

Report from the Library Director

Looking back at 2022, the general feeling was of a slow return to normal. All three LALA branches got back to full hours and resumed regular programming. The number of visits to the physical Libraries is growing, but has not yet picked up to pre-pandemic levels. The use of new digital resources continues to grow steadily. Visits to our website and catalogue more than doubled from 2021.

- January 27th Family Literacy Week was celebrated with an outdoor story walk “The All Together Quilt” inspiring local quilters to start a “Literacy Quilt” project.
- In partnership with the Public Libraries of Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish, Sechelt and Gibsons, LALA co-hosted a virtual Author Talk with Dr. Paulette Steeves about her book “An Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere”. The on-line event was attended by people from all over the country and the recording on You Tube has been watched 431 times. Many thanks to Dr. Steeves for making this resource freely available.
- LALA was the recipient of the 2022 HSBS Family Literacy First award through ABC Literacy Canada.
- LALA staff held our first ever staff retreat. This was a chance for us to get together and reflect on the lessons of the past few years and look to the future. We did emergency planning, database training, and other activities for professional development and team building.
- In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Bridge River Lillooet News, LALA hosted the All Candidates Meeting for the municipal election.
- Special emergency preparedness funding provided by the Provincial Government allowed us to purchase air purification machines for all of your spaces. When you visit a Lillooet Area Library you will enjoy air that has gone through charcoal and HEPA filters. This removes most germs and particles. These units will help us have healthier flu and fire seasons for years to come.
- With ongoing funding from the Courthouse Libraries of B.C. The legal collection continues to develop with many new and interesting titles added in 2022, including: Canadian Policing : Why and How it Must Change, High North : Cannabis in Canada and The Night Dad Went to Jail : What to expect when someone you love goes to jail
- In December the Lillooet Public Library was honoured to welcome St’at’imc language teacher, performer and children’s author, Laura Grizzlypaws for the launch of her new book “Sulyesta”. ...

Library Director
Toby Mueller



2022
Annual Report

Board Chair’s Report

The Lillooet Area Library Association board is a little government run by volunteer trustees, in turn governed by the Library Act, all Canadian laws, and as of 2019, along with all British Columbians, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

Day to day operations are the job of the Library Director, so I’ll mention a few government and inter-governmental things.

Last year’s AGM was virtual, and board work continued to benefit from the shift to meetings and training online. Board and staff attended “Libraries and the Climate Crisis” with trustees and library staff from around the province. This was put on by the BC Library Trustees Association, a treasure trove of resources about governing libraries and topics of interest to trustees.

LALA also belongs to a library federation, Public Libraries InterLINK, made up of eighteen libraries with 84 branches among them. Trustees from huge urban libraries and small, remote ones learn from and support each other there.

LALA is honoured to partner with many local School, Health, Social Service and Indigenous groups and governments. Crossing into the Thompson Nicola Regional District, neighbouring library staff kindly included LALA in discussing freedom of expression.

These are just a few of the great organizations your library works with! Kukwstumulhka’ap. We thank you all.

2022 saw people coming out to exercise rights in many forms. The library’s mission and values include freedom of expression AND a safe space for every person. The board has supported library staff in making sure these two principles have a place to coexist. This dynamic will likely continue to need attention, and, as a wiser person than me said in this space last year, empathy.

If managing an organization in the pandemic was like building a plane while flying it, last year was about landing the plane, with yet untested landing gear, on an unfamiliar looking field full of hummocks and holes. Not everything that was planned WENT as planned, but staff pulled out some memorable saves. They created wonderful innovative programs and events, and always made things work when systems failed.

Thanks to all the staff in all the branches; you are awesome in the true sense. Thanks to my fellow trustees for showing up in all weathers

Board Chair
Jane Duber

2022 IN NUMBERS

New Card Holders - **222**
 In Person Visits - **11,644**
 Website Visits - **13,987**

Reference Questions Answered - **2,263**
 Total Circulation - **18,723**
 Digital Books Borrowed - **3,258**
 Digital Movies Borrowed - **877**

Interlibrary Connect:
 Items Lent - **914**
 Items Borrowed - **1,504**



Library Director - Toby Mueller

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
 Summer Reading Club - Samuel Barth, Kayla Poppy, Natasha Senger

Gold Bridge Library

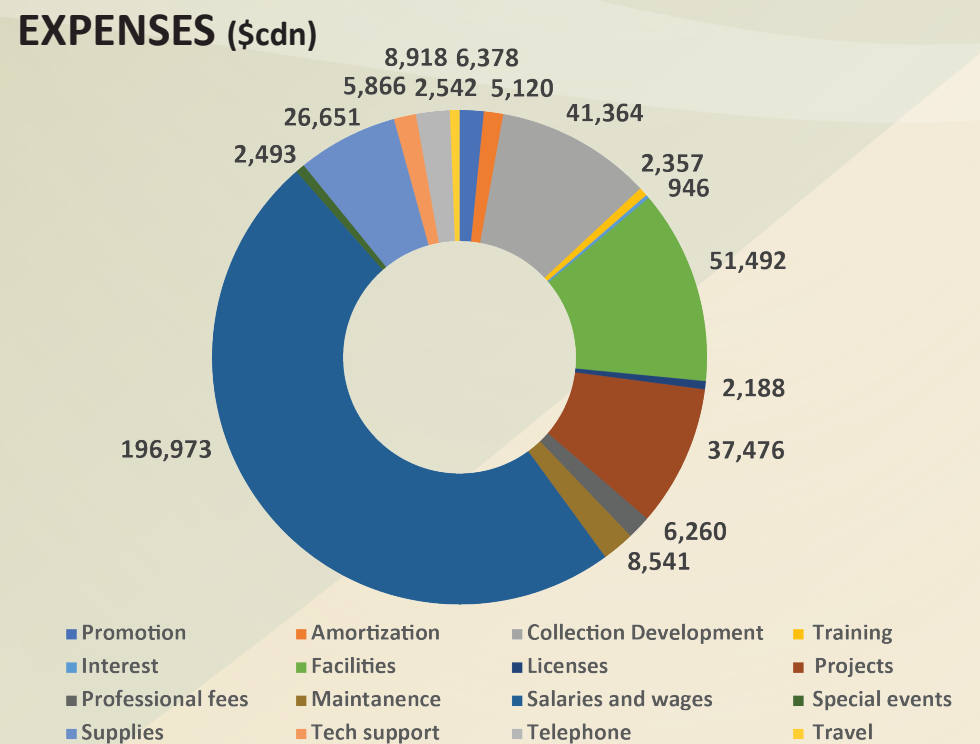
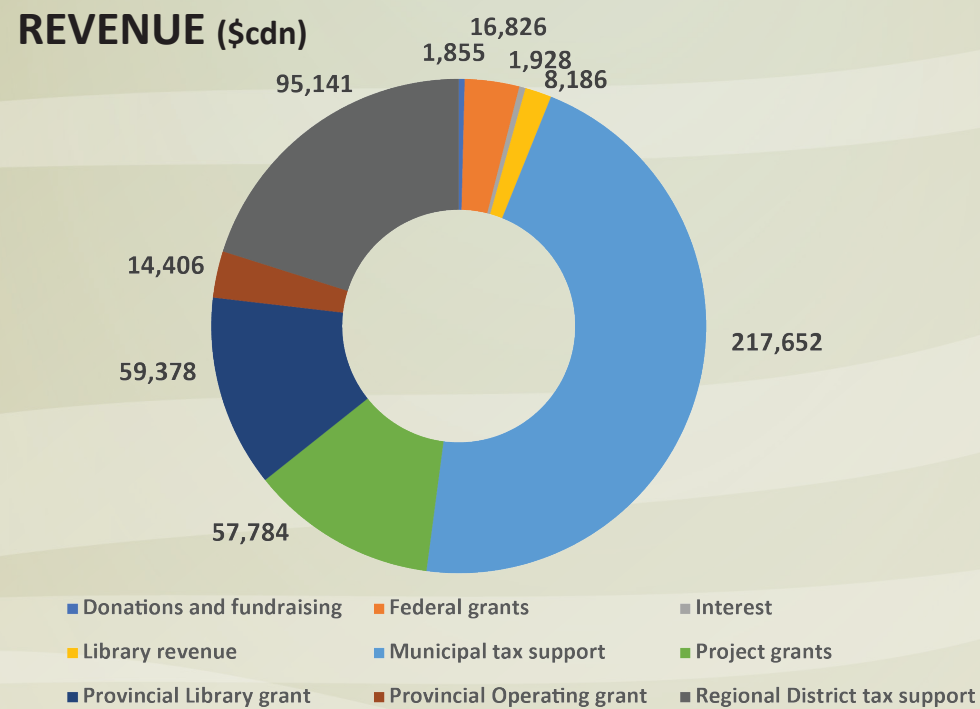
Community Librarian- Jean Shaw

Bridge River Library

Community Librarian- Vanessa Blake

Board members

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



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
 United Way - Digital Learning Initiative