

# Between the Lines

March 2011, Edition 27

Salt Spring Island  
Public Library  
Volunteers Newsletter

<http://saltspring.bclibrary.ca/>

## Volunteer Profile

by Rasma Bertz



### Jill Wheaton

Part of the ILL and cataloguing team, Jill Wheaton is currently our

longest standing volunteer – 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of her walking into her newly local library and discovering it was completely volunteer operated. Half an hour into her first desk training, she was asked which day of the week would be convenient for her to start.

She was there when the library had a bathtub and the 'Third' became an official position. She has done it all - third, board member, volunteer coordinator, treasurer, computerization of the collection and even Head Librarian!

Her favourite job? Apparently, nothing beats opening boxes of new books and cataloguing the new fiction purchases. "It is one of the nicest jobs; the smell and feel of new books...please don't ever take it away from me", she says with a laugh.

Jill was born in North London. When war was declared on her 10th birthday, she didn't understand why no one was interested in celebrating with her, but remembers having to dive under the desk at school as the bombs fell. Training as a medical secretary, she attended anatomy and physiology lectures with the nurses at the local hospital, and went on to work in one of London's teaching hospitals taking surgical notes in the OR.

In 1952, she shipped herself to Montreal, and took the train to Vancouver to stay with a cousin. Her intended one-year visit stretched to three before she returned home to England. That lasted three months before she took a freighter back to Vancouver via Panama. This trip was to become one of the highlights of her life with many wonderful memories.

Jill's first job in Vancouver was at Vancouver General Hospital. The trend to dictaphone work did not inspire her, so she became a legal secretary. In 1983, she married her soon-to-be lawyer husband, Michael, on the day after he was called to the Bar.

Theirs is a film story plotline: two 13-year olds met at the tennis club; later they dated for a couple of years before leading separate lives for twenty-five years. Then they found each other in Canada and rekindled the connection.

Jill visited Salt Spring several times over the years; Michael's first

trip was in 1986. Like many others, they fell under the island's spell, found a realtor and bought a fixer upper, retired and worked hard on the house. Tennis was a common thread throughout Jill's life; now golf is her enjoyment and exercise. Reading has always been a favourite thing to do. She also stitches tapestries, pictures and samplers, and is currently working on a firescreen.

Her library work still keeps her busy. As she says, "This year looks very different as we start moving towards our new library. It will be an exciting time, and we are so lucky to have a wonderful group of people master-minding the whole thing."

Thank you Jill, for 25 years of your time, expertise and dedication!

## Author Visits to Salt Spring

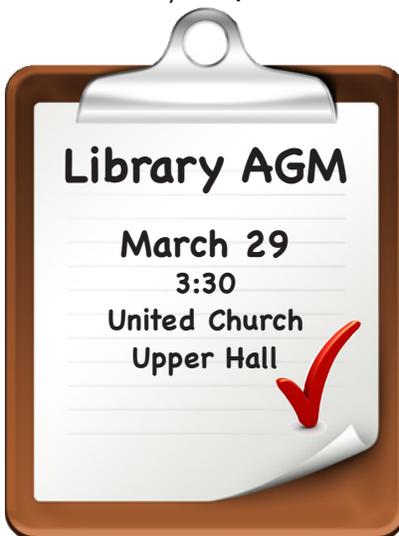
by Sheila Spence

Did you know that we are part of Island Link Library Federation which consists of Alert Bay, Greater Victoria, Powell River and Salt Spring Island Public Libraries? Through IslandLink we are fortunate to host several author visits. This spring three Canadian authors will be visiting Salt Spring.

Richard Van Camp, a First Nations Storyteller and author from Fort Smith, NWT, will visit Salt Spring Middle School, Fulford and Fernwood on March 10.

Plans are currently being finalized for a school visit and an adult presentation by Susan Juby on April 14. The Smithers, BC born author of several teen/adult novels made her mark with her Alice MacLeod novels including *Ms. Smithers*, *Alice I Think*, and *Alice*

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## Librarian's Report

by *Brigitte Peter-Cherneff, Chief Librarian*

### Library Building News

Despite the latest snowflakes, spring is almost upon us (thank goodness). This spring will be very busy for the Library as we are anticipating the move to the temporary Library will occur in late April.

The temporary library will be housed in portables at 118 Jackson Avenue, just up the street from our current location. Site preparation for the Jackson Avenue lot is now beginning in earnest, and you will likely see changes as you drive by in the next weeks. In addition to the portables, the Library has been lucky enough to rent the house at 108 Jackson Avenue (the old Phoenix school building). The house will provide much needed storage space and room for our cataloguing and book processing volunteers. The house has a nice little kitchen, which we can utilize as a break room, a meeting room, two offices and a great yard for summer programming for children.

An orientation program to the new facilities will be available to all our volunteers before we open to the public after our move. It is expected that the move will take 5-7 days and the Library will likely be closed for two weeks in total to give us time to get the space organized. More details about the move and its timing will be available later this month. Remember that we will be looking for lots of volunteers to assist with the move of the books so please look for sign-up sheets at the Library in the next weeks.

Progress on the new Library continues to go well. This week, vegetation around the existing library and the adjoining lot was removed as part of site preparations for construction of the new building. This work was approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and was carried out under the supervision of the Environmental Consultant hired specifically for the building project and the CRD's Project Manager.

Karen, myself and many of our volunteers are busy identifying parts of the collection that will go into storage for the next 18 months (all stored items need to have their status changed in the Evergreen system) as well as deleting items from the collection that are underused or outdated. A moving plan has been developed and will be refined in the next weeks. It includes labeling all furnishings and making decisions on everything (!) that is in our current building as to whether it will be moved to the temporary building, be stored or discarded. Needless to say, we are doing a cleanup of the library cupboards (amazing what you find when you look deeply into some of these!!). Final design drawings for the new library are currently at the 95% level and the project is expected to go out to bid in a few weeks.

The Library has again applied for two grants to fund summer students. If successful we will have much needed help through our busiest season and help with the children's summer programming.



Author Visits cont'd

*MacLeod, Realist at Last*. Last year she published *Nice Recovery*, a memoir about her recovery from teen-age alcoholism.

Quebec born Marie-Louise Gay, award winning children's author and illustrator, arrives May 5 to work with children at Phoenix Elementary, Salt Spring Elementary and Salt Spring Centre Schools. Her books, aimed at children under ten, include popular Stella and Sam titles which are published in both English and French.

All three of these author visits are funded by our Island-Link Library Federation and Canada Council for the Arts.



### Word on the Rock Schedule

11:30 - 12:00 noon  
CFSI 107.9



March 2	John Mills	Thank Your Mother For The Rabbits
March 9	Fu-Shaing Chia	Air of the States: from the Shi Jing
March 16	Patrick Taylor	Irish Doctor Series
March 23	Louise Nye	Cinema Pix and Fritz Rocks
March 30	Robert Bateman	Bateman: New Works
April 6	Louise Maffi	Biocultural Diversity Conservation: A Global Sourcebook
April 13	Phyllis Smallman	Champagne for Buzzards
April 20	Dan Jason	Saving Seeds As If Your Life Depended On It
April 27	Roger Brunt	Salt Spring Chronicles
May 4	Stewart Katz	Oy Calcutta!
May 11	Linda Gilkeson	Backyard Bounty
May 18	Tom Varzeliotis	Time Under Sail

Rita Archer and Betty Burridge share a laugh with Norma Keech at her retirement party.

