

Between the Lines

Volunteer Profile

by Rasma Bertz



Jane Petch

Jane lives a few doors down from me. We both moved to the island in 2006, living in our neighbourhood, close to our parents, since 2008, sharing celebrations, produce and gardening tips. So I had a decent sense of Jane even before I sat down over a pot of chamomile and mint tea. Jane is a wise woman, with a love of family, community and the individual that has driven many of her life choices.

Like John Masefield, the sea calls to Jane. Born in England, just after the war, she has usually lived near water - Quebec by the St Lawrence Seaway, Vancouver, Campbell River, Prince Rupert; Victoria, during her training at UVIC (with an exchange year in Halifax), and on the Shuswap. She now has a stunning view over to Chocolate Beach.

Jane also has a degree in Political Science. She taught secondary school before raising her brood of three, and while in Salmon Arm, worked as a constituency assistant for the local MLA. As she loves to work with people, this was an ideal fit, but it went beyond that. Jane is concerned about the issues many individuals face when trying to get, often simple and basic, needs met. Navigating government bureaucracy and successfully resolving conflicts made this job her favourite. It is no wonder she also became an elected counsellor and school board trustee. It also explains how involved she and her husband, Lyle, have been in our local community since they arrived.

Jane joined the library quickly. It called to her because of her love of working with people, and her love of books. She is an avid reader; however, the one job she had never tried was librarian, and she thought it would be fun. She loves sitting at the information desk, underneath the crows, as a Third. She loves being surrounded by the history of all those books and their authors, the diverse people and their reading requests, and the opportunities for problem solving.

As Jane described her love of her favourite read - the complete Beatrix Potter - she took me to that world of

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Volunteers Newsletter

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

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the English garden and woods from the perspective of the animals and the conflicts they had to resolve. Sadly, Jane admits she's more like Mr. McGregor these days, thanks to Peter and Benjamin in her garden!

For Jane, the series is a gateway to the world of reading. It was read to her as a child, she read the books herself and then to her children, and now her children are reading them to their children. Jane has also written for children - one YA novel and some theatre pieces. In addition, she writes a monthly opinion column for a paper up north, as well as the Island Tides. Her latest piece was influenced by the floods in Calgary, where her daughter lives. It concerned the non-preparedness of the government for such a predictable event, and more important, the distress and confusion caused to the individual by severe events linked to climate change.

Passionate is a good word for Jane - quietly so, without imposition, and she does what she can to make it better in her own landscape.



Art Programs

by Pat Preston

SSI Public Library Art Coordinator

Most everyone will have noticed the art displayed on the program room walls. If not, please take some time to enjoy the exhibition of work.

Every month, the exhibition changes and, in some (most) months, there's a featured speaker with a connection to the art. Since the program began last April some exhibitions have featured artists and others have focused on a theme, with a variety of media displayed.

The program offers an opportunity for artists to show their work in a public space. For the public, it provides a chance to view art that may not be seen elsewhere.

On November 14, there will be a show and presentation by Jim Erickson (Academy Award winner) who completes set designs for film and Susan Benson, whose set design has been featured worldwide for many stage presentations.

Suggestions for other exhibitions are welcomed, as well as ideas for displays in the glass case in the lobby. Please send an email to ssilibraryart@gmail.com to discuss your proposal.



Chief Librarian's Report

by Karen Hudson

Happy autumn to all of our staff and volunteers! I am very pleased to announce that the Library won the *Non-Profit Association of the Year* Award at the annual SSI Business Excellence Awards Dinner on October 24th.

This is a great tribute to our success and we will be celebrating at our 1-year Anniversary Volunteer Wine & Cheese Party on Friday, December 20th from 4:30-5:30 pm. It has been a very busy ten months since we opened our doors and the hard work, patience and willingness to embrace the new building and its systems are the reasons we have been so successful! I hope you can all come to celebrate our first year in the new building, and raise a glass to toast your role in making our Library the heart of Salt Spring Island. Please let any former volunteers know of this event.

We have had some great adult programs including art talks and 7 book launches with standing room only for bestselling author Patrick Taylor, and being part of annual local events the *Eco Home and Living Tour* and the stage for the Pride Festival dance at the end of the parade. As our patrons return to the Library from their summer activities, we will be filling the shelves with new books from our year end collection budgets and planning more programs including our returning Tech Café sessions and book launches.

Please encourage your friends and patrons to follow the Library on social media: they can "Like" us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @ssilibrary, find us on Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/ssilibrary/>, and now give us a plus on Google+.

Mark your calendar!

1-year Anniversary Volunteer Celebration
Wine and Cheese Party

Friday, December 20th
4:30 - 5:30 pm
Library Program Room
All volunteers welcome!
Sponsored by Salt Spring Vineyards

Source: Goodwill Librarian

Upcoming Events

November 7 Thursday
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Tech Café: Intro to iPad

November 14 Thursday
7:00 pm
Jim Erickson and Susan Benson
Art Talk

November 22 Friday
4:00 pm

David R. Conn
Raincoast Chronicles 22:
Saving Salmon, Sailors and Souls:
Stories of Service on BC's Coast

November 29 Friday
4:00 pm

Dr. Linda Siegel:
Understanding Dyslexia and
Other Learning Disabilities

December 11 Wednesday
2:00 pm

Michael Layland
The Land of Heart's Delight:
Early Maps and Charts of
Vancouver Island

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



For more info, email Scott Howe - scottthomashowe@gmail.com
or Jacquie Harkema - jacquieharkema@gmail.com



Librarian's Report

by Danielle Hubbard

Times are changing, and it is no longer enough for public libraries to act as silent houses of books and study. Our wonderful new building enables Salt Spring Island Public Library to not only house a wide collection of resources, but also to act as the "*Living Room of Salt Spring*", a vital public space open to everyone in the community.

Like other living rooms, SSIPL offers a dynamic space for events and activities. We host regular author readings and art talks in the program room and display work by local artists, thereby promoting art and culture on the island. The library's meeting rooms (103 and 106) also provide community space, being used by groups as diverse as the Italian Club, the Chess and Scrabble Club, choirs, and individuals wanting quiet study space.

With the new building, we are also able to reach out to children and youth on the island more than ever before. As a new librarian, I am thrilled to see young people using our space, whether it be teenagers in the Teen Zone, or toddlers in the children's area on the rainbow mat of the world.

Monday ToddlerTimes and Friday StoryTimes have seen record attendance in the new building, while new youth programs include: a Youth Writing Group on Mondays and Fridays; Conjuring Club on Wednesdays; Youth Book Club on Thursdays; and a Writing for Film Workshop on Saturdays in October and November. These programs all share the same underpinning objective: to strengthen our community, and offer an enriching environment for youth, the future of our library.

When I walk around the floor of SSIPL, yes I see people searching the catalogue, selecting books, and browsing magazines. It delights me to see these services being utilized. What delights me equally, however, is the alacrity with which SSIPL has embraced its role as a new community hub. We offer a safe, comfortable space for anyone on the island to gather for conversation, learning, and cultural enrichment.