated, and inspired. 344 people came out for our local author book launches alone.

We hosted Blanket Exercises supporting the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation report. Community members were invited to learn about colonization and it's lasting effects through an Indigenous lens. We provided a space for community dialogue to support this important learning.

“ It was a powerful and poignant experience - thank you ”

~ Blanket Exercise attendee

## Teen and Literacy Services

In 2019, thanks to a grant from the NDCU, we continued two programs: Teen Tech Workshops and Mother Daughter Book Club. Granny Goose completed its second year with a consistently high attendance and increased senior participation. A mother commented “ I never thought I would be the kind of mom who sings to her kids, but now I find singing together is a big part of our day ”. New initiatives included Family Book Clubs; one father said “ it gave him a way to connect to his 15 year old, and my son told me that it gave him the motivation to read ”. We also introduced Book Parties for school age children on Pro-Development days, celebrating great books and unforgettable characters with games and prizes.

## Children's Services

2019 was a great year for our weekly Family Storytimes! We had nearly 1500 attendees join us last year for our stories, rhymes, songs, and movement. As usual, the children were accompanied by a great mix of parents, caregivers, grandparents, and relatives. We also had a successful series of monthly outreach visits to the Slocan Valley for their “ Parent and Tot Drop-in ”. Participants signed up for library cards, checked out books, and took part in our storytime. There's a great community there, and we're fortunate to be able to connect with them at these monthly outreach events .

“ We love having a warm open space to bring kids on a rainy day! ”

~ a Parent

## Digital Literacy

In 2019 we helped members get online, use social media, and download ebooks & audiobooks. Members signed up for 456 library online courses . We introduced teens to website design, coding and digital imaging. We offered one-on-one sessions to help with all kinds of technology questions. Thanks to the volunteers and local experts who helped staff deliver these Programs!

