

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**Bowen Island Public Library**

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# NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CHIEF LIBRARIAN

2017 was a busy and productive year for the Bowen Island Public Library. Successful fundraising for the Cove Commons project, including a major Federal Government grant from Heritage Canada, allowed us to break ground on January 18, 2017. The Cove Commons, a collaboration between the Library and the Bowen Island Arts Council (BIAC), is an expansion to the Library building providing gallery and office spaces for BIAC and Library space for programs, meetings, and quiet study.

Excavation began on February 16, 2017, and in the following months the project proceeded smoothly under the direction of project manager David Luksha. By the end of December, the building was nearing completion. A November renovation to the existing Library prepared the way for connecting the older space to the new Annex, and our fundraising year was rounded out with an amazing talk by Bowen's own Wade Davis in support of the Cove Commons.

While the building project was a major focus in 2017, Library staff continued to create and present more programs than ever. From meditation to the Spelling Bee, nutrition workshop to storytime, programs supported our goals to enhance the Library as a community gathering place, to develop the Library as a centre for literacy, and to expand the Library's role in collaboration and community sharing.

The Kids Card design contest was a special project in 2017, eliciting submissions from all ages. Three colourful and attractive designs were chosen and made available to all youth 18 and under.

The Library co-sponsored a number of "Knowing Our Place" programs designed to respond to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In partnership with BIAC and community member Pauline LeBel, workshops and events such as the *Blanket Exercise* and *Building Bridges Through Art* aimed to help us learn the true nature of historical and contemporary relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and to help us all move toward a shared and mutually enhancing future.

The Library continues to be a busy hub with an average of 134 people coming through the doors every day. Library membership continues to grow, as does programming and use of the Library space for study, work, and gathering. The addition of the Annex and Flex Room in the Cove Commons will bring even more growth, and usage by new groups for new purposes. We look forward to serving our community in our expanded space.



Cynthia Nicolson  
Board Chair



Tina Nielsen  
Chief Librarian

# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

## Strategic Plan

### Building a Professional Organization

- Communication within our organization and with the public was enhanced in 2017.
- The municipality supported the Library by providing space in their weekly Undercurrent Island Page for library events and information.
- The Library e-newsletter was regularized to a monthly communication tool, and the Library website was updated regularly to include the many library programs and events.
- We reported regularly to the public and to our donors on the construction progress of the Cove Commons building.
- Policy development continued with new or revised policies around safety and a healthy workplace, as well as refining our public policies for transparency and public awareness.

### Expanding Our Role as a Place for Collaboration and Community Sharing

- We partnered and collaborated with the Bowen Island Arts Council to construct the Cove Commons addition to the Library.
- Collaborative work with community individuals and organizations brought into existence the *Knowing Our Place* series of Truth and Reconciliation inspired events with the Library as partner.
- The *Kids Card Design* contest inspired more than 40 youth and adults to submit their creative art for new children's library cards.
- Participation in the Bowen Early Childhood Development Table and Bowen Literacy Task Group created opportunities for all partner organizations to benefit from shared resources and expertise in order to better serve the population of Bowen Island.

### Enhancing the Library as a Community Gathering Place

- Our biggest achievement in 2017 was the construction of the Cove Commons. The planning for this addition to the Library building, shared by the Library and the Bowen Island Arts Council, was begun in 2015. Building construction was completed in early 2018, adding 1500 square feet of programming and study space to the Library.
- The existing Library was renovated in November 2017 to refresh the space, replace non-seismically stable shelving, and to re-orient the Library spaces to flow into the new Cove Commons.



## Services and Programs

### Adult Programs

The Library committed to acting on the Truth and Reconciliation Report starting in 2017 and moving forward. We began by partnering with community members and organizations to present the *Knowing Our Place* series of reconciliation inspired events. From the Blanket Exercise to the Knowing Our Place Book Club, community members came out to participate in sharing information and learning about the true history of the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada.

The Tech Tutor program continues to be fully subscribed. Although the position officially has 403 hours allotted for appointments, Leo Pedersen actually spent 500 hours of his work time assisting 522 patrons with their technology queries. As in 2016, the Tech Tutor program is over subscribed.

### Children's Programs

Storytime and Summer Reading Club continued as our most stable children's programs. Storytime weekly sessions are made possible with the volunteer support of our presenter, Aubin van Berckel, while the Summer Reading Club staff position is generously supported by a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs Program and wage top-up from our own Friends of the Bowen Island Library.

In addition to our in-library storytime, we partnered with Bowen Community Recreation on Stroller and Stories, an outdoor program for parents and children in strollers to walk the nearby trails and read a story found posted along the path, ending with tea and snacks in the Library.

The Kids Card design contest in 2017 inspired more than 40 community members to get creative and design a unique library card for children and youth. The three winning designs are available for all youth 18 and under and have been well received by many new and existing youth patrons.

#### Kids Card Design Contest Winners



Eliot Cormier



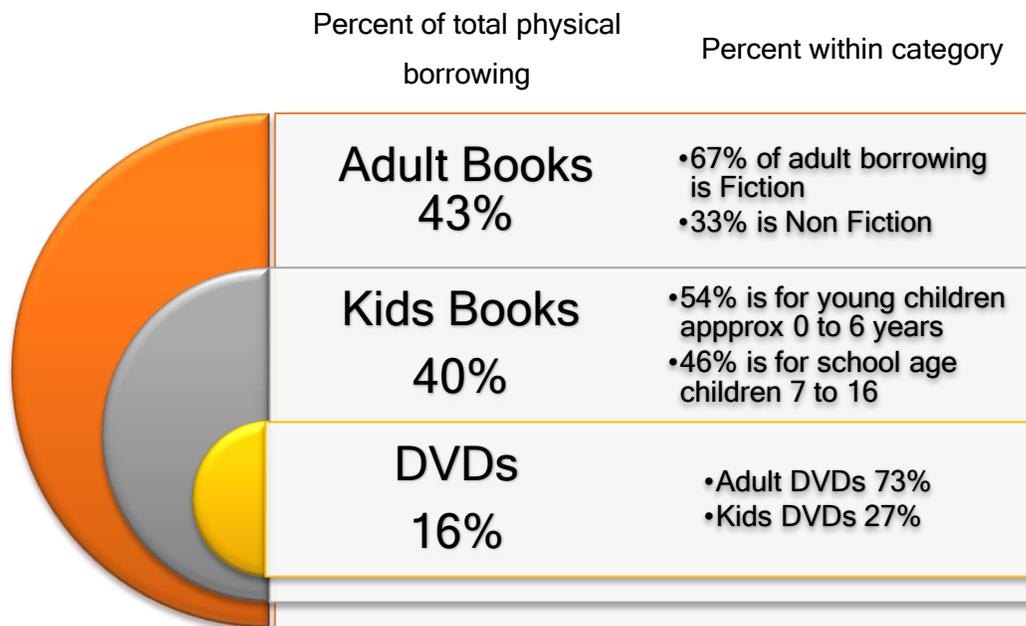
Franny Heffelfinger



Rebecca Smith

## Material borrowing

The majority of public libraries in BC have seen a decline in the number of physical materials borrowed (books, DVDs and CDs) and an increase in electronic material loans. At Bowen Library the borrowing of physical materials declined 9% in 2017 over 2016, while e-book circulation increased 10% in the same time period. Each Bowen Islander borrows an average of 11 items per year, while the average for small libraries in BC is eight items per person.



## Library Members

In 2017 Bowen Library added 268 new library members—an average of more than one per day open. With a total of 2301 registered active library members, 65% of our population is using the Bowen Library regularly. This number is the second highest when measured against those libraries serving communities under 10,000, and seventh highest out of the province's total 71 libraries.

## Hours open

In 2017 the library was open 259 days—a decrease of 9% over 2016 due to our five-week closure for renovations. We are normally open 39 hours per week and 35 hours per week in the summer. Even with this relatively small number of open hours (slightly below the average for small libraries) we have higher circulation, a larger percentage of active members, and we answer more questions than the average small library in BC.

## An average day at Bowen Library

- 184 Items are borrowed
- 135 People come to the library
- 125 People use the library public Wi-Fi
- 32 Questions are answered
- 11 People use the library internet computers
- 7 People attend a program
- 6 Hours of volunteer time are donated
- 2 Programs are offered
- 1 New library member is registered



# Financial Resources

## Revenue

Bowen Island Municipality	\$ 245,183
Grants - Provincial and other	24,000
Library Revenue (Fine, fees, etc)	5,136
Donations & Disbursements	14,456
Library Reserve	96,818
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>385,593</b>

## Expense

Staffing	\$ 200,261
Collections	36,739
Operations	52,196
Capital (Including Library renovation)	96,397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>385,593</b>

## THANKS

Bowen Library thanks the following for financial support that keeps our library running and provides opportunities for special projects to be developed and completed.

**Bowen Island Municipality**

**Libraries Branch, Ministry of Education, Province of British Columbia**

**Government of Canada**

**Friends of the Bowen Island Library Society**

**Bowen Island Community Foundation**

**Knack Knack Nook Re-use It Society**

**RBC Financial Group**

**Hundreds of private donors**

# LIBRARY TEAM

## Board of Trustees

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## Library Staff

Tina Nielsen	Janet Esseiva	Devon McLeod
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Christine Miller	Marysia McGilvray	

## Front Desk Volunteers

Marian Bantjes	Richard Labonte	Linnea McCaskill	Susan Sheehan
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## Program and Service Volunteers

Joyce Cameron	Sally Fitz-Gibbon	Tess Taylor
Sarah Cormier	Ainslie Manson	Aubin van Berckel
Effron Esseiva	David McCullum	

## Friends of the Library Directors

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