

Recreation and Culture



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

Fourth Quarter Report, 2015



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Recreation and Culture



Chilliwack Sports Hall of Fame

On November 14th, the Chilliwack Sports Hall of Fame Society hosted its third annual induction ceremony at Prospera Centre during the Chief's game intermission. Prior to the game, approximately 100 friends and family attended a celebration event for the inductees at the Chilliwack Museum. The induction class of 2015 included: Jack Covey, long-time coach and sports administrator, who was inducted in the builder category and the Chilliwack 1993-94 provincial midget AAA hockey champions who were inducted in the team category.

Chilliwack SS Turf Player Shelters

In partnership with the Chilliwack School District and consultation with the Chilliwack Football Club (soccer), the Recreation and Culture Department installed enclosures over the player's benches at the Chilliwack Secondary School turf field. The addition of the metal roofs and plexiglass sides provide rain, wind and sun protection for the players and coaches.



Skate with Santa

On December 19th, there were 132 people that attended the Skate with Santa event at Twin Rinks. Santa was very busy listening to children's special requests for Christmas and handing out goodie bags.





Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes Come to Chilliwack

The City of Chilliwack, was pleased to partner with the Division of Family Practice, the Early Years table of the Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee, Chilliwack Sports Academy, the Rotary Club of Chilliwack, and 89.5 The Drive. To bring to the community three Live 5-2-1-0 Playboxes.

The Playboxes support active play, less screen time, and reading. They contain books and sports equipment that are free for community members to use.

The City of Chilliwack placed the concrete slabs for the boxes, one each, at Central Community Park, the Landing Centre and Watson Glen park. The City also funded an entire Playbox. Anyone wanting to access the Playboxes can do so by visiting the Division of Family Practice website at www.division.ca/chilliwack and registering for an access code.

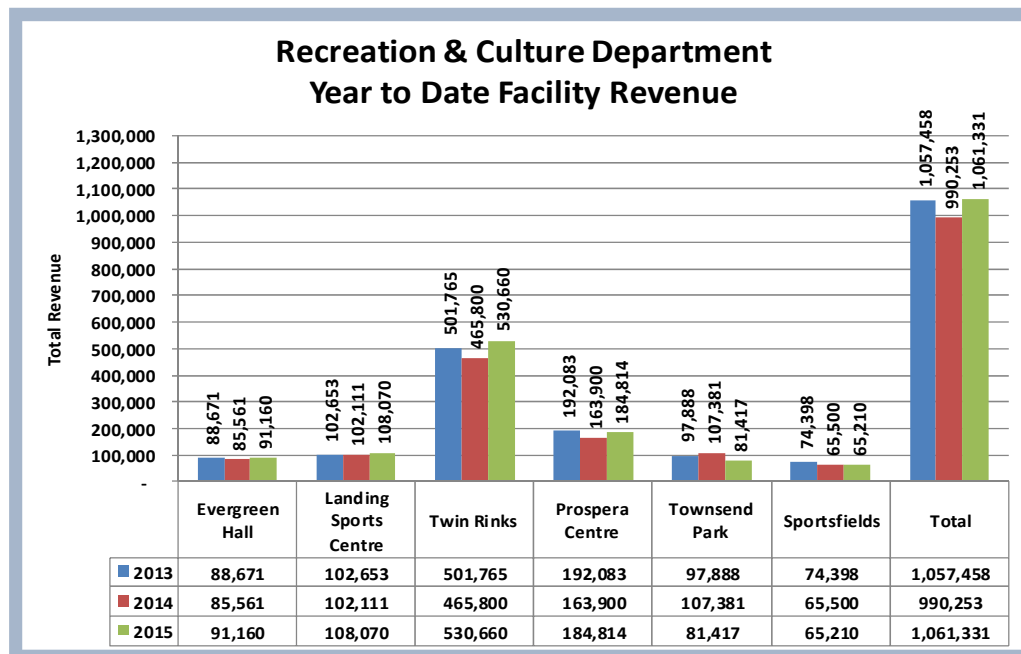
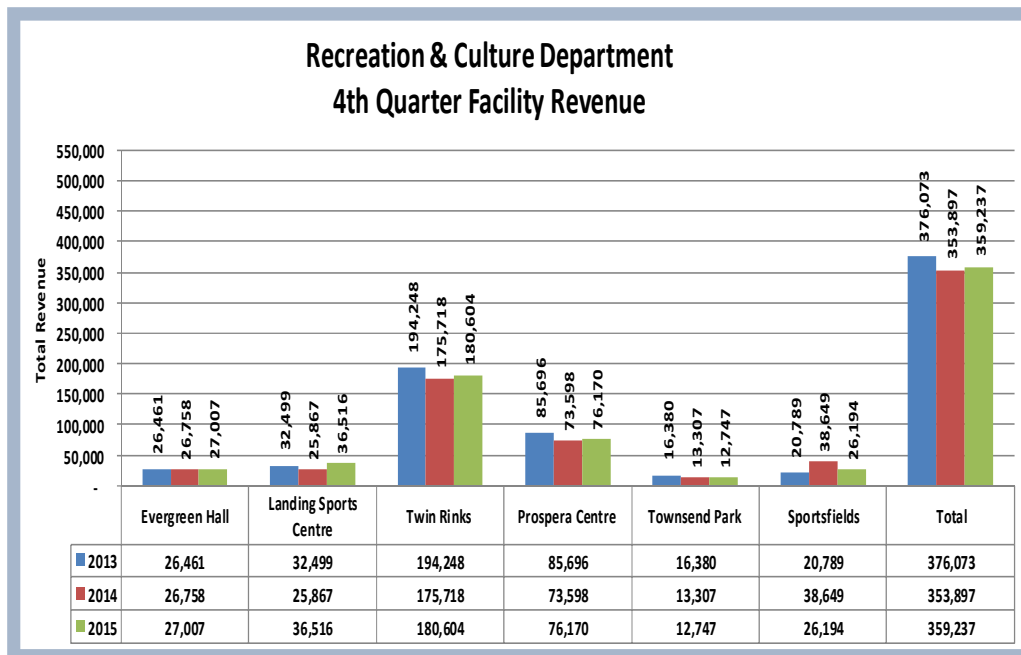
Chilliwack Rotary Christmas Parade

Despite a torrential downpour thousands of people lined the streets of downtown Chilliwack to take part in the annual Chilliwack Rotary Christmas Parade. The parade listed 74 entries and concluded with a visit by the special man himself Santa.

The event, as in the past two years, was brought to the community through a partnership between the Rotary Club of Chilliwack Fraser, the Rotary Club of Mt. Cheam, the Rotary Club of Chilliwack and the City of Chilliwack.



Recreation and Culture Facility Revenue Report





Greendale Elementary Community School

During the last quarter, attendance at regular weekly programs was sustained. The early morning boot camp proved very popular and will be returning in the New Year. The introduction of programs for younger children on a Saturday morning also proved popular; in January, a gymnastics program paired with stories for younger children will continue to address this need with a return to dance classes in the near future.

Following Jim Dier's visit to Chilliwack, there will be more of an emphasis on whole community events as well as programs aimed at specific demographics in the coming year. Thus a Community Games Night is being held in January and Community Socials will be a regular event. All members of the community will have a place to meet, chat, take part in physical activity and hopefully become inspired to take-on some community projects.

Greendale Elementary Community School

130+ children aged preschool and above, attended regular weekly programs. This includes karate, Acting Outright, music and sports programming, Little Kickers Soccer, skipping, and dance.

The Community School Society joined with the staff of Greendale Elementary School to lead a fundraiser for a local boy who suffered life-changing injuries in an accident. The whole community of Greendale came out in support and over \$18,000 was raised.

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association

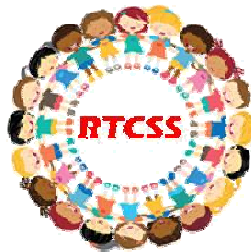
Promontory Heights Elementary Community School Association enjoyed a busy, fun, and eventful fall with many programs offered in the after-school hours. PHECSA hosted the annual Halloween Howl at the school on October 31, 2015. A variety of fall programs were offered to the public including: Robotics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, What's Cookin' Kids, Delicious Dessert Creations, Discover Dance including the sessions Twinkle Toes (3-6 yrs.), Happy Feet (6-8 yrs.) including many more.

The popular drop-in program Tween Night (held Friday evenings) gave youth (grades 5 – 7) the chance to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment. The Busy Bees parent & tot program was often at full capacity, and offered a variety of themed crafts and story time, while providing participants a chance to connect with others in the community. Primetimers provided seniors with a weekly drop-in opportunity where they were able to enjoy conversation and coffee. PHECSA are fortunate to have two wonderful registered music teachers who teach private piano lessons at the school. Parents enjoy the fact that they do not have to drive their kids to activities, as they are all conveniently held in their own neighborhood!



Rosedale Traditional Community School Society

Rosedale Traditional Community School continues to manage a vibrant, full of life facility. Fall fitness programs of Zumba, Yoga and Bootcamp were well attended running Monday thru Thursday evenings. Drop in Badminton, Volleyball and Pickleball had over 16 participants nightly. Friday evenings have proven to be very popular with the youth. This fall the youth involved in the Youth Night had an opportunity to play bubble soccer and enjoyed a funfilled carnival night. Music lessons such as guitar and piano continued to grow and had students perform a Christmas concert for their family and friends to enjoy. The facility hosted several Christmas gatherings for both families and companies.



Yarrow Community School Society

Yarrow Community School Society hosted many exciting events for the last quarter of 2015. Two separate one day Pickleball Tournaments were held with 60-80 people attending each and people coming from as far away as Vancouver Island. Family Nature Day was a success where 120 people enjoyed displays and interactive booths, learning about our indigenous plants and animals. Many of the participants joined in a guided walk on Vedder Mountain co-hosted with the Fraser Valley Nature Conservancy. Fifty enthusiastic kids and parents gleaned vegetables left after the fields had been picked and donated them to a local food bank. As part of our "Thinking Beyond Ourselves" focus a dinner was held for the Yarrow Volunteer Fire Department as a way to thank them for all they do in the community. Author reading was held with Pam Withers and was co-hosted with the FVRL/Yarrow Library. Kirsten's Art Club had 10 kids coming once a week to participate in a casual and creative setting hosted by a local artists/parents.

Other events held at Yarrow Community School included Art Attack, the Kids Floor Hockey League, Family Movie Night, Boot Camps, Preschools and Daycares.

All in all Yarrow Community School was very busy through the fourth quarter of 2015.



Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society



CCECSS, After School Sports and Arts Initiative program which amalgamated with the 2nd Day After School program, under the umbrella of School District 33, and with funding provided by the City of Chilliwack, was selected as the recipient of a 2015 Premier's Award for Innovation. The four key learning outcomes that were critical to the program's success included partnership development; support for students facing barriers; community driven programming and creating powerful networks across British Columbia and beyond. This program started four years ago as a pilot project and has grown into servicing the four inner core schools in the downtown area.

The focus of the 2nd Day programming is on Arts & Sports. To allow for more students to attend changes were made to the program and it was divided into three separate sessions (Fall, Winter and Spring). The fall session had 2nd Day running: three days a week at CCECSS (students from McCammon were also invited to attend this session), one day a week at Bernard Elementary and one day a week at Robertson Elementary. The 2nd Day program provided fifteen students at Bernard with twelve weeks of choir (in partnership with the Chilliwack Academy of Music), fifteen students at Robertson with eight weeks of progressive tennis lessons, and 35 students from McCammon and Central Elementary with music lessons, puppetry classes and a multi sports programs each running for 12 weeks. The 2nd Day After School Program had a total of 75 participants registered for the fourth quarter of 2015.



Physical activity is something that everyone can do. You don't need to run a marathon or spend hours at a gym. Look for simple ways to be physically active every day.

You could:

Take a walk once a day;

Take the stairs instead of the elevator;

Spend less time in front of the television or computer;

Play actively with your kids;

Walk, wheel or cycle for short trips; or

Find out about walking and cycling paths nearby by visiting www.chilliwack.com



Cheam Leisure Centre and Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre

Canadian Recreation Excellence Corporation is proud to have been selected by the City of Chilliwack to operate the City's Leisure Centres (Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre, Cheam Leisure Centre and Rotary Outdoor Pool) beginning October 2015. Over the past three months we have been re-building our team of recreation and aquatic staff and we are still in search of honest, hard-working, enthusiastic individuals who are "Serious about Fun!"

With the help of a number of other Recreation Excellence employees from Langley, Salt Spring Island and Lethbridge, staff proudly opened the doors on October 1st to welcome new and existing patrons into the facilities. Recreation Excellence has been working very diligently and in cooperation with the City to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible for the participants. The swim lessons and sport programs at both Centres continued to run at high participant levels, and both pools have been in high demand for Swim Clubs, Private Swim Lessons and user groups which keep the facilities busy most evenings.

December was a very busy month with school groups which brought a total of seven schools and just over 650 students to CLLC over the two weeks leading up to Christmas Break. During the Christmas Holiday's, the facility offered a number of Lifeguard Training Courses (Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Standard 1st Aid, National Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor). Recreation Excellence is looking at training and hiring an additional 25 staff over the next six months.



General Admissions

October—December 2015

Cheam

Drop Ins 8,517

Membership Scan 42,446

Rental Attendance 29,143

Program/Courses 6,398

CLLC

Drops Ins 12,939

Membership Scans 42,806

Rental Attendance 27,483

Courses/Classes 3,860





Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Presented shows:

October saw *Tom Lavin and the legendary Powder Blues*, *Sex & the Suburbs*, *Sarah Hagen* with cellist *Rebecca Wenham*, *Nashville Hurricane*, *Mixed Bag*, *The Circus of OZ* and *Shawn Farquhar's Cabaret of Wonders* come to The Chilliwack Cultural Centre. *Gordie MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boys*, *Red Rock Diner*, *James Bond Live!*, *Chasing Shadows* and *Benjamin Butterfield* with *Sarah Hagen* in November, and December had *The Reluctant Dragon*, *The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir*, *Winter Harp* and *Sing a Long with Frozen*.

Renters

Jesse Cook performed in September, *Murray McLauchlan* in October, CMO's *Salute to Papa Hayden*, *Frank Mills* and *Matthew Good* in November. *Class of '59*, *Abbamania*, *Christmas with the Louisiana Hayride*, CMO's *A Celebration of Christmas*, *Award Winning Tenore* and *Nutcracker Ballet* in December.

Meeting and seminar space was used by *Miracle Ear*, *Division of Family Practice*, *Chilliwack House Church*, *LaZure Clinique*, *Southside Church*, *Chilliwack Community Services*, and *Hungry for Life*.

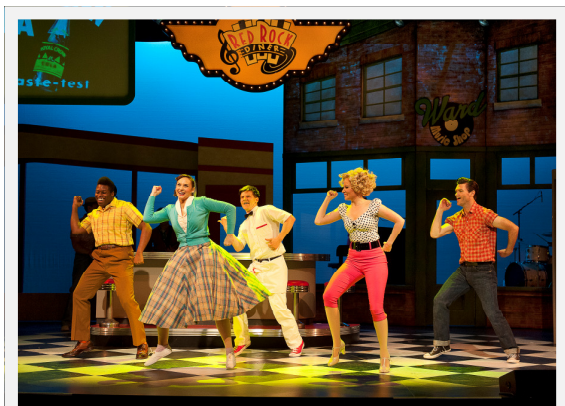
Federal Election Forum was held in October. Community groups included **Creative Outlet**, **F.G. Leary Fine Arts Elementary School**, and **John Calvin School**.

Classes and more:

Art classes were offered ranging from pottery to painting and more for adults and kids.

Sponsorship:

The Centre was thrilled to have the O'Connor Auto Group come on board as a name sponsor for the Art Gallery and the new signage went up in September.





Chilliwack Museum & Archives

Exhibits

Game On! The Evolution of Sports in Chilliwack opened on October 22, with a grand opening reception on October 29, 7:00pm. The exhibit has drawn in new audiences, including many individuals and groups that have never before experienced the Museum and Archives.

Publications

The Chilliwack Story has been reprinted, with great success. Copies are available for purchase at both the Museum and Archives.

Public and School Programming

During the month of December 2015 our annual Family Christmas school program, delivered for the first time by our Education & Engagement Coordinator Stephanie Clinton, was very well received by the community. Eighteen bookings brought 367 children and 75 adults into the Museum to experience and participate in this educational program, focusing on the celebration of Christmas in Chilliwack during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Total Museum visitors for the 4th quarter was 1467 people, this excluding off-site exhibit locations. Website visitors - 3,213; Archives visitors – 34; Archives phone / email inquiries – 124.



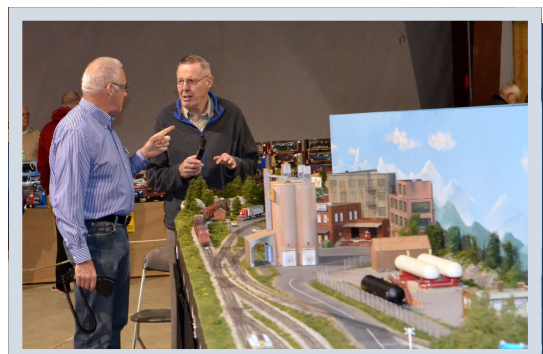
John Martin, MLA, visits our exhibit, *Game On! The Evolution of Sports in Chilliwack*.



Mayor Sharon Gaetz enjoys perusing a copy of *The Chilliwack Story*.

Chilliwack Heritage Park

October is always a busy time at Chilliwack Heritage Park! It features the popular Mane Event Horse Expo, the Train and Hobby Show and BMX competition; all of which attract many visitors to our community! Heritage Park also hosted the annual International Ferrier Competition which even brought in competitors from South Korea. November saw plenty of action as well and featured three Christmas events, in addition to Arenacross action. In the first part of December Arenacross returned to Heritage Park and offered plenty of adrenalin pumping motorcycle action thereby capping off another successful year.



Chilliwack and District Seniors Resource Society

Programs at City of Chilliwack Evergreen Hall and Landing Sports Centre facilities include: Pickleball, Badminton, Line Dancing, Crib, Walking Group, Zumba, Table Tennis, Floor Curling, Carpet Bowling and Special Events.

October 1, 2015 the Seniors' Resources Society hosted the 2nd annual National Seniors Day at the Landing Sports Centre with over 500 attending and 49 exhibitors – many new to the facility. They thanked the City of Chilliwack for the support in presenting the event.

October also saw the start of new programs including a Walking Group using the paved paths at the Landing Complex. These paths provide an excellent venue for seniors as they offer a smooth level surface, benches for seating and are close to restrooms. Currently eight attend weekly with an expectation of seeing this group grow as weather improves. In December the annual Seniors Christmas Lunch was hosted in the Cheam Room with 121 in attendance. 2,474 Visits to the facility was recorded as 2,474 during the fourth quarter of 2015.



Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve

The fall at the GBHNR brings many visitors and schools to explore the site. Over 500 elementary children in 22 classes came for educational programs in October and November. Most schools booked two programs per class, either our newest program "Salmon Stories" or our "Beavers" program plus a Wildlife Art session.

A community planting day was held in October to continue the work along the Discovery Trail. In November a new annual community event, Salmon Watch, was launched by the GBHNR Society. This free community program was a great success. Visitors of all ages enjoyed watching the spawning salmon in the Salwein Creek. GBHNRS education staff were on hand with information and activities. The Department of Fisheries and Ocean Canada set up an outreach booth and gave an interactive presentation.



Chilliwack Library

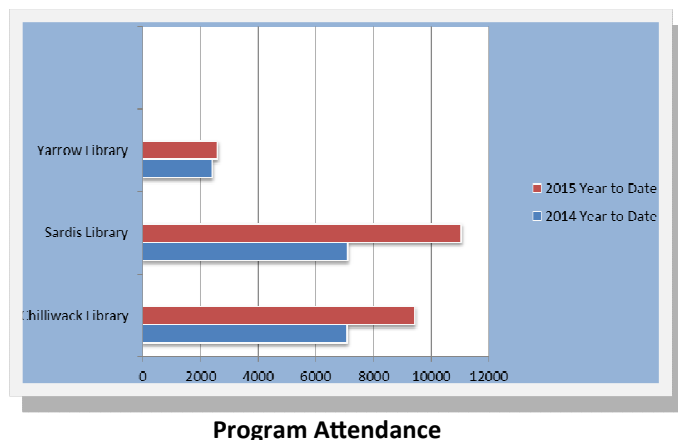
The Chilliwack Library continues to provide unique opportunities for the community to live out FVRL's motto – "Read, Learn, Play". Program attendance has continued to climb, substantiating the Library as a reliable source for both education and entertainment.

The Chilliwack Library staff, along with eager members of the Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries Society volunteers, welcomed the public to join in and celebrate Fraser Valley Regional Library's 85th birthday in October. Visitors were greeted beneath a beautiful balloon arch, served cake, and invited to enjoy a special presentation of the history of the library system, presented by the Community Librarian, Smitty Miller. Book draws, a candy count, and special FVRL coloring books also contributed to the festive atmosphere.

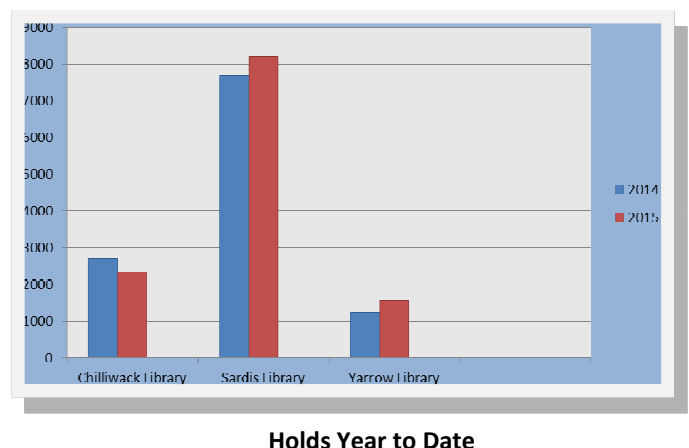
In honor of Remembrance Day, dedicated members of the Canadian Forces Base Historical Society spent a November afternoon at the Chilliwack Library, identifying military artifacts and badges, assisting patrons in researching their family's military genealogy and sharing memories of the Base. From its hurried wartime construction in 1942, until its closure in 1995, Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack was a huge contributor to the economy, community and history of Chilliwack. The CFB Historical Society (CFBCHS) gathers, maintains and displays archives in order to preserve, relive and remember that proud history. Patrons were enthusiastic in their participation and staff received much positive feedback.



Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries serving cake



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CITY OF CHILLIWACK

Sardis Library



Youngest player at snakes and ladders



Kids playing with lego

The month of October was a time for increased outreach to the Sardis Library's youngest visitors. In addition to the Lego Club and weekly story time, the library hosted a number of school tours and raised its profile in the community by visiting a number of Strong Start locations and other preschool programs promoting literacy to these young groups.

The Sardis Library Genealogy Group, which meets regularly at the library, went on a field trip to the Chilliwack Archives in October. The Chilliwack Libraries have a close relationship with the Archives which has fostered this new relationship. This visit resulted in the signing up of several new volunteers for the Archives which has always been a difficult task for them to do.

November may have been dreary outside, but at the Sardis Library it was the month for cinema and popcorn. Weekly Teen Movie Nights and Family Movie Matinees provided a fun way for all ages to stay warm and dry.

Throughout the winter months, the Sardis Library staff has noticed a marked increase in the number of requests for the "Book a Librarian" service.

Customers have been taking advantage of staff expertise in downloading eBooks and audiobooks to various devices. Seniors in particular appreciate the opportunity to access these one-on-one sessions.

Yarrow Library

Five mystery readers came to the Yarrow Library to participate in a storytime marathon in October. The mystery readers included staff from the Fraser Valley Regional Library and Chilliwack and Yarrow community members who may or may not have a connection the library. The first reader was Lisa Axelson from the Chilliwack Fire Department. Lisa often is asked to read books focusing on Fire prevention and was so pleased to read a humorous book this time. Other special guest readers included: Scott Hargrove, FVRL's CEO, Dave Denault, Coordinator of FVRL's LiLi van, Anita Elstak from Envision Financial and Cpl Nicole dela Gorgendiere from Community Police Office. Customers were able to drop by, enjoy treats, make a button with the button-maker and visit with both staff and guest readers.

Celebrated local author, Barbra Nickel, also came to speak about her most recently published picture book during this quarter. Students and teachers from Yarrow Community School and the public participated along with Barbara as her interactive presentation included slides, songs, sounds and maps of A Boy Asked the Wind. Shaw Media from Chilliwack videotaped the presentation, interviewed Barbara and then broadcast both on Shaw Media's community channel in Chilliwack and Abbotsford.



Lisa Axelson story time



Barb Nickel