

# Between the Lines

Salt Spring Island  
Public Library  
Volunteers Newsletter  
<http://saltspring.bclibrary.ca/>

Feb 2013

## Volunteer Profiles

by Rasma Bertz



### Blair Carley

Blair Carley is one of the people in our library who make you feel truly well-served and special. His generosity of spirit and cheer make him an asset to

the library and his community. Here's his story:

My wife (a Buick Rendezvous with two boys, three cats, a dog and a 12-foot trailer packed to an unsafe level) and I arrived five years ago, after Mary visited and the family fate was sealed. I tried to balance teaching in Ontario with family life on the wet coast for a few years, but finally conceded defeat.

Where did I come from? My teenage son asks me often. I was born at Etobicoke (or the ghetto, as my father-in-law calls it) but most recently from Huntsville near Algonquin Park. I earned a DVM between volleyball trips, then spent three years burning out in the reality of small veterinary practice. Career #2 of Professor deadended so Mary suggested combining my love of teaching and interest in coaching. Reality became teaching physics at a high school in Brantford, then a move to Huntsville High School - life for about twelve years.

Now I spend the fall coaching kids at the high school and I play – tennis, badminton, volleyball, bridge. I have a woodshop, which I built, and out of which occasionally comes a piece of furniture, although the predominant product of my efforts is sawdust. Of course, there's parenting, parenting, parenting!

I'm an oars-in-the-water sort of guy so volunteering is a priority. It may sound a little schmaltzy, but I really love learning and being with other people who are also learning. The library is a great place to connect, filled with really motivated learners with a broad range of questions and ideas. I have a regular Thursday morning desk shift with a great team, but I would say my "job" is whatever Brigitte, Karen, Glenys or the two Sheilas ask me to do.

I guess it's been 3-4 years with summers off in Ontario. Being part of the library is such a joy since it embodies so many of my values: co-operation, learning, respect and

service.

One person who inspires me...what, only one??!! Could I have an extra one? David Attenborough. He must be 200 years old, he travels to the most remote places in the world in a single outfit of pale blue shirt and khaki pants, shows no signs of slowing down at all, and maintains the most pure and genuine passion and childlike, infectious wonder for nature's spectacles, big and small. My bonus hero - Dr Seuss. No one else has summarized, in such simple but engaging language, the truly important lessons of the human experience.

Andrew Carnegie could have specifically written for us: *"There is not such a cradle of democracy on earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."*

Being witness to the construction and opening of the new library has been a singular pleasure. Watching so many members of a community come together to accomplish a common goal, each making his or her own unique contribution – it's the closest thing to a good old-fashioned barn raising I've ever had the fortune to participate in. Welcoming the community to the new library has been like playing host to a terrific street party.

## Children's Programs

by Sheila Spence



School visits began in mid January with Kindergarten and Grade 1/2 classes from Salt Spring Elementary School. I anticipate visits from other classes and regular visits every month to six weeks from at least one Kindergarten class.

On February 1 we celebrate our new library with the return of the popular StoryTime programs for pre-school and early grade children. Children's author and enthusiastic library supporter, Margriet Ruurs, will be our first presenter. Her stories, especially those about Emma the chicken, are very popular. Children attending the inaugural StoryTime in our new library will each receive a book by Margriet Ruurs. These books were provided to us at no cost from BC Public Library Services.

StoryTime continues on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. with a

*cont'd ...*



## *Librarian's Report*

by Brigitte Peter-Cherneff, Chief Librarian

The last two months have been an extraordinary blend of planning, anxiety and elation. Our new building is OPEN!

Just days before the library opening I was thanking a volunteer for his efforts

in helping us shelve materials day after day. The volunteer turned to me and said he would like to thank the Library. "I haven't felt so much a part of something for a long time," he stated. I think this characterizes not just the commitment that our volunteers have but also the satisfaction that results in being part of such a significant and successful community project. With more than 17,000 visits to the Library since opening, we know that our residents have embraced us.

I want to thank all library volunteers who took the time to be trained in their various duties in the new library in the days before the opening. Despite being just a few days before Christmas so many of you made yourselves available; some even coming for more than one training session in order to be fully prepared for the first days!

Special thanks go to Sheila and Barry Spence who were the official volunteer move leaders. Their dedication, organization and sheer hard work were not only an essential element but also an inspiration to us all. They continue to be key volunteer leaders as we learn about the building and its operations.

Please welcome:

- Marilyn Ming, our previous Chief Librarian has rejoined our team for the next month or two in order to add to our professional contingent for a few days each month and to train some of our cataloguing volunteers.
- Our new administrative assistant Christine Arpita - we wonder how we ever managed without this position (or the person in it)!

Watch for:

- Library programs to start in the next month, beginning with story time for early grades and toddlers.
- More information on the open house associated with our official opening ceremonies.
- Books coming out of storage and back onto the shelves over the next several weeks.

Thank you again to everyone for your part in making our new building a reality.



## **Salt Spring Island Public Library ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, March 28, 2013**

**Program Room  
at the Library  
2:30 p.m.**

Guest Speaker:  
Jacqueline van Dyk  
Director of Libraries & Literacy  
for the Ministry of Education

All library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

## **Children's Programs cont'd**

team of four regular StoryTime hosts: Margaretha Nordine, Michelle Weigel, Linda Mills, and Elizabeth Fletcher. Special guests are be featured periodically.

Toddler Time is a new program for our youngest patrons and their parents. This 20-30 minute program for ages three and under is scheduled for Mondays at 10:30 a.m. starting in February. The Toddler Time team includes Marsha Moreau, Sue King and Lorraine Ziola.

Items for our new collection, Audiobooks for Teens and Children, are arriving each week. This collection is funded by a generous donation from Country Grocer. The audiobooks have spine labels reading JCD and YACD, and are shelved on the first media bay, next to the J DVDs and on the magazine rack in the Teen Zone.



We are working on providing shelf labels for the picture books collection (J-ER) to make shelving easier, but may have to await some additional dividers to complete the project.

*Mark your calendar!*

**Library Opening Ceremony**  
**Thursday, February 28**  
More details to come...

New Computer Tutor in Library  
Starting next Wednesday, January 30th, new computer volunteer Shaun Luttin will be offering two free 20-minute computer sessions to patrons between 10 to 11 a.m. in Room 106. He will provide sign-up sheets soon.

## **Word on the Rock**

**Every Wednesday  
11:30 a.m. to noon**

**CFSI at 107.9  
or online at  
[www.cfsi-fm.com](http://www.cfsi-fm.com)**

Jan 30  
Frank Burnaby  
Island Born

Feb 6  
TBA

Feb 13  
Jim Anderson  
A New Way To Be  
Human On Earth

Feb 20  
Linda Kavelin Popov  
Graceful Endings: Navigating  
The Journey of Loss and Grief

