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

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:

Fostering connected communities: Advancing access to information and resources.
- This strategy focuses on enhancing equitable public access to all types of information and tools.
Fostering equitable access to information and services.

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

This goal is in progress.

Programs that support Priority 1 and Outcomes:

GALE COURSES:

The Beaver Valley Public Library has now begun our subscription to Gale Courses, which are available to all Beaver Valley Public Library cardholder. This database subscription is brokered via Kootenay Library Federation to ensure the best cost by including a number of libraries.
About Gale Courses:

Gale Courses includes college-level, professional development and personal enrichment courses. Hundreds of courses are accessible from anywhere online, 24-7. Beaver Valley Public Library cardholders can enroll in the course(s) of their choice and work on it anywhere they have Internet access. If Internet access is not available in-home the courses may be accessed via our Public Internet Computers. All courses are free to Beaver Valley Public Library cardholders. **

Beaver Valley Public Library and Gale Courses Outcomes:

We are currently in the process and getting advertising out to our communities via the local Village offices, Library Facebook page, library website and via the Skill Centre in Trail (for pro-d for clients looking to enter or re-enter the work force). We are participating in staff training sessions and staff is beginning taking courses to familiarize themselves with this database so they will be able to assist members of the public.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and RDKB Area A
Kootenay Library Federation
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Skills Centre—Trail, BC

***Please note that one of the main hindrances to moving forward with many digital resources in our area is lack of access to broadband Internet. Many library users in our service area do not have access to high speed Internet in their homes and consequently access to the online resources is limited to when they come to town to the library. This hampers us in achieving our goals of public access to these resources 24-7.***

Future planning for 2019:

LIBRARY MATERIALS DELIVERY TO LOCAL SENIOR’S FACILITIES:

Planning and investigation of costs and desirability of delivering library materials to the two (2) Senior’s facilities in our communities. We have had positive responses from both facilities and are now in meetings to determine which dates/days/rooms and also how frequent the visits should be.

PROPOSED PARTNERSHIPS:

Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and RDKB Area A
Mountainside Village, Fruitvale, BC
Beaver Valley Manor

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Provincial Priority 2:

Building Capacity: Enabling inspiration and innovation.
- This strategy focuses on fostering excellence and best practice: building capacity across all libraries to be inspirational, be leaders in practice and be responsive to their communities needs.

Developing Skills and knowledge.

Strategic Goal:
- Improve service and meet needs of library users
- Seek out and promote training opportunities for staff, volunteers and Board members.

This goal is in progress.

Programs that support Priority 2 and Outcomes:

SENIORS INFORMATION SESSIONS:

In 2018 we hosted the first two (2) sessions in our Seniors’ series; these were the pilot to see if this would be of interest to our communities. The first two (2) sessions were Personal Planning (The wisdom of having a personal plan is emphasized. Representation Agreements, Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives are needed to express your wishes regarding personal care, certain financial matters and end of life care if you are no longer able to speak for yourself.) and Seniors and Sleep (Many older adults find it difficult to get enough sleep and this workshop explores the reasons and remedies. Information about lifestyle changes that may help is provided); the sessions were presented by local rep of COSCO, Theresa Buchner and were attended by 16 people over the two (2) sessions. In addition to the materials provided by COSCO, the library creates a display of materials appropriate to the topic being presented and this has resulted in more materials circulation. Advertising of these sessions is done via the Library Facebook page, website, in-library and also via the Age Friendly Group in our area.

Beaver Valley Public Library and COSCO Seniors’ sessions outcomes:

Attendance and interest in these pilot sessions have warranted additional sessions being hosted throughout 2019; 16 people attended the first two sessions and requests were made by attendees for additional sessions. We are hosting these sessions monthly and are attracting members of our communities that do not regularly attend the library; we have given out a few new library cards to allow attendees to borrow materials that have been placed on display.

PARTNERSHIPS:
Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area “A”
COSCO Seniors’ Health and Wellness Institute
Theresa Buchner
BV Age Friendly

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Future Planning for 2019:

Live History Presentations:

We have booked the Live History Troupe for June of 2019, as they book their travel one (1) year in advance. We will be partnering with Fruitvale Elementary School and JL Crowe High School for shows; the troupe will do a drama presentation with students at the elementary school in the morning, at the high school in the afternoon and will present a local history mystery at the Library in the evening.

Here is a bit about the troupe from their website:

Our mission is to help your venue engage with the public in a new way.

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 live. It also provides an opportunity for local actors to be involved. Join us as we return to the past, and hear lost voices speak again.

PROPOSED PARTNERSHIPS:
Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District Area A
Fruitvale Elementary School
JL Crowe High School
Beaver Valley and Pend’Oreille Historical Society

Provincial Priority 3:

Working together: Creating lasting and sustainable partnerships
-This strategy calls for the nurturing of these partnerships, harnessing libraries’ ability to innovate and deliver services collaboratively.

Strategic Goal:

To strengthen partnerships within and outside our community

This goal is in progress.

Programs that support Priority 3 and Outcomes:

Be in the Beaver Valley:

The library attended a community service providers event at Haynes Park in Fruitvale, BC, on Saturday September 15, 2018. The whole park was full of a wide variety of different services providers, with each

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providing different activities; there was Tae Kwon Do demos, artists, musicians, realtors, food providers, youth programmers, etc. The library hosted a table and gave out information brochures outlining our offerings, programming, partners and also the Friends of the Library; in addition, we handed out Beaver Valley Library Book bags.

**Beaver Valley Public Library and BE in the BV outcomes:**

This is the first time this event has been held and the aim is for it to be a yearly presentation of all the Beaver Valley has to offer. It was a wonderful opportunity to put a face to the library in our communities, to connect with other service providers, new members of our communities (who didn’t know there was a library), new local politicians and to make connections with artists and musicians that could become part of our library programming in the future. In spite of light rain, this event was well attended and we will happily participate in 2019.

**PARTNERSHIPS:**

- Village of Fruitvale
- Village of Montrose
- Regional District Area A
- BV Dynamic Aging
- Hall Printing
- EZ Rock
- Over 40 other exhibitors

**OVERVIEW OF OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE/CREATE LASTING AND SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:**

**Participate in the Kootenay Library Federation:**

- consortial purchasing/prices
- joint programming
- federation -wide author tours
- shared publicity for Federation-wide events

**Outcomes:**

- reduced costs associated with library materials purchases mean our budget goes further
- joint programming/author tours means less time spent on organizing for each library
- shared publicity means each library is not reinventing the wheel every time there is a special event needing publicity

All these and more free the library staff up to pursue other activities to further library

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Participate in BC Libraries Coop:

- database subscriptions
- LibPress website
- Sitka Evergreen
- BC Interlibrary Connect
- Agent Online

Outcomes:
- participation in consortial purchasing ensures savings for all libraries, which in turn allows those monies to be spent elsewhere in support of literacy based initiatives

- LibPress and the WYSIWYG technologies allow additions, deletions and development of each library webpage to be handled by regular library staff. Technical support through BC Libraries Coop is outstanding and requests for assistance requests are handled in a timely manner.

- Being part of Sitka Evergreen has allowed us to participate in EDI ordering through our wholesaler, which allows our library users to place holds as soon as an item is placed on order. It has also given us the opportunity to participate in BC Interlibrary Connect, which has given our library users access to a wider selection of materials, with quick turnaround time on hold requests; in addition, it has empowered our users to place their own Inter Library Loan (ILL) requests from their home computers.

Providing Space for Community events:

- host Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) drop-in computer classes for Seniors
- host learn to knit/crochet classes with local business
- host drop in stitching group that formed after the “Learn to” classes
- host regular meetings for the local Beaver Valley Pend d’Oreille Historical Society meetings
- host CBAL parent/child Mother Goose

Outcomes:

- Hosting the drop-in classes for Seniors has allowed us to participate in helping our Senior residents with access to computer based resources and has given them an introduction to library staff and what we have to offer; we find that many Senior’s return to the library for help with additional questions, programs, etc.

- Hosting the stitching groups at the Library has resulted in many of the attendees getting Library cards and borrowing our materials; these are people who have never had a card here before.

- Hosting CBAL Mother Goose brings parents/caregivers with children ages birth – three (3) into the library; this helps the children become familiar and comfortable being in the library and gives us opportunity to promote our Pre-School Storytime to continue helping children feel comfortable at the library and to grow via free literacy based programming.

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PARTNERSHIPS:
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Villages of Fruitvale and Montrose and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area “A”
Age Friendly Beaver Valley
Kootenay Library Federation
BC Libraries Cooperative
Beaver Valley Pend d’Oreille Historical Society
Yarnia Craft Closet

Provincial Priority 4:

Sustaining our Success:
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:

BC Library Trustee’s Association:

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.

Outcomes:

A board that is well informed and up to date on policy, training etc is essential in the effective operation of both the Board and the library as a whole; additionally, knowing what the roles of the board and the library director are also ensures smooth running of both.
Kootenay Library Federation:

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 out library.

PARTNERSHIPS:

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

Libraries in Action—Success stories from BC’s Public Libraries:

Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic:

The Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic (BVAP) is not something that has just taken place in 2018 but has had a rich history in our communities. The Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic began as the “Teddy Bear Picnic” and was put on by our local Recreation group; when they no longer had staff to run this they asked the library (we’d participated and co-facilitated it with them) to take over organization and running of this community event. That was 12 years ago and under the capable supervision of our children’s librarians this event has moved from a small get together in the park where the children and parents sang songs and played games, to the community service providers showcase that it is now. Many of the services that used to be represented in our communities have now centralized to the nearest larger centre, Trail, BC. This event is an opportunity for children to come and have a fun activity filled time and parents to connect with service providers they may not know are available to them.

The BVAP is planned in a partnership with Beaver Valley Public Library, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and Beaver Valley Recreation with many community agencies that provide services to our target audience providing activities, handouts and other resources to the children and families attending.

The BVAP is a free community event for children ages birth to six (6) and their families, with the main focus being promoting community based services that support healthy, literate families in our communities.

We promote this event to local and area families, daycares, Strong Start and also include the Kindergarten classes from our local elementary school.

The event is held in the local arena (supplied rent free by BV Recreation, who also provides a free lunch for attendees) and attendance ranges from 150 to over 300 visitors.

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We are very proud to be part of this awesome community event and this is why I choose to highlight this event even though it is not just a 2018 event.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Include but are not limited to (varies year-to-year):

Village of Fruitvale, Village of Montrose, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Interior Health, Columbia Basin Alliance or Literacy, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Beaver Valley Recreation, Fortis, Talking Little Feet, Building Beautiful Babies, Friends of the Beaver Valley Public Library, Fruitvale Elementary, Fruitvale Strong Start Centre, as well as representatives from other local activity groups for children in our target age group.

I am attaching a copy of the 2018 event poster, which includes photos.

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 for its ongoing financial support, help, direction and guidance.

Beaver Valley Public Library
February, 2019
Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic

A fun FREE event for children & families!

Activities
Crafts
Games
Snacks

Monday June 11, 2018
10 am – 12:30 pm
Beaver Valley Arena