


ROSSLAND

PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2014

Rossland Public Library
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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

2014 was another year of growth for the Rossland Public Library. We were able to build on stable staffing in 2014 after changes to our Library Director in both 2012 and 2013. We also benefitted from a stable and enthusiastic Board of Trustees who put in many extra volunteer hours to support our numerous initiatives.

In our key metrics of performance, we have witnessed the shift in the use of technology in libraries. While our physical circulation numbers are down slightly compared to 2013, our electronic circulation continues to grow and is at levels between 300-400% greater than in 2012. Our fantastic library staff continues to deliver excellent programming with attendance surpassing that of 2013. Our meeting room was again heavily used in 2014 by our community. We hosted Santa's visit to Rossland once again in 2014 and also participated in the Rossland Winter Carnival. Making the Rossland Public Library a centre for community and culture in Rossland remains a main goal.

There may be those who ask – what does the Rossland Library do for me?

The answer is simple – lots! As gateways to knowledge and culture, libraries play a fundamental role in society. The resources and services they offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society. They also help ensure an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past generations. In a world without libraries, it would be difficult to advance research and human knowledge or preserve the world's cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations.

We have entered the digital age – yes, even in our beautiful mountain paradise! While striving to grow our library presence, we embarked on an ambitious renewal program in 2014 to support the changing role that libraries are playing in society. With an idea originally hatched in 2012 to update our library facilities, we formed a Library Renewal Committee (LRC) in 2014 to help realize our vision. We hired Ratio Architecture Interior Design + Planning out of Vancouver as consultant on this renewal. During the course of the year, we have almost finalized the new design of the library interior. Many of the renewal ideas came from the citizens of Rossland through survey comments and feedback. We have shared the preliminary design ideas with the public at our 75th Anniversary Open House held in October and also through displays in the library. We hope to begin the renewal project in 2015.

We have recently received word from our new City Council that our funding will be reduced by 5% for 2015. This puts us in a very challenging position as the current level of support is less than that from 2010. Of BC libraries in communities with populations of between 1,500-7,500 people, our ranking of per capita municipal funding has dropped from 8th of 22 in 2011, to 16th of 25 in 2015. During this time our ranking of active cardholders as a percent of the population increased from 4th to 3rd. This reduced funding will impact our ability to provide services and programs to our community, likely resulting in a reduction of opening hours. The Library Board is working hard to try and minimize the impact. And also to clearly demonstrate to City Hall that their library is vital to the community and that they must fund it appropriately.

Lastly, I have been a part of the Rossland Library Board of Trustees for 7 years now, the last two and half as Board Chair. The BC Library Act prescribes a maximum term of 8 years for Trustees, so I am entering my last year. I am proud of what we have been able to achieve as a Board and as a library in that time. All of us on the Board are dedicated to providing the best library services to the citizens of Rossland. I look forward to working with this group over the next 12 months to help bring realize all our plans.

Thanks to staff, volunteers and Board members for another good year!

Chris D'Odorico

Board Chair

75 YEARS



In 2014, the library celebrated 75 years of serving our community.

On 4 October, we had a party with music by Sparky Steeves, cake from Ferraro Foods cut by our Mayor and an author reading by Avi Silberstein.

75 Books for 75 Years highlighted a best seller for each year the library has been open.

The library introduced new membership card, in 2014, featuring our iconic Storytellers.

The Library Director received the very first Summer Reading Club Story Award by sharing how the SRC impacted our community.

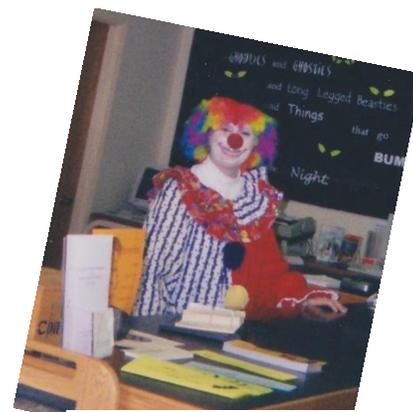


Wayback machine . . .

Sonia, Lois and Leslie moved us into our current building.



Margaret has worked here 23 years. This is during the automation in 1993.



We have a relaxed dress code at the library.

SERVICES

In 2014, 41,441 people visited our library and increase of 8% over 2013. They took advantage of our collection, our programmes, our meeting room and our services. Faxing and printing are available and in 2014 we added a scanner to these services.

The library has three public access computers, wireless access and an ereader for loan. Our public computers were used approximately 2,000 times in 2014 with many people using our printer, too. We don't track the WiFi use but, anecdotally, there are many people using it, likely more than in 2013.

The library collection includes 13,437 books, 750 movies and 21 magazine subscriptions. Members borrowed 37,000 books, movies and magazines. The most borrowed book was Joseph Boyden's *The Orenda* and the most borrowed DVD was the second season of *Game of Thrones*.

Books unavailable in our library can be borrowed from other libraries through interlibrary loan. Rossland Public Library members borrowed 430 items from other BC libraries. The Kootenay Library Federation launched Kootenay Connect in January 2014 giving our members access to most libraries in the area through Rossland's online catalogue. Our members borrowed 551 books using this service.

The Harry Lefevre Meeting Room was used approximately 500 times in 2014. As well as the library's programmes, CBAL held ESL classes, Seven Summits Centre for Learning wrote exams and community groups such as Friends of the Rossland Range, Rossland Girl Guides, Rossland Light Opera, Golden City Days and the Fall Fair held meetings. Individuals used the room as a quiet place to study and we have invigilates many exams.



Electronic resources such as Library-to-Go for ebooks and audio books, OneClick Digital for audio books and Zinio for emagazines are available 24/7 through the Library's website giving members access to 107,000 e-items. Rossland members borrowed 4,600 e-items in 2014.

The library subscribes to a number of databases including Ancestry.ca, Auto Repair Reference Centre and KnowBC, among others.

A Rossland Public Library member has access to more than 11,000,000 items in libraries across BC through inter-library loan and the BCOne system.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES



Rossland Reads, based on CBC Radio's Canada Reads, is a popular event drawing 25 to 30 people to each of three debates. When this event took a hiatus in 2013, people regularly asked when it would be back.

Author readings are also popular. In the past few years we've hosted Fernie author and Canada Reads contender Angie Abdou; mystery author and Nelsonite Deryn Collier; children's author Sylvia Olsen and wildly popular CBC personality Grant Lawrence who packed the Old Firehall.

Almost 4,800 people attended programmes and events put on by the library. That's 60% more than in 2013. The most attended event was Grant Lawrence and Jill Barber who filled the Old Firehall to its 102 person capacity. The most popular on-going programme is Lego Club which attracts 30 to 40 participants to each session, now twice a month.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES



Friday storytime for babies, is well attended with 20 or so babies and their adults attending each week. Our children's librarian presents storytime at StrongStart twice a month.

Anywhere from 5 to 30 school aged children attend Lego Club, Movies & Munchies and Page Turners, our junior book club. There is something afterschool every Thursday for this age group.

Homeschooler's Happy Hour is twice a month attracting approximately six families.

Summer 2014 saw more than 100 kids sign up for Summer Reading Club

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FOR 2014

The Rossland Public Library has been serving the community for 75 years. Started by the Junior Chamber of Commerce on the eve of the Second World War, the library has become a part of the lives of our town's residents and visitors.

Many people have a story or two from the library's tenure in the basement of the courthouse, from the weekend staff working in ski suits (the courthouse turned the heat off at weekends) to the confused patrons looking for the liquor store which had previously occupied the space. Head Librarian Lois Haynes helped many a Rossland student complete their homework.

In 1983 the library moved to its current location after an extensive renovation of what had been a garage. One patron did his auto mechanic's apprenticeship in our building and another had his car painted where our meeting room is located.

As we move on into the next 75 years, there are plans to renew the interior space in the library. Fresh and inviting with more spaces for spending time with family and friends, the reinvigorated space will meet the needs of our community.

In 1939, the library held 1,500 items and had space to read newspapers. Today our collection is ten times that size and in addition there are public access computers, WiFi and ebooks, things not even dreamed of 75 years ago. I wonder what innovations will be available when the Rossland Public Library celebrates 150 years?

Beverley Rintoul

Director

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