

## Beaver Valley Public Library 2019 Provincial Grant Report

The Beaver Valley Public Library is a hub of free literacy based programming/services for the people of our communities and this has come more to the forefront especially in light of many of the local services centralizing to the nearby city of Trail. Whether it is literacy based programming for babies, children, young adults or help for seniors, job seekers or those in need of computer help for government forms, etc. we strive to meet the needs of our community members.

### **The Beaver Valley:**

The Beaver Valley Public Library serves the communities of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A; library service population was 4876 (according to the BC Statistics website and the Regional District Area A page) in 2018. The challenges faced by the Beaver Valley Public Library and our communities are as stated before the loss of many services from our communities to the city of Trail; in addition, the lack of a local newspaper also makes communication of services, programming and what resources are available for residents of our communities.

### **Summary of Goals and Objectives:**

- To increase awareness of the library, its services and community collaboration
  - To strengthen partnerships within and outside our community
  - To increase coverage of library events and services in local/regional media, with Villages and Regional District Area A
- Strengthen core library services
  - To ensure collection is up-to-date and meeting needs of library users
  - To enhance technology based services
  - to enhance services to seniors
  - To enhance services for youth
  - To continue to improve service and meet the needs of library users
- To make the library a more welcoming facility
  - To provide comfortable public spaces both inside and outside the library building
- To promote a strong Board for good governance
  - To provide and sustain a strong Board to promote good, strong governance

## **Provincial Priorities**

In 2019 the Province focused on the following priorities:

- Improving access
- Developing skills
- Collaborating on shared goals
- Enhancing governance

We have done our best to match our activities/events/programs with provincial priorities, while developing our Strategic Plan to meet the priorities of the province and the needs/priorities of the communities we serve.

## **Provincial Priority 1:**

### **Improving Access:**

- This strategy focuses on enhancing equitable public access to all types of information and tools.

### **Strategic Goal: To strengthen core library services**

#### **Objectives:**

- To enhance technology based services, specifically continue with and to enhance online based downloadable resources.
- To enhance services to our communities; including staff, regular library users, seniors and youth.

This goal is in progress.

### **Strategic Goal: To increase awareness of the library, its services and community collaboration**

#### **Objectives:**

- To strengthen partnerships within and outside our community
- To increase coverage of library events and services in local/regional media, with Villages and Regional District Area A

These goals are in progress.

### **Programs that support Priority 1 and Outcomes/Outputs:**

## **1) BEAVER VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY AT MOUNTAINSIDE SENIORS FACILITY AND BEAVER VALLEY MANOR:**

The Beaver Valley Public Library has started taking library materials to both senior's facilities in our communities. \*\*

### **About BVPL Mobile Library:**

On alternating Mondays a librarian attends the facilities with an assortment of materials (eg books, magazines, DVDs) for loan; in addition, we provide residents with Beaver Valley Public Library cards, if they aren't already library members.

As this program (which began as a pilot project, to gauge community interest) develops and grows, we are finding that residents of both homes are making requests for certain materials and we are facilitating Inter Library loans (ILLS) for materials that are not in our collection. Residents are made aware that they can contact the library to make requests and that when the items arrive they will be delivered to the facility for them; pick-ups are done on the designated Monday. Residents may call at any time between visit for both drop-off and pick-ups.

### **Beaver Valley Public Library and Mobile Library Outcomes and Outputs:**

#### **Outcomes:**

- The library connects with seniors in our communities that are not able to attend the library.
- The library is able to connect with people in our communities that may not have access to social media or the library website to see what services are available to them.
- The library is able to forge connections with those seniors who may be isolated and have no family in the area.
- The library is able to work in partnership with the senior's facilities to provide a higher quality of life and services to those who are residents.

#### **Outputs:**

- Of 11 residents using the mobile library at Mountainside Village, eight (8) are new cardholders.
- 65 items including books and DVDs circulated in 2019\*\*
- of five (5) residents using the mobile library at the Beaver Valley Manor, all are new cardholders.
- 60 items (books only) circulated in 2019.\*\*

### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and RDKB Area A  
Mountainside Village, Fruitvale, BC  
Beaver Valley Manor  
Theresa Buchner-COSCO Health and Wellness Institute

\*\* Due to a changeover in staffing, this program only ran for a portion of 2019; we anticipate increased participation in 2020.

Marie Onyett, Library Director, Beaver Valley Public Library  
February, 2020

## **2) MOTHER MOOSE:**

The Beaver Valley Public Library is committed to providing access to FREE literacy to parents/guardians and children from birth to age 3yrs.

### **About Mother Moose:**

In a community that has lost many resources to centralization in the larger neighboring community, it has become important to provide services for parents/guardians and children within their own communities. Mother Moose is comprised of songs, stories, felt board, rhymes and snacks and is run year round, as most other programs for young children are discontinued during the summer months. We previously supported another literacy program for parents of young children but this program is no longer available in our community, so we opted to develop and host this program at the library.

### **Beaver Valley Public Library and Mother Moose Outcomes/Outputs:**

#### **Outcomes:**

- The library becomes a familiar and comfortable place for parents and children.
- The library has become a place for new parents to meet other parents and children.
- The library facilitates open sharing and a comradery between both parents and children.
- The library provides a place for fun literacy based programming in our communities and many parents are able to walk to the library.
- the library supports the attendance of children and parents from all backgrounds, socio-economic situations and also supports attendance of children who are differently abled.

#### **Outputs:**

-2019 saw 294 parent and child visits over several 9 week sessions. Again, this was later starting due to staffing changeovers; we anticipate higher attendance in 2020.

#### **Partnerships:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area A

### **FUTURE PLANNING FOR PRIORITY 1 FOR 2020:**

#### **HOME BOUND SERVICES:**

The Beaver Valley Public Library is committed to delivery and pick-up of library materials for those that are not able to attend the library and are living in their own homes.

### **About home bound services:**

The library has always provided services to those who are not able to leave their home to attend the library for any reason (ie stroke, chronic illness, inability to drive, etc); during 2019 it came to our attention that many people were not aware of this service. It came to our attention when a senior in our community had a very overdue book and upon finally making phone contact with this resident, we learned that she no longer had a way to get to the library and was too embarrassed to tell anyone, so just avoided our calls. We were happy to let her know that we would be happy to pick-up her overdue materials and also to supply her with new titles to read; this continued even when she went into hospital and only stopped when she was placed in a care facility outside of our communities.

We are working on more comprehensive system for advertising, in an area with no local newspaper; in addition, to more advertising we are also trying to ensure that those taking advantage of this program are those who really not able to attend the library.

### **Beaver Valley Public Library and Homebound services potential Outcomes/Outputs:**

#### **Potential Outcomes:**

- The library is able to connect with those residents who are confined to home and not able to get out to participate in the community.
- The library is able to make connections with those residents who are most vulnerable and isolated.
- The library is able to provide excellent service and access to library materials to homebound residents.

#### **Outputs:**

- To be provided in 2020 report.

#### **POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District  
Age Friendly Beaver Valley  
Theresa Buchner-COSCO Health and Wellness Institute

## **Provincial Priority 2:**

### **Developing skills:**

To develop programming to enhance skills for both members of the public and also for staff.

**Strategic Goal: To increase awareness of the library, its services and community collaborations**

#### **Objectives:**

- To strengthen partnerships within and outside of our communities.
- continue strong partnerships with community partners

**Strategic Goal: To strengthen core library services**

#### **Objectives:**

- to enhance technology based services
- to enhance services to seniors

Marie Onyett, Library Director, Beaver Valley Public Library  
February, 2020

**Strategic Goal: Improve service and meet needs of library users****Objectives:**

--Seek out and promote training opportunities for staff

These goals are in progress.

**Programs that support Priority 2 and Outcomes/outputs:****DROP IN TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE:**

For the past couple of years there has been no access to computer/technology (ie smart phones, tablets, e-readers) help in the communities served by the Beaver Valley Public Library and after being approached on a number of occasions about where community members could go for help, it was decided that we would host drop-in sessions on Sundays, from November-March.

**About drop-in Technology Assistance:**

As the header indicates, this is an opportunity for members of the public to drop-in to the library for assistance with any technology related questions/problems/issues. These sessions have been well received in our communities, especially since many people do not want to have to drive into the nearby larger community in the winter with snowy roads and also lower light. To date we have helped with a wide variety of different questions/issues, including but not limited to: setting up web based email account, transferring pictures to laptop and then to specific folders, using OverDrive and the Libby App and basic word processing. Please note that the library staff is always available to help with technology related questions/issues; this drop-in is a more focused one-on-one tutoring type of situation.

**Beaver Valley Public Library and Drop-in Technology Assistance Outcomes/Outputs:****Outcomes:**

- Library is able to plan, promote and facilitate development of technology skills in our communities
- Library connects with local residents to provide assistance and also this facilitates word of mouth advertising
- Library partners with other community members to promote and advertise these sessions
- Library provides space and opportunities to community members (mostly seniors) to develop skills without leaving their communities.

**Outputs:**

This was a pilot project and while we had help and support in advertising these sessions they did start slowly with 10 people participating in the sessions in November and December; the sessions continue until the end of March, 2020. As a need has been demonstrated, we will be continuing to have a set drop-in time on Tuesdays from 1-3pm for the rest of the calendar year.

**PARTNERSHIPS:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area "A"  
Skills Centre, Trail, BC  
Theresa Buchner-COSCO Health and Wellness Institute  
BV Age Friendly

**Future Planning for 2020:****Staff Training/Attendance at Kootenay Library Federation Conference in Fall 2020:****About Kootenay Library Federation Conference attendance:**

After a few years of not hosting a "local" federation conference for the East and West Kootenays another is planned for the fall of 2020, in conjunction with the KLF library directors and Board meetings. Having access to a more local, face-to-face professional development opportunity is a very economical way to allow all staff to attend Pro-D sessions. To this end we will be replacing/training a new casual staff member (our other one is leaving at the end of March) to cover shifts so that all regular staff may attend. Pro-D for Library Directors is often more readily available and so this opportunity for regular staff to attend a training and networking event is very valuable.

**PROPOSED PARTNERSHIPS:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area A  
Kootenay Library Federation

**Provincial Priority 3:****Collaborating on shared goals**

-This strategy calls for nurturing partnerships to meet shared objectives.

**Strategic Goal: To increase awareness of the library, its services and community collaborations****Objectives:**

- to strengthen partnerships within and outside our community
- continue strong partnership with community partners
- participate actively in the Kootenay Library federation

**Strategic Goal: To strengthen core library services****Objectives:**

- to enhance technology based services
- enhance services to youth

These goals are in progress.

Marie Onyett, Library Director, Beaver Valley Public Library  
February, 2020



## **Programs that support Priority 3 and Outcomes/Outputs:**

### **1) STEAM PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH:**

We are fortunate to have a new principal at our local elementary school that is willing and happy to partner with us to bring specialized STEAM programming to the students at Fruitvale Elementary School.

#### **About STEAM programming for youth:**

In 2019, the Kootenay Library Federation Director was approached by Science World in Vancouver, to gauge interest in having the Kootenay libraries participate in their STEAM outreach program. The outreach program was circulation of STEAM kits that were focused to different age groups; the box we got was for students in Grades 1 and 2. We connected with the Teacher/Librarian (she is also the technology teacher for the school) to see if she would be interested in partnering with us to bring a new STEAM experience to her students and she was very interested. Our children's librarian accompanied the STEAM kit and assisted the teacher/ librarian in supervising and assisting the attending children in their explorations. In addition, we were happy to host the local teacher/librarian for a very well attended STEAM session as part of Summer Reading Club.

#### **Beaver Valley Public Library and STEAM programming for youth Outcomes/Outputs:**

##### **Outcomes:**

- The library made connections with the students who may not already attend the library
- The BVPL librarian was able to gather new knowledge working together with the teacher/librarian
- The Teacher/Librarian was able to try out new STEAM equipment that she then went on to purchase for the school
- The children who attended the STEAM session at Summer Reading Club were very happy and excited to see their teacher/librarian at the library and that makes a very good connection between the library and the school.

##### **Outputs:**

Four classes of Grade 1 and 2 were able to participate in this collaboration; 130 children and adults participated.

The Summer Reading Club STEAM session was attended by children from our local summer parks program, as well as students that registered with the library; a total of 40 children attended this session.

## **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Science World

Kootenay Library Federation

Fruitvale Elementary School

Beaver Valley Recreation, Summer Parks Program



## **2) PUBLIC SHOWING OF CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY "FORGOTTEN":**

We were fortunate to partner with the Beaver Valley Pend d'Oreille Historical Society group and the Kootenay Columbia Teachers Heritage Society (KCTHS) group to present two (2) viewings of the Canadian documentary "Forgotten", which is about the British Home Children in Canada.

### **About the Canadian film "Forgotten":**

We were very happy to partner with both the local history group and also the KCTHS group to present this unique view of the history of British home children, Canadian history and how this all affected children and families in Canada. We had one (1) afternoon showing at the Library and hosted another session in the evening at the local senior's facility; both were very well attended. The showing at the library had the added benefit of a talk from a local woman whose family members were British home children. The showing at the senior's facility brought with it a sharing of personal stories and artifacts from residents who were actual home children.

### **Beaver Valley Public Library and Documentary showings Outcomes/Outputs:**

#### **Outcomes:**

- The library was able to bring people in to the library for this viewing that would not normally attend the library.
- The library and film attendees benefited from hearing a first person account of a local family that were British home children.
- The attendees at the showing at the senior's facility were able to view personal artifacts and hear stories from residents who were actually home children.
- The library made valuable contacts both in the community and at the senior's residence.

#### **Outputs:**

- The showings of the film were both very well attended; 21 people attended the library showing and 40 people attended the showing at the senior's residence.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area A  
Mountainside Village Senior's Residence  
Beaver Valley and Pend d'Oreille Historical Society  
Kootenay Columbia Teachers Heritage Society

#### **Other partnerships, 2019:**

- BC Libraries Coop
- ABCPLD
- Kootenay Library Federation
- BCLA

Marie Onyett, Library Director, Beaver Valley Public Library  
February, 2020

## **Provincial Priority 4:**

### **Enhancing Governance:**

Enhancing governance and demonstrating impact.

### **Strategic Goal:**

To promote a strong Board for good governance.

- Succession planning for trustees
- Board Recruitment
- Board orientation

This goal is in progress.

### **Programs that support Priority 4 and Outcomes/Outputs:**

#### **Membership in BC Library Trustee's Association:**

##### **About membership in BCLTA:**

The BVPL maintains a membership in the BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA) and as such is kept abreast of developments and the advocacy work taken by the BCLTA. In addition, the majority of the members of the Board have taken the Trustee Orientation Program (TOP) training; the information provided by BCLTA is crucial in the successful operation of both the board and library, with division of tasks (Whose job is it?) between the Board and the Library Director.

#### **Beaver Valley Public Library and BCLTA Outcomes/Outputs:**

##### **Outcomes:**

- The BVPL board is well informed and up to date on policy, training etc that is essential in the effective operation of both the Board and the library as a whole
- The accurate division of responsibilities between the library board and the library director ensure that everything runs smoothly.

##### **Outputs:**

The majority of the trustees have attended locally presented TOP training sessions; those that have not yet are scheduled to attend at the next opportunity.

#### **Kootenay Library Federation:**

##### **About membership in the KLF:**

Marie Onyett, Library Director, Beaver Valley Public Library  
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Having an active Kootenay Library Federation liaison on our Board has helped to cast good light on and bring to the forefront the responsibilities of library board members. Our current liaison is very active in her role with the KLF and in turn brings back pertinent information, requests for input, explanations of how the KLF works for the library and the Board and also any relevant training opportunities for Board members. It is very helpful to give trustees a view both inside and outside our library.

#### **Beaver Valley Public Library and KLF Outcomes/Outputs:**

##### **Outcomes:**

- The Beaver Valley Public Library Board of Directors is well informed on strategic directions, how the KLF works for the both the Library and the Board.
- The Board is kept abreast of relevant training opportunities that may be available to trustees

##### **Outputs:**

The Board of Directors of the BVPL are aware of the role of the KLF both inside and outside the library; in addition, our KLF rep to our library board encourages trustee to participate in adding input to the KLF policy , as well as strategic directions.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

Kootenay Library Federation  
BC Library Trustees Association  
Libraries and Literacy Branch, Ministry of Education

#### **Libraries in Action—Success stories from BC's Public Libraries:**

##### **Live History Theatre Company presentation:**

In 2019, we were very happy to organize and host a Live History traveling drama company presentation. The troupe of actors based in Eastern Canada puts on workshops and drama presentations based on local history as stated in this excerpt from their website:

<https://www.livehistoryshows.com/>

“Live History is a theatre company that specializes in bringing your local history to life. Our shows take audiences on a one hour adventure through time. Audiences will experience a full tour of the location while interacting with the characters, and assisting them in solving an urgent issue that can only be resolved with the audiences' help.

Our team works hard to research and customize each show, driving tourism up for each event and giving local residents the opportunity to see their own history return to life. It also provides an opportunity for local actors to be involved. Join us as we return to the past, and hear lost voices speak once again.”

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February, 2020

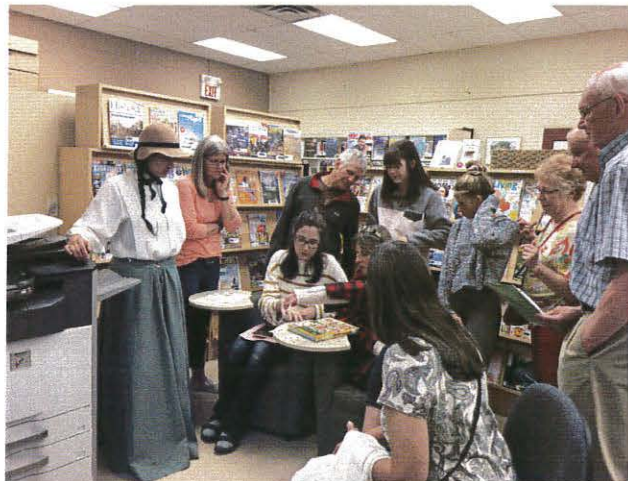
In addition to hosting a murder mystery evening at the library, we were happy to share the troupe with both the local elementary school and also the local high school. The troupe visited the local high school in the morning and presented an interactive "History Game Show" with questions/answers supplied by the history teachers at the school, the afternoon session was at the elementary school and was a drama workshop and finally the evening session hosted at the library was in an escape room format, where attendees solved the clues to help return a character from local history back to the past (local history facts/characters were supplied by the Library and also the local history group).

### **Outcomes:**

The presentations at the schools were both very well received and attended with a total of 190 students and teachers participating in the two (2) sessions.

The evening performance at the library had an attendance of 15 with the bonus of the evening being that one of our most elderly and longtime library users was able to solve the clues to send the character back to the time they'd come from. After she solved the clues she shared many personal stories involving the chosen character with the other participants and so we all had a very up close and personal look at local history in our area.

I am including a couple of photos from the library event, of some of the participants solving clues.





**Summary:**

As you can see by the above the Beaver Valley Public Library is committed to doing our best to align our activities with the shifting provincial priorities while still meeting the needs of the communities that we serve.

Opportunities to work with other community organizations to bring quality programming and support to members of our communities has been very encouraging, while the challenge, as always in our communities, is getting the information out to the target audience with no local newspaper. In addition, with the move to more online technologies another challenge for us in providing these services is lack of broadband or high speed Internet in the large number of rural areas served by the Beaver Valley Public Library.

**Thank you:**

The Beaver Valley Public Library Director, staff and trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the Libraries and Literacy Branch, Ministry of Education for its ongoing financial support, help, direction, support and guidance.