

Nakusp Public Library
Annual Report January – December 2013
Susan Rogers Librarian

A library is a place that is a repository of information and gives every citizen equal access to it. It's a community space. It's a place of safety, a haven from the world. Neil Gaiman

It is with pleasure I bring to you a summation of Nakusp Library's 2013.

The library staff changed significantly in January as Sabina Iseli-Otto resigned to pursue other interests. I took over as Head Librarian from my position as Assistant Librarian since 1999. Along with two valued staff members, Cindy McNaughton and Patty Riley, our job descriptions and hours for were rearranged so that the work load was distributed more evenly. We all are dedicated to our community needs and we continue to work hard at improving our services by listening to our patron needs, taking ongoing training and attending conferences.

Our most significant achievement this year was our first ever Strategic Five-Year Plan. A community needs questionnaire was sent out in May to Nakusp and surrounding communities. I compiled the data and then together with a board committee we analyzed the results. With this knowledge we put forth a Strategic Plan that took into account rapidly changing technology and the changing role of libraries in the current culture. No longer considered to be the quiet place, the library is now a hub of activity and the go-to place for unlimited information not only through a great collection, but public access computers, downloads for e-readers, WiFi, iPads, online databases – the list goes on. With this demand, there was a need for re-thinking priorities and directions. Responding to this, our new mission statement is: *The Mission of the Nakusp Public Library is to provide quality materials, resources, programs, and services, which help fulfill the educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community in an environment that is attractive, respectful, non-judgmental, and welcoming.* Our three main goals are: A: to become an information center of Nakusp and area; B: to build strong community connections and C: to ensure the library's long-term sustainability.

Another exciting development in 2013 was the completion of new junior shelving built by Mickey Wojnarowski. He used locally harvested birch, walnut, and yew. The artistry in these bookcases is a truly remarkable. This worthwhile project was funded by Columbia Basin Trust initiatives.

2013 saw some great programs at our library started off by Patty hosting Nakusp's very own Canada Reads discussion. We had 6 author readings, the Kootenay Bat Project, For the Love of Poetry evening, a Book Swap, Writer's Coffeehouse, and various parties such as shelf-reading. Our library was also home to meetings of a Book Club, Winegrowers, Beaton Arm Crossing, and Book Making/Altering groups throughout the year.

Summertime had Cindy busy planning activities for children. With our summer student Nicole Hawe's assistance, Cindy was able to offer 7 weekly events such as photography with Lee Orr, a Willy Wonka afternoon- chocolate making with Jennifer Cross (better known as Jennifer Chocolates.), and Lego Mania. Nicole Hawe also was the smiling face at the library's table in the Farmer's Market; bringing the library to the street.

In October board vice-chair, Linda Van Immerzeel and Cindy, turned our library into a magical place for a Harry Potter party. 6 volunteers manned the stations and 63 children and 19 adults came to enjoy the festivities and great eats.

Core funders to our operations are the Village of Nakusp, Director Paul Peterson and RDCK, Ministry of Education Libraries and Literacy Branch to whom we remain eternally grateful. In addition, fund-raising remains a vital tool in ensuring library services. Many individuals donated time, money, and items for our various fund-raising events. The year wrapped up with our collection drive of which Director Paul Peterson generously donated a kick-off fund of \$1200.00.

The role of volunteers continues to be essential in the operation of the Nakusp Public Library. The staff is always grateful for the fantastic support they give. All the board are volunteers; volunteers manage the circulation desk during the library's open hours, and Our Friends of the Library group consisting of 44 members, continues to help in a myriad of ways. As well as fund-raising, these friends baked for library events, did set up and clean up for library programs, organized shelves, manned tables at community events, did home delivery, helped with Books Everywhere, repaired books, tended the plants in the library, and brought summer flowers to brighten our space. 7 volunteers, including two teenagers, worked regular shifts at the circulation desk.

As we look forward into 2014 we will continue to value our beloved community input for library services and suggestions for our collection. We are open to fresh ideas and collaboration with community groups. We look forward to implementing our strategic plan in connecting with outlying reading centers and committees within Nakusp. Together we can accomplish much.

I am very grateful to the Nakusp Library's wonderful board for their unwavering support and patience of my new role as Head Librarian. The Library could not function without their extreme dedication and devotion. Also many thanks to our wonderful patrons who cherish the Nakusp Library and make it a hub of Nakusp. We are here for you.

Sincerely,
Susan Rogers