

**PROVINCIAL LIBRARY GRANTS REPORT 2018**

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## ***Granisle Public Library***

### **INTRODUCTION**

The beautiful Lakeside Village of Granisle is located on the shores of Babine Lake, British Columbia's longest natural lake measuring over 177km long. A rural remote community isolated by 49 kms of paved highway (Hwy.118) off Hwy 16 at Topley, our nearest neighboring communities are Houston (88Km) to the west and Burns Lake (98km) to the east. The Community we serve faces a variety of challenges from our location, demographics and available Community services. Community members must access the most basic necessary services such as medical, dental, groceries, shopping by travelling outside of Granisle to neighboring communities. This report will address some of the needs of the community and how our library plays a vital role in providing a wide range of services for all demographics.

Granisle was once a thriving mining town with a population of 2000+ residents with all the necessary services to sustain the local population at hand. 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 final blow to the community was with the closure of the second mine in 1992. The community was faced with the dilemma of how to sustain itself and its residents as Granisle saw the vast majority of its services leave with the relocating residents. With an exodus of people relocating and businesses closing the town repainted itself as a retirement community, located in some of the most pristine conditions nature has to offer it was 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 community also encompasses approximately 250 people that live along Hwy 118 within 12Km of our Village, including Topley Landing, and approximately 80 people who live on Tachet Reserve approximately 9 km from Granisle.

Our local economy is now based mainly on outdoor recreation and tourism. Granisle has a school which teaches K-12, a gas station which provides some convenience items, a medical clinic with limited services, ambulance services, community paramedic, an RCMP office which Houston uses to police our community. We also have a community church, post office, municipal office, tourist information, 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, Volunteer ESS 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 Department of Fisheries operates the Fulton River Fisheries 9km from our community which 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 and the general public for nature walks and educational purposes.. receiving more than 2000 visitors annually.

Granisle has no industrial tax base since the closure of the mines which makes providing services to local residents a struggle. Desire for more space for the library is something we have wished for many years as our physical space is limited. Through the support of our Municipal Office and various grants our Village has improved our facility dramatically. In 2016 the Municipality received a Federal Grant to expand the local biomass system to a number of municipal buildings as well as the local school and our library. Through another municipal grant our windows were upgraded and floors and ceiling insulated. We became more energy efficient with this cost-effective update. Through the 2017 Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant the Village reconfigured the library service space, provided us with wheel chair access, new sidewalk, front door, service counters and washroom facility. We are now an accessible space for all residents and visitors.

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 current shared building space with the Municipal Office, a collection of over 3,000 items, computerization, and province-wide services.

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 their 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 and ancestry database. 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 stated in our Strategic Plan, we continue to encourage the young minds of our community through our summer reading program, gifting books to each student at year end, class visits to the library and author visits for our school and community. Our vision is to promote and maintain an active presence in our community, encourage literacy programs, celebrate and promote local culture and promote a lifelong love of learning. We strive to stay current and relevant while providing a variety of resources and services for all of our community members and building and fostering relationships with other community groups.

## **1. Fostering Connected Communities**

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 increasing our loan statistics 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 from home. We strive to educate our patrons on the connectivity of libraries throughout the province both physically and digitally.

The Granisle Public Library presents relevant programming within the community for locals/tourists or visitors. In doing so we work with the local school, health centre, tourist centre, municipal office and various groups and individuals within the community to present workshops, author readings, and children's programs that are relevant, fresh and fun for all.

## **2. Building Capacity**

The Granisle Public Library provides Wi-Fi and public access computers and they continue to be well used by locals and make us a hub for visiting tourists in the summer months. Our Ancestry program is for in library use allowing our residents to enjoy an exciting new hobby and we get to share in the excitement when a patron discovers a hidden gem in their family tree.

Our new collection of puzzles for various skill levels continues to circulate nicely, especially during the long winter months with our seniors.

We continue to offer author readings, partnering with the Senior's Centre due to its accessibility and space. We have partnered with the school when presenting to the school either in a class for visual content and discussion or in the gym for demonstration and participation. We have partnered with the Municipality and held the demonstration and participation for the whole community in the park. We are excited with the new space the Municipality has offered this year with the grand opening of a community hall, and look forward to partnering with them this upcoming year with some community programming.

The Granisle Public Library promotes lifelong learning through workshops and author readings. We enjoy the authors that encourage reading and most especially those who inspire us to think outside our comfort zone and try something new. The Library ensures our shelves support the skills demonstrated by carrying the books or instructions to open new doors of learning to our patrons. Authors often have their books available for purchase at the time of the presentation, but having them available at the library for loan just ensures all have the opportunity to learn something new.

## **3. Working Together**

As a small isolated community you quickly learn that more is possible if you work together as a whole. In this regard we have amazing support from the Province and our Municipal Office and Regional District with funding. Our Municipal Office provides us with our space and broadband service which is continually being upgraded. The Regional District offers some funding towards upgrading the public access computers. Working with the Co-Op and our Federation we are able to offer services and subscriptions to our patrons which we could not achieve on our own.

The Granisle Public Library enjoys working and building relationships with the local school staff, students and Parents Advisory Committee supporting class visits, movie nights, author tours, facility use for courses and programming and now our new Lego Club.

The Granisle Seniors Centre is an active place in a community of predominately young seniors. They have an on-site pop-up-library which we support and contribute to. It is mutually beneficial in that they supply a space and we contribute to the seniors' reading pleasures, encouraging new patron visits to our library.

We partner with the Granisle Health Centre and the Tachet Health Centre with the Books for Babies programs as the library is not always aware of new family members. The Health Centres notify us of a new baby in the community and we deliver a gift bag to the Clinic to distribute to the family. The Granisle Health Centre also supports some of the new youth programming we are offering at the library.

Advertising space is available with the Municipal Office, Municipal Website, Health Centres and school. We advertise locally for author visits, courses, new books, services, hours, open house. This upcoming summer we hope to foster a connection with the local tourist centre and reach out to visiting tourist to participate in some of our summer programming.

#### **4. Sustaining Our Success**

Library services continue to evolve, we are always looking for fresh innovative ideas that will be of interest and support our community. We continue to reach out to local residents of all ages with our annual open house to welcome the holiday season. This year we built our audio-visual collection to include Lego and will kick off the new year with the start of our Lego Club. We anticipate it will be a success with our younger patron.

Our local school staff appreciate our literacy support at school year end by donating books to their students inspiring new inspirations and a love of reading. Staff assists in the choices so the books are just right for each student. The end results from this partnership...students are building their own personal libraries, learning from author visits and presentations and becoming familiar with library.

This upcoming year we are hoping to reach farther by fostering connection with local RCMP in the hopes that they can educate locals from bike safety to current scams being targeted towards seniors. We would like to reach visiting tourists at campgrounds and offer access to our programs and encourage use of the BC One Card. By building our on youth program services being offered in the library we hope to not only foster young minds but give the parents a place to sit, relax maybe read a book or magazine while their child participates.

We encourage patrons to think of this as “Your Library” – belonging to the community and we are open to suggestions for programming, authors, events. Our suggestion box is very visible for those that would prefer a “quieter voice.”

The Granisle Public Library, through our Staff, Board of Directors, and Volunteers maintain a high profile within the community by attending and/or participating in numerous community functions – whether sponsored by our Village, our school, or other community organization.

Our Goal is to continue improving and expanding our services to Granisle and area. The world we live in today indeed offers a “Library without Walls”. Change is always happening, services are always evolving...we help our patrons and through our InterLibrary Loan and BC One Card Services all British Columbians... by offering the means to exciting new worlds...with the wonderful gift of learning.