

## Gibsons & District Public Library Learning Place for the Community

### Our Role in the Community

*To offer the resources, expertise, and inspiration to connect our community to the world of culture, knowledge and ideas.*

GDPL provides free access to services which meet the changing needs of the community through books, e-books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, online reference services, and internet access, plus a variety of programs for all ages in a welcoming and supportive environment.

*"...great place for families who have just moved here to meet others with kids the same age."*

### Our Members

The Gibsons and District Public Library (GDPL) serves residents of the Town of Gibsons, and the SCRD Areas D (Roberts Creek), E (Elphinstone) and F (West Howe Sound)—with a total population of approximately 12,300.

Any resident in these areas may join the library at no cost by simply requesting a Library card, renewed every three years. In 2013, our library had over 6,000 active members (approx. 10% are children or youth), all of whom have access to the collections of almost twenty other BC libraries through our partnership with InterLINK.

In our own collection, we have over 35,000 books on the shelves, approx. 10% of which were new in 2013, and nearly 65,000 eBooks or eAudiobooks, which members can borrow from the comfort of home. The community also attends children's and adult events, including author readings, book clubs for youth and adults, story time for young children, language programs, art exhibits, a knitting group, and workshops on topics as diverse as marine biology and advance care planning.

*"...the help of someone doing my taxes is amazing...I couldn't handle this myself."*

### Our Centennial Year

The GDPL was founded by the Howe Sound Farmer's Institute in 1914. It progressed from a wooden box of books circulated around the community to the first library building on Winn Road (built in 1955 thanks to the efforts of the Gibsons Kiwanis Club), then various buildings in Holland Park, to the current library building.

To celebrate our Centennial, we hosted a Launch that featured local arts organizations, ran a Short Story Contest, and partnered with the Town of Gibsons to install a book exchange drop box on Shaw Road near Christenson Village. Our centennial celebration was highlighted across BC when we welcomed CBC Radio One's BC Almanac show with Mark Forsythe for a live broadcast from the Library. In November, wrapping up our yearlong celebration is a musical performance at the library with local artists the Rakish Angles.



Centennial Launch, March 29

### Funding

The GDPL's operating costs are funded via SCRD By-law 1018, passed in 1994 after a public referendum. This by-law covers Gibsons and Areas E and F. Library tax revenue from Roberts Creek is divided between the Sechelt and Gibsons libraries (46.5% each) and the Roberts Creek Reading Room (7%). Most of the library budget comes from these tax revenues, plus small grants from the provincial government and other income, such as fines. Our largest expenses are wages and materials.

## Governance

GDPL is run by the Gibsons and District Public Library Association under terms laid out in the provincial *Library Act*. This Act regulates the composition and functions of the Board of Trustees, its powers, and the powers and duties of the Library Director. Every adult library card holder is a member of the Public Library Association and is eligible to vote in the annual election of trustees. Trustees serve two-year terms for a maximum of 8 years, and they are not paid.

The Board consists of nine elected trustees, plus one SCRD Director (appointed from an Area served by the Library) and one representative of Gibsons Town Council. The Board is responsible for preparing and approving the annual budget, hiring and supervising the Library Director, and overseeing expenditures. The Board and the Library Director work together closely to ensure that the needs of library members are met.

The Library Director manages the library and its staff. There are currently twelve staff members, all part-time. They belong to Local 391 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and recently signed a collective agreement which runs to the end of 2017.

The Library building was built by the taxpayers of Gibsons and Areas E and F. It is owned by the SCRD and sits on land leased from the Town of Gibsons.

*"...enjoyed local artists & authors..."*

## Library Foundation

For a small library we are unusually fortunate to be supported by a foundation. Established in 2001, the Gibsons & District Library Foundation is a registered charity whose mission is the long term support of the library and its services. The Foundation operates independently of the Library and has its own Board of Directors. They raise funds for capital expenditures to supplement the tax-generated revenue of the library. [www.gibsonslibraryfoundation.org](http://www.gibsonslibraryfoundation.org).



*"I'm new to Gibsons and I really appreciate events here from computer training, to book club and other talks"*

## Strategic Plan

Completed in 2013, our Strategic Plan was developed to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our members and staff now and into the future. The strategic plan reflects the core values of integrity, community engagement, continuous learning and intellectual freedom, which are shared by our Board, staff and volunteers. These values drive our primary goal, which is to ensure that everyone we serve envisions the Library as their place to learn - about anything that interests them.

As we continue to implement the Strategic Plan, we've launched a new website with updated branding, easier navigation and other new features.

In addition, we're also providing more development and training opportunities for the staff so that they are better equipped to handle the many changes happening in libraries everywhere, and can help our customers navigate through the growing mountains of information and find what they need.

A key decision in the Strategic Plan was to defer expansion planning for the Library building, and focus instead on optimizing our existing footprint. Thanks to a generous donation from the GDPL Foundation, a professional review of the existing floor space is currently underway, and will lead to re-configuration plans to make more effective use of the existing area..

We appreciate the strong support of the SCRD and the Town of Gibsons for the ongoing operation of the Library, and look forward to their continued partnership in helping ensure the Library remains the most important place for knowledge and culture in our community.

*"Presentation informative & entertaining..."*



More details, including the 2013 Annual Report, can be found on our website at <http://gibsons.bclibrary.ca>.

**Library Director:** Tracey Therrien 604 886-2130 [ttherrien@gibsons.bclibrary.ca](mailto:ttherrien@gibsons.bclibrary.ca)