

# Elkford Public Library

## 2013 Annual Report



Summer Reading Club kept everyone jumping and diving into good books.



### 2013 Board of Directors

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeanette Fairbairn | Chair                 |
| Karen Smithies     | Vice Chair            |
| Heather MacKenzie  | Treasurer             |
| Pat Ross-Nelson    | Trustee               |
| Susan Mudge        | Trustee               |
| Mandy McGregor     | Trustee/District Rep. |

### Staff

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Diane Andrews    | Director          |
| Rosalie Atherton | Library Assistant |
| Sandra Takenaka  | Library Assistant |

The Elkford Public Library was actively involved in our community with lots of things to do for the whole family!

## Activities and Programs

**Family Literacy Day**—The library partnered with Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy in recognising the importance of literacy in our everyday lives. Our children’s librarian, Rosalie Atherton, read stories to toddlers. Other activities for the day included crafts, stories and games provided by CBAL.

**Youth Writing Club**—This group of teens met twice a month to practice their prose and poetry, or one of Sandra Takenaka’s challenges like the “Me and Bobby McGee” creativity challenge.

**Youth Book Club**—This year’s book clubs read a varied selection of books ranging from Alice in Wonderland to Stardust. They enjoyed dissecting the stories while nibbling on snacks.

**Story Time**— The library changed the time of the program to 1:00 pm on Thursdays and Rosalie Atherton, with her new helper Jola Szoltysek, introduced a craft segment to the program. Fifteen children registered and every session they were excited to listen to new stories and participate in fun games and crafts on various themes.



Showing off their great Halloween costumes!



**Summer Reading Club**—The library continued to have a tremendous response to the Summer Reading Club. The theme was “Up, Up and Away” this year. From birds and airplanes to superheroes that fly, it was a busy and fun-filled time. Children’s librarian,

Rosalie Atherton, had extra help this year with special guests: Karen Alexander who showed her beekeeping gear and talked about these amazing flying creatures. Gerald Shinnars introduced the SRC to his macaw and Sherrie Frank from Canada Post gave a tour to the kids who had come over to mail the postcards they had made. We had 36 registered students participate in some or all of the SRC days. We would like to thank the Elkford Lion’s Club for it’s financial support of this program and our SRC helpers Rudra, Lorraine, Erica, Megan, and Danielle.

**Workshops**—The library held two workshops in the spring of 2013. The first workshop was “Nestbuilding” presented by Kate Bridger in partnership with the Kootenay Library Federation. This workshop was about decorating your home to reflect your personality. The 15 people who attended enjoyed the workshop so much that they asked the library for more of this type of programming.

Our second workshop was called “Brain Foods” with local holistic nutritionist Natalia Kuralesova. We had 19 people attend. Everyone found the workshop very informational.





**Wild Cat Days**—This year we added a Cake Walk to our popular Cotton Candy sales. Wild Cat Days is our biggest fundraiser each year.

Thank you for supporting us so



**Pajama Story Time** was held in conjunction with the Winter in the Wild event put on by the District of Elkford. Two of our board members, Pat Ross-Nelson and Jeanette Fairbairn, put on a wonderful show in the



They had the children listening quietly and then jumping up to participate in the stories and poems. They all went home too excited to sleep.

## Fundraising and Advocacy

**Photo Contest**—For the 6th Annual Photo Contest the library introduced a new “frameless” entry system to the contest. We also changed some of the categories to keep the contest fresh and encourage photographers to use their imaginations.



Winners of the 2013 Photo Contest!



Our youngest entrant in the 2013

The quality and quantity of photos that we receive are always amazing and gave our judges Jody Christopherson, Marianne Bauld and Teri Clevery a challenge choosing the winners. We’d

like to thank our judges for sharing their time and the local business community for it’s strong support in providing funding for the prizes.

**Christmas House Decorating Contest**—This was our second year organizing this contest for the community. Judges this year included the District of Elkford’s two Student Representatives Nicole Klein and Taylor Wurmlinger, as well as library board members, Pat Ross-Nelson and Heather MacKenzie.

The **Elkford Focus** is now in its 7th year and is still awaited anxiously at the end of each month by Elkford residents! Thank you to our volunteer journalists who contribute articles to the Focus and to the businesses that advertise with us. The Elkford Focus would not exist without your continued support.

## Developing Partnerships

Meghan Morton of Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy partnered with us to provide an **Basic Adult Education** program to Elkford residents. Her Thursday afternoon appointments are always booked with people eager to learn. The program offers education in Basic Reading/Writing, Basic Math Skills, Basic Computer Skills and English as a Second Language training. All tutoring is learner focused so that they study what is most relevant to them. Additional partners in this program were the Sparwood Public Library, and the District of Elkford. Funding is provided by Ministry of Advanced Education, Decoda Literacy Solutions and Columbia Basin Trust.

The library partnered with Community Connections Society of SE BC to provide **Breastfeeding Mamas** to new mothers in Elkford. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month for support and information about breastfeeding. They've had visits from the Public Health Nurse and a representative from Bellies to Babies who answer questions and provide additional informational materials. Other partners in this program are the

### Art in the Library



Slate on driftwood painting by Judy James

This year the Elkford Library approached people in the art community about showing their work at the library. Local artists were thrilled to be able to show their paintings, glasswork, ceramics and sculptures. We promoted the artist's work in the library's newspaper the "Elkford Focus" as well. People who viewed the works were amazed at the variety of artwork and the depth

of talent in our community. The staff love how having the art around as it makes the library less institutional and creates a more welcoming ambience.

We'd like to thank the following artists for sharing their work with us: Judy James (Art), Brenda Castonguay (Photography), William Mortimer (Art), Katy Drijber (Ceramics), Katherine Russell (Glass) and Jan Dortman, (Sculptures)

## Quick Stats

E-book and audio book borrowing has increased by 140% in 2013.

1 out of every 3 people in Elkford is a member of the Public Library.

The addition of free workshops at the library has been strongly supported by members of our community.

Our library had an average of 181 in-person visits per week. People are using various services including computer/internet, faxing, photocopying, getting help with their new e-readers, participating in programs, school visits and of course, borrowing books.

The internet averages 63 uses per month, not taking into account the free wireless use which is not currently tracked.



### **“October is Library Month” Celebrated with a Scavenger Hunt**

The Elkford Public Library was pleased to partner with the Rocky Mountain Elementary School library for a scavenger hunt. The hunt brought students



to both libraries and sharpened their research skills using resources unique to each library. Our thanks to Marie Hansen for this great partnership.

## **Thank you to our financial contributors!**

District of Elkford  
Province of British Columbia  
Regional District of East Kootenay  
Teck Coal Ltd  
Elkford Lions Club

## **Thank you to our many partners who generously share resources, ideas and enthusiasm!**

Kootenay Library Federation  
BC Libraries Cooperative Staff  
Libraries and Literacy Staff  
Elkford Early Childhood Development Committee  
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy  
Tough Country Communications

The District of Elkford Staff for all the extras that you do for us!

We'd also like to thank all the businesses that supported our Christmas House Decorating Contest, Photo Contest and Elkford Focus.

Many thanks to our student volunteers who brighten our day when they walk through the door.

And to all our patrons! You make coming to work a joy!

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