

## Report from the Library Director

2021 was a continuation of the marathon. We have maintained service through the disappointment of cancelled events, the horror of the residential school legacy, and the trauma of witnessing our neighbors burned out of house and home. Some of the best things about 2021 were silver linings. Library staff were part of a huge outpouring of immediate assistance provided to Lytton residents who fled to Lillooet. It was inspiring to see so many community groups and individuals come together to welcome and succor our neighbours. The pandemic has caused division between families and communities, but there is value in being stretched to exercise compassion and the principals enshrined in LALA's values: intellectual freedom, curiosity, respect, equity, inclusivity and accountability.

Despite all these difficulties there were also some wonderful highlights this year.

- The 2021 Summer Reading Club hosted a pandemic safe, in-person program. Activities were held outside on the REC Centre lawn. Local children had a blast learning with the dynamic summer students leading the fun.
- The Community Literacy Program received a grant from the Hamber Foundation and was able to offer Literacy Packs through the Food Bank for another season.
- The Strengthening St'át'imc Education Project, a partnership with the Lillooet Tribal Council Community Adult Learning Centre concluded with wellness days and a community meal cooked by students in celebration of June 21st, National Indigenous People's Day.
- Gold Bridge Public Library was renovated, with a beautiful new floor and paint.
- Lillooet Secondary School graduate Nick Senger offered an author talk on Zoom to mark the publication of his first novel "The Frost Pilgrimage". Eric Stathers delighted us with a Zoom slide show and talk about his many books that take place in the Lillooet Area.
- The Art on Loan program launched. Eighteen unique works of art for patrons to take home, each one comes with the artist's biography, and a skookum carrying case for safe travel.

Library Director  
Toby Mueller



2021  
Annual Report

## Board Chair's Report

We cannot talk about this past year without acknowledging existential issues affecting the land and people of this area, and thus, the library's ability to fulfill its mission with foresight and creativity.

The detection of the unmarked graves at the former Kamloops residential school dredged up deep memories among local First Nations people, who are LALA program partners and patrons. A month after that grim announcement, neighbouring Lytton burned to the ground during the hottest weather recorded in Canada. The McKay Creek wildfire threatened Lillooet from the other direction, causing further disruption in the community. Later in the year, snow avalanches affected roads and communications, so that the Seton/ Tsal'alh and Gold Bridge communities, and their library branches, were cut off from the rest of the world for many days. The blocked roads prevented some library staff from physically getting to work. All of this happened with the Covid pandemic ongoing.

The various threats to the safety of the library and the people and resources in it, have led to not only more safety planning, but also to deeper contemplation of the library's constantly shifting roles in support and service to its community. Anticipating the next uncertainties, and finding alternative methods to deliver core services - while honouring the principles of good governance, action on reconciliation, and responsive service, all in a safe and welcoming environment - are now the greatest part of steering the library. The mundanities of budgeting and keeping policy up to date have not gone away.

I have reached the end of my term on the library board. I pass the torch to my replacement, who may be no more clairvoyant than I am; but if they respond with empathy and understanding to the effects of upcoming challenges to the community we serve, I pass the torch with confidence.

Board Chair  
Lillooet Area Library Association  
Regan Dixon

# 2021 IN NUMBERS

New Card Holders - **175**  
 In Person Visits - **9,343**  
 Website Visits - **6,166**

Reference Questions Answered - **2,225**  
 Physical Items Borrowed - **20,259**  
 Digital Books Borrowed - **3,015**  
 Digital Movies Borrowed - **345**

Interlibrary Connect:  
 Items Lent - **955**  
 Items Borrowed - **1,466**



## Lillooet Public Library

Community Librarians - Cindy MacDonald, Lesley Provost, Michelle Smith, Stephanie Witt  
 Library Assistant - Hunter Gair  
 Adult Literacy Coordinator - Lorelei Lester  
 Literacy Outreach Coordinator - Lynda Sampson  
 Children's Program Coordinator - Christina Timms  
 Summer Reading Club - Samuel Barth, Kayla Poppy, Natasha Senger

## Gold Bridge Library

Community Librarian- Jean Shaw

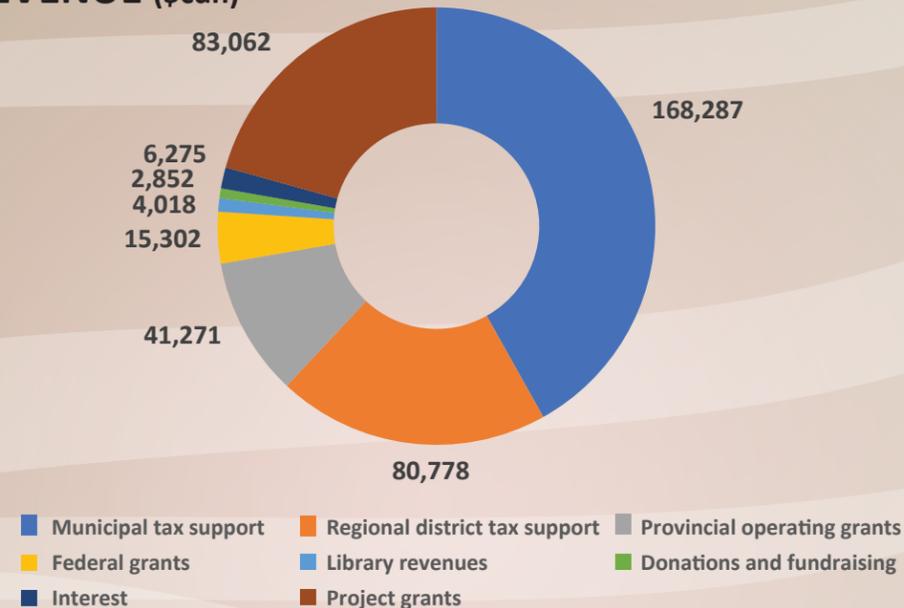
## Bridge River Library

Community Librarian- Vanessa Blake

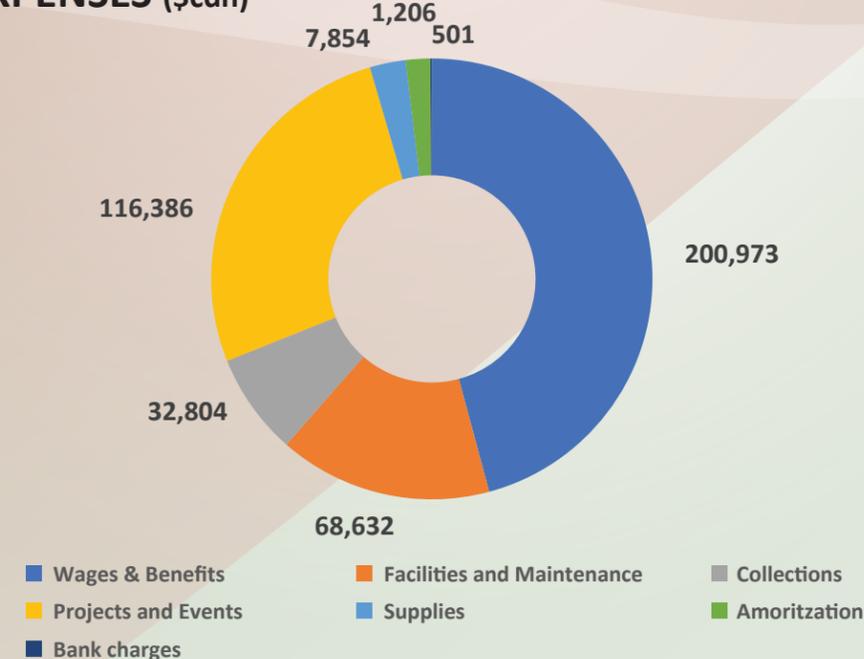
## Board members

Regan Dixon  
 Jane Duber  
 Jessica Johnson  
 Maggie Lord  
 Betty Weaver  
 Ina Weber  
 Jen Leach - District of Lillooet  
 Vivian Birch-Jones - SLRD

## REVENUE (\$cdn)



## EXPENSES (\$cdn)



Full financial report on Lillooet Area Library Association website



## Thank-you to our outstanding supporters!!

Taxpayers of the District of Lillooet and the SLRD Area's A and B  
 Government of B.C., Library Services Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
 BC Ministry of Advanced Education  
 Decoda Literacy Solutions  
 Government of Canada - Heritage Canada, Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs  
 Law Matters  
 United Way - Digital Learning Initiative  
 Native Indian Brotherhood