

Letter from the Board Chair and Library Director

2009 was a year of settling in. Our “new” building had become familiar, most of the kinks were worked out, and we were able to get on with business as usual – as usual as it ever gets, that is. As always, the efforts of our staff and volunteers were exceptional, making Whistler Public Library into a place that truly serves our community.

January saw the installation of the library’s Donor Wall, honouring the organizations and individuals who gave significant resources toward the building of our new facility. In March, the Library Board officially endorsed the Whistler Public Library Strategic Plan 2009-2013, setting the course for library initiatives for the coming five years. The plan was developed with extensive participation by community members as well as Trustees and library staff.

During the summer, the library acquired two significant enhancements to our building in the form of sculptures. Upon the dismantling of the Olympic Information Centre in Whistler, the library became the new home for a unique inukshuk. The stone figure was built by students of the Jimmy Hikok Ilihakvik School in Kugluktuk, Nunavut. It was transported, stone by stone, to Whistler in October of 2005 and rebuilt by the children as a gift to our community. The inukshuk was permanently installed in the WPL lobby in June. Later that summer, we were also the recipient of four carved basalt monoliths by Patrick Sullivan, a sculptor from the Squamish Nation. These pieces, entitled “Lost Love II-V” and installed along with a stone bench incorporating an engraved chess board, have transformed our entrance plaza into a distinctive outdoor place.

Late in 2009, we began to experience the reality of the coming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Whistler. An agreement was signed which established the use of the library building, which is a municipal property, as Whistler Canada Olympic House during the Olympics. Major partners included the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Resort Municipality of Whistler, with additional sponsorships by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

The end of 2009 brought the tragic loss of Trustee Chris Hauserman in an automobile accident on the Sea-to-Sky Highway. Chris’ absence is deeply felt, and a memorial was held in the library in early 2010.

Alix Nicoll, Library Board Chair
Lauren Stara, Library Director

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ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Lost Love II-V
by Patrick Sullivan

Sumi, Miga & Quatchi, the
Olympic and Paralympic
mascots, on Library Plaza



Collection	2008	2009
Books	41,568	45,347
Videos/DVDs	3,433	4,581
CDs & Audiobooks	2,831	2,640
Other	129	300
Total	47,961	52,868

Magazine subscriptions	138	127
Items checked out	127,831	171,858
ILLs from other libraries	465	543
ILLs to other libraries	2,242	2,892
Questions answered	16,328	14,725

Programs	2008	2009
Adult (#)	692	390
Children's (#)	282	351
Total attendance	8,985	9,329
Visitors	247,472	297,488
Active cardholders	20,542	24,578
Hours open per year	2,453	2,703



Alix Nicoll, Board Chair, and Ken Melamed,
Whistler Mayor, positioning the inukshuk
in the library lobby



Sumi and fan



Revenue	2008	2009
Municipal support	\$757,639	\$807,759
Regional district support	\$2,900	\$3,000
Provincial PLSB grants	\$55,583	\$67,111
Other project grants	\$1,000	\$687
Library generated revenue	\$56,983	\$72,982
Donations and Fundraising	\$150,270	\$14,115
Total revenue	\$1,024,375	\$965,654



The Donor Wall

Expenditure	2008	2009
Salaries and benefits	\$641,874	\$670,871
Library materials	\$97,529	\$110,278
Electronic databases and subscriptions	\$4,090	\$2,792
Total library materials expenditure	\$101,619	\$113,250
Computer systems & telecommunications	\$28,083	\$5,930
Library facilities	\$63,319	\$88,156
Capital expenditure	\$387,745	
Other expenditure	\$44,782	\$73,334
Total expenditure	\$1,267,431	\$951,541