

Volunteer Profile

by Rasma Bertz



Wendy Shea

Wendy Shea's voice goes wonderfully with a cup of tea...her lilting accent takes you to the Yorkshire Dales, where she was brought up, while her words speak proudly of her Shetland heritage, her hordes of grandchildren (thirteen!), as well as her love of knitting, painting and working in her English country garden.

When she and her husband, Don, came to Salt Spring in 1997, the plan was to semi-retire. Wendy enjoyed this dream. Don ended up working full time as the Radiologist at Lady Minto, and will finally retire at age 70 by the end of this year - or at least retire from hospital life, to continue teaching at the UVIC medical school.

Before they moved here, Don and Wendy worked and lived in Nanaimo for 24 years. Wendy was an administrative assistant and PR officer at the hospital, before becoming a fundraiser for the Nanaimo Hospital Foundation.

They came to Nanaimo while on holiday from Lethbridge, Alberta...it was a good gateway to the outdoors and the city, and it reminded Wendy of home. So they moved there and created a thriving life for themselves. They found old Salty by boat, having come for the market. Wendy describes being moored in the marina when Grace Point Square was put in.

Many of the library's volunteers have spent many hours in countless libraries while growing up, and Wendy is no exception. Libraries, for her, were part of the idyll of growing up in the Dales, where she went to school before going to college in England, and emigrating to Canada in the early 70s. She has volunteered at the SS Library for 14 years, after successfully passing Norma Keech's formidable 'school of volunteer training', including tests on the dewey decimal system!

Wendy has been a shelver, desk person, third, head third, elected board member, computer committee member, computer trainer and now, for the past 8 years, she has worked in ILL. She says she could write a book about being a third - perhaps she will when she retires from volunteering. Given that she laughs as she says she felt young at 50, and is still feeling young sixteen years later, I predict we will see Wendy on the go for a few decades yet...and she certainly has oodles of energy to give to local groups.

Wendy is also currently the president of the SSI Painters' Guild, where she has worn many different hats for more than a decade. With her background of hospital fundraising, it will not come as a surprise to learn that she was on the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation Board, including a stint serving as president, and chair of the capital committee, which raised almost \$1,000,000 for the new palliative care unit, the expanded operating room, post anaesthetic recovery room and updated emergency room.

Plans in Wendy's future include a small RV that sleeps two with room for a dog and heading south. Maybe she will take a laptop - stay tuned for that book.

StoryTime by Sheila Spence

StoryTime started again in November at the Library Annex on Fridays at 1:00 pm. It is proving very popular with 7-12 children attending each week. We welcome Nikki Menard who has taken on the task of preparing the promotional material each month as well as being a regular StoryTime presenter. Several new volunteers have come forward to fill out the StoryTime roster beginning in the new year on January 13. Thank you to the Friday desk staff who guide newcomers to StoryTime down to the Annex.



Looking forward to 2012 – a message from Rita Archer, Board Chair

On behalf of the library board, I want to wish each one of our volunteers all the very best in the New Year. It's been said before but bears repeating; our library is truly fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated team of volunteers. Our good fortune was amply demonstrated in the move to our temporary quarters which demanded an unprecedented level of commitment and flexibility from volunteers as well as librarians. Bravo and thanks.

With the new building taking shape before our eyes, there is a growing sense of excitement as the dream of a new library is being transformed into a reality. The strength of our volunteer team, the skills of our professional staff and the successful delivery of services from our temporary facilities provide all the assurance needed that the opening of the new library will be greeted with great enthusiasm by volunteers and patrons alike.

In the last while, the board has initiated a number of activities aimed at ensuring the library's overall readiness to operate effectively in its new environment in ways that take full advantage of the opportunities that the new facility offers. This includes identifying operating changes that will be required in the new facility and developing a plan for their implementation including comprehensive staff training programs.

We will also be gathering information from volunteers, patrons and the community-at-large about their perspectives on service and collection priorities for the new facility. We will begin with a survey of volunteers, probably in March. I invite each one of you to participate in the survey and to make your views known. Our objective is to gather high quality, valid information that can be used for planning purposes and volunteer input is key to the success of this initiative.

2012



2011 IN REVIEW
by Brigitte Peter-Cherneff,
Chief Librarian
and
Karen Hudson, Librarian



Hello everyone,
2011 was an exhilarating and challenging year for the Library. It was packed with so many activities, we thought we should list them to show what we brought to the community and achieved in the last 12 months. So here goes:

Spring 2011:

- Feb 25th - Last StoryTime was held in the old library building.
- The Library hosted Canadian author *Susan Juby* at the Library annex, and had a workshop for 20 middle school students. This event was funded by IslandLink Library Federation.
- The Library was awarded 2 successful federal grant applications for summer students.
- We added 13 local film festival documentaries to DVD collection.
- Hired students Olivia Budd and Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara for summer - what a great help they were to us!
- Venturing into new territory we added three KOBO readers to our lending collection through a grant from the IslandLink Library Federation.
- With the help of many, we weeded the entire library collection to prepare for our move to the temporary building.
- The library building project received a funding pledge of \$20,000 from Rotary Club of SSI.
- First Nations author *Richard Van Camp* was a special guest for 275 students and teachers at middle and elementary schools; an event funded by IslandLink Library Federation.
- Children's author *Marie Louise Gay* regaled 125 elementary students and teachers in an event again funded by IslandLink Library Federation.
- Through a generous \$1000 Raise-a-Reader grant from the Times Colonist, we were able to add 55 audio books & book CD sets for Children and Teens.

Summer 2011:

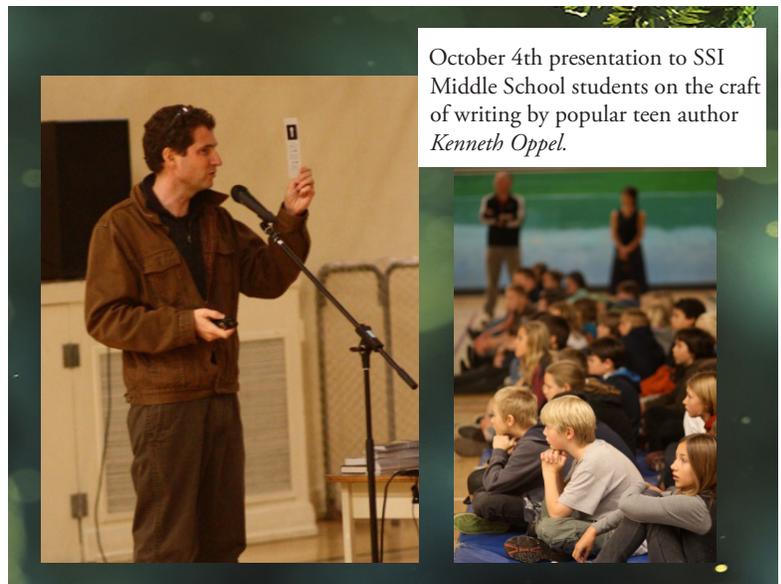
- As part of the move to the temporary Library and with the help of the Rotary club and many others we packed 8,000 books for storage, and moved them to the Library Annex.
- New library shelving was installed in the temporary library on Jackson Ave.
- Thanks to some excellent logistics from Sid and Lyda Smith and help from many in our community we moved out of Mary Hawkins Library after 47 years!
- After hooking up all the computers and shifting materials on the shelves, we opened for business in the Temporary Library on Jackson Ave in late July.

- Hired student Paisley Conrad for Saturday shifts.
- New library building project began! The old library building (formerly a boathouse) was demolished. The McColl building which sat on land being used for the new Library was moved to Rainbow Road to be used for affordable housing.
- The official ground breaking ceremony took place on July 28.
- Olivia Budd successfully ran the Summer Reading Club at the Library Annex and made promotional visits to two elementary schools.
- The Travelling Puppet Show made nine library and community performances entertaining nearly 300 participants; this event was sponsored by IslandLink Library Federation.

Fall 2011:

- The Library hosted *Norden the Magician* show for 442 students and 38 teachers, funded by IslandLink Library Federation.
- The Library sponsored an event by bestselling young adult author *Kenneth Oppel* for over 270 middle school students.
- Another successful grant application was made to SSI Foundation, and we were able to purchase a new children's rug and several book trucks.
- The Library hosted the book launch of international bestselling author and local writer *Patrick Taylor* at Barb's Buns.
- Weekly Friday StoryTime resumed at the Annex on November 4 to enthusiastic audiences.
- Books for Babies kits returned with funding from SSI Library, assisted by British Columbia Library Association bulk purchasing and support from the Steve Nash Foundation.
- Construction on the new building is advancing steadily. Soon you will see the completion of the roof and then the "lock up" stage a few months later. Stay tuned for progress reports in the Driftwood.

To all of you who make our community Library possible; while a simple "thank you" does not seem sufficient, it comes with a sincere appreciation of each and every one of you and the contribution you make. All the best for the coming year. We have much to look forward to in 2012.



October 4th presentation to SSI Middle School students on the craft of writing by popular teen author *Kenneth Oppel*.