

# Elkford Public Library 2014 Annual Report



## Staff

**Diane Andrews**  
*Director*

**Rosalie Atherton**  
**Sandra Takenaka**  
*Library Assistants*

## Board of Directors

**Jeanette Fairbairn**  
*Chair*

**Karen Smithies**  
*Vice Chair*

**Michele Schalekamp**  
*Treasurer*

**Mandy McGregor**  
*District Representative*

**Heather MacKenzie**  
**Susan Mudge**  
**Pat Ross-Nelson**  
*Trustees*

## Celebrating 40 years of library service to Elkford!

This year the Elkford Public Library celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This was an opportunity to look back on our accomplishments, to reflect on the changes and improvements in the services that we provide to our community, and to look forward to incorporating the newest technologies and developing the skills required to complement our core services in the future. We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an Open House. Mayor Dean McKerracher graciously gave a speech on the importance of the Elkford Public Library to our community. In February we had a wonderful display that showed our history and growth with Elkford as well as having several contests to involve the public in remembering the past 40 years.

Front page photo: Mayor Dean McKerracher (third from left) with some of Elkford's citizens celebrating the 40th birthday of the library during the Open House.

Winner of the 40th Anniversary Scavenger Hunter Penny O'Neil with Library Director Diane Andrews

Nancey McHarg , Winner of the 40th Anniversary Draw for a Kobo Reader.



## Community Partnerships

**Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL):** We offered an English Second Language (ESL) Conversation Café and an ESL Games Night in partnership with CBAL this year. The people that participated enjoyed the opportunity to practice and improve their English language skills.

**Breastfeeding Mamas:** This program runs the first Tuesday of each month and provides support and information to mothers. The program is provided by the Community Connections Society of SE BC. Other partners in the program are the Regional District of East Kootenay, Columbia Basin Trust and over the Rainbow Family Services—Birthing, breastfeeding & Bonding

**Kootenay Library Federation:** The Elkford Public Library participates in the Kootenay Library Federation, where we see great value in collaborating with other Kootenay libraries. One example of the advantages of this collaboration was the IT Assessment that the Kootenay Library Federation arranged and funded in 2013. In 2014, we used this information to increase our broadband speed by changing providers. An outcome of this change has been the increased use of our WiFi by the public. We have quite a few people coming in the library and spending hours on their laptops, tablets and phones as shown in the photo below.

Michael Zibauer, Fred Wolbert and Pat Zibauer use various devices to stay connected.



## Programs for the Whole Family



**Story Time:** This is a fun program that introduces 3-5 year old children to reading. In between stories they have fun playing games and singing. There were two sessions of Story Time, one from January to March and one October to December.

**Summer Reading Club:** 2014 saw continuing success for the Summer Reading Club in Elkford as it attracts more children each year. There was a 36% increase in attendance over the previous year. The theme for this year was “Funny Business” and had everyone in stitches. The children enjoy the mix of games, crafts, outings and reading. Some of the highlights this year were a visit to the local community garden, a scavenger hunt in the community campground, and a demonstration of a 3D printer. We are pleased with the support that our community provides for this program, from funding, to people sharing their interests and expertise. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help. Thanks especially to the Elkford Lions Club for providing funding for this program.



**Youth Book Club:** This is a program for teens that allows them to read and discuss books with other teens. This year there were winter and fall sessions. The books included “Raven Boy” by Maggie Stiefvater, “Book Thief” by Markus Zusak, “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain among others chosen by the group. All the members were excited to read the books and to challenge themselves to read materials that they might not have otherwise chosen to try.



Bertus Schalekamp, Student Volunteer

### **Student Volunteer**

**Program:** One of the library staff's favourite programs is working with student volunteers. We have three students who come in once a week to work in the library. Their jobs included signing out books, preparing books for interlibrary loans, shelving books and various other jobs that crop up from week to week. It is wonderful to have their energy and enthusiasm.

Their volunteer time counts toward their graduation credit.

**Workshops:** In 2014, the Elkford Public Library was able to put on five varied workshops. They included a “Gluten Free—Facts and Fads,” presented by Lisa Samyia, Registered Dietitian from Interior Health, “Beginner Fly Tying,” with Chris Wells and a demonstration of a 3D printer by Chris Van Mills of Protodrake, Lethbridge. Two workshops put on by Sparwood Chiropractic helped us to Move Well and improve our feet with orthotics. We'd especially like to thank our presenters. These seminars would not be possible without them.



## Fundraising and Advocacy

*Photo Contest:* This year we had a 32% increase in photo entries over 2013. Our judges were Mariane Bauld, Judy James and Pat Ross-Nelson who found the photos varied and amazing to see, but as always, hard to judge. We held our Photo Contest Awards at the Community Conference Centre and for the first time showed the photos on a screen. All the photos were shown in a Power Point display in the library as well as in our display case. Many people stopped by to view the photos while on display. To the right is a photo of some of our winners.



*Wildcat Days:* This year our volunteers were sporting new aprons, donated by board member Mandy McGregor, while making the always popular cotton candy. In addition to selling cotton candy, we also held a silent auction for two paintings donated by local artist William



Mortimer, had a bake sale table and sold refreshments. All of this fundraising kept our volunteers super busy. Photo shows Student Volunteers Courtney Regier, Bailey Hubbard and board member Pat Ross-Nelson.

## Gingerbread House Contest:

This was the first year that the library held this contest. Even though we didn't have a lot of entries this year, they filled the library with a wonderful aroma! We hope that next year will see more

people showing us their baking skills.

Winners Carmen & Claire Strachan

and Gracelyn Bickford.



## Quick Stats

- Last year Elkford library staff handled over 1100 interlibrary loans. We now have Kootenay Connect which makes ordering interlibrary loans as simple as putting a book on hold. The new system has created an increase of 47% of books lent out to other libraries over last year.
- We had a 15% increase in the number of registered children over last year and a 9% increase of registered adults
- Our eBook and eAudio book lending has more than doubled since 2012. Yes, there is a place to go to download free eBooks. Contact the Elkford Public Library to find out how.
- Staff saw an increase in the use of the Wifi services. This is likely due to the increased broadband speed from updating our service.

Kay Bottolfson and the bears celebrate the library.



## Thank you to our financial contributors!

District of Elkford  
Province of British Columbia  
Regional District of East Kootenay  
Elkford Lions Club

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

Kootenay Library Federation  
BC Libraries Cooperative Staff  
Libraries Branch Staff  
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy  
Elkford Early Childhood Development Committee

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

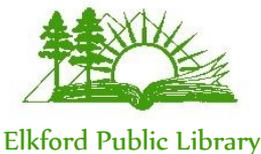
We'd also like to thank all the businesses that supported our Photo Contest and the Elkford Focus. Special thanks to all the Summer Reading Club volunteers.



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!

Summer Reading Club at Lions Campground



Elkford Public Library

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