

# **PROVINCIAL LIBRARY GRANTS REPORT 2019**

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## ***Granisle Public Library***

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Granisle Public Library serves the small community of Granisle and its surrounding area. As a community we face many challenges due to our location which is definitely rural/remote, as well as demographics and available community services. This report will address the needs of our community and how our library plays a vital role to the community by providing a wide range of services that meet the needs of our residents, young and old.

Granisle is located on the shores of Babine Lake, British Columbia's longest natural lake measuring over 177km long. Isolated by a paved 49 km drive up Highway 118 off Hwy 16 at Topley, our nearest neighboring communities are Houston (88Km) to the west and Burns Lake (98km) to the east. Community members must access necessary services such as medical, dental, groceries, entertainment and shopping outside of the Granisle community in neighboring towns.

Granisle was once a thriving mining town with a population of 2000+ residents with all the necessary services to sustain the local population. Granisle began as a mine-owned community in 1966. Rich with resources there were two operating copper mines in the area from 1966 to the early 1980's when one of the mines closed. This closure saw residents relocating for work but the final blow to the community came with the closure of the second mine in 1992. The community was then faced with the dilemma of how to sustain itself and its residents as Granisle saw most residents relocating, as well as the closure of businesses and services. The town now successfully promotes itself as a retirement community, located in some of the most pristine conditions nature has to offer. The area is an outdoorsman's dream.

Currently the Lakeside Village of Granisle has a population of 350 residents with 67% of that total being retired seniors. Our service area also encompasses approximately 250 people living along Hwy 118 within 12Km of our Village, including Topley Landing, and Tachet Reserve.

Our local economy is now based mainly on tourism with very little in the way of an industrial tax base. Granisle's school teaches K-12 educating 36 students this year, we offer a gas station which provides some convenience items, a medical clinic with limited services, a small tele pharmacy with limited supplies, ambulance services, community paramedic, an RCMP office which Houston uses to police our community. As an age friendly community, the Better at Home program is an important program in our community. Providing help at home for seniors so that they may remain a vital part of our community, the program successfully applied for a grant through Transit BC. A small bus now offers weekly trips outside the community to our neighboring towns for residents. We also have a community church, post office, municipal office, tourist information, Granisle Public library, an unused arena (used to store boats/rvs in winter), community hall, senior's hall, marina, and a small restaurant.

The community supports local clubs such as an active senior's centre, Lions Club, Volunteer Fire Department, and local dart clubs.

For the visiting tourist Topley Landing has two businesses offering popular RV sites and cabins. Tachet Reserve has a gas and convenience store as well as a campground. Along the highway just a few kilometers outside our community the Lions Club operates a summer RV camp site as does the Province with Red Bluff Provincial Park. The Federal Department of Fisheries And oceans operates the Fulton River Spawning Channels 9km from our community. The channels were constructed to produce additional sockeye fry that can take advantage of the rearing potential of Babine Lake. The original spawning channel (Channel 1) was built in 1965 and a second channel (Channel 2, which at five kilometers long is one of the largest in the world), was built in 1971. This is an important facility in the local community, often used by schools from neighboring communities and the general public for nature walks and educational purposes, receiving more than 2000 visitors annually.

The Granisle Public Library was incorporated in 1974 as a result of many volunteer hours, donations and provincial grants. With its humble beginnings in a trailer and relying greatly on the 1,000-book travelling library, we have grown to our shared building space with the Municipal Office, and a collection of over 13,000 items, computerization, and province-wide services.

Granisle has a virtually non-existent industrial tax base since the closure of the mines which makes providing municipal programming services to local residents a struggle. The Granisle Public Library is one of few places in our community where we can offer programming locally or promote relevant programs that meet the needs of the community.

Our patrons enjoy our library and it's many available services....from finding that new release they've been waiting for, to purchasing a used book or magazine for that upcoming trip. They enjoy sitting with a coffee and reading the available newspapers, and magazines, or simply researching information and genealogy on our public access computers. Using smart devices on our WIFI is a popular service with the tourists but it is also becoming more popular with our local seniors now that we provide a digital help service. We are a hub in our community for these services as well as our central location in the Village Square close to the municipal office, post office and restaurant.

As a new director in 2019 the challenge was to continue with the amazing programs already in place but build on that and draw more of the young residents to participate in library programming by adding new relevant programs.

**Strategic Plan:** Our current Strategic plan has now expired. We will begin work on the new strategic plan in March of 2020 as well as updating our current policies.

At the Granisle Public Library our vision is to promote and maintain an active presence in our community, encourage literacy programs and promote a lifelong love of learning.

## **1. Improving Access**

The Granisle Public Library strongly feels that in order to stay current and relevant it's important to foster connections both within the community and with other libraries throughout the province. As such, we expand the materials beyond our library walls by participating in the InterLibrary Loan, InterLibrary Connect, and BCOne Card Programs offered in British Columbia.

By participating in these programs, we provide efficient delivery and/or return of items requested by our patrons while assisting provincially by lending to other libraries. Many of our patrons now make use of their BC One card while visiting other communities or vacationing throughout the province and appreciate that they can return the book upon their return home. We strive to educate our patrons on the connectivity of libraries throughout the province both physically and digitally. Helping our patrons with their digital devices has added residents ordering books through the interlibrary connect service as well as downloading digital and audio books.

In 2019 The Granisle Library Board of Directors decided to improve access and lower barriers to encourage learning. The initiative included making our library fine free and removing fees for computer use. A welcome initiative for those on limited incomes in the community. The Board also proposed to restructure some of our later evening hours to an earlier allocation to entice students and businesses to use our services as they ended their days. These actions were well received by our patrons, and we saw an increase in patronage statistics, computer usage, as well as books returning that were months overdue.

## **2. Developing Skills**

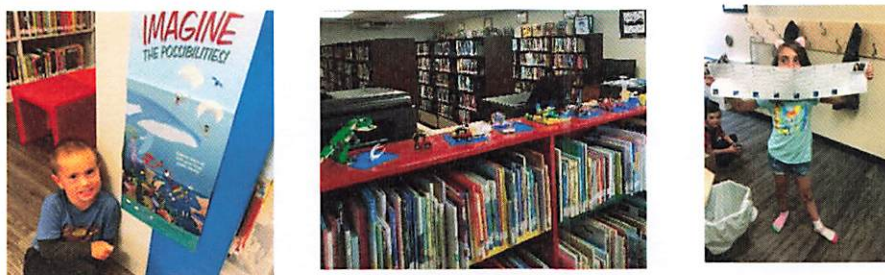
We continue to encourage the young minds of our community through our summer reading program, by gifting books to each student at their yearend ceremonies where we also promote our summer reading club. Our 2019 Summer Reading Program enrolled 19 young readers who visited the library to report reading 226 books, a record for our little library.

Our new Lego Club encourages the minds of our young patrons as well as promotes literacy as they read the how-to instructions to build their next amazing project. Children love dropping by after school and spending a little time with the Lego and often leave with a book. When this program started there were children who couldn't follow the directions and are now comfortable finishing their projects.

"Art in the Park" was a new initiative that we tried by setting up in the park near the tourism centre on Saturday mornings. We offered different art projects every Saturday to young and old while promoting our Library to locals, campers and tourists. Many of the campers and tourists were unaware they could use their BC library card at our Library, a welcome revelation with the rainy days we had last year. Storytime for Tots, Crafter-noons, Jurassic week, were also new additions to our programming in 2019.

Summer Programming was geared towards patrons both local and visiting tourists. We promoted at the local campgrounds and offered events in our local park, teaching new skills and promoting our library we drew many new patrons into our library. North Central Library Federation kicked off our Summer programs with Magician Leif David visiting our community. This fun event drew some 70 people who enjoyed the interactive show presented and the treats that followed.

The Granisle Public Library started an Adult Book Club in 2019 and we look forward to continuing this pursuit in 2020. The Library joined the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library putting free books into the hands of parents for children under 5 on a monthly basis.



### **3/4. Collaborating on Shared Goals / Enhancing Governance**

The Granisle Public Library presents relevant programming within the community for locals and visitors. In doing so we work with other libraries, the North Central Library Federation, Court House Libraries, our local school, health centre, tourist centre, municipality, regional district and various groups and individuals within the community. We work with other communities to present workshops, author readings, and children's programs that are relevant, fresh and fun for all while continuing to promote a lifelong love of learning.

2019 saw the introduction of several new programs in the library that would not be possible if not for the grants and support we receive from the Province, Municipality and Regional District. As well as the dedication of fundraising by Board Members, Staff and local groups. In large part due to this support we were able to offer a variety of new programming in 2019.

Granisle Public Library offers Wi-Fi access thanks to our Municipal provider and free public access computers. This service continues to be well used by locals and makes us a hub for visiting tourists in the summer months. Wi-Fi is left on 24/7 as visitors to the community use this service from the parking lot throughout the year to stay connected to home. Our computers are kept up to date thanks to funding from the Regional District, Fundraising and our amazing IT person.

The North Central Library Federation played a large part in our 2019 success. They support many of the programs offered as well as provided a Mentoring workshop for new directors which helped point us in the right direction as this was my first year in the Director position.

Working with the North Central Library Federation offers us access to data base programs that are needed and used but wouldn't be possible to squeeze into our budget. Our residents enjoy accessing the Ancestry Program at the Library and Gale courses online as well as digital media many patrons are now learning to access. It is through the NCLF that we also offer Books for babies putting books into young hands.

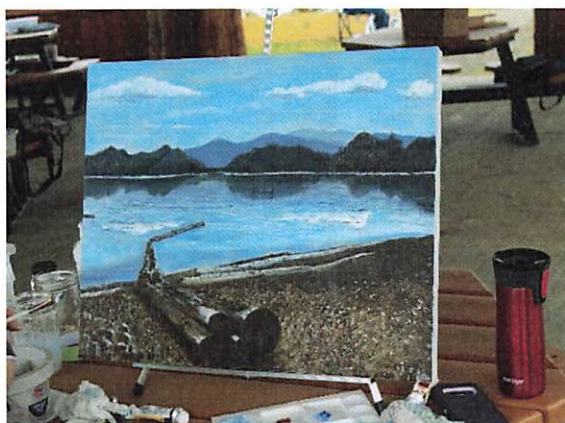
NCLF also supports our summer reading program. They sponsored magician Leif David who came to our community to kick off the SRC program and it was an "Event" that set the tone for several other events we held throughout the summer enticing locals and tourists our way. We hosted Leif at our local park on a Saturday morning with 70 attendees signing our guest book from Mackenzie to Prince Rupert...we even had an attendee from Mexico! The interactive show brought laughter to our community and was



enjoyed by all. Summer treats of ice cream (donated by an Ice Cream shop in Houston) and watermelon were served afterwards much to the children's excitement.



In 2019 We collaborated with College of New Caledonia (Burns Lake), Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Lakeside Village of Granisle, Granisle Tourism, Granisle Seniors, with visiting Artist Rene Jaspers and offered a Paint the Lake workshop; The Artists who signed up to partake in this learning course were both locals and new visitors to our community. This weekend workshop kicked off with a Open House gathering for these gifted artists to start off this fun and inspirational weekend.



### **Summary**

Small communities often find their resources stretched thin, whether it's the volunteers who are in several groups, the limited venues to hold events as well as the associated costs. The Granisle Public Library believes that collaborations with other groups helps to ease some of the limitations imposed by living in a small community.

Partnerships with many of the groups mentioned have enhanced our Library and the programming we have been able to offer. As a result of our collaborations and new programming in 2019 The Granisle Public Library was able to double our patronage count and raise our statistics in all areas. We could not have done it without the support of so many who made a difference. We look forward to building on our success in 2020 while remembering that there is strength when we build together and what we have to offer is so much richer for it.