



**FRIENDS OF THE WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY (FOWPL)  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JULY 31, 2020**

The FOWPL's 2020 activities and contributions to our wonderful Whistler Public Library (WPL) were impacted when the Library closed on March 16<sup>th</sup> due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Our main fundraising events, the annual Spring Used Books and Plant Sales, had to be cancelled.

The FOWPL provided funding for a variety of the WPL's Programs for 2019/2020.

**PROGRAMS:**

Armchair Tours: At these popular monthly events presenters shared photographs and stories of their adventures and travels.

Film Series: Funding to purchase the annual film licences allow the WPL to show many Hollywood film releases, as well as some foreign films and documentaries. Chosen films include titles that weren't shown at our Whistler movie theatre or had a short run, films features at the previous year's Film Festival, children's movies and the Best Pictures nominees for the years's Academy Awards.

Games Night: Popular board game nights were held twice monthly from October to March. Our appreciation to Ernest Smerchynski for his games expertise and for sharing his large collection of strategy games, to our faithful volunteer Moe Richmond and to Kris Shoup for assisting when needed. We hosted 53 guests at November's 'Whistler Connect Week' event and had 25 to 30 players on most evenings. Thank you to Nesters Market for providing us their Point Program to purchase refreshments.

Books For Babies: Provides each new Whistler baby a gift that includes a book bag, a board book, a music CD, parent pamphlets and library program information. This program provides new parents and babies with materials that promote emergent language and early literacy, while extending a warm invitation for families to visit the library. It also provides them with an introduction to the programs and services that the WPL can offer to support them.

Whistler Children's Chorus (WCC): This group is a non-audition community choir that welcomes children in Grades 1 through 7 with any level of musical knowledge and ability. The WCC meets weekly during the school year and each hour long rehearsal teaches members about music, singing techniques, performance and team work.

Teen Book & Writing Club: Funding to purchase Book Sets for this active group of Teens who love to read and write. The monthly meetings involve in-depth book discussions and writing opportunities.

Photography Classes: These Photography For Beginners Courses consistently have full registration. Community members who have cameras with manual settings were instructed to help them better understand how their cameras work and to take the best possible photographs.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- Assisted with the Entertainment Costs for the WPL's annual **Birthday Celebration**.
- Maintenance costs for the large **Plants** that the Friends purchased when the WPL opened.
- **Nesters Market Points** were used to purchase supplies for the Gingerbread House Making Event as well as refreshment for some special events.

#### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

Bulb Sale 2019: The Fall Bulb Sale at the Library raised \$968.00. The Bulbs donated by the RMOW, Out On A Limb Landscaping, Brew Creek Lodge and the Fairmont Chateau Whistler were gratefully appreciated. Thank you to the Library's staff for their assistance.

Rotary Blues @ Dusty's 2019: The WPL Board was the lucky charity recipient. They received a generous \$15,000 donation from the Rotary which was targeted for the Library's Wonder Lab Technology Project. The FOWPL supported this event by helping the Board collect Silent Auction Items, assisting with the setup and 22 tickets were purchased by our members for this fun evening.

Cornucopia 2019: The FOWPL were the fortunate designated charity for Whistler's annual Fall Festival of Food and Drink. The Silent Auctions and Coat Checks raised a total of \$31,000 which was also donated to our Library for their Wonder Lab and Space Change projects. Using Givergy's online platform for the Silent Auction proved very successful and we had 44 volunteers covering the 8 Coat Check events. The WPL Board, the Library staff and Director of the Library, Elizabeth Tracy provided us tremendous support in all areas of the Festival. It was a team effort! A special thank you to Sue Eckersley and the Watermark staff for this opportunity and for their willing assistance.

#### Coat Check at The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation's 'Winetastic':

The Friends were very pleased to receive \$1075.00 in Coat Check donations. Our appreciation to the WB Foundation for giving us this opportunity.

The outstanding support of the Library Staff is critical to the success of the above projects and events. The Friends are grateful for their valuable assistance.

The FOWPL have used the money raised from our annual Spring Book and Plant Sales to support the funding requests for the WPL's Children, Teen and Adult Programs. Due to the cancellation of these two sales, we have a funding shortfall and will need to consider alternate fundraising ideas this Fall.

## **ADVOCACY:**

The FOWPL continue to be strong advocates for the WPL by stimulating public interest in our library and by helping to share information about the Library's programs, events, services, projects and needs. Members are encouraged to visit 'whistlerlibrary.ca' and sign up for The Adult Events Newsletter and the Family Events Newsletter for a detailed overview.

The WPL's virtual events will continue through Fall 2020. The Library Staff are using Zoom and Facebook Live to deliver virtual versions of some of the favourite programs. Family Programs include: Summer Reading Program (until Sept. 30), Virtual Story Time, Parent Infant Drop In, Touring With Jules, Whistler Children's Chorus and Ask An Astronomer. The Adult Programs are: Community Book Club, Whistler Medication, Alphabet Soup, Home Truths: Your Guide to Making Whistler Rentals Work, Cookbook Club, MOOC Indigenous Canada, Vision Board Workshop, and Find Your Calm: A Guided Breathing Space, Multicultural Week

Printing, Copying and Scanning is now available

Library To Go Program

(See 'whistlerlibrary.ca' for these two special services)

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Our membership continues to grow through our members promoting the FOWPL with their families, friends, neighbours and community groups. Everyone is welcome.

**MEETINGS** are open to all. Normally they're held the third Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 4:30 pm in the Library. Meeting notices are sent to members the week before. Unfortunately this format is not possible under the COVID 19 Safety Guidelines. Updated information will be forwarded to members when new procedures are confirmed.

This report was prepared by Susan Annand and reviewed and by Alice Mastalir, Ernest Smerchynski, Marianna Orr, Roberta MacQuarrie and Rury Nakagawa.

(Friends of the Whistler Public Library Directors for 2019/2020)

