

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRS: MAYNE ISLAND READING CENTRE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 22, 2020**

SUMMARY:

The Mayne Island Library had another successful year in 2019. Our Strategic Goals were finally passed in May and some of these goals have been met. We have had the meeting room area painted with a bright end wall, shelves removed, new sink in the bathroom, new permanent signage, and an enclosed outdoor bulletin board above the book return box. As well, this past year, we have installed a beautiful new window by Bill Jamieson honouring Coast Salish Peoples.

The library continues with community partnerships: the Arts Council, Tru Value, Conservancy, Southern Gulf Islands Library Commission (SGILC), Mayne Island School. We have added 2 new partners: the Mayne Island Early Childhood Society where we have a read aloud program for our pre-school and daycare children and the Recycling Society, with whom we are planning an educational program for the school. As well, the Mayne Island Health Association has provided us with a hand sanitizing station.

Other activities included an informative workshop on Governance attended by two of our board members, two Southern Gulf Islands Library Commission meetings, volunteer workshops, and the annual book sale where we made \$1672! We have developed new guidelines for the Meeting Room, thanks to the hard work of Bev Whitney.

LIBRARY USE:

Using our one-week survey form from September, Carmen Oleskevich, Library Manager, has calculated that approximately 8008 visitors have come into our Library this year. Our patrons have borrowed a total of 9541 items and our computers were used 520 times. In addition, library cards were issued to 107 new patrons. Borrowing online has become increasingly popular with 745 audiobooks and 1531 eBooks downloaded by Mayne Island patrons.

Among the most popular items borrowed in 2019 are the novel, *Women Talking*, by Miriam Toews, the biography, *My Life in Houses* by Margaret Forster, the Junior Fiction book *Great Minds Think Alike* by Lincoln Peirce and children's favourites, *Fancy Nancy and the posh puppy* by Jane O'Connor and *There's a Bird on Your Head* by Mo Willems. Mysteries by authors such as Louise Penny, Donna Leon, and John Grisham remain incredibly popular as well. Non-fiction books *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *A History of Canada in Ten Maps* by Adam Shoalts and *Natural Causes: life, death and the illusion of control* by Barbara Ehrenreich top the lists.

But our most popular item of all was---The Royal BC Museum Family Pass, which 24 families were able to access.

COLLECTION:

Our collection continues to be very up to date, due to the diligence of the Selection Committee of Libbie Bake, Elizabeth Whitelaw, Judi Walker and a board liaison member. The “new” shelf is most popular and volunteers received compliments about the new books, many of which are on the reading lists of on and off island book clubs. This past year 463 new books were added to the collection. Books that have been culled add to the book sale tables. Our current collection stands at about 8069 volumes.

The Biography section has been updated and renumbered 920 to align with the cataloguing system of most libraries. Thanks to Velda Lefler for taking this on.

TECHNOLOGY:

Technology at Mayne Island Library is managed by Trish Janvrin and Ellen Visser, with assistance from Carmen Oleskevich on Pender. There has been a huge improvement this year since Shaw put in a dedicated line and server for our public computers and Wi-Fi service. As well, we have a secure Wi-Fi line available for Mayne Island residents who do not have internet access in their area. In the fall a new Library Technician, Colette Clarke, was hired for the SGILC. She has since begun offering one-to-one tech tutoring, first to volunteers and later to other patrons.

VOLUNTEERS:

We currently have 43 active volunteers trained by Lynda Smyth and Trish Janvrin with 9 new volunteers joining the crew in 2019. Our roster of desk volunteers is ably scheduled by Dell Maxwell and Robyn Yeldon. There are also many other volunteer positions, from purchasing to cataloguing to washing the books. Volunteers, who have participated in 2 workshops and 2 social events this year, find it very worthwhile to get together, clarify ideas and compare notes. The new Communication Book, developed by Lynda Smyth, is proving to be handy, clear and useful.

PROGRAMS:

2019 was another busy year for the Program Committee. We held 34 events for children with over 300 participants. These included reading to the Primary Class and Pre-School Group, Summer Story times and Summer Reading Club, a craft day and an immensely popular PJ party. Our adult or mixed age programs included National Indigenous People's Day, presentations by authors Ellen Schwartz and Kit Pearson, a Talking Circle, and 3 NFB films. As well, those interested in quiet writing

time were welcomed to a weekly Shut Up and Write session. Adult participants in programs numbered approximately 275.

STRATEGIC PLAN/POLICY/PROCEDURES:

The final version of the Strategic Plan was passed by the Board in May 2019. It is now posted on the library website.

The Book Buying Committee completed their revised policy for adding to the collection and for culling of books. The current Fire Policy and Procedures manual has been updated and a Personal Safety question and answer sheet has been added, thanks to Bev Whitney. We have investigated options for a new front desk configuration and concluded this is not possible without having to rewire the existing computer network completely, so this goal has been abandoned. However a new office configuration is in the works and a plan has been developed. A new Meeting Room Policy has been developed. The Policy and Procedure Manual was updated and reworked this past summer thanks to Trish Janvrin and a summer hire. Enhancing our Communication goal is the new Communication book. As well, we are posting the minutes of all Board meetings on the bulletin board by the check in computer.

IN CLOSING:

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who not only work the desk, but provide services in the office and elsewhere to keep this library a vibrant and efficiently run place. We thank everyone who is involved. We are fortunate to have the skills and expertise of staff Carmen Oleskevich and Melody Pender who are available for advice. We thank the retiring board members, Bev Whitney and Bev McKenzie for their dedication and look forward to welcoming two new members to the Library Board at the conclusion of this AGM.

Marilyn Winterbottom and Eleanor Cocker
Co-Chairs Mayne Island Library Board