

Between the Lines

**Salt Spring Island
Public Library**

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

May 2013

Staff Profile

by Rasma Bertz



Brigitte Peter-Cherneff

At the back of my mind, there was always the question of why someone - semi-retired, taking on a part-time job in a volunteer library - would want to let themselves in for a major build project. Then I sat down and talked to Brigitte about her life, her time with us and her plans for the future. It all became clear...

Brigitte is very career focused. She finds it hard to envisage her next steps, so it's ironic that she didn't do any career planning at the start of it all. You could even say that library work found her. Having completed her BA and newly married, she was looking at grad school when life took a different turn. She made a decision to defer her application to library school, applying for a job at a North Vancouver District Public library instead. Here she gained practical experience, invaluable when she completed her Masters. By then, Brigitte knew she liked libraries and set off on the career trajectory of academic librarian, and indirectly, her repeated pattern of revamping or building libraries.

Her list of achievements is impressive. Kwantlen Polytechnic University built three new campuses during Brigitte's time, which meant three new libraries. Her move to BCIT lasted 14 years, during which she built an addition, revamped the existing library, amalgamated a marine library and developed an aerospace library; all during her tenure as Director of Library Services.

Then there's the consultancy work she does: a complete review of hospital libraries in Newfoundland; a revamp project for Camosun College; a host of college assessments and a new build in Alberta. It's no wonder she was comfortable being the boss-lady of Salt Spring's recent undertaking - she has the perfect skill set for our project. She also has the perfect personality for our community - approachable, laid back, caring, honest and direct. Brigitte will be missed.

Brigitte will also miss us. When I asked what she liked best about our library, the reply was immediate - the people. Harder to put into words in a way that honours the whole nature of the organization, she describes it as amazing and a marvel. Volunteers work because they want to, and that fosters a positive working environment, which is unusual to someone who has spent their career in a unionized system. Brigitte has found it rewarding to work with the Board's energy and devotion; she has really enjoyed her partnership with Karen, and

remembers her first year working with Marilyn with a sparkle in her eyes.

Her pride in the new building shows. She loves the intuitive layout, the soaring architecture and classic styling within a modern framework, and she really appreciates the Board's foresight in commissioning the artwork. I believe she is looking forward to being able to use the library as an individual in the community, looking up when she enters to find her next reads. Will she stay on Salt Spring? Who knows. Certainly downsizing property is on the cards; continuing with consultancy is on the cards; Palm Desert next winter is on the cards. Beyond that, life will play out as it will and I have no doubt that Brigitte will meet it face to face with aplomb and quiet humour.



New Library Board Members and Officers

by Rita Archer, Past Library Board Chair



Two new board members were elected for two year terms at the library's recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) namely, Blair Carley and Jacquie Harkema. New board members, and the fresh perspective and energy they bring, are always a welcome addition to any board.

As required by the provincial Library Act and our own bylaws, the board elects its officers at its first board meeting following the AGM. This was done at the April 9th board meeting. New officers are: Les Brost as chair, John Wakefield as vice-chair and Sally Rycroft as Treasurer. Les and Sally are seasoned board members (and front-line volunteers) with two years' of board experience under their belts and John was elected to the board at our 2012 AGM. All three bring extensive experience in the volunteer sector at both the board level and the front-line level. We are indeed fortunate to have the benefit of their collective leadership.

While completion of the construction project is a huge milestone, the board must now turn its attention to all those issues that were put on the back burner while our new building took precedence for the better part of a 6 year period. Much work remains to be done and I ask all staff to be as proactive and as positive as possible in their support of the board as it tackles a future oriented agenda.

Librarian's Report

by Brigitte Peter-Cherneff, Chief Librarian

The last few months has seen library usage by the community hit its stride. Recent activity has included opportunity for computer training through one-on-one computer tutoring (Wednesdays), Tech Café sessions (Thursdays) that featured sessions on using Facebook and how to download audio books onto portable devices. Toddler Time (Mondays) and Story Time (Fridays) continue to draw enthusiastic audiences and the program room and meeting rooms have been booked by many community organizations for both day and evening sessions! Whew! How did we ever manage our library without this gorgeous space?

The Children's volunteer coordinator, Sheila Spence, has hosted several visits by school groups over the last weeks and also has delivered authors to the schools for readings. Puppet plays brought out a record number of kids and Spring Break programs were well attended.

A very strongly attended author reading series "Ideas of March" was held every Friday at noon and was followed by Saturday evenings in April by "Short, Sharp, Sweet: A Celebration of the Short Story".

On April 17th we had the pleasure of showing the Lieutenant Governor the building and hosting a tea in her honor. Despite having continued delays regarding the Official Opening (hopefully this will happen in the next couple of months), the Library has truly been launched in the community!

As many of you know I will be retiring from my position of Chief Librarian at the end of May. This is the end of a very special chapter of my career and since this is the second time I've retired, it may actually "stick" this time! I am honored to have worked side-by-side with so many talented and dedicated individuals – it has truly been a pleasure and I will take away great memories as well as friendships.

Salt Spring Island Public Library is a unique organization and it is the enthusiasm and commitment of its volunteers which keeps it strong! My best wishes to all of you!



Kim Thompson, author
April 15, 2013
speaking to SS Centre school students

Children's Programs

by Sheila Spence



Children's programming draws heavily on the expertise, enthusiasm, and energy of many volunteers. In addition to the busy StoryTime and ToddlerTime programs, March also included four sessions by Entangled Puppetry and three Spring in Nature programs presented by members of the Salt Spring Conservancy.

There will be music in May with Hannah Kahane on May 17 and Jim Raddysch on May 24, plus a bilingual StoryTime with Bernadette Mertens-McAllister on May 31.

We owe a huge thank you to these children's program volunteers for their generosity with their time and talents. StoryTime: Margaretha Nordine, Melissa Weigel, Linda Mills, Elizabeth Fletcher, Vaughn Fulford.

Toddler Time: Marsha Moreau, Lorraine Ziola

Enchanted Puppetry: Tangle Caron, Trevor McClure

Spring into Nature: David Denning, Jean Gelwicks, Mike Grandbois



Entangled Puppetry
in action,
March 2013

TEA

The Board of Directors
of the
Salt Spring Island
Public Library
wish to invite you
to a
Volunteer Appreciation Tea
May 23 1:00 - 3:00
at the Library



Mark your
calendar!

Upcoming Library Programs:

May 4	1-2:30pm	A Cowherd in Paradise: From China to Canada May Wong, Victoria author reads her new book
May 9	12-1pm	Tech Café: Downloading eBooks
May 10	7 pm	Ken Kirby Warrior Painter
May 11	10am - 5pm	Writing the Between Workshop
May 11	7-10 pm	Writing the Between Reading Evening Reading by Betsy and participants
May 16	12-1pm	Tech Café: Introduction to iPad
May 17	12-1pm	South Islander, Memoirs of a Cruising Dog Mandy Spottiswoode book launch
May 30	12-1pm	Tech Café: Introduction to Twitter
May 31	12-1pm	Nikki Tate, Canadian Children's Author Can I be me without losing you? / Fathers
June 14	12-1pm	Local author Chental Wilson reads new book/Andre Gerard
June 28	12-1pm	Ken Lee: Understanding your Brain presentation

Salt Spring Island Public Library

Library Radio Show
"Word on the Rock" New Time
Green FM at 107.9 FM **Fridays**
or **9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**
www.cfsi-fm.com

Listen to live interviews
with local writers

Toddler Time at the Library

Mondays, 10:30 AM
for children 3 & under with their parents



StoryTime at the Library

Fridays, 10:30 AM
stories, songs, activities and fun
for children 4 - 7 years