



**FRIENDS OF THE WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY (FOWPL)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JULY 31, 2023
(AUGUST 1, 2022 to JULY 31, 2023)**

This year was back to business as usual. However, the zoom meetings proved to be a preferred way to carry on, so The Friends decided to stick to online meetings.

Last year we received our Tax Exempt Status, but requirements to maintain the Status proved to be too onerous that we have asked to revoke our Status. We are a small entity that the work that would be required to maintain the status did not justify the ends.

The Friends welcomed the new Library Director Mikale Fenton, who has proven to be an amazing advocate for the Library and extremely supportive of The Friends.

Directors: Susan Annand, Jennifer Black, Roberta MacQuarrie, Rury Nakagawa, Marianna Orr, Ernest Smechynski

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

September Bulb Sale: In August of 2022, volunteers prepared and bagged tulips and daffodils at Janice Lloyd's place and then transported them to the Library's storage space for the September Bulb Sale. Janice, for the past few years, has volunteered to coordinate the collection of bulbs from the various donations in our community: including: Brew Creek, The Muni, Fairmont and The Lagoons. John and Karen Wood assisted in constructing the wooden shelving for drying the bulbs. In September of 2022, we held our Bulb Sale over the course of three Saturdays. The Bulb Sale is extremely popular with the community and we have heard only positive comments on how beautiful the bulbs bloom the following Spring. In all, we had 28 volunteers for this event, from start to finish.

50/50 Raffle: (Feb 13 to March 30, 2023) For the third year in a row, The Friends of the Whistler Public Library Society was granted a Gaming Licence. As per last year, we hired Raffle Nexus and Bambora Payment Processor to manage our Raffle. The Raffle was very successful with over \$7000.00 worth of tickets being sold. Publicity went into making the 50/50 Raffle a success: an Ad in the Pique Newspaper, broadcast on Mountain FM, Posters around town and using our

social media presence managed by Jennifer Black. This year, The Friends were able to send a cheque to WeMet Media which assisted in covering the cost of Digital Whiteboard for the Library's small meeting rooms. This was the focus of our 50/50 Raffle. Reports to the Gaming Licence (GERR report- Gaming Event Revenue Report and the GASR report- Gaming Account Summary Report) were completed by Susan Annand and Roberta MacQuarrie.

Spring Book Sale: (Saturday, May 20th, 2023) This is such a popular event! The whole Whistler community and visitors look forward to the sale. It takes a whole "village" to prepare for this event! Collection of books donated by our amazing community began on May 4 and ended on the 17th. Collection sites were the Re-Use It Centre, Creekside Market and the Library. This year Jennifer Black, volunteered to organize the event. Volunteers culled, sorted, and organized the books into various Authors and genres all done in the Grieve's garage. Then on the day of the sale, books were transported to the Library, where tables were set up in the various genres. All in all, this event utilized over 35 volunteers and Library staff!

Wonder Lab: In May, The Friends were invited to a soft opening of the incredible WonderLab! Incredible is an understatement. All patrons must check it out. The Friends have contributed funding since Elizabeth Tracey introduced the initiatives for the Library in 2018.

PROGRAMS:

Games Night: Ernest Smechynski holds games night twice a month whenever possible. This is an excellent opportunity for people to meet new acquaintances and enjoy the many and diverse board games that Ernest and The Friends have provided. Susan Annand has been a regular assistant providing munchies for gamers.

The following Library Programs were supported by direct funding through The Friends: Barbed Choir, Connect Whistler, Reading Link Challenge and Summer Reading Program.

ADVOCACY:

The Friends of the Whistler Public Library continues to advocate and support The Whistler Library by stimulating public interest in our library and by helping to share information about the many Library programs, events, services, projects and needs. FOWPL continually publicizes events through bulletins, posters and the media to promote fundraising events. We continue our presence using Social Media to promote and advocate for The Whistler Library:

[Friends of Whistler Library - Posts | Facebook](#)

[Jennifer Black \(@friendsofwhistlerlibrary\) - Instagram](#)

MEMBERSHIP:

Our membership continues to grow through many of our members promoting the FOWPL with their families, friends, neighbours and community groups. Everyone is welcome. Members are contacted regularly through email regarding upcoming events, meetings and important notices. The Whistler Library website lists our contact information and reports.

whistlerlibraryfriends@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

Normally, meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 4:30 pm via zoom. In June of 2023 members met in person in the community room at the Library. All members are notified of meetings via email. Everyone is welcome!

- ❖ This report was prepared by Roberta MacQuarrie and reviewed by Susan Annand





