

Recreation and Culture



Recreation and Culture is responsible for facility maintenance, community events and sports field bookings.

Second Quarter Report, 2014



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Chilliwack Community Sport Hero Awards

On May 7th, the Chilliwack Community Sports Hero Awards celebrated its 10th anniversary of the event. Sponsored by the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, Star 98.3, the Chilliwack Times, Pacific Sport, and the City of Chilliwack, eight community heroes were recognized for their contribution of countless hours to the development and delivery of sports in our community in front of an enthusiastic crowd of approximately 140 people. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the awards program, the organizing committee recognized the previous 88 winners over the past decade and also featured special guest speaker, Brent Hayden, Olympic medalist and former swimming world record holder.



Move For Health

Move for Health was celebrated on May 9th this year and had programs and events planned throughout the community in which a total of 1,748 people logged in their minimum of 20 minutes. Recreation and Culture once again challenged the Fraser Valley Regional District, Chilliwack Community Services and Fraser Health to a corporate challenge to see who could get the highest level of participation from their staff on Move For Health Day. Fraser Valley Regional District came out a head

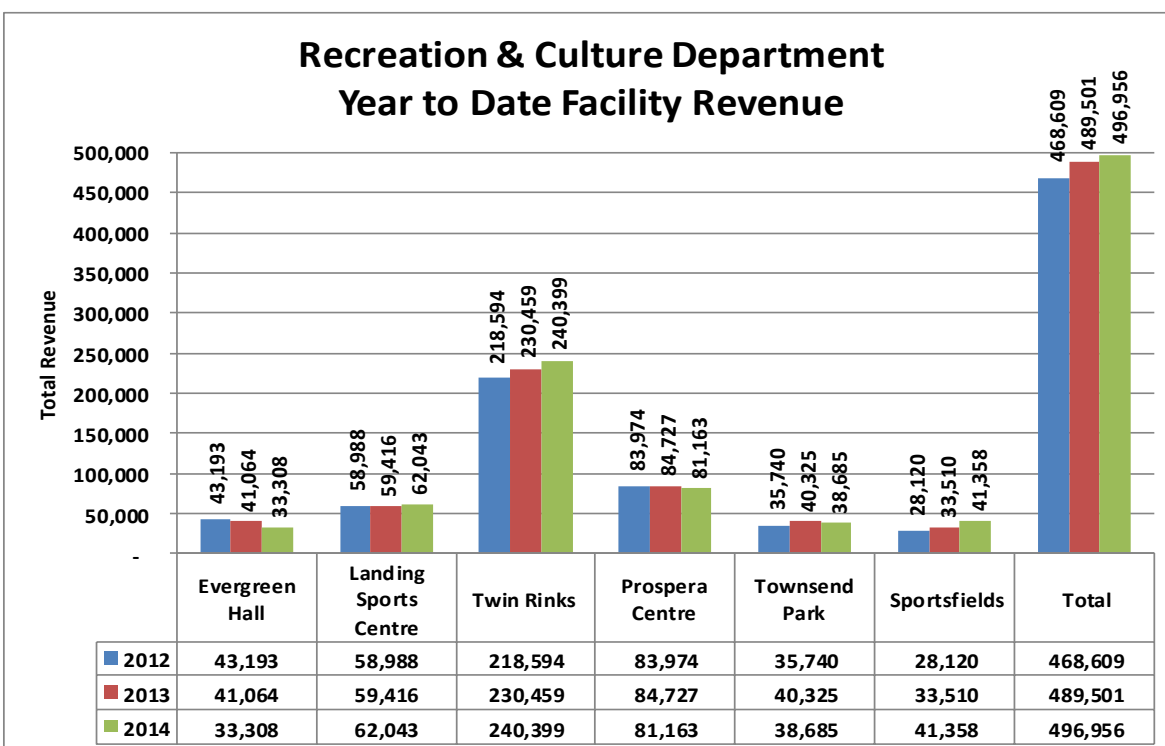
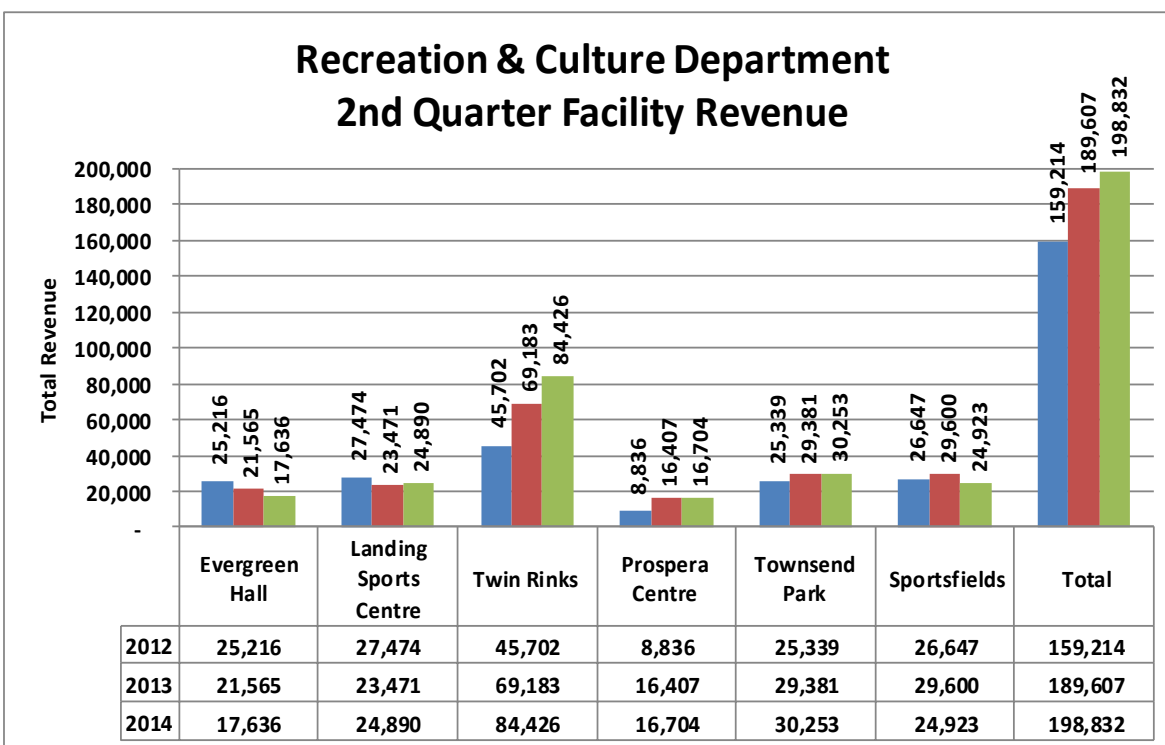
with a resounding 84% participation rate. Councillor Popove lead a noon walk and the day ended with a ball hockey game between the City and FVRD. In support of great sportsmanship, the game ended in an unofficial draw.



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Second Quarter Facility Revenue Report 2014



CYC Conversation

The Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee presented this year's annual event, "Every Door is the Right Door- Becoming Family Smart" on April 4, 2014. Recreation and Culture once again sat on the organizing committee and participated in the daylong event which had community service providers networking and exploring ideas on how to make navigating services easier for clients who may not have the means available to them for a number of different reasons.

Eco-Friendly Drinking Fountains

An 'eco-friendly' drinking fountain was recently installed at Twin Rinks and became the fourth unit to be installed in our recreation facilities. Also located at the Cheam Leisure Centre, Evergreen Hall and the Landing Sports Centre, the units offer both a place to drink directly from the fountain as well as providing a separate bottle filling nozzle. The bottle filling attachment is to encourage facility patrons to bring their own water bottles and help eliminate waste from disposable plastic bottles. The fountains have a counter on the top right hand corner that tracks the number of plastic bottles that have been saved from disposal. The Cheam Leisure Centre fountain was installed about a year ago and the counter has topped well over 20,000 bottles.



This Spring **Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School** had popular community programs running at Central which included: Kids In The Kitchen, Karate, Soccer, Basketball, Dance and Gymnastics as well as two big programs completing another productive year.

The ASSAI (After School Sports and Arts Initiative) program completed its second season of providing children who typically face barriers with opportunities to have fun, learn and play while doing art and sport activities during the after school time period. The program ran for 14 weeks, 4 days a week alternating between the four schools: Bernard, McCammon, Robertson and Central. There were 20 students from each school that participated. This season's focus was on four specific sports: Ringette, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee and Curling.

A new arts component was added to the funding which allowed each of the four schools to also have an additional 15 students participate twice a week for 4 weeks in the discipline of Hip Hop Dance.

CCECSS 2nd Day "no fee" After School program which runs five days a week, ten months of the year, open to grades 3 to 6 with over 50 students participating daily including other Chilliwack inner core schools celebrated their third successful year with a "Year End Talent Show". Their main funder RBC and several community supports/partners were in attendance. The students of 2nd Day showcased their talents they learned with demonstrations of music, dance, drama, art, puppetry, sports, choir, cooking, literacy and photography then concluded the show with a video production of their "best memories" of this year's 2nd Day program.

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association has enjoyed a fun spring session of afterschool programs. Spring programs offered included: Robotics, Intro. to Rhythmic Gymnastics, Basket Ball Skills & Drills, Little Panthers Multi-Sport, Yoga for Kids (2 classes 4-6 yrs & 7-11+yrs), Video Game Design, Discover Dance including sessions for children 3yrs – 11yrs, Red Cross Babysitter training, At Home Alone Plus, Create Greeting Cards (Easter/Mother's Day theme), Discover Super Science, VolleyBall Basics (grades 4, 5, 6), Secrets of Indian Cooking, Foodsafe, and "Yoga and Meditation" for Adults. PHECSA's drop-in programs continue to be very popular. The drop-in program "Tween Night" held on Friday evenings for youth in grades 5 – 7, enjoyed themed events with a Murder Mystery night being very well attended. Weekly participant numbers ranged from 30 – 45 kids per session. environment. The Busy Bees

caregiver/parent & tot program also featured themed weekly activities, and continued with 15 families each week attending. The Primetimers program recently invited a guest speaker to speak at their weekly session, and have indicated they will continue this with new guest speakers lined up for the fall. This weekly drop-in group seems very committed to their program and PHECSA. Private piano lessons are operating at full capacity, with a wait list for September. Both music teachers held year-end recitals that were well-attended. PHECSA held the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 19th and had approximately 250 kids and parents enjoy the chocolate egg hunt outside, and the activities in the gym. It was a fun event enjoyed by all! Parents often comment on the benefits of having activities conveniently located in the Promontory Heights Elementary School, and of the opportunity to

meet and get to know their neighbours at community events. The community of Promontory Heights is greatly enriched by the variety of programs offered throughout the spring, and wishes to thank the City of Chilliwack for the continued support of our after-school, and drop-in programs and special events. Facility Attendance during this quarterly report: Spring programs – 86 participants/ Tween Night – 30-40 kids per weekly session/Piano – 61 students/Busy Bees Parent & Tot drop-in – 15 families per weekly session/ Primetimers Social – 16 participants per weekly session/Easter Eggstravaganza – 250 kids and parents



The facility continues to be well utilized. Each weekend the facility has had multiple user groups at the same time using both gyms, and multi-purpose rooms from morning into the early evening hours. RTCSS has hosted birthday parties, family reunions, various fundraisers and the Quilters Guild have become a regular user group. Badminton continues to be a popular drop in sport 3 evenings a week, along with Volleyball with attendance of over 50 players each week. Approximate attendance this quarter was 5,000.



Yarrow Community School rentals for this school year represent an all time high of 189 signed contracts - both ongoing and one time rentals. Most of these are for the gym, but the multi-purpose room is a great space for meetings and workshops as an Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Yarrow Community School is able to book it during the school day if requested.

The abrupt end to this school year raised a few challenges in terms of program planning for the summer and fulfilling ongoing commitments.

Out of this has come the realization of the need for clearer

lines of communication with the local school board representatives.

Some of the things keeping everyone busy this term included: Adobe/Elements Digital Class, Women's Coffee Mornings, PickleBall, Kids Ball Hockey, Women's Yoga, BootCamp, Zumba, Pilates, Nerf Nerds, Family Gym Night, ASSAI –SNAG (Starting New At Golf), Fundraiser Talent Show and Men's Hockey.

Coming over the next few months: Summer Drama Camp, Kelsey's Art Camps x 3 weeks, Preschool Kids Camps x 4 weeks, Gymnastics, Kids Pilates, Brownies/Sparks, Summer Daycare, Sneakers 'n Snacks, Family Movie Nights.



Greendale Elementary Community School Society recent programming and rental schedule has been heavily impacted by SD33's decision to force the cancellation of Community School events on strike days and later allow, in the last two weeks of June, programming after 5pm. A number of rentals have cancelled, including a City of Chilliwack planned Town Hall, and we may have lost at least one weekly rental due to the current restrictions.

The children at Greendale Elementary enjoyed the ASSAI programs offered this quarter. There has been a mixed sports program consisting of curling, golf and tennis. We had hoped to offer a music and movement program for the younger children in school, but that had to be cancelled; maybe next year. We have also been able to rent space to our local skipping team who

have been running a program including coaching from a champion skipper. There has also been art classes offered on a weekly basis. The Greendale Elementary Community School Society was honoured to host the inaugural meeting of Agriwatch and welcomed to the school a whole new community group. Senior Yoga proved to be a hit and ran for a second time. It is now finished for the year and will form part of our senior programming next year. Our fitness programs also finished in early June; only Thursday night yoga will continue all summer. GECSS held its first "Yoga Sleep" this quarter. The pre-school soccer program extended its provision to include a class for children aged 5-7. Indian cooking classes started at Greendale and they have proven to be very popular. Each of the two classes

have been full. The Community School ran a First Aid training course for adults that was lightly attended. *There was 70+ attending regular evening weekly programs until early June, including Karate, Zumba, Fusion, Seniors Yoga and Yoga, 80 children weekly attending regular after-school/late afternoon programming and approximately 40 adults attended special programs and events.*





WHERE ART COMES TO LIFE!

After a very busy first quarter, the Chilliwack Cultural Centre began the slow down into our summer quiet season through the second quarter. The Chilliwack Players Guild brought a heartwarming version of the Canadian Classic ***Anne of Green Gables***. Dance was well represented by MovEnt's ***Dances for a Small Stage*** as well as end of year recitals by local dance schools Evolutionz, Creative Outlet, and Project dance. Abbotsford's Theatre Junkies Anonymous brought their new version of ***Alice in Wonderland*** to the HUB International Theatre with a performance that

featured students and Alumni from the University of the Fraser Valley's theatre department. Concerts included visits by ***Corb Lund***, ***Louisiana Hayride***, the ***Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus***, the ***Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra*** as well as the comic styling's of ***Ron James***.

The quarter also saw the first annual ***Chilliwack Art of Wine Festival*** which raised funds for The Centre's arts and crafts programs. Both the festival and the programs that it supported proved to be extremely popular and an unqualified success.

The Chilliwack Art Gallery, programmed by the Chilliwack Visual Artists' Association, continued to host fantastic exhibitions for the enjoyment of all, and the Chilliwack Academy of Music showed once again why they are the best choice for music instruction in the Fraser Valley through top notch instruction and truly wonderful programs and recitals. The end of the quarter marked the leaving of the Academy's Principal, Graham Yates who has left Chilliwack for the dry heat of Texas – good luck and happy trails Graham.





13th Annual Chilliwack Heritage Awards

The Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society established the Chilliwack Heritage Awards to recognize individuals and organizations who have contributed towards a greater understanding of Chilliwack's history. This year's awards were presented to: Linda Phelps for establishing Gervan House as a Municipally Designated Heritage Property.

Rob O'Brennan and Gwyneth Jones for establishing Stonehurst House as a Municipally Designated Heritage Property.

Troy Stevens and the St. Thomas Anglican Church for the book: St. Thomas Anglican Church 1873-2013: A History of St. Thomas Parish, 140th Anniversary Edition.

Bea Mazurenko, Mary McGee, Eleanor Reid, Dalyn Sexsmith, Diane Warner, Phil Mazurenko and Hugh Sexsmith, for establishing a stone marker and plaque at the historic site of the Superior Shingle Mill and Mainland Sawmill, in commemoration of the area's early settlers.

Ron Denman for his contribution to various publications on Chilliwack's history over his 28 years as Director of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives.

Exhibitions

Brilliant Blossoms (April 26 – June 12)
Grazyna Wolski presented a striking exhibit of large floral paintings.

Spectrum (June 21 – August 4)
Photographers Jutta and Michael Schulz present an exploration in colour and light with images printed on aluminum.

Education Program

The Chilliwack Museum and Archives participated in the Mount Cheam Christian School Open House on May 22nd, lending the exhibit *"The Fraser River: Its Spirit & Place"*, and providing advance design guidelines and feedback to a class of Grade 10 students in support of their exhibit presentations.

Facility Attendance During This Quarterly Period was; Total Museum Visitors – 1077 (excludes off-site exhibit locations); Archives Visitors – 61; Education Program Participants – 602; Research Inquiries – 84; Website Visitors – 3122.



Troy Stevens and Rev. Jennifer Burgoyne accept a Chilliwack Heritage Award on behalf of the Parish of St. Thomas Anglican Church, as Chilliwack Museum & Archives Director Deborah Hudson looks on.



Rob O'Brennan and Gwyneth Jones accept a Chilliwack Heritage Award from the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society.

The Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve and its Rotary Interpretive Centre continues to be very popular with tourists and Chilliwack residents. Thousands of visitors are recorded each quarter. Volunteer staff has grown to over 65 people who are actively supporting the work of the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Society. The Reception Team of 35 volunteers have been keeping the Rotary Interpretive Centre open seven days a week. Volunteers from the Bird Survey team have been monitoring the heron colony three

days a week since March. They have reported 165 active nests this year which is up from 145 nests in 2013. Volunteer are also working to maintain the gardens around the Interpretive Centre and helping with administration and operations.

Most of the school environmental education programs in June were cancelled due to the strike action however the Reserve was heavily booked for school programs in April and May. The two education coordinators have been delivering the

school and group programs as well as expanding and developing the GBHNR education department.

The GBHNRs offered a number of free visitor walks and programs this quarter. Of note is a new program called Nature Child. This was a drop in parent and tot program which was very well received and will be repeated on a regular basis. In addition, the Society held the annual Earth Day walk and hosted the High School Environthon.



The Renaissance Dog Show kicked off the month of April at Heritage Park. This show was the biggest one ever held at the Park, and it spanned over a longer period of time. April also saw a successful Paton Farm Auction and a Woodcarving Show, as well as a variety of local horse shows. Heritage Park welcomed the ABA BMX competition with competitors from all over BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Washington State, Oregon, Montana and other US states. The Vaulters returned this year to host their international competition and the Little Rascals Kids Market offered young parents looking for a

bargain, the chance to get great deals. June was a month of small horse shows and this year, Westcoast Amusements were also on hand to delight and thrill the young and young at heart. The attendance for this quarter was approximately 11, 250.



In addition to the regularly scheduled youth programs offered at the Cheam Leisure Centre, day camps were offered on the days that the school district was in rotating job action. The aim of these day camps were to provide low-cost opportunities to parents that may have had difficulty arranging daytime childcare. These were also arranged during the week-long job action to end the school year. Activities included gymnasium and pool play, crafts, and playtime in the outdoor spray park.

The Leisure Recreation Group is an Authorized Provider of the Red Cross Swim Kids program targeted at children between the ages of five and twelve. There is typically a drop-off at most pools after Swim Kids 5 when students can comfortably swim on their front and back in deep water. This is not the case at the Cheam Leisure Centre where the number of students in Swim Kids 6 – 10 has actually increased by forty students over this last quarter compared to the same time last year. This shows a continued interest in swimming, water safety, and general physical wellness.

Facility attendance during this quarterly period was a daily average of 787 for a total of 71,689.



Chilliwack Landing
Leisure Centre

Over the first weekend of April, forty-six lifeguards were tested on their theory, pool rescue, first aid, and physical fitness skills as part of their biannual demonstration of competency. What is unique about this is that the lifeguards that serve the citizens that use the Chilliwack indoor pools must undergo testing so frequently compared to their peers in other municipalities where the minimum re-testing period is two years. This is demanded of the Chilliwack lifeguards to encourage regular practice and to ensure public safety. In addition to the forty-six lifeguards that were re-tested, six new lifeguards and fourteen new Red Cross learn-to-swim instructors were certified. This compares to fourteen learn-to-swim instructors being certified during the entire 2013 calendar year.

Fifty-one citizens were trained in First Aid/CPR during the second quarter. Over the first half of the year, the number of students trained has already exceeded the 2013 total of one hundred and thirty-four. It is believed that this is largely due to different marketing campaigns of the advanced aquatics and first aid course through social media, and updated website, group-buying, and word of mouth.

The Leisure Recreation Group is committed to the development of programs and facilities that encourage a fun, safe learning environment and foster a sense of caring and achievement. We will continue to work diligently with the City of Chilliwack to provide outstanding services to all residents and visitors of Chilliwack.



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Chilliwack's Storytelling Kits



Residents of Chartwell House orientation

In May, **Sardis Library** celebrated the one year anniversary of opening its door to customers. Sardis library officially recognized the milestone in June by hosting a First Birthday Celebration. Sardis Library Staff and customers had a lot to celebrate! During the first year of operations, Sardis Library Staff registered nearly 3,000 new customers and had nearly 6,500 adults, teens and children in attendance at library programs. Circulation statistics at Sardis library continue to exceed expectations, and staff are continuing to develop and host new programs attracting customers of all ages.

Recently, Sardis Library Staff have engaged in many outreach activities, including visits to all of the StrongStart locations in the area. Sardis staff have also been busy hosting visits to the

The Chilliwack Library continues to offer unique opportunities and programs to a wide demographic range within the community. May 1st was the official launch of Chilliwack's Storytelling Kits. These themed bags contain books, rhymes, puppets, and flannel stories for babies to preschoolers and are available for any member of the public to enjoy. The kits have been flying off the shelves and the staff has had plenty of positive feedback from happy patrons.

Also in May, Chilliwack Library made special efforts to reach out to the senior population. Residents of Chartwell House, a local senior's residence, were invited for an orientation led by librarian Jacquelynne Garden. Followed by tea and cookies, these guests, some of which had not visited the library for many years, were delighted to be reintroduced to our collection and

library by children of all ages. In April, May and June, many preschools, daycares, and grade school classes visited Sardis Library. Feedback received after the visits included: "Thanks so much for our last visit. Our parents and children thoroughly enjoyed their time with you." and "Thank you so much for your time and efforts! I've received excellent feedback from both facilitators and parents. They all loved it!"

In June, Aboriginal Artist in Residence Darlene Allison spent a day at the Sardis Library, offering hands on demonstrations of her self-taught skills. In recognition of Aboriginal History month, patrons were given two opportunities to meet and interact with Darlene in Chilliwack, June 2nd at our downtown location and June 18th in Sardis.

its many formats.

Additionally, they were happy to learn about our complimentary reading glasses to borrow, walker for public use and listening station for the visually impaired. June was a busy month for Chilliwack Staff. Our Community Librarian, Smitty Miller, visited local elementary schools attending assemblies to promote the kick off of the ever popular Summer Reading Club. In her own unique and charismatic style, Smitty helped generate excitement and enthusiasm amongst young readers eager to visit.

June was also National Aboriginal History Month, keeping Chilliwack staff busy with celebrations. Two Aboriginal Artists in Residence, Darlene Allison and Jay Havens, entertained and educated patrons young and old alike, demonstrating their unique talents in drawing,



First Birthday Celebration Storytime



Sardis Aboriginal Artist in Residence



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Yarrow Library staff love babies, especially during Babytime! During the month of May, approximately 30 mothers and babies between 4 and 15 months attended the Babytime at the Yarrow library for four sessions. Mothers, fathers and grandmothers enjoyed a fun and informative literacy program that included songs, books, bouncing and interactive rhymes and opportunities to share growth milestones about their child. Staff have observed how Babytime has served as a stepping stone for parents to introduce their child to their local

library. Parents learn about upcoming programs for their child and find a wealth of library materials to fit the growing reader. Libraries have also proven to be a great place for young families to meet and connect with other families. Parents are telling staff that they want to see more programs like Babytime in their community libraries, held more often and offered during the summer months.

If it's June, it's Yarrow Days! The Yarrow staff look forward to attending this favourite community event where they can visit with so many people and

tell them about their great little library! Yarrow Days is a great opportunity to share with so many people what is happening and the many great resources. In fact, this year the staff had access to WiFi courtesy of a local community member. Staff were able to use their new tablets to browse FVRL website and assist customers with eBook questions and demonstrate the many digital resources. There was also a small book sale and a context where the grand prize was the coveted FVRL chair and beach towel.



Babytime

"The Library is not only a fun place to go, it's a place to connect, to share, to grow & help others expand their horizons"
-Lynne T.



Winners of Yarrow Days

