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

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Elkford Chamber of Commerce
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Elkford SYS.tem Youth Network
BC Association of Community Response Networks

**Thank You
to our wonderful student volunteers!**

Your enthusiasm and dedication is invaluable.

**And last, but not least,
Thank You
to all of our patrons!**

We're here to help in any way that we can!



Elkford Public Library

Elkford Public Library

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**Elkford Public Library
2020 Annual Report**



Board of Directors

Colleen Murphy, Chair
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Shawna Klein, Trustee
Dallys Kmiecik, Trustee
Jordan James, Trustee
Nancy Buchan, Trustee

Staff

Alexandra Faucher, Library Director
Jeanette Fairbairn, Library Clerk
Paula Nyuli, Library Clerk
Diane Andrews, Casual Clerk

Elkford Public Library

Our Vision: To advocate for the community in the development, enhancement, promotion and provision of recreational and educational library service.

Our Mission: To be an integral part of the community by meeting the needs of patrons and to develop and expand the library's tangible, virtual and technological resources.



Elkford residents learn how to use bear spray in WildSafeBC's workshop.



Outdoor activities during Summer Reading Club.

Fostering Connected Communities

Online Resources: To address increases in demand, the Elkford Public Library started an OverDrive Advantage collection which brought more ebooks and eaudiobooks to our patrons and reduced wait times on OverDrive holds. Our electronic lending rate in 2020 was the highest to date. We also subscribed to the Tumble Book Library, an electronic collection of story books, read-alongs, puzzles, and games with almost 1,500 titles. Gale Courses were popular this year, with over 2000 in-class hours collectively logged by patrons.

Internet Upgrades: Elkford residents now have access to high-speed internet 24/7 thanks to our new outdoor Wi-Fi access point. The number of clients connecting to our Wi-Fi in 2020 more than doubled compared to 2019.

New Loanable Technology: The Elkford Public Library began a collection of loanable technology that patrons can borrow, take home, and try out. The collection currently includes iPads, Kobo e-readers, and a Victor Stratus 12 talking book player. We are planning on adding laptops to this collection in 2021.

Working Together

Striving for Poverty Reduction: The Library supported patrons by providing access to as many services as possible through the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer free high-speed internet, public computers, printing, scanning, and faxing, and our staff are always happy to assist patrons. Patrons can use the library to apply for government services, including COVID-19-related benefits.

Gatekeeper Program: We partnered with the BC Association of Community Response Networks to deliver the Gatekeeper Program to Elkford residents. This program teaches how to identify isolated and at-risk individuals and how to recognize signs of abuse and neglect in older adults, as well as how to support them.

No More Overdue Fines: The Elkford Public Library waived all overdue fines from March 2020 until the end of 2021. Patrons with existing overdue fines can have those removed as well!

Building Capacity

Programming: Popular early literacy programs such as Tales for Tots story times continued in 2020. Small groups of children attended in-person activities when COVID-19 restrictions allowed. Many of our programs including Summer Reading Club moved online. The Elkford Public Library also teamed up with other libraries in the Kootenays to offer online book clubs and creative writing classes to kids and teens.

Resources for Jobseekers: The Library continued to host Kootenay Employment Services through 2020. KES helps connect jobseekers with employers and aids patrons with resume writing. Staff also help patrons with all aspects of job seeking, including resumes, applications, and accessing online training.

Professional Development: Elkford Public Library staff took advantage of time during pandemic closures, attending several courses and other professional development opportunities.

Take & Make Kits: The Library provided "take & make" craft kits for kids to take home throughout the summer. Kids and teens also enjoyed free copies of the bestselling phenomenon *Wreck this Journal* by Keri Smith, which were distributed during Library Month.

Sustaining Our Success

The year was challenging, but Library staff worked above and beyond to help patrons access materials and services. The Library welcomed a new director, Alex Faucher, and said goodbye to Sandra Takenaka, our former director and senior employee. In light of changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elkford Public Library staff and Board are reviewing our Strategic Plan.