

Library Director - Year in Review 2021

For the library, 2021 turned into '2020 part 2'. The past couple of years were not what anyone could have imagined, but I must say that SVPL staff and board should be proud of the positive things we did accomplish.

The year started with the library providing takeout services, but we were quickly able to open the doors for regular hours and public entry by the middle of January. This was just in time for library staff to get the word out about our famous family literacy week events. As we could not host people in the library, we developed some take home kits, outdoor family activities, and online programming. The takeaway bags continued to be a success throughout the year. We had the weekly Storytime take home craft bags, some teen take-home crafts bags, adult knitting takeaways that went with online workshops, and then in the fall we collaborated with the Salmo Seniors group to make once a month senior takeaway bag.

During the summer months we were able to host Summer Reading Club in person outside. With the two summer students we saw lots of focused fun that supported literacy for the kids. We also worked with a group of teens to support them having their own short story bookclub.

The challenge of staying connected with our community, while also having limited access to the library, was a daunting task at the beginning of the pandemic. However, SVPL staff rose to the challenge and found creative and innovative ways to offer services, programs and activities. From the creation of the puzzle exchange, to a Youtube channel for Storytime, to developing our STEAM takeaway kits, providing books for 4 local bookclubs, and hosting Zoom programs, the library continued to offer opportunities to bring people together and to share ideas.

And despite working under the unique conditions resulting from COVID-19, the library also successfully launched our major project to create an outdoor Reading Garden. The Phyllis Tatum Reading Garden has created an outdoor extension of the library community space; a space that is welcoming and accessible for all. The project has seen the first major development of a 30x15 ft yard space into an area with seating and opportunities for low maintenance perennial plants and trees. This space will be accessible to all community members, and the non-profits who work out of the Salmo Square Society building, as well as all other community groups who wish to access.

We end the year with some changes to the Library Board, as we say good by to our Board Chair Valene, as well as Board Members Keith Kemp and Sally Albert. Valene served on the library board for 7 years, with the first 2 as a board member and the last 5 as our board chair. I would like to personally thank all 3 members for their dedication and support of the library during their time, it was a pleasure to work alongside them all.

Regards,

Taylor Caron – SVPL Library Director

Children's Services 2021

2021 brought about another year of Covid and its restrictions. Because of our small space we did not offer in house programming again this year. So instead, another year of Virtual Storytimes that were available to view on our You Tube channel. I did 18 online Storytime's along with having a surprise storyteller and a local author as well. This was accompanied by numerous Takeaway craft bags available for pick up at the library. I also supplied craft bags through CBAL in support of the Ymir Family Support group. This fall I supplied craft bags to go in the Salmo Senior Activity bags which were made possible by the Salmo Seniors group. So, all in all there were a lot of craft bags (approximately 690!) available last year!

Through July, August and September, Preschool Storytime was held at the KP Park. It was very lovely to be with the children again!

We had 2 summer students who provided fun active Reading Club sessions held outdoors throughout the summer.

I spent time and money on expanding the children's and teen's collections with current and relevant Indigenous and BIPOC books. I took several different webinars on building a diverse collection.

We were able to encourage children to enjoy reading and gave them opportunities to spend time with books despite no in house programs providing a first step towards developing strong life-long reading skills.

Marianne Hansen