

Gibson and District  
Public Library

# Annual Report 2017



Gibsons & District Public

**Library**

*Stories To Tell*

## Report from the Library Director and Chair

**I am thrilled and honoured to be the new Library Director for the Gibsons and District Public Library.** 2017 was an exciting year at the library filled with new initiatives, and the completion of various improvements to the library's physical space. The renovations to the children's area were finalized in August, and families can now enjoy a much more open, user friendly and creative space. Browsing bins allow young children to be more involved in selecting a book, and the movable furniture allows for the space to be used in a multitude of ways.



Heather Evans-Cullen  
Library Director



Matt Thomson  
Board Chair

During the grand opening of the children's area in November, the space hosted a wonderful gathering that accommodated a large crowd in the new area. Big thanks and gratitude to all the community donors, staff, volunteers and outgoing Library Director Tracey Therrien, who made this vision come to life; and to the major donors including the Gibsons Lions Club, the Gibsons Library Foundation and the Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Mill.



The Library continues to play a big role in the sharing economy that is developing on the Sunshine Coast. Our monthly Repair Café encourages people to bring in their broken small appliances, instruments and household items, and learn how to repair them alongside skilled volunteers. This ongoing program promotes

lifelong learning, creates community and keeps useable items out of our landfill. Working in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Seed Collective, the library now offers a Spring seed library at which anyone can take out locally harvested seeds to plant in their gardens. The library offers resources and programs throughout the year such as the Environmental Forum held in November, that educate the community on sustainable living practices.

Another key role the library fulfilled in 2017 was to bridge the digital and educational divide that can exist in our community. Staff are always available to orientate people on how to access digital resources, databases and books. The Library provided innovative technology related programs for children and youth in the Spring and Summer that included digital animation, coding workshops and DJ programs.



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Chromebooks were purchased for in library use, and a new digital printer at the Library allows people to print their materials from any source and any location.

Each year the Library builds on the successes and partnerships of the past to advance the goals and objectives of the Library. In person visits rose dramatically in 2017, and the library has never been a busier community learning place. In 2018, as the Board reviews past accomplishments, challenges and embarks on developing a new strategic plan, they are committed to reaching

out to stakeholders, residents and partners to learn how best to respond to the needs of the community and advance the Library.

**As the Board Chair, it's been a year of great change for the Library.** Last summer Tracey Therrien, former Library Director, left us to go to join the Nelson Public Library, pursuing a lifelong dream of working and living in the Kootenays. Our Board pursued her replacement through late summer and into the fall. We were fortunate to receive a number of high-quality applicants from all over Canada. Ultimately, we settled on a local hire, appointing Heather Evans-Cullen as the new Library Director. Thus far she has brought all the energy and enthusiasm she showed as Outreach Coordinator to her new position as Library Director and we are thrilled to have her.

Speaking of change, the board has seen some significant turnover as well. My predecessor, Manjit Kang, finished an eight-year term on the Board. After three years as Library Chair and a steady hand, his shoes have been hard to fill. We wish him the best as he puts his energy and

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## THE NUMBERS for 2017

Library visits **106,457**  
(up 12% over 2016)



WiFi logins **8,205**  
(up 13% over 2016)



Public computer use **6,503**  
(up 8% over 2016)



Circulation **175,275**  
(up 5% over 2016)



Program attendees **7,104**  
(up 8% over 2016)

creativity into other endeavours. Long-time Board member Rob Martin also finished his term. In supporting the crowd-funding campaign for our reconfiguration and in the search for a new Library Director, Rob's efforts on behalf of the Library were tireless and he will be missed. Also retiring from the board this year is Sheila Carlson, whose ongoing dedication to the Library has been enthusiastic and untiring. She led the charge in preparing for our Centennial celebration and has always stepped up to help organize us as needed, from volunteer appreciation events to board recruitment.

As for what's in store this year, it's time to revisit our Strategic Plan. In doing so we'll be engaging with our patrons and stakeholders to hear about their dreams and goals for the Library in coming years. As we all know, the role of libraries is changing in the 21st century, but as always it remains an important community hub for residents to access resources and take part in community building. With a new Library Director and a new Strategic Plan on the horizon we look forward to finding new ways to meet our community's needs, while maintaining our traditional role as community gathering space.

## Library Board



**Standing (left to right):** Alison Sawyer, Lorne Lewis, Sheila Carlson, Joyce Bradbury, Ted McNicol, Silas White, Robert Flux

**Seated:** Janine Young, Janet Hodgkinson

**Missing:** Matt Thomson, Chair

## Library Staff



**Library Director**  
Heather Evans-Cullen

**Outreach Coordinator**  
Andrea Routley

**Reference Librarians/  
Technical Assistants**  
Jocelyn Stewart  
Amanda Nichol

**Children's Librarian**  
Danielle Arsenault

**Office Administrator**  
Lynda Carlson

**Library Assistants**  
Carole Doerksen  
Laura Houle  
Susanne Larose-Cloherty  
Tammie York  
Lorraine McMillan  
Keely Park  
Andrea Trevett

## Stories To Tell

## 2017 Financial Statement

GDPL REVENUE 2017	
Provincial Grants	\$37,197
Sunshine Coast Regional District	\$583,636
Other Grants	\$11,819
Donations and Charges	\$7,885
Other Income	\$8,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$649,161</b>
GDPL EXPENSES 2017	
Wages and Benefits	\$446,695
Collections	\$81,379
Library Management	\$31,461
Building Operations	\$39,987
Programs	\$20,858
Amortization	\$3,474
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$623,854</b>

