

Grand Forks & District Public Library 2023 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

This time last year, I was hopeful that our Library would continue to recover and grow following the impact of COVID on our operations.

Well, not only did our services, programs and collections rebound, but in 2023 our library circulated a record number of items: just under 100,000 books and materials and over 20,000 e-items. When you consider the limitations of our budget and the size of our population, that number is extraordinary.

So, this is a pretty easy report for me! Really, all I want to do is thank everyone involved in this success.

On behalf of the Board, my sincere thanks to our brilliant Library Director for her leadership, and our stellar Library Staff for their remarkable achievements last year. Indeed, the Library is the heart of our community, and you are the people who ensure that every person who engages with our library is the better for the experience. Our library offers so much to so many.

I have been so lucky to work with our dedicated Board of Trustees. Their leadership and dedication to the library, their understanding of our fiduciary responsibilities, their commitment to intellectual freedom and their advocacy for the library are vital to its success.

In 2023, the Friends of the Library stepped up again with their fundraising. Your support means everything to us. Not only the funds you raise through your sales (and the cookies always sell out!), but also your engagement with local businesses to donate directly have meant that we could purchase many of the improvements in furniture, shelving, collections and technology that we see around us today. Thank you.

I want to thank the City of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for their continued support in 2023. And the Government of British Columbia provided designated grants to our Library as well as maintaining our operating budget. We continue to advocate directly for increased annual provincial operating funding for public libraries, especially in small and rural communities such as ours.

What makes a small library great? All of us! This is how we create opportunities for all people to grow, contribute and thrive. Thank you.

Mary Kierans

Message from the Library Director

As we take a moment to reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude. It has been another year of growth, resilience, and remarkable accomplishments.

Libraries are dying to tell you that we are so much more than a place to borrow books (and we are!). However, this year, our greatest accomplishment was surely how many books we lent. I am thrilled to share that in 2023, circulation of physical materials reached an all-time high, with nearly 100,000

physical circulations and over 20,000 digital circulations. These numbers are not just statistics; they are a testament to the enduring and fundamental impact our library has on this community.

In the face of challenges brought about by the pandemic, we have found strength in our ability to adapt and innovate over the past several years. Now, with the support of Enhancement Grant funding from the Province of BC, we seized the opportunity to expand our programming hours, allowing us to better serve the needs of our patrons. This allowed us to reinstate beloved programs like Cook the Books, and is now giving us the opportunity to expand our program offerings, reaffirming our dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community.

In this vein, I'd like to highlight that last June we were thrilled to participate in Boundary Pride celebrations for the first time. The Library makes a strong commitment to diversity in our policies, and it was both an honour and quite fun to participate in last year's Pride event to remind us of the importance of community and belonging. I hope to have similar opportunities moving forward.

As we celebrate the achievements of 2023, I also want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Staff, Library Board, and the Friends of the Library. Your unwavering support and tireless dedication are what makes us successful.

As we look to the future, let us continue to build upon these strong foundations, and together, let us create a future where the Grand Forks & District Public Library remains a beacon of learning, inspiration, and community for years to come.

Cari Lynn Gawletz

2023 Finances

Expenses

- Collections \$50,405 9%
- Facility \$69,731 13%
- Technology \$7797 1%
- Miscellaneous Operating \$28,797 5%
- Services and Events \$4281 1%
- Wages and Benefits \$392,161 71%

Income

- Province of BC \$85,409 15%
- Federal \$10,133 2%
- Daily Transactions \$8962 1%
- Other Grants and Income \$14,855 2%
- Friends of the Library \$4739 1%
- RDKB \$456,875 79%

Donors

Thank you to those who donated \$100 or more to the Library in 2023:

- Camilla Glittenberg
- Courtenay Jewitt

- Diane and Gerhardt Hinz
- Eva Glittenberg
- Grand Forks Flooring
- Jean MacDonald
- Kootenay Boundary Homes LTD

2023 Year in Review

- 38,371 in-person visits
- 27,488 reference questions answered. That's more than one every four minutes!
- 1923 new items added to the collection
- 83% of our circulation is from physical items
- 119,917 items checked out
 - 99,689 physical checkouts
 - 20,228 digital checkouts
- 425 new members
- 5575 total membership
- 4068 computer uses
- 451 events were held
- 4250 patrons attended our events
- Top ten most checked out books:
 - Spare by Prince Harry
 - Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
 - I Will Find You by Harlan Coben
 - Identity by Nora Roberts
 - Dark Angel by John Sandford
 - The Lie Maker by Linwood Barclay
 - Killing Moon by Jo Nesbo
 - The Digger and the Flower by Joseph Kuefler
 - A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny
 - The Lock-Up by John Banville

Board Members

- Mary Kierans (Chair)
- Ellen McDonnell (Vice Chair)
- Chris Jonat (Treasurer)
- Cheryl Ahrens
- Sandra Shore
- Alice Webb
- Deborah Lafleur (City of Grand Forks)