

Friends Of The Cranbrook Public Library

20 17th Avenue North - Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 3W8



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Message from the President

Don Ohs

Random thoughts...to be or not to be?

The Friends of the Cranbrook Public Library are entering a new year, with new projects and new energy. If Cranbrook is as fortunate as I hope it will be, we will also be entering a new public library building. This is the year, folks!

With a new building will hopefully come a new vision. While there may be a few who still think that a library is only for books, in reality that time is long past. Wouldn't it be nice if the City Council saw fit to declare it a "Library and Resource Centre?" For surely that is what our library has become - a regional resource center for all manner of things besides books and magazines.

Already the Chief Librarian has mounted a campaign to expand DVDs and electronic media subscriptions. This gives everyone in the Cranbrook region access to full text magazine articles from hundreds of titles. The DVDs provide access to a wider range of everything from travel material to talking books and the CD selection provides the same to the music media. The Hub, the new teen centre, provides a web site, audio system and computer graphics resources for all of Cranbrook's teen-age population.

I can remember a time, not to long ago, when it was predicted that computers would replace paper and books. Tain't so folks, it is not going to happen, at least within our lifetime. Have you ever tried to read a book displayed on a screen while sitting in your favorite lounge chair, or resting under a tree or on the beach? What the computer and other new technology can do is provide an unbelievable door to infinite knowledge and access to such a variety of resource sites that it boggles the mind. For the many people that don't have a computer, where better to access this technology than at their local library.

And there are other resource needs that the library would be poised to meet in a new facility. What about a space devoted to Seniors' resource needs? This might be an information desk staffed by volunteers that provide information and resources for everything from help in accessing the latest health care information on-line to the source of Representation Agreements and the impacts of that choice.

Another resource need in our expanded community is access to current disability information. Where does one go when one wants to explore the impacts of able losses, or of autism or any other human condition that we are being faced with in increasing numbers? One would think that a Library and Resource Centre developed to meet specified needs would expand the user group and the ability to service the changing needs of our local population.

So I look forward to a very exciting future loaded with opportunity and challenge. I do believe that the Friends of the Cranbrook Public Library will grow with the Library, and that an expanded mandate that squarely addresses the needs of our population will assist in achieving an expanded and modern facility.

Cranbrook
Community Library and
Resource Centre

What do you think? Let the Friends of the Library know your thoughts.

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Special Points of Interest

[Library Travelogue](#)

India from a very fresh point of view.

Cranbrook woman returns after 9 months in India in two separate visits.

See the back page for more on Sonya White's "India: Inside Out" being presented April 18 at the College—7:30 p.m.

A NEW CEILING FOR THE HUB

Athena Underhill, designer of The Hub concept, returned to her roots for more assistance with the total concept. Athena is a graduate of the Mount Baker arts programme so, when the project team wanted more youth involvement in The Hub, Athena phoned Visual Arts/Media Arts teacher Bonnie Hayes. An alliance was quickly formed with the Grade 12 Visual Arts/Media Arts class.

The assignment was to make the ceiling an integral part of the overall presentation in the new room of The Hub. The class toured the space, stating among other things “the space was different from what they expected.” Back in the studio Heidi Dilts (pictured centre) came up with a design based on Alice In Wonderland. In her design the characters come out of a swirling spiral that emanates from the teapot in the center of the ceiling space. Among others there is the Cheshire Cat, the White Rabbit, the Mock Turtle, the infamous Mad Hatter and, of course, Alice.

In keeping with the concept of The Hub, the ceiling art project is driven by the youth. Arts teacher Bonnie Hayes assists with the technical requirements and project support, but the overall project responsibility remains with the class. This convergence of youth ideas and energy and library space furthers the concept of the Cranbrook Public Library as a resource center, a place not just of books but also of ideas, actions and tangible resources.

So far the Mount Baker class has been extremely successful in utilizing the space and making their incredible design idea come to life. An interesting footnote to this part of the project is that, after consideration, the visual arts class chose to render the classic Alice characters rather than executing a more modern interpretation. This is another part of youth working for themselves to recreate the library as a center for youth interests and resources.



Three of the creative forces behind The Hub’s new ceiling look—from left:
Kirsten Arleder, Heidi Dilts and Amy Zier.

BOOK AND MAGAZINE SALE

We have just concluded the most successful magazine sale ever. It is fulfilling to be able to say that this follows on the most successful book sale ever. As with other things we do, The Friends of the Library anticipate eclipsing these results in fall 2005 and spring 2006.

How are we going to do this, you might ask? With your support, of course, would be the reply. The Friends are constantly open for business. If you have books or magazines that are weighing you down, if you have been seized with a compulsion to embrace the principles of feng shui and organize your space, if spring cleaning necessitates a purging of the library and living room shelves – we are ready. Just drop your magazines and books off at the Cranbrook Public Library, with a note saying they are designated for the annual sale. We will do the rest. Or call Marilyn Forbes at 489-6254 for more information or assistance with moving the materials out.

Be a friend to our community!
Join the Friends of the Library

FRIENDS AND ROTARY CLOCK TOWER SALES

The Sunrise Rotary Club is exploring the possibility of being at the Clock Tower this summer, at least some of the time, selling books collected for the Annual Book Sale. So all folks in the habit of stocking up on the best (and cheapest) reading material for the summer should plan on visiting. This is an extension of the Annual Book Sale, so Friends of the Library volunteers will be needed to staff the table along with a Rotary volunteer, if the project goes ahead.

The Friends are looking for volunteers who like sitting in the sun, sipping coffee, and talking to that strange group of individuals who are interested in reading (and buying) books. The plan is to target some of the busier Saturdays - say those around the Centennial celebration. So if you are a double latte vanilla wash soya substitute, love the sun, talk about Kafka kind of person, give Marilyn a call at 489-6254.

As stated above, this is an idea in development, so any input is appreciated. We are just looking to have some fun and make a little money for library development at the same time.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AT THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The annual Children's Festival is coming again in early May. The Friends of the Library in the past have hosted a reading tent for pre-schoolers at this celebration and, once again, we are looking for volunteers for the Friends' portion of the event.

Elaine Karras has volunteered to coordinate this year, taking over from Marilyn Forbes. Elaine will be looking for readers in ½ hour or 1-hour segments. The audience is basically pre-schoolers and their parents, and the more dramatic the reading is the more the reader captures their attention.

Elaine is also interested in any puppeteers who may be out there. Reading with the aid of puppets is a sure way to make the children at the Festival come in and participate in the readings. So aspiring dramatic readers and puppeteers are asked to volunteer either ½ or 1 hour reading segments between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This job takes someone who wants to work in a focused fashion for a very short period of time, and someone who enjoys hearing kids laugh as they discover the wonderful world of reading. Please contact Elaine at 426-6869 for more information. Come on members of the Friends; bring the joy and pleasure of reading to the next generation!!

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Coming Events

TRAVELOGUE – APRIL 18, 2005 at the COLLEGE

Inside Out: India, International Internships, and Collective Responsibility

An interactive slideshow and reading on travels and participation in India.

Glamour and Grit: One and the Same

“Alu, piaz, mutter, gobi...” Sounds of New Delhi vegetable merchants sing in my ears as I wander through the industrial aisles of Canadian supermarkets upon my return from five months in India. Bartering for beans and berries holds a certain appeal that fixed prices never will.

Come out for a diverse night of spoken word, slideshow, and song. Sonya White was on internship in New Delhi, India, from October, 2004 through to February, 2005 – join her as she considers the challenge and value of international participation. Find out more about social justice advocacy in India, learn the secrets to perfect (?!!!) curries, and consider the impact of change at the community level.

See you at our normal venue, the lecture theatre at the College of the Rockies. The date is Monday, April 18th and the time is 7:30 p.m. Entrance is by donation with all monies collected going to the Travel Literature collection at the Cranbrook Public Library.

Mail in or leave at the front desk of the Cranbrook Public Library

Become a Friend of the Library

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