

BOWEN ISLAND  
LIBRARY

*books & beyond...*



# Annual Report

## 2022



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Moving out of the COVID-19 lockdown was a relief for Bowen Library. The return to something close to “normal” was appreciated by staff and patrons alike, as we strove to welcome our community physically back into the library.

Not everyone felt comfortable venturing into public spaces, so Bowen Library planned for services and programs offered both in person and virtually. Tech Tutoring could fairly easily move to Zoom meetings, and we continued to offer programs online, streamed or recorded. Even board meetings became hybrid options allowing members and the public to attend online or in person.

Interim Library Director Jennifer Streckmann gracefully guided the library through most of 2022. She brought forward new programming initiatives, as well as supported staff to learn new skills for traditional library services and online opportunities.

To meet our strategic priority of social responsibility, the Library held a number of programs reflecting on Truth and Reconciliation. From Squamish traditional weaving to Indigenous storytelling and expanding our Indigenous collections, Bowen Library sought to celebrate Indigenous creators and advance the community's knowledge and understanding of the true history of Indigenous people on whose land we work and live.

Library visits and borrowing steadily increased in 2022 as people returned to the library to physically select and borrow materials. The largest increase was in the use of electronic materials.

The newly minted 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, informed our services and programs throughout 2022 and will continue to guide us over the coming years. We look forward to furthering the wishes of Bowen Islanders to create an inclusive, caring, and welcoming community.



Susan Munro  
*Board Chair*



Tina Nielsen  
*Chief Librarian*

# 2022 STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan, is guiding the Library through 2022 and beyond, and is informed by the many things we learned from the pandemic, including the importance of being nimble and adapting to unanticipated changes. Social connection has always been part of public libraries mandates, but the pandemic made it even clearer how important everyday interactions between community members are to our well being.

## **Goal: Being Nimble, Staying current**

Bowen Library followed a growing trend and removed overdue fines as of July 2022. This change reduces barriers to library use, particularly for those most vulnerable and marginalized in our community.

We undertook the start of a full policy review to ensure that our policies and procedures will help prepare us for unpredictable challenges.

## **Goal: Connecting with the Community**

The library continued our sponsorship and support of the Write on Bowen festival, providing a venue for the festival in the Library Annex and outside on the newly landscaped grounds.

Community partnerships are important to the library and inform service decisions and support our own programs. In 2022 the Library continued to participate in the Bowen Literacy Task Group and was grateful for their funding to support Indigenous Storytime kits for community groups.

## **Goal: Discovery and Learning**

Babytime came back as a pilot project in 2022 and was so well received that we aim to continue this important early literacy program in 2023.

National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated in the library with storytelling by Haida artist Kung Jaadee and a Squamish weaving lesson with Cheximiya.

## **Goal: Creating Welcoming Spaces**

Construction began on the Snug Cove Cultural Corner Project in early 2022 and is expected to be complete by early 2023. The project will provide a stage-pavilion as well as increased outdoor seating and enhanced landscaping. Our enhanced exterior spaces will contribute vibrant, artistic outdoor community spaces where Bowen Islanders can gather and connect with each other and with culture.

## **Goal: Social Responsibility**

Doing what we can to battle climate change, the library is proposing to use some of a provincial grant to retrofit the heritage library building with a heat pump, to reduce electricity costs and usage.

To improve accessibility for all, the Library installed automatic doors on two public washrooms and on all our entry doors into and within the library.

Sustainability, equity and furthering reconciliation underpin all of our strategic priorities.





# LIBRARY ACTIVITY

STATISTICS	2022	2021
Visits to the Library	35,275	29,484
Materials Borrowed (physical and electronic)	48,651	47,470
Questions Answered	4,622	5,824
Programs for Adults	61	14
Participants and views	841	304
Programs for Children	40	32
Participants and views	613	549
New Library Members	331	256
Current Active Patrons	2,064	2,575
Public WiFi Connections	71,475	64,804
Volunteer Hours	147	142

Bowen Library continued to see Increases in circulation, visits to the library, new members and wifi connections. All signs of moving out of the pandemic and people feeling comfortable and able to return to the physical library.

During the pandemic lockdown and the closure of the physical library, many patrons began to explore e-books and e-audiobooks as an alternative means of finding books. Since learning how to find and use the library's electronic materials, people have continued using these resources and we are seeing circulation of electronic materials increase each year.

	2019	2022
Circulation E-books	5,638	11,244



# OUR TEAM

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Library Board of Trustees is appointed by Municipal Council and is responsible for the Library's highest level of decision making. The Board establishes the Library's vision and mission and sets policy, budget, and strategic direction to support that vision and mission.

Susan Munro, *Chair*  
Jeb Gutelius, *Vice Chair*  
Don Heth, *Treasurer*  
Sue Ellen Fast, *BIM Council Rep.*  
Peter Matthews, *InterLINK Rep.*

Bea Anderson  
Windy Dorresteyn  
Len Gilday  
Melissa Harrison

Jen Harvey  
Manusha Janakiram  
Kellee Ngan  
Rachelle Smalldon

## STAFF

In 2022 the Bowen Library was staffed by one full-time and five part-time employees. Our total staffing complement is equivalent to four full time staff.

Jennifer Streckmann, Interim Library Director (Jan - Aug)  
Tina Nielsen, Chief Librarian (Sept - Dec)  
Susan Geist, Supervisor

Christine Miller, Supervisor  
Marysia McGilvray, Library Assistant  
Leo Pedersen, Library Assistant  
Brynna Hourihan, Contract LA (May-Dec)

## VOLUNTEERS

Since its inception, Bowen Library has been supported by volunteers, including the volunteer Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library. Volunteers support the library by helping with collection maintenance, processing new books, assisting with events, and more!

### 2022 Library Volunteers

Aubin Van Berckel  
Roger McGillivray

Allie Drake  
Heather Miller

Jane Kellett  
David McCullum

Roberta Kennard  
Janet Sims

Linnea McCaskill  
Teen Volunteers

### Friends of the Library (FOBILS)

FOBILS were thrilled to hold their annual BookFest once again in May 2022. This annual fundraiser was a victim of pandemic lockdown for two years but returned in 2022 with hundreds of boxes of books for sale and hundreds of shoppers eager to fill their shelves and support the library. The Library is grateful, as always for the support of our "Friends".

#### 2022 FOBILS Directors

Rupert Ritchie, *Chair*  
Steve Frazer, *Vice Chair*  
Anna-Marie Atherton, *Treasurer*  
Pam Miller, *Secretary*

Michael Penny  
Ily Allen  
Greta Smith

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES

REVENUE	\$458,416
Bowen Island Municipality	353,651
Grants - Provincial & Other	87,716
Library Revenue	8,036
Donations & Disbursements	9,013
Transfer from Library Reserve of Surplus	0
EXPENSE	\$458,416
Staffing	328,174
Collections	26,936
Operations	55,846
Capital	32,191
Transfer to Library Reserve of Surplus	15,269

## THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Bowen Island Public Library Foundation, a recognized charitable organization, is dedicated to supporting the Bowen Library for one time special events, pilot projects, and extraordinary expenses during unforeseen circumstances. The Foundation accepts monetary contributions, bequests, endowments and trusts to enhance the resources of the Bowen Island Public Library, providing tax receipts for donations. Its operations are overseen by a Board of Directors and a Senior Manager.

In 2022 the Foundation, in partnership with the Hearth Gallery, spearheaded the creation and construction of the Snug Cove Cultural Corner. The project provides improved landscaping, walkways, lighting and a new community gathering space called the stage pavilion outside the Library and Hearth. The Foundation received a \$398,000 Provincial CERIP grant in 2021 and oversaw the expenditure of that grant and the completion of the project in 2022.

Along with the CERIP grant, during 2022 the Foundation raised an additional \$10,112 in direct donations and other grants.



# THANK YOU

The Library Board and staff gratefully acknowledge the individuals, organizations and government entities who contributed financially to the operation and success of the Bowen Island Library in 2022

**Bowen Island Municipality**

**Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Province of BC**

**Government of Canada**

**Friends of the Bowen Island Library Society**

**Courthouse Libraries BC**

**Bowen Island Literacy Task Group**

**CUPE BC**

**Salt Spring Seeds & West Coast Seeds**

**Hundreds of Private Donors**

