

Recreation and Culture



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

Fourth Quarter Report, 2019



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Recreation and Culture Celebration and Activity Grants

Through the months of October, November, and December, the Celebration and Activity Grant program supported six events with a total of \$880 of grant funding. The events were all considered block parties and totaled 717 guests.

Celebration and Activity Grant		Community	Funding	Guests	
				Projected	Actual
October	Little Mountain Block Party	Little Mountain	\$ 200.00	50-100	75
	Coach Lamp Dr. - Harvest, Summers End, Potluck Dinner	Sardis	\$ 100.00	40	37
	Cumberland Block Watch Party	Vedder	\$ 100.00	50	27
	Mayfair BW Halloween Celebration	Chilliwack Proper	\$ 235.00	150	500
	Thornton Creek Halloween Potluck	Promontory	\$ 100.00	40	48
November	Diamond Crescent - Christmas Light Display Kick Off Block Party	Sardis	\$ 145.00	30	30
December					
Total			\$ 880.00	310	717



October was highlighted by two Halloween themed block parties. The **Thornton Creek Halloween Potluck** is in its third year and is a smaller event, drawing most of the residents in the Thornton Creek complex together. This event was especially important for two families new to the community to meet their neighbours. The Halloween Potluck is a short but sweet affair as families disperse for trick-or-treating. On the other end of the spectrum, the **Mayfair Block Watch Halloween Celebration** was a first-time grant event that served more than 500 neighbours

over the course of the evening. The event hosts closed down the road and set up large tents to fill the street while inviting neighbours to participate in a house decorating contest all in an effort to elevate the trick-or-treating experience for the community. Families and neighbours of all ages connected over free hot chocolate, hot dogs, and the Halloween décor. This Halloween Celebration was extremely successful and did a magnificent job of creating a safe, fun Halloween for all ages in the local community.



Each year there is a beautiful light show synchronized to holiday music in Sardis that lasts all December. The **Diamond Crescent Christmas Light Display Kick Off Block Party** is the event that signifies the start of this cheerful holiday display the local neighbours come together to be the first ones to enjoy the dancing lights while reconnecting with each other over some snacks and hot drinks.

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Recreation and Culture Community Events

Some of the significant events that occurred this quarter included:

- Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Light Up Downtown
- Yarrow Lighting of the Tree Festival
- Rotary Christmas Parade

These regularly occurring events continued their tradition of success in 2019. Large crowds came out to the **Remembrance Day Ceremonies** at the Sardis and Chilliwack cenotaphs in order to remember and honour the veterans who sacrificed for our country, those who continue to serve and their families. A joint effort between the respective Royal Canadian Legions, the RCMP, Streetwise Traffic Control, and a number of City of Chilliwack departments ensured the ceremonies at both sites followed proper protocols and that all participants and spectators were safe while minimizing disruptions to the rest of the community. Similarly, the **Rotary Christmas Parade** occurred smoothly with minimal disruptions to the community while ensuring the safety of parade participants and the many spectators coming out to view the parade despite the rainy forecast.



Two significant Christmas “light up” events have emerged in Chilliwack over the past few years: Light Up Downtown at Salish Park and the Lighting of the Tree Festival at Yarrow Pioneer Park. In its third year, the **Light Up Downtown** event once again brought a good number of the community downtown to view the dramatic lighting of the trees in the park when the Mayor flipped the switch at the end of the countdown. The event also featured local food vendors and community groups providing low-cost and free treats, live music, and train rides by the Rotary

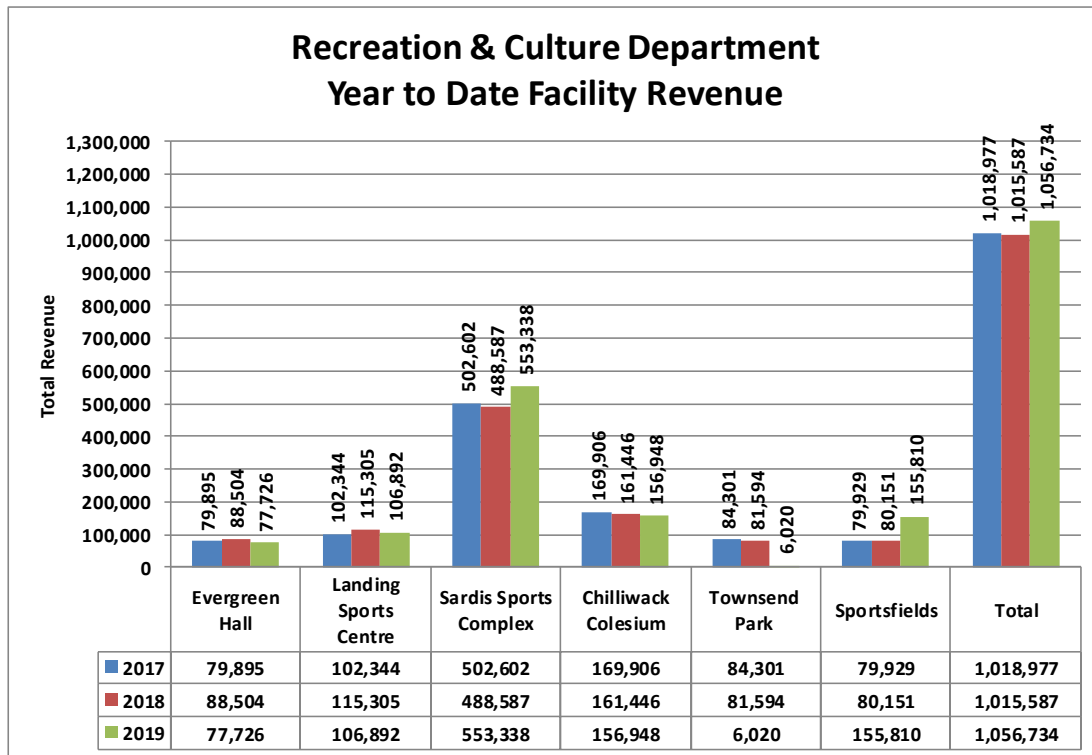
Club. The **Lighting of the Tree Festival** in Yarrow is in its second year and brings a similar energy to the Yarrow community. The event has grown from last year in activities offered and number of attendees.



Special Skates

The 2019-2020 special skate season officially kicked off in October. There were a total of six special skates that occurred from October to December 2019: Turkey Loonie Skate, Halloween Loonie Skate, Super Hero Toonie Skate, Santa’s Toonie Skating Party, Christmas Eve Loonie Skate and the New Year’s Eve Toonie Skate. The skates were well received, and the New Year’s Eve Toonie Skate was well attended with over 400 guests.





Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve (GBHNR)

The GBHNRs had a busy fall, with five days booked with school programs in October, for a total of 24 programs taught, 14 days booked with school programs in November, for a total of 54 programs taught, and one day booked with school programs in December, for a total of four programs taught. One outreach program was conducted for a homeschooling group in Abbotsford in October, and the fall homeschool program was fully booked and ran for 12 weeks, from September 20 through December 6.



Throwing a fish trap

The GBHNR Gift Shop had a table at the Minter Country Garden Christmas Craft Fair at the beginning of November and participated in the 17th Annual Chilliwack Christmas Craft Crawl from November 21-24.

4,710 people were recorded coming through the Interpretive Centre or attending programs at the GBHNR this quarter.

Fall fish population and benthic invertebrate surveys were conducted at the end of November and beginning of December as a follow up to surveys conducted during the summer. City of Chilliwack contributions and

a Capital Gaming Grant aided in the completion of 220 new feet of boardwalk on the Tower Trail within the reserve and several new interpretive signs were put up along the Tower Trail, also with the help of Rotary Club of Chilliwack Ways and Means Committee Grant.



New section of boardwalk

Several new volunteers have been recruited in the last quarter to aid in keeping the Rotary Interpretive Centre open and welcoming to the community and to support the programs and services offered by the GBHNRs.



Rosedale Traditional Community School Society

The society-run daycare, Country Kids is at full capacity. Chickadee's ages 0-3 years had eight full-time spaces filled with 11 families. Sparrow's ages 30mths to 5 years had 24 full-time spots filled with 34 families. Ravens' Jr. K's and grade ones with 24 full-time spots and Ravens' Sr. with 15 full-time spots were filled with 42 families. The Ravens program expanded this fall, prompting the centre to split the group in two programs. Educators had an opportunity to take the kids on several field trips: Maan Farms, Reptile Room came for a visit, Science World came for a visit, Elf Production performed on site, and the Ravens went to Castle Fun Park on the Pro-D Day. The kids celebrated grandparents, hosting them for a late lunch. Ravens planned and made the meal, the younger children performed and everyone made crafts and decorated cupcakes.



Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society

The programs CCECSS offered this fall included fun with Ms. Jo, video game design, basketball, stage star drama, karate, Home Alone, drop in soccer, Minecraft, yoga for beginners, gymnastics, expressive art, piano lessons, clay creations, scrapbooking for kids, Pilot a Drone, Stone Soup Kids, Zumba and the babysitter's course.

CCECSS hosted a family gathering and flu clinic, in partnership with Central Elementary on Tuesday, November 19. This year the event was in honour of the Métis; there were some service providers with display tables as well as story time in the library, an interactive activity in the multi-purpose room and fiddling in the gym.



CCECSS hosted its Annual Santa Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 7. There was a steady stream of more than 325+ people.

Canned food items were collected for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Fruit such as bananas, apples and oranges were added to the breakfast this year. The Dogwood Monarch Lions supported the event by making and helping serve all the pancakes. Each family got a free picture with Santa which was taken by the Chilliwack Senior Secondary photography students. Seven homemade blankets were donated and raffled off to the families. The Christmas tree and poinsettias were

donated by Minter Gardens. At the end of the event the poinsettias were given to the volunteers and the tree was donated to a family.



Yarrow Community School Society

The popular Fall Tykes Soccer program wrapped up this fall. The Kids Sewing Classes – six so far this fall, were full and have had a lot of interest in the new year offerings. The kids are sewing and knitting projects that they get to take home each class. A Family Movie Night had over 100 people attend. The Kids Basketball program, 10 weeks with 30 kids, wrapped up and families are already asking for the next session. The first Youth Gym Night, targeting the middle school years was moderately successful.

Daisy, the Cycling Without Age (CWA) Trishaw, was out and about on the local streets and trails taking seniors out and saw lots of birthday rides, with passengers in their 90s,

sometimes accompanied by grandchildren riding alongside on their bikes. Daisy was also at the City's Vedder Rotary Loop Trail grand opening event. The CWA Steering Committee has just purchased the second bike for the fleet. The Art Innovation classes wrapped up. The Kids In The Community program did some fundraising at school and have adopted a local care home – the funds raised purchased art supplies, books and games and a karaoke machine for the very appreciative residents.



Sew Fun

The Community School is busy every day of the week with ongoing rentals for choir, fitness classes, Pickleball, men's hockey, yoga, community dance classes, three separate volleyball groups, church and lots of family and birthday parties.



Frank's 90th birthday



Four Generations with Daisy

Promontory Heights Community School Society

PHECSA enjoyed a busy fall session of afterschool programs. Winter programs and activities are in full swing, and include *Delicious Desserts*, *Baking Buddies*, *Pickleball*, *Discover Dance*, *karate*, *soccer*, and *Zumba*. PHECSA's drop-in programs continue to be popular. "Tween Night", held on select Friday evenings, is for tweens in grades 4 – 6 and offers fun activities, games, and the chance to socialize with their peers in a safe and fun environment. "Busy Bees" caregiver/parent & tot program is also often at full capacity. Capacity is set at 15 families each week, due to limited space for the program. This wonderful program offers a variety of themed crafts and story time, plus lots of free playtime. It also provides participating parents/guardians with a chance to connect with others in the community. The "Primetimers" is a weekly Friday morning get-together at the school. This program provides seniors with a chance to enjoy conversation and coffee at no charge. The program has seen a steady increase in membership, and supports up to 15+ participants per week.

PHECSA continues to offer At Home Alone and Red Cross Babysitter courses on a regular schedule. PHECSA also offers private piano and guitar lessons, which operate at full capacity with a wait list. Ukulele lessons are also available.

Chilliwack Museum



Professional Development

The team travelled to Victoria from October 27-30 to tour the facilities and connect with the team at the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM). The team spent two full days at the RBCM and received behind the scenes tours of the Collections Facilities, the Provincial Archives, the Exhibition Development department, and the Learning Centre. Staff were also able to meet and discuss the industry with the following department heads at the RBCM:

- David Alexander, Head of Partnerships and Acting Head of Archives
- Michael Barnes, Head of Exhibitions
- Leah Best, Head of Knowledge
- Janet MacDonald, Head of Learning
- Erika Stenson, Head of Marketing, Sales, and Business Development

Gift Shop

The Chilliwack Museum & Archives attended the Christmas Craft Market from November 15-17. The Gift Shop made \$685.85 in sales over the weekend, and attendance at the event was made possible thanks to 11 volunteers that put in 27 hours manning the booth.



Booth at the Christmas Craft Market.

Funding

GMR Foundation & Chilliwack Foundation: The Chilliwack Museum & Archives received \$4,000 from the GMR Foundation and \$2,500 from the Chilliwack Foundation for the development of a new program titled “SKWO:WECH; the Fraser River’s White Sturgeon”. The White Sturgeon is of particular cultural significance to the Stó:lō community in Chilliwack, and has played an important role in oral traditions within the community. The White Sturgeon continues to captivate locals and visitors alike, and the goal of our program would be to increase awareness of the sturgeon’s cultural significance, to promote its conservation, and increase general knowledge of this remarkable fish. The majority of the grant funds will be used for the construction of a scale model White Sturgeon Fish to be used as the key interpretive object of the program. The model sturgeon will also be part of the new “Mobile Museum” initiative currently under development by the Education & Engagement Coordinator.

Young Canada Works – Building Careers in Heritage Internship: The Chilliwack Museum & Archives received \$7,779 to hire a Research and Digitization Assistant for the Archives. The intern began work on November 25, 2019 and will remain with the Archives until March 31, 2020.

British Columbia Museum Association Conference Grant: Anna Irwin, Curator, received \$160 from the BCMA to attend the annual conference held in Prince George, BC from September 30 to October 2, 2019.

Curatorial & Exhibitions

Professional Development:

- Attended British Columbia Museum Association Conference in Prince George, BC – September 30 – October 2, 2019. Conference theme: Spoken Words, Shared Stories
- Participated in BCMA Webinar – Topic: Deaccessioning and Disposition of Collections: Ethical and Legal Issues
- Attended Lower Mainland Curatorial Group meeting – Museum of Surrey – Topic: Community Curating and Connections at Museum of Surrey

Chilliwack Museum cont'd

Collaboration

- Wrote a Letter of Support for UBC Residential School History & Dialogue Centre to support funding for Virtual Museum of Canada exhibition on Indian and tuberculosis hospitals, including Chilliwack's Coqualeetza
- Continued collaboration with Matthew Hawkins (Around Chilliwack) on Monday Museum Moment feature – posts on S'í:lhqey and the Vedder River Steelhead Derby

Filming location for interview with Laura Buker, Ethel Gardner and Vivian Williams. Interview featured 1963.005.001 [Blanket, Stó:lō], 1971.033.001a [Weaving, Stó:lō]; 1984.018.001 [Weaving, Stó:lō] and 1987.031.001a [Weaving, Stó:lō] and will be featured in the Vancouver Art Gallery's Modern in the Making exhibition. The Chilliwack Museum and Archives has requested a copy of the footage for the Archives once completed.

Loans

- Return of 1972.035.001 [Red Cross Quilt] from University of Calgary Founders Gallery and completion of post-loan condition assessment and report. The quilt sustained no damage as a result of the loan.
- Finalized loan agreement with Vancouver Art Gallery for loan of 1987.031.001a-b [Coast Salish Weaving & Hanger by Mary Peters] and 2016.070.002 [Coast Salish Weaving attributed to Adeline Lorenzetto]. The works will be featured in the upcoming Modern in the Making exhibition between April 10 and September 13, 2020.

Collections

- Finished Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) Artifact Analysis and Examination application for stabilization and storage assessment of 2001.013.001a-b [Topographical 3D Map]. Decision forthcoming in early 2020.
- Recent donations include: Cornerstone from Pringle Electric Hatchery [2019.045], bottles and assorted objects unearthed from the Algra Brothers redevelopment at Five Corners [2019.046], plaques from the Chilliwack Senior Social Society [2019.047].



Curator, Anna Irwin and Executive Director, Shawna Maurice check out the interactives in the Natural History gallery at the Royal BC Museum.

Exhibitions

- Cartography EXH: Submitted Research Registry Application to the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre. Research for the exhibition is currently underway. The exhibition will launch on May 21, 2020.
- Booked Our Living Languages travelling exhibition from the Royal BC Museum. The exhibition will be hosted at the Chilliwack Museum and Archives from January to March 2022.
- Electricity EXH: Drafted exhibition proposal for future Electric Chilliwack exhibition. Meeting with Science World exhibitions director Tom Cummins and Craig Hudson regarding exhibitions brief and to obtain possible suggestions, ideas and direction to merge history and science together in one exhibit.

Chilliwack Museum cont'd

Education & Engagement

The Chilliwack Museum & Archives delivers a Holiday Program yearly, which is consistently the most popular program that is offered during the school year. In 2019, the Education & Engagement Coordinator revised the program to incorporate more modern and relatable traditions. The new program, titled "Victorian Traditions" brought 582 students, ages 5-12, to the Museum – a 2% increase from last year. Teachers who attended the program received a link to an anonymous survey to evaluate the program, responses were 100% positive.



Victorian Traditions set-up in the Chambers Gallery

Archives

Statistics for October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019:

	October	November	December	Total
Visitors	22	54	9	85
Research phone calls	18	23	18	59
Research emails	7	14	9	30
Photo orders	2	6	4	12

Free Archives tours continue on the last Friday of each month at 3:00pm.

Research Notes

October: Several different property research, Cultus Lake, genealogy, and forestry maps.

November: Recipe books, property research for developers, UFV archives consultation, Salish weaving, steamboats and Chilliwack Landing, indigenous photographs for publication, re-settler family history, and East Chilliwack history.

December: Gillanders Family history; Sardis neighbourhoods, history, and development; historical property research; and Greendale Roller Rink.

Other Notes

Completed the Booen fonds, William Craven fonds, Lois Dickenson fonds, Doug Nicol fonds, Fortin Appraisal Advisor fonds, Ord Hop Farm fonds, and Mildred Valley Thornton fonds.

Chilliwack & District Seniors' Resources Society

In the fourth quarter of 2019, CDSRS saw a continued increase in membership with 420 new and renewed memberships. There was an increase in activities attended by 643. An increase for information on community resources, which accounted for 1,120 of the 6157 requests, including 102 new to town, 78 for housing and 103 for City of Chilliwack information. CDSRS continues to expand programs and activities to meet the needs of our diverse seniors' population. In November, CDSRS ran a free Strength and Balance class for members and non members.



The pancake breakfast on National Seniors Day was attended by over 200 seniors, and all levels of government officials were in attendance serving breakfast.



The CDSRS Christmas luncheon was a huge success with over 250 seniors in attendance.

In the fourth quarter of 2019, members enjoyed one or more of 53 bus trips, participants stopped in at Evergreen Hall for pick-up and drop-off.

In this quarter CDSRS added an evening series of Community Education and had over 100 people attend.

There were 6,157 telephone, walk-in and email enquiries.

And a total of 537 participants that participated in 4,022 activities in the City of Chilliwack facilities.



Chilliwack Heritage Park



The ever popular Mane Event Horse Expo attracted thousands of horse enthusiasts. The Train and Hobby Show showcased some new innovations in the hobby world and the BMX competition finals attracted thousands of visitors to our community. November saw plenty of action as well and featured several Christmas events, in addition to indoor Arenacross. In the first part of December, Arenacross returned to Heritage Park and offered plenty of adrenaline pumping motorcycle action once again. The year closed off with

the All About Christmas Expo. Attendance for this quarter was 71,425 people.





Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre & Cheam Leisure Centre



Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre

Fall is always a busy time at the Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre as it leads into the hustle and bustle of the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. During this time, the facility sees all the school kids return for swim lessons, school group swims and advanced courses. The 2019 fall season offered many courses to the community from



Babysitting to National Lifeguard. The team at Recreation Excellence re-certified 10 employees on their lifesaving skills for



employment and certified three new Lifeguards to enter the workforce. The fall also brought to the community four new Water Safety Instructors. Both facilities got into the holiday spirit by decorating, offering winter activities and even the staff showed their spirit by having a Christmas pajama dress up day!

Cheam Leisure Centre

This last quarter, the Cheam Leisure Centre offered Intermediate and Advanced Youth Squash lessons. As the centre currently has the only squash courts available for the community, this space is very popular and heavily utilized each day. BC Bounce made a successful return this fall, with 36 youth taking the opportunity to advance their basketball skills within the K-7 level. Both facilities saw many families visit the facilities over the Christmas break, taking part in events such as crafts, Minute to Win It games in the gymnasium and fun water sport games at both pools.





Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Society's 2019-20 presentation series started with the Bergmann Duo's first Classical Music Concert Pianopoly on the morning of October 4, featuring guests Duo Turgeon. Chilliwack's very own Bria Skonberg returned to her hometown from New York on October 5, blowing the roof off of the HUB International Theatre to kick off The Centre's tenth season. On October 12 the docu-theatre piece View from a Window was a powerful story about growing older in a millennial world. One of the most distinctive and entertaining Canadian bands of the last 40 years took to the stage when Doug & the Slugs came to town on October 18. Ballet Victoria returned to The Centre with an innovative, athletic, entertaining, and quirky Ballet Rocks on October 19. The new youth-based local Concert Series Boomerang had its first concert on October 26 featuring Chilliwack's Rain August and guests. Bellingham's Upfront Theatre brought their thrilling improv show Chilliwacked! to town October 30 for an evening that celebrated the spooky season with Halloween hilarity!



Bria Skonberg

November started with A Single Deck of Cards mystifying audiences on two dates – the 1st and 8th. Next up was the first Kids Series show, CircusWest's James and the Giant Circus Peach on November 3. On November 10, a 17 piece jazz band played an exclusive repertoire of new orchestrations inspired by Disney and Pixar movies in The Happiest Big Band on Earth. Combining burlesque, comedy and a whole lot of glitter, cult sensation GeekEnders came to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on November 16 with Star Wars Burlesque: A Nude Hope. Warren Miller Entertainment highlighted exhilarating winter sports on November 23 with their latest film Timeless.

The second Classical Music Concert was held on December 6 with tenor Benjamin Butterfield joining the popular

Bergmann Duo in Wintersong. The second kid's show was on December 8 when DuffleBag Theatre returned with Peter Pan. And holiday favourite, Winter Harp, brought the joy of the season with their enchanting performance on December 10. One hundred voices raised in harmony brought a spectacular meeting of Christmas magic and Celtic choral traditions to the Centre when the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir took to the stage on December 15. The Society's 2019 shows wrapped up with Rob Dinwoodie's A Cowboy Christmas on December 19.



Doug & the Slugs

Cultural Collaboration was held on October 5, showcasing Chilliwack's thriving arts community and celebrating the Chilliwack Cultural Centre's ninth anniversary.

The Society held a neutral All-Candidates Forum for the Federal Election on October 9.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre con't

Rental and Partner Organizations

A local improvisational comedy group brought the show Completely Off Topic with SimPhoney Improv on October 4 as a fundraiser for the Chilliwack Society for Community Living. Western music group Sons of the Pioneers rode into town on October 13. A one-day conference with Scott D. Miller presented research, strategies and case studies to support counsellors, social workers, and other helping professionals took place on October 16. PechaKucha Chilliwack 2019 was held in Rotary Hall Studio Theatre on October 24 highlighting the untold stories of Chilliwack's creative economy. The Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra presented Halloween Symphony Spooktacular! on October 27. Simply the Best Talent presented Relive the Music 50s & 60s Rock N' Roll on November 2. The Chilliwack School of Performing Arts (CSOPA) had their annual fundraiser Destination Broadway on November 9. The Chilliwack Players Guild presented A Christmas Carol from November 21 to December 7. Rock.It.Boy Entertainment presented Perfectly Petty on November 22. Creative Outlet had their annual A Nutcracker Ballet on November 30. The Fraser Valley Philharmonic Society on December 8 put on Christmas Times Ten. F.G. Leary Fine Arts School presented 'Twas the Night Before Christmas on December 11. James & Jamesy brought hysterics to stage in O Christmas Tea: A British Comedy on December 13. The Original Legends of Rock'n'Roll wowed audience members with Buddy's Holly Jolly Christmas on December 18. Ballet Victoria teamed up with Creative Outlet for their annual The Gift of the Nutcracker on December 21 and 22.

O'Connor Group Art Gallery

The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association exhibits in the O'Connor Group Art Gallery included the following: Crossroads presents the artworks by Karlie Norrish McChesney October 16 to November 16. The Upscale Art exhibit was on from November 20 to December 28 and challenged CVAA members to take something that might be discarded and use the items to create compelling, high-quality art.



O'Connor Group Art Gallery



Art & Crafts Studio

Art Classes

Arts classes for adults were offered in flamework, jewellery making, fibre arts, painting, drawing, Henna, photography, pottery, glazing, and acrylic pouring. Open studios were offered for clay, flamework, painting & drawing, and life drawing.



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Chilliwack Library

In October the Chilliwack Library welcomed local author, Beatrice Elaine Silver, who read from her memoir *Lexeywa - I Pass the Torch to You*. *Lexeywa* tells the compelling story of how, at the age of 7, Silver was uprooted by Indian Affairs and moved to a residential school. Silver's talk captivated the audience, including one 9-year-old audience member who promptly asked library staff to help her find a copy of Silver's book. Also accompanying Silver at this unique talk was a series of original pieces of art created by students at Abbotsford's Robert Bateman Secondary School who were inspired by Silver's story.



Frankenstuffie program

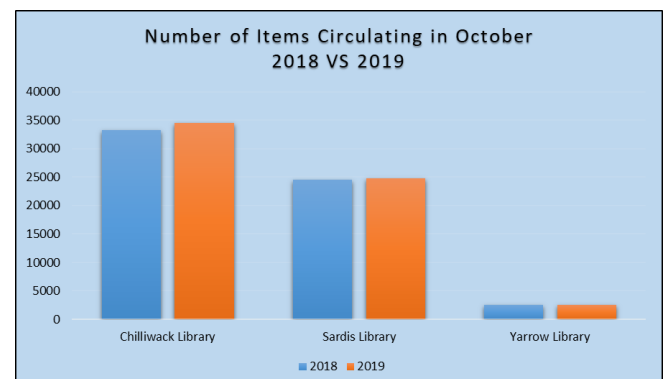
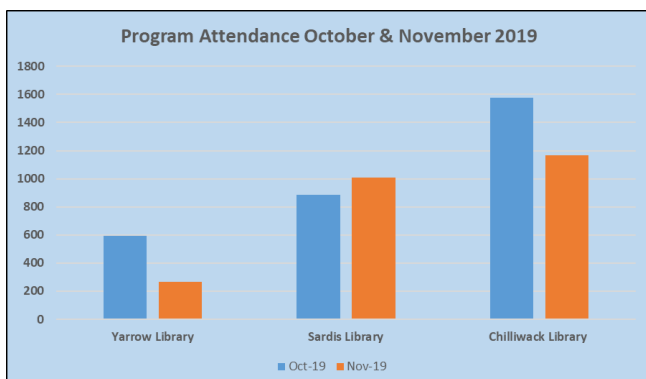
Just before Halloween, staff organized a very successful "Frankenstuffie" program. Children 8-years-old and older were invited to come play Dr. Frankenstein with recycled stuffed toys. By ripping out the stitches holding the toys together kids could transform them into something new by sewing them back together using parts from other stuffed toys. The creations were sometimes creepy and sometimes cute, but always unique!

On November 28 the Chilliwack Library, in partnership with the City of Chilliwack, the Chilliwack BIA and many other local businesses, welcomed a crowd of all ages to Light up Downtown 2019 in Salish Park. This annual free family event kicks off the Christmas season, with complimentary refreshments, entertainment, a visit from Santa and a magical tree lighting.

December was spent spreading holiday cheer. Chilliwack Librarian, Tal Wieczorek, joined FVRL's own LiLi van and marched in the annual Rotary Christmas Parade. Drop in Christmas crafting events were also popular with young and old alike.



Christmas crafts



Sardis Library

In October, the Sardis Library ran their second official escape room based around the TV series, *Stranger Things*. This time around, there was a minimum age limit of 13 for the room due to the difficulty of the game and mature content of the show. People were encouraged to “rock their raddest 80s look” and many of them came in costume and were delighted to pose for photos after they escaped. After another successful session of Babytime, the Sardis Library hosted a “Baby Play Date”. This hands-on event was geared to teach parents and caregivers new ways to play with their baby or toddler and encourage early literacy at the same time. Many came to play and went away with ideas to try at



Baby play date



Sardis Library Escape Room

Yarrow Library

With the generous financial support of the Friends of the Chilliwack Libraries volunteer group, the Yarrow Library was able to invite classes from the Yarrow Community School to enjoy a presentation by Raptors Ridge Birds of Prey. Excited children were offered a rare and unique opportunity to view birds of prey up close and personal. This program also included fun and fascinating facts while promoting the identification of raptors, their natural habitat, and habits associated with their surroundings. Birding programs are particularly relevant to the library with the recent addition of Birdwatching Backpacks to the FVRL playground collection.



Gingerbread houses

Gingerbread houses, treats and playing for Plinko prizes were all part of the Yarrow Library’s December programming. On December 3, registered patrons signed up in 20 minute slots to decorate miniature gingerbread houses. Proud participants worked hard on their unique designs and were eager to share the results of their labour on FVRL social media.

Families with young children were invited to a special Christmas story time on December 11. They came to enjoy festive stories, songs, crafts and treats. Santa green screen photos were also offered after story time, offering picture opportunities to children that might otherwise decline posing with the real, live version.



Maple Ridge Raptors Hawk