

Volunteer Profile

by Rasma Bertz



Les Brost

Les Brost and I outwardly share a community, love of books and seemingly nothing else...until we got talking. Turns out we had two additional commonalities right off the bat - we both had a pleasurable experience building our own homes on Salt Spring!

We also both finished post-secondary education early, finding ourselves in the position of being 'too young' for the real world in the eyes of potential employers.

Self-described 'refugee from Alberta', Les is very easy to like and listen to. He has a depth of genuine care that shines in his interaction with folk, as well as a wonderful story telling ability. He also has a sense of discipline and awareness that indicate a great relationship with self. When I asked about his life - he replied: "*Life of no regrets. Some hard riding and harder knocks, all of which got me to where I am today.*"

He and his much-adored life partner, Barb, bought land on Salt Spring Island about ten years ago, visiting quarterly until 2010 when they sold up, moved from Edmonton, and started building their island home, which they moved into last July. Popular islander, Nairn Howe, was one of the draws to Salt Spring Island - Les was best friends with her older brothers, with the family ranches on either side of the Trans-Canada Highway. Nairn was a cherished and protected 'kid sister'.

Growing up, Les wanted to join the Navy; instead he entered Mount Royal College at age 15, and at 18 was working the streets of Calgary with a Diploma in Social Work, trying to help kids his own age. His dad, never one to bluff, made it clear he expected the heir apparent to help run the ranch, so Les soon found himself working with cattle, horses and machinery instead.

Les had the opportunity to reinvent himself in his 40s, gaining a golden trio of skills as politician, mediator and writer. He is a facilitator, personal coach and conflict management specialist. As a professional writer, Les worked as an editorial columnist for several publications and won two gold awards for Canada's best agricultural/rural column. He is currently working on a Mac Cloud-based book called 'Community Leaders' Survival Guide - new tools for new leaders', set to publish in 2013.

Les loves books and is currently reading history that reads like fiction with Erik Larson's "In the Garden of the Beast". He also loves to be with people who love books. As a library volunteer, Les loves being part of the Saturday morning desk

crew "working alongside some of the neatest people" - he also sits on the board of directors.

I asked Les for the name of someone who inspired him - he provided me with three: firstly, Barb for bringing out the best in him; secondly, Chief Joseph, late, great Chief of the Nez Perce people - a personal hero, gentle warrior, and diplomat whose lesson to us is in active pacifism; and thirdly, his role model, Dr Robert Gass of the Rockwood Leadership Institute, who gave Les the gifts of choice and trust.

Les' final interesting fact was that he wants his epitaph to read: '*He was not an innocent bystander!*' Wishing you decades ahead, less creaky knees and the knowledge that you have already proven your epitaph through the way you choose to live your life!

INTRODUCING...

Your new Library board members

Chair	Rita Archer
Vice Chair	Sandra DeAthe
Treasurer	Peter Sharpe
Long-term Planning Chair	Duncan Hepburn

Board Members:

Les Brost	Doug Robertson	Stanley Shapiro
Sally Rycroft	John Wakefield	Wayne McIntyre - CRD director



Excerpts from Rita Archer, Board Chair's Remarks AGM - March 29, 2012

"A new building will be a great advantage as we come to grips with the changing role of libraries in today's world, but it is both a responsibility and an opportunity. Libraries are facing a perfect storm of pressures: rapid technological development, increased user expectations for service, increased digital resources, changes in the publishing industry and global economic instability.

Our library's success in tackling these issues depends, in part at least, on our ability to engage islanders in finding new and better ways to deliver services. Like any other community based and taxpayer funded organization, a thriving library requires a real sense of ownership over the library itself, not just the services it provides.

In the next week or so, volunteers will be invited to complete a survey asking for their perspectives on collection and service priorities for the new building. This survey is an important step in engaging people in a future-oriented dialogue about the library and to strengthen community support for it."



Librarian's Report

by Brigitte Peter-Cherneff, Chief Librarian

While the weather may make us feel that spring may never emerge this year, we are seeing amazing advances to the new Library construction site at 129 McPhillips Ave. The coming months are sure to be exciting as the new library continues to take shape. If you haven't checked out the pictures of the progress of the construction on the library website www.saltspring.bclibrary.ca I encourage you to do so. Look for further updates on the Library construction project in the Driftwood.

A new and spacious library will provide opportunities to enhance our services in ways that were simply not possible in the old building. Many planning initiatives regarding the future operations of the new library are currently underway. The Board and librarians are putting together plans for the operations of the new building and giving consideration to all the new initiatives that will be possible with the additional space. Some of you will receive a survey in the next while which will ask your opinion on collection and service priorities for the new library. We would appreciate your participation in this important project!

Although the move to the new Library is still several months away, work on the logistics of the move will start shortly. With the last move being such a success we want to ensure we can repeat the process!

The Temporary Library continues to serve the community well, and the Library annex has proven to be a good venue for children's programs and other activities. Thank you all for putting up with our somewhat cramped quarters for these past few months – the new Library is just around the corner.

This and That

Thanks to the **Salt Spring Island Foundation** for their grant for new equipment for the library.

The new bookcarts make it easier to shelve books in the smaller temporary library, and children who come for StoryTime love the new rug in the Library Annex.

We look forward to moving them into the new library this Fall.



Have you been admiring the new patron keychain cards? As a special thanks to the volunteers, Rita Archer has suggested that any volunteer (who would like to) can switch their old card to this new style - at no charge.



Listen to the library radio show "Word on the Rock" to hear live interviews with local writers on Wednesdays, from 11:30 am - 12 at Salt Spring's radio station CFSI at 107.9 FM, or listen online at <http://www.cfsi-fm.com/>

Upcoming Schedule:

April 04	Kathy Page	In the Flesh: Twenty Writers Explore the Body
April 11	Mona Fertig	The Unsettled: New Poems
April 18	Victoria Mihalyi	Tribe of the Star Bear
April 25	Ralph Pred	Onflow: Dynamics of Consciousness & Experience



The new carpet for StoryTime was purchased through a grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation. Photo taken by Sean McIntyre of the Driftwood newspaper.



Kids Corner

by Sheila Spence

Spring into Nature was the theme for two programs for children 6 - 11 years at the Annex during the March school break. Once again the Library and the Salt Spring Conservancy teamed up to provide nature oriented Spring Break programs. Paul Burke hosted budding artists in a session of illustrated journaling. Gail Bryn-Jones presented a session on backyard birds and helped the children make bird feeders from recycled materials.

We are keeping the new Children's rug warm with regular Friday StoryTime programs for children 6 years and younger. StoryTime runs every Friday until mid June. Thanks to the Friday crews for steering children and their parents to the Annex. The theme for April is Rhyme Time, an opportunity for young children to hear and chant well known nursery rhymes and other children's poems. "Read a Book, Share a Story", a six-week celebration of favourite children's books, begins in May with Canadian Children's Book Week and continues until mid-June when the StoryTime volunteers take a summer break.

Over the next few weeks the Library, with the help of IslandLink Library Federation, will present three authors at Salt Spring schools. Dianna Bonder, author / illustrator visits Salt Spring Centre School and Fulford School in April. Julie Lawson will be coming in May to meet middle and upper elementary students. Norden the Magician was such a hit last year that he will return to some of our elementary schools in June to promote SSIPL's Summer Reading Club. This year each school on Salt Spring will be offered two visits from a guest author.

We have just received notice that the children's department will receive a \$1000 grant from the Times-Colonist Raise-A-Reader campaign for our project to renew and expand our collection of concept books (colors, counting, opposites ...) and predictable pattern books for pre-school and beginning readers. A brochure for parents will also be prepared to promote these books and provide guidance in develop early literacy skills.