



Vancouver
Public
Library



Annual Report 2009



Vancouver's public libraries are an essential part of our city. Not only do they empower individuals, families and neighbourhoods, our libraries provide us with a common space to learn, live and grow as citizens.

I'm proud of our libraries in Vancouver and the opportunities they offer to people of all ages. They provide a welcoming, entertaining and inspiring place for citizens across Vancouver and our urban fabric is strengthened because of them. Libraries are crucial to building connections and understanding between people of all walks of life.

On behalf of the City of Vancouver and all members of Council, I want to thank the board, the staff, the volunteers and all the patrons who support and participate in our excellent Vancouver Public Library system.

Sincerely,
Mayor Gregor Robertson



Vancouver Public Library Board of Trustees on the rooftop of the landmark Central Library

left to right:
Erfan Kazemi, Vice Chair; Joan Andersen, Chair; Tommy Tao; Stuart Mackinnon, Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation Representative; Debbie Millward, Catherine Evans, Loring Bohach, Vice Chair
not present:
Shannon Daub; Cindy Gauer; Heather Harrison; Lori Mathison; Mike Lombardi, Vancouver School Board Representative; Tim Stevenson, Vancouver City Council Representative



2009 was a year of continuous improvements in Library service despite financial challenges.

The Library took an important step towards better representing Vancouver's First Nations' culture and heritage by introducing the *First Nations Storyteller-in-Residence*. We are the first public library in British Columbia and only the second in Canada to create such a position. Amanda Nahanee of the Squamish and Nisga'a Nations (featured on next page) was the inaugural *Storyteller-in-Residence*.

In December, we had the great pleasure of opening a new library branch in the Mount Pleasant Centre that also includes a community centre, daycare, cafe and rental housing.

The virtual branch (vpl.ca) continued to receive more daily visits than any physical library branch. In 2009 we made a significant improvement to our online collection with nearly 1000 eBook non-fiction titles, our largest-ever one-time purchase.

We also made it easier in 2009 to find out what's new at the Library. The print newsletter, *Check It Out*, became a monthly electronic publication.

Outreach Services consistently has a huge impact on the lives of its home-bound users. The CNIB recognized this service in 2009 with a prestigious national award for leadership and commitment to the development of equitable information access for people living with vision loss.

2009 was a challenging year financially. The Library faced a serious funding gap when the 2010 budget process began. However, following a significant number of Vancouver residents voicing their support to City Council, a substantial amount of funding was restored. As a result, open hours at nine Library locations, including the Central Library, were maintained. We thank Mayor Robertson and Council for demonstrating the value they place on Library services.

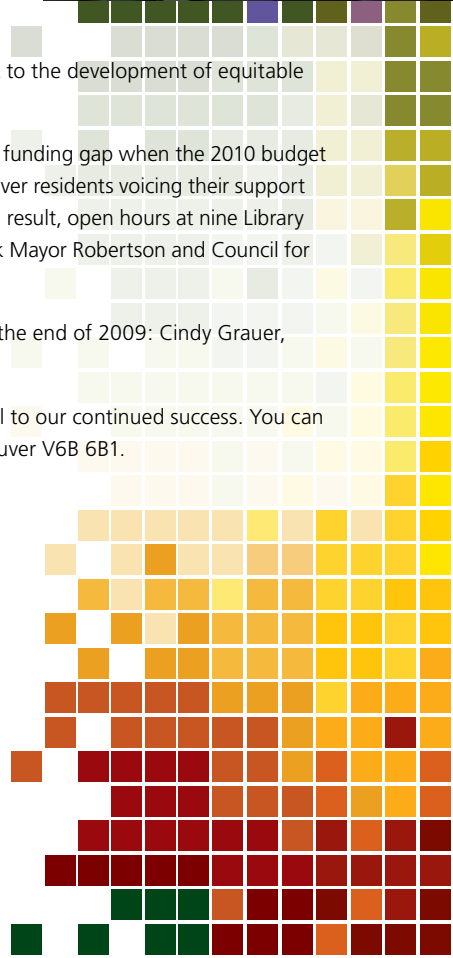
We would also like to thank three Trustees who left the Board at the end of 2009: Cindy Grauer, Heather Harrison and Lori Mathison.

Your comments and feedback are not only welcome, but essential to our continued success. You can reach Trustees at: board@vpl.ca or 350 W. Georgia Street, Vancouver V6B 6B1.

Joan Andersen, Chair, VPL Board of Trustees
Paul Whitney, City Librarian



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Vancouver Public Library Foundation First Nations Storyteller-in-Residence Program

In late August, the Library proudly welcomed Amanda Nahanee as our inaugural *First Nations Storyteller-in-Residence*. The program was created to enhance and build new relationships with Vancouver's Aboriginal and First Nations communities and to make the Library a more-inclusive and welcoming place for people of Aboriginal and First Nations heritage. It is the first such program at a BC public library and the second in the country after Regina Public Library.

Amanda Nahanee is a Cultural Ambassador of the Squamish Nation and a descendent of the Squamish and Nisga'a Nations. During her four-month tenure, in addition to focusing on her own projects, she worked with members of the Native Youth Artists Collective to help them create a dramatic new performance of local Coast Salish legends and history. The play was presented in the Central Library Promenade in December. The Vancouver Public Library Foundation thanks the Vancouver Foundation for supporting this initiative.

Aboriginal Learning Project

With funding from the provincial Public Library Services Branch, Library staff worked with Aboriginal students to determine how the Library can better support and meet the needs of Aboriginal youth currently enrolled in Vancouver Board of Education programs. In addition to reviewing Library services and programs, the staff and students discussed the recruitment of Aboriginal youth for library careers and the possibility of a work experience program specifically for Aboriginal youth.

The students spoke candidly about the barriers that keep them from using the Library and offered recommendations for how libraries can become more welcoming, inclusive and relevant to teens.

As a direct result of the project, students were recruited for work experience at the Library, four of whom were later hired as Shelves. This type of collaborative community consultation is vital for building relationships and successfully developing Library services for Aboriginal people. The Library is grateful to the many individuals and groups who worked with us and we look forward to continuing such efforts in the future.

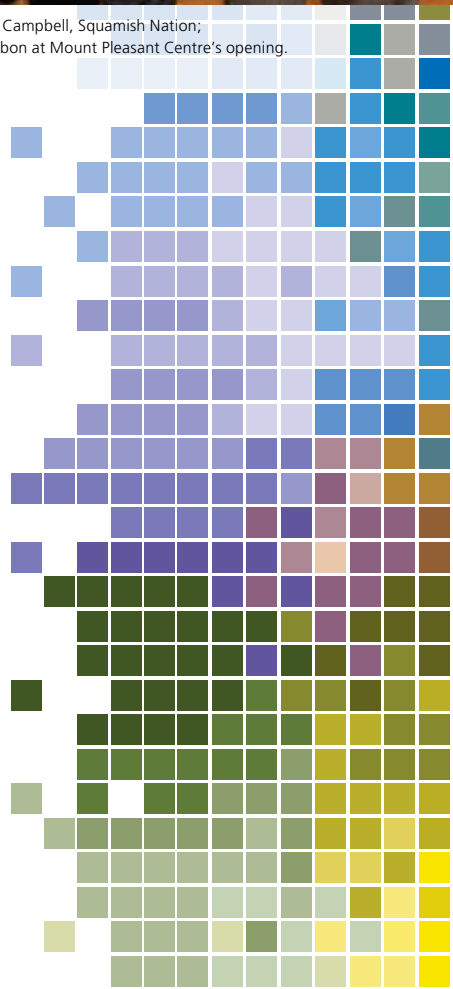


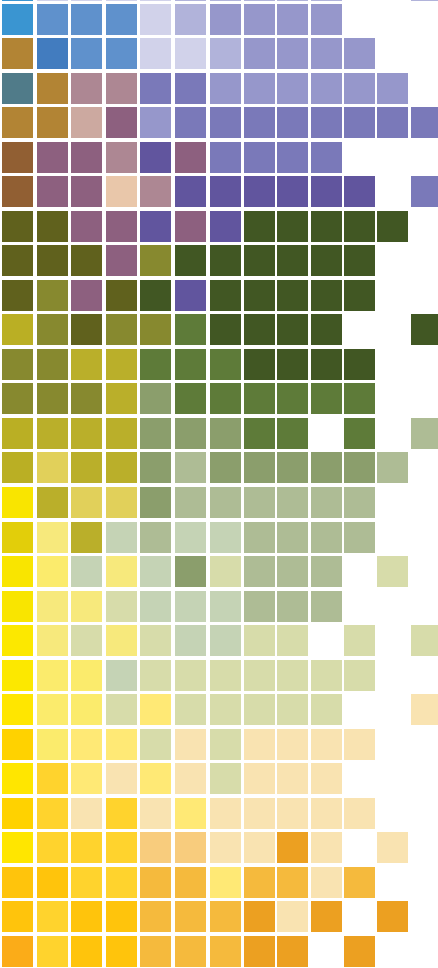
Joan Andersen, Vancouver Public Library Board Chair; Councillor Kerry Jang; Chief Ian Campbell, Squamish Nation; Aaron Jasper, Vancouver Park Board Chair and Paul Whitney, City Librarian, cut the ribbon at Mount Pleasant Centre's opening.

New Mount Pleasant Branch Draws Thousands

Almost 1000 excited Library users visited the new Mount Pleasant Branch on opening day December 11. The new library in the beautiful Mount Pleasant Centre is double the size of the former Kingsgate Mall location with many more books, magazines, DVDs and Internet stations. Open seven days a week, the library features a comfortable reading lounge, welcoming children's and teen areas, two homework stations, a meeting room and even a fireplace to enjoy on a rainy day. Thanks to funds raised by the VPL Foundation, the branch is home to a newly enhanced Aboriginal collection selected in collaboration with Aboriginal community members.

The Foundation worked with many individual and corporate donors to raise over \$600,000 for the new branch, allowing the Library to purchase new equipment and greatly enhance book, CD, DVD and magazine collections. Materials and collections in Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Education were also updated and expanded.





New Mother Goose Program

VPL's Children's and Youth Services, in partnership with the provincial Infant Development Program, Vancouver Coastal Health, St. Philip's Anglican Church and the Library's Early Years Team, has created a *Mother Goose* program for children with developmental delays.

The program teaches essential language and literacy skills and encourages caregiver-child bonding through songs, rhymes and other literacy-learning activities. A Canadian Cancer Society award recognizes the program for inspiring communities to identify and meet their unique needs.

Raise-a-Reader Supports Family Literacy

For the 12th year, Library Trustees and staff joined thousands of volunteers, including Vancouver Canucks and BC Lions stars and parents and children who benefit from the program, on *Raise-a-Reader Day* to hawk newspapers on city streets. Thanks to generous individual and corporate donors, thousands of children and families will build literacy skills to help them thrive at school, work and in their personal lives. Since 1997, the *Canwest Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader* program has donated more than \$5.2 million to programs like the Library's *Mother Goose*, *Man in the Moon* and *Writing & Book Camp*.



Friends of the Vancouver Public Library Outstanding Volunteers

Thanks to truly committed volunteers and successful initiatives like bookmark, The Library Store, the *Stay at Home and Read Ball* and their annual book sale, the Friends of the Vancouver Public Library donated \$68,000 to the Library in 2009. This gift brings the Friends' total donations since 1995 to over \$500,000 to purchase additional books and specialized equipment and to offer popular programs like the *Writer-in-Residence*, the *Teen Bookmark Contest*, *One Book, One Vancouver*, the Puppety Renaissance Troupe and the *Writing & Book Camp*.

Library's New Storytime Kits a Treasure of Songs, Stories & Rhymes

Young children learn best when having fun and the Library's new *Storytime Kits* ensure that children attending daycares, family places, community centre programs and preschools do both. *Storytime Kits* create fun language learning experiences for young children and help to develop early literacy skills while providing engaging, enjoyable activities for youngsters and caregivers alike. A first for the Library, the kits include colourful books, puppets, a CD, toys and lists of rhymes, songs and lively activities. With over ten fun themes to choose from, *Storytime Kits* are an economical way for early childhood educators to access a wide assortment of learning tools and activities to keep youngsters engaged and learning throughout the year. *Storytime Kits* can be borrowed by anyone with a valid VPL Institutional Library Card.

For more information, please call 604-331-3603 or visit vpl.ca. VPL's *Storytime Kits* are made possible thanks to funding from the *Canwest Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader* program.





Duelling Rock Bands, New Virtual & Physical Spaces

2009 was a good year for teens at the Library. Teens from throughout Metro Vancouver gathered at the Central Library for the first-ever *Teen Rock Band Contest* after winning rock offs at their home library. After a day of competing tunes, *Guys with Ties* from Surrey Public Library emerged as top band.

And teens now have great new virtual and physical spaces at several branches. At teens.vpl.ca youth can share music, book and movie reviews, enjoy blog entries and make Library purchasing suggestions. Vancouver teens and the Library's *Teen Advisory Group* provided input for the website redesign and for a new teen section at the Central Library. There are also dedicated teen areas at the new Mount Pleasant and Kensington branches.

Features of the new website include connecting with other teens and online library-related communities like the VPL Teen Facebook page and the BC Library Association's *Teen Reading Club*. It also highlights programs and events at the Library and around Metro Vancouver. As the site grows, teens will continue to be key collaborators to make it even more useful and interesting. Check it out!



Writer-in-Residence Promotes Intergenerational Writing

Teenagers at August's *Book Camp* were fortunate – and thrilled – to be mentored by award-winning author, storyteller, performer Ivan E. Coyote who kicked off her four-month tenure as the Library's fifth *Writer-in-Residence* at the summer *Book Camp*. Throughout the fall, Ivan continued to inspire and mentor emerging writers at intergenerational family writing workshops and memoir writing sessions for seniors. Writing from the workshops is available at the Library in *Generate*, a limited-edition publication that showcases the emerging writers' work. The *Writer-in-Residence* program is generously funded by the Friends of the Vancouver Public Library and the Canada Council for the Arts.

One Book, One Vancouver Launches 2010 Winter Games Spirit

One Book, One Vancouver hit the slopes and took to the ice in preparation for the 2010 Winter Games. To celebrate the Games coming to Vancouver, the eighth annual *One Book, One Vancouver* program featured for the first time a children's book, Linda Bailey's *The Farm Team*, as well as a title for teens and adults, Janet Love Morrison's *The Crazy Canucks: Canada's Legendary Ski Team*.

Offering more fun than you can shake a hockey stick at, from mid-May to December over 3,000 people (including over 1,000 children) attended 52 exciting, fun-filled and educational events from a sports fair and film screenings to puppet shows, author readings and writing and photography workshops. Highlights included the 2010 Winter Games mascots taking to the ice at the Library's first-ever public skating events and appearances by Crazy Canuck Steve Podborski who remains the most-successful North American male skier and the first North American man to win the overall World Cup Downhill title. Steve joined Mayor Gregor Robertson, Library Chair Joan Andersen, Janet and Linda at the program launch and joined Janet for her inaugural reading. The program wrapped up at the 6th annual *Rogers Santa Claus Parade* where excited parade goers were thrilled to receive the Library's popular red cowbells created as a tribute to the Crazy Canucks and to honour the athletes competing in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.



Financial Highlights

Revenues

	2009	2008
City of Vancouver	\$35,086,700	\$37,326,100
Provincial Government*	1,897,700	2,089,200
Grants and Donations	615,100	754,700
Fines and Printing	1,057,200	1,008,900
Other	1,990,900	2,549,500
Total Revenues	\$40,647,600	\$43,728,400

Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$30,387,900	\$30,642,000
Books and Materials	6,024,600	5,838,700
Operating and Maintenance	2,423,600**	4,429,500
Other	3,086,900	3,582,600
Transfers	(1,275,400)	(764,400)
Total Expenses	\$40,647,600	\$43,728,400

*BC Ministry of Education

**In 2009 expenses for Central Library maintenance were charged to a City of Vancouver account. In 2008 these expenses were charged to the Library.

Note: The expenditures do not include any accounting adjustments for tangible capital assets.



thank you

Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the hundreds of individuals and organizations who generously gave their support in 2009. Your contributions have made a great difference to people throughout Vancouver.

Platinum Supporter (\$100,000+): BC Ministry of Education, Public Library Services Branch; The CanWest Vancouver Sun *Raise-a-Reader* Program; Public Library InterLINK; Vancouver Public Library Foundation. **Gold Supporters (\$50,000+):** The Friends of the Vancouver Public Library; Industry Canada via Vancouver Community Network. **Silver Supporters (\$25,000+):** Vancouver Foundation. **Bronze Supporters (\$5,000+):** BC Courthouse Library Society; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Library Association; City of Vancouver, Host a City Happening Program; G. Rex Desbrisay; Margret Duncan & Family; Government of Canada - HRDC; Anthony Francis Graham; Irving K. Barber Learning Centre; London Drugs Foundation; Pansy Miu-Lan Poon in honour of Fun Pui Ho; RBC Foundation; Simply Read Books; Vancouver Historical Society; Vancouver Public Library Trust; Paul & Joan Whitney. **Gifts of \$1,000-\$4,999:** Michael Audain; British; Alan Burns; Canadian Sensory Institute Inc. in honour of Sue Wastie; Karen Cannon; Natalie Chapman; Stephanie Friedrich; Harbour Publishing Company; Daniella Icke; Kids Can Press; Kolin Lymworth; Clifford Murray in honour of Jason & Emily; Terry Salman; Peter & Jean Seto; Estate of Noshir Sarkari; Sylvia Skene; Jo Anne Tharalson; Patrick Tremblay; Vancouver Foundation: Dr. Kirk Finlayson Koerner Memorial Fund, Marion Pearson & Jim Orr Fund, Ting Ting Jiang Memorial Fund. **Gifts of \$500-999:** David Albert; Joan Andersen; Francesca Burdett-Coutts; British Columbia Books for Kids Society; Jessie Fischer; Estate of Florence Galbraith; Grand & Toy; James Head & Christine Walsh; Christine Hobbs; Donna Hossack; Insurance Institute of BC; Hilary Lukin Johnston in honour of Derek L. Johnston's 96th Birthday; Robert MacKenzie; The Melusine Foundation; Tom Merinsky; Panago Pizza; Raymond James Ltd. in memory of F. Goepel; Rosemary Schubert; Stanley Triggs; Lorraine & Ronald Tysoe; Vancouver Foundation: Evelyn de Rostaling McMann Fund; Elizabeth Walker; Sally Warren; Westbeach; Janice Whitehead; The Word on the Street Festival. **Gifts of \$250-499:** Annick Press; Bernice Balcaen; BC Library Association; Blenz Coffee - Library Square; Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; CWILL BC; Lucile Derrien-Hacault; Sarah Ellis; Keel Freeman; Jane Heyman in honour of Derek L. Johnston's 96th Birthday; Marilyn R. Kerfoot; David & Janice McDonald in memory of F. Goepel; Ocean Spray Canada; Pandora's Collective Outreach Society; SFU Centre for Studies in Publishing; Marion M. Sproule; Starbucks Coffee - East Broadway; Brenda L. van Engelen; Vancouver City Savings Credit Union; Vancouver International Airport Authority in memory of F. Goepel; West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society; Doug & Effie Williamson; Pamela A. Withers. **Donations under \$250:** Though there are too many to list here, the Library and VPL Foundation would like to sincerely thank those who graciously gave in this category. **Media Sponsors:** CTV; The Vancouver Sun. **Volunteers:** Thank you to the many wonderful volunteers who helped the Library in so many ways in 2009. Special thanks to the Friends of the Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation for their ongoing support.

Donations refers to both cash and in-kind gifts.

Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover errors or omissions please call 604-331-4094.

Join our community of Library supporters

VPL Foundation

Vancouver Public Library Foundation is the primary source of fundraising for VPL. Through the support of individuals, corporations and foundations, the VPL Foundation is dedicated to securing new sources of financial assistance to supplement core government funding and enhance library programs and services. For information on making a donation or planned gift to the Library call 604-331-4094 or visit www.vplfoundation.ca.

Friends of the Vancouver Public Library

Friends of the Vancouver Public Library is a non-profit, volunteer organization founded in 1995 to support the Library. Membership is open to everyone and volunteer participation is welcomed. For information on volunteering, library advocacy or making a donation call 604-331-4049 or visit www.friendsofthevpl.ca.



VPL Foundation Board of Directors

Terry Salman, Chair; Sally Warren, Vice Chair;
Joan Andersen; Stephanie Glidden Friedrich;
Marilyn Kerfoot; Allan MacDougall; Blair Qualey.



Friends of the Vancouver Public Library Board of Directors

Patricia Moir, President; Myrna Campeotto;
Christine Forget; Bill Haberl; Michael Moll; Bill Wilson.



A Day in the Life at VPL

- Materials borrowed: 35,690
- Number of visits: 21,333
- Reference questions answered: 3,204
- Library programs: 24
(with a total of 721 attendees)
- Visits to *vpl.ca*: 11,390

2009 in Review

- Materials borrowed: 9,886,149
- Number of visits: 5,909,376
- VPL holdings: 2,254,154 items
- New items purchased, processed and catalogued by library staff: 188,565
- Reference questions answered: 887,570
- Library programs: 6,701
(with a total of 199,758 attendees)
- Visits to *vpl.ca*: 4,157,259

Interesting 2009 Facts

- 59,425 Vancouver residents registered for a VPL card.
- 274,711 Vancouver residents have a VPL card.
- VPL has collections in 14 languages in addition to English and French: Chinese, Farsi, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.
- 530 public Internet workstations are available at branches across the city.
- All 21 VPL locations have free wireless Internet access.
- 6,835 school-aged children participated in the Library's *Summer Reading Club*.



Vancouver Public Library

Funded by the City of Vancouver



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