

WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Embracing Resilience, Reimagining the Future



The Whistler Public Library is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as *Lil'wat7úl*, and the Squamish People, known in their language as *Skwxwú7mesh*. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

A Note from the Board Chair & Library Director

As we reflect upon the events of 2022, we are proud to share with you the journey of our library throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year, the emergence of the COVID-19 Omicron variant alongside a community-wide transit strike added new complexities. Nevertheless, we continued to find ways to successfully work through these challenges.

Throughout 2022, the library collaborated with other organizations in the community to amplify our reach and collective impact. For example, as a trusted community space, we partnered closely with the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Emergency Services and Whistler Community Services Society to transform our library into a shelter during extreme weather conditions. By becoming a designated Cooling Centre and activating the first overnight Extreme Cold Weather Shelter, we worked together to provide support to those in need during climate crisis events.

Over the course of the year we registered 2,023 new patrons for library cards and welcomed over 100,000 people through our doors. Whistler community members continued to use the library avidly. Borrowing levels in 2022 were 6% higher than the previous year, with nearly 16 items borrowed for every resident. While books remain a pillar of our service, eBook and downloadable audiobook use has grown by 194% above pre pandemic levels, and we continue to inspire wonder through our “Unusual Items” collection—adding sewing machines, eReaders, coding games, and more.

We also prioritized understanding and addressing the evolving needs of our patrons. With the launch of a new survey tool, we embarked on a journey of active listening, gathering invaluable feedback from our community to tailor our programs and services. This commitment to community-driven decisions ensures that the Whistler Public Library remains a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking institution.



“You guys are pretty darn good. The goodness of your leadership shines through. I maintain that this is the best building and space in Whistler. It is inclusive and reassuring, with kind and knowledgeable staff who do not display any prejudice.”

- SURVEY RESPONDENT

At the end of May we said goodbye to our former Library Director, Elizabeth Tracy, whose dedicated and innovative work led her on to new adventures in Municipal Government. In this same year we welcomed our new Library Director, Mikale Fenton, who carries on Elizabeth’s legacy of innovation, continuous improvement and a commitment to service excellence.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the foundational support of the RMOW, as well as the Province of British Columbia, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. We are also very appreciative and thankful for the support from our Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, volunteers, and by the generous gifts from our donors who enable us to go above and beyond. We are especially thankful for our incredible staff whose work, creativity, and passion make the library the welcoming and inspiring place we all love.

We are honored to serve this extraordinary community and to lead the Whistler Public Library into an inspiring and promising future.

Sincerely,



Mikale Fenton
Director, Whistler Public Library



Mike Walsh
Board Chair, Whistler Public Library



2022 Statement of Operations

Total Revenues and Grants	*\$201,964
Total Expenditures	\$1,649,628
Municipal funding	\$1,505,024

**Excludes donations and fundraising from third parties*

Library Stats



106,160

in-person visits
Average 300 visits per day

183%

increase
from 2021

2,023

**New patron
registrations**

28,457
**Reference
Questions Asked**
(at the service desk)

4,852

NEW physical items
added to the collection



30

people became
naturalists
on our Guided Bat Walks!



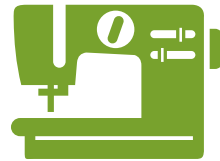
180 ice creams

given out on **Summer Reading Club Kick Off Day**



14,772

**Audiobooks
borrowed**



3

**Sewing
Machines**
added to the
collection



19,885

**Picturebooks
borrowed**

Programs in 2022:

897 Adult

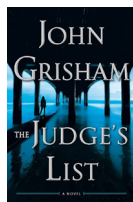
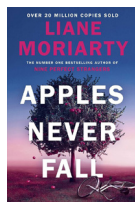
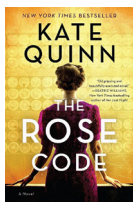
18% increase
from 2021

446 Youth



"Students haven't stopped talking to all their friends about the cool stuff you can borrow, and the new spaces they discovered in the library. Thank you so much for hosting us, and being so kind and informative." - TEACHER

Top 5 checkouts:



34,711

Wi-Fi sessions

167

**Volunteer
hours**



Gratitude

We gratefully acknowledge the people and organizations who have financially contributed to the many successes of the Whistler Public Library in the last year

Sustaining Support

Resort Municipality of Whistler
Province of British Columbia
Friends of the Whistler Public Library

Grants

Courthouse Libraries BC—Law Matters
Province of British Columbia—Covid-19
Relief and Recovery Emergency Funding
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Whistler Community Foundation
Aqueduct Foundation

Partnerships

In 2022, Whistler Public Library visitors connected with Community partners through more than 720 programs.



“Journaling with Jules has made a huge impact on my life. It has changed how I relate to my thoughts, sensations, feelings, and creative expression method. This program is the best and has remained the best journaling program in which I have participated, and I have actively searched and participated in various virtual guided journaling events.”

- PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



2022 Board of Trustees

Mike Walsh Chair	Bevin Heath Ansley Trustee
Ralph Forsyth Council Representative	Karen Laughland Trustee
Cathy Abell Trustee (Jan—Dec 2022)	Sheilagh Martin Trustee
Gail Banning Trustee	Jeff Murl Trustee (Jan—Nov 2022)
Ali Blancher Trustee (Nov—Dec 2022)	Thomas Sikora Trustee
Josie Chuback Trustee	Christine (Tina) Young Vice Chair

2022 Whistler Library Staff

Adrienne Theed	Linda Jones
Alyssa McGinnis	Manon St. Pierre
Bridgit Muldoon	Marilyn Crichton
Brooke Weber	Maz Esnouf
Darel Lee	Mikale Fenton
Denise Belyea	Miriam MacDonald
Elizabeth Tracy	Nadine White
Georgie Parker	Noah Birenbaum
Jeanette Bruce	Priscilla Belanger
Jennifer Bridges	Samantha Ray
Jessica Caton	Shannon Smith
Julie Burrows	Sharada Clayton
Kaley O'Brien	Suzanne Thomas
Kate Heskett	Tash Donohoe
Kelly McGee	Yogesha Lacroix
Kristina Radzhapova	

