

# Chetwynd Public Library Library Director Annual Report 2016



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## Library Director Summary

What does a library look like in the digital age with instant access to everything? Experts tell us that modern library services should promote knowledge creation rather than knowledge consumption. In contrast to the library services of the past that focused on simply distributing books and research materials as givers of information and resources, a library now creates a space where patrons engage with information. They process it, reflect on it, have conversations about it, and develop new ideas, conversations, and opportunities as a result of it.



Libraries do play an essential role in bringing the world to the community. They should also focus even more on bringing the community to itself. A library is a community hub. The library should reflect the needs, personality, and nuances of the areas they service. A library should act as a glue to bring diversified members of the community together. With this philosophy in addition to our mission to inspire the community in a spirit of learning and discovery, our library team set forth to make 2016 a year in which we would respect the past and look forward to the future.



2016 was a very important year in the history of the Chetwynd Public Library Association. We celebrated 50 years of incorporation as a Public Library. We first opened our doors on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1960 with a group of volunteers and 250 books. With the hard work and dedication of the Little Prairie Ladies Society we were able to grow to become incorporated under the Library Act in 1966. Over the years dedicated Library Board members have volunteered countless hours to create a framework for the library to operate within. This year we carried on the positive achievements of the past to a year which saw a mixture of tried and true programs with events built upon innovative ideas which sparked the imagination. We are proud of the achievements that the Library has made in the past and we continue to look forward to what the future has to bring our library and community.

Ana Peasgood  
Chetwynd Public Library  
Library Director

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## Program & Event Highlights

Our library was full of energy and ideas in 2016. No idea was too crazy and every program was guided by our mission to inspire the community in a spirit of learning and discovery. We ran a full spectrum of programs in which we strove to create something for everyone in the community. Workshops, art classes, reading programs, STEM based programs, networking events, & author tours- there was something to inspire everyone at our library!



The weekly early literacy programs were refined to further inspire the participants to discover the world of our library. Starting in the fall session we moved the kids from the confines of the community room to the warmth of the children's area. We had discovered that they often didn't realize they were in a library so we wanted a space in which they would be comfortable and able to explore the world of our books. With this move came an interruption to our library space however we have found with communication and problem solving the change has been positive and the impacts on the children have been immediate. More books are being checked out after programs and relationships are being built with all the staff. We found that sometimes you need to take a step back and view the library through the eyes of a child to make the programs fun, positive and inspiring!

Collaborating with groups and organizations in our community is integral in planning our programs & events. We worked closely with the Chetwynd Social Planning Society, Chetwynd Community Arts Council, Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce, Chetwynd Healthy Communities, and Success by 6/Make Children First, just to name a few groups and organizations. Our strength comes from the unity we share with our community and we feel extremely grateful for all the support which the groups and organizations consistently show the library.





## Fundraising

2016 was a year of unexpected pressure on the local economy. The slowdown of the local oil and gas industry combined with the economic impacts of a state of emergency due to massive flooding left many families in our area struggling to make ends meet. With this in mind, the board and staff proactively decided that fundraising in 2016 was not a main priority. We wanted to relieve the burden the community can feel from large scale fundraising campaigns. With that mindset in place we went to work on ways to fundraise in quiet ways which would still meet some of our goals without creating undue pressure on everyone. We put slight twists on our past successes and left large scale ideas on the backburner for a future time. In addition to our Special Collections Wall donor recognition program, we held two main library fundraisers. The Library Yard Sale and Corks & Kegs were both well received by the community.

The Annual Yard Sale had a reduce, reuse & recycle twist with onsite demonstrations, an upcycling contest featuring guest judges, silent auction, raffle items, and a concession augmenting the 60 + tables of community vendors. Board and staff worked together to once again create a fun and memorable event which the community enjoys each spring.

Corks and Kegs was a new type of small scale raffle for us. We raffled off gift certificates for Craft Beer and BC Wines along with a handcrafted pallet wine rack which had been donated to us. The tickets were available from staff, volunteers and board members from October to December with the final draw being during the holiday season. It was a good way to raise funds for the library and offer the community something a little bit different.

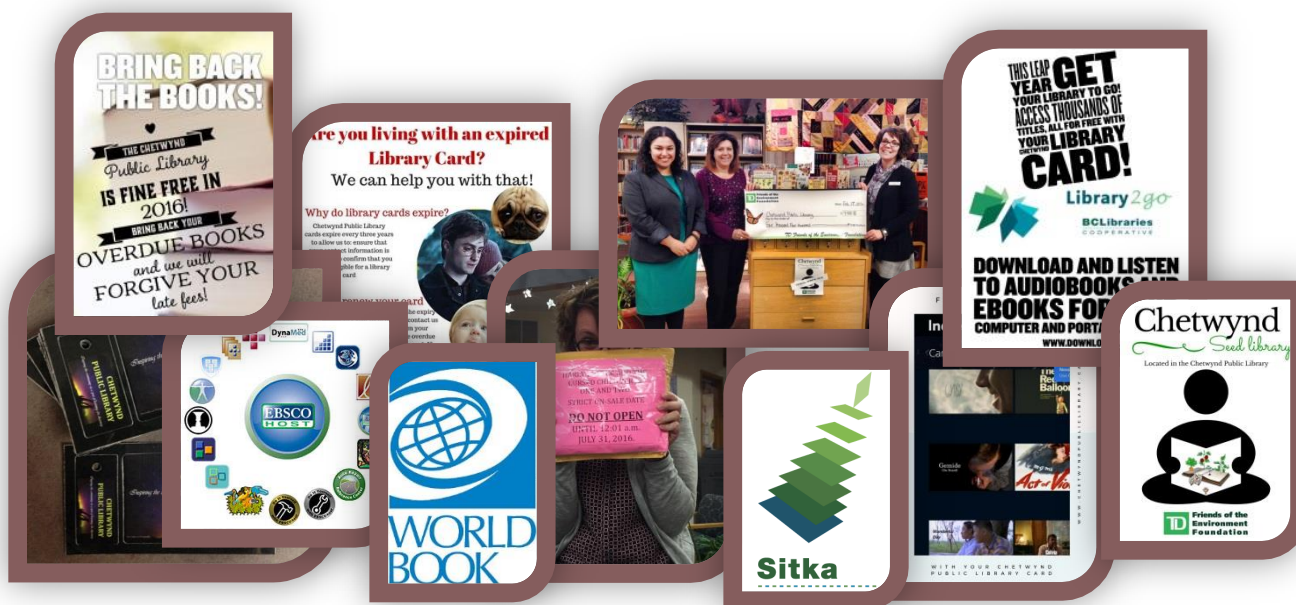


## Collection Development

The library has always had a fantastic collection of physical and digital materials which are available for our community. With over 27,000 physical items in our collection, we really try to have something for everyone. The past year saw a refinement of our digital offerings with RB Digital expanding to offer Instaflix powered by IndieFlix. The ability for our cardholders to be able to experience the excitement of some of the world's best film festivals from the comfort of their homes is something we find very exciting. Rocket Languages is also a digital subscription we found our patrons would really be able to utilize. With 15 languages to choose from it's a great option for learning a new language. We are seeing an increase in the demand for digital services and will continue to grow our online collection to complement the physical collection.

This past year we made some changes to how we share our collection with the community. The first and most prominent change was we are now one of the few fine free libraries in the province. We asked our patrons to bring back the books that they were able to find which are overdue. Anything past two years have been marked as lost in our system. Wiping out overdue fines that they may have been owed created an atmosphere for them to reengage with our library. We did not see an increase in the amount of overdue books we had but we did see a rebuild of many relationships. We actually saw patrons that had not been in for quite some time come back with a fresh start. It is a small tweak which has made the library more comfortable and welcoming for the community. We also have been working on making the InterLibrary Connect service work simply for patrons to be able to reserve their own books from the comfort of their home from any library in the province.

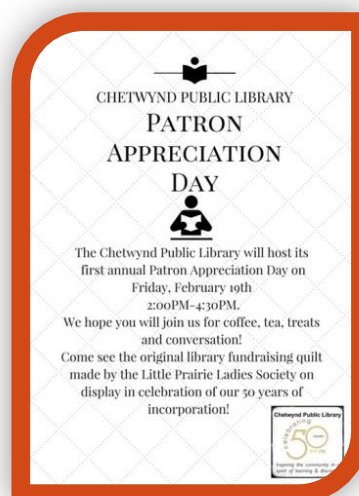
A shift and shuffle of our spaces happened in the past year to make better use of the library floorplan. We brought the children's collection down to an appropriate level for little ones and reconfigured the teen/tween area to make a better conversation area. These changes combined with letting the reference books circulate, integrating the First Nations books into our collection and showcasing the brand new books in our collection have made the space flow better for patron use. Our collection took on a living shift this past year with the creation of our TD Bank FEF funded Chetwynd Seed Library. In this collection we ask that the seeds not be brought back but used, grown and new ones harvested and returned. Many ways to inspire our community in a unique, simple and functions tweaks and additions to the collection and services we offer.



## Milestones & Achievements

This year we celebrated several significant milestones. We had both public and private celebrations for these events and were able to share many of them with our community. We started a new tradition with Patron Appreciation day. Held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, it is the anniversary of the day we opened our doors to the public even before becoming a Public Library Association. It was a fun afternoon of sharing memories and showing the community how much we appreciate their support.

We also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Incorporation as a Public Library in 2016. We had a community social tea and unveiled a new book themed quilt created for the occasion by the Quintessential Quilt Guild. It now hangs in a place of honour in the library. The afternoon had patrons, board members and staff reminiscing about our past 50 years while looking towards our future.



This July we had a new milestone within our library team, the birth of our first Library Baby! On July 11th, Claire Shannon Bartlett made her debut! Joanne, our Resource Corner Coordinator, is currently on maternity leave and the library team is thrilled to have a new little one to spoil. Claire is also our youngest card holder ever, getting her card at 2 days old!

We also had a staff achievement of 25 years of Service for Community Librarian Brenda Lukey. She began with the Chetwynd Public Library as Children's Coordinator in 1991 and now holds the position of Community Librarian in charge of Interlibrary Loans and Assistant Library Director. The staff held a celebration of this significant milestone before our fall programming season began.

Crazy Beanz Bistro, which resides in our library, was named New Business of the Year by the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce. This huge accomplishment speaks volumes to the successes they have been achieving with their hard work. We are very proud of all these milestones and achievements which our library had in 2016









## 2017 and Beyond

Through strong partnerships and commitment to our strategies, we hope that all community members will benefit from access to information that inspires them. The library is a social equalizer which creates a community hub for ideas to be created and gives access to all regardless of socioeconomic factors. In our rapidly changing world, we need different skills, tools, information, programs and services to succeed. Libraries bridge the physical and digital worlds, connecting people not only with a world of information but with each other. They support and contribute to life-long learning by providing safe, open spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds. British Columbia's public libraries strive to meet the needs of people at all stages of their life. The Province of British Columbia has given us a framework for continuing to become dynamic, multipurpose and flexible, supporting a broad range of community needs.

The framework, laid out in the 2016 document *Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities*, sets out strategies for our library to use to help us achieve positive results within our community.

- fostering connected communities: advancing access to information and resources
- building capacity: enabling inspiration and innovation
- working together: creating lasting and sustainable partnerships
- sustaining our success: enhancing governance and demonstrating impact

We will be using the new provincial strategic plan in addition to our current plan to update our strategic plan which expires at the end of 2017. Community led librarianship brings library staff together with community members to identify and meet community needs. We have lots of ideas but if we are the only ones who like them, they really serve no purpose. We are looking forward to speaking to our community about what they want to see in their library. What is important? How do we make sure that we are meeting the needs of right now while staying on a solid path for the future. We must balance community with our partners in the District of Chetwynd, the Peace River Regional District and the Ministry of Education. Are we making sure that what we do daily helps them meet their strategic goals? Are we being the "glue" which gives our community a place to meet, create, share and inspire? Do we meet the mission of the library with what we are doing? With each question comes opportunity.

This year the Peace River Regional District with support from the District of Chetwynd and our library are undergoing a feasibility study to look at the future of this building. This process will give us many answers to the questions which we face. Renovate the existing or build new? The community will let us know what they feel is important. We will be here to guide them in what the future of libraries can be. It is critical to look at the needs of the present without forgetting for the potential for the future. Strategic and capital planning for our library will be essential to ensure a strong roadmap for the future. This roadmap and an updated library policy will be the tools that we will use to ensure that our library continues to inspire the community in a spirit of learning and discovery for generations to come.

## Facts and Figures



### Card Holders

- 396 New Cardholders
- 1201 Active Cardholders
- 2100 Total Cardholders



### Collection

- 27,214+ Physical Items
- 68,909+ Digital Items
- 770+ Interlibrary Loans
- Physical Collection Value is \$565,970



### Programs

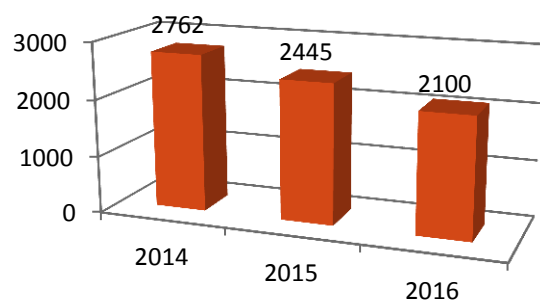
- 426+ Program Sessions
- 3974+ Participants
- Over 41 Unique Programs



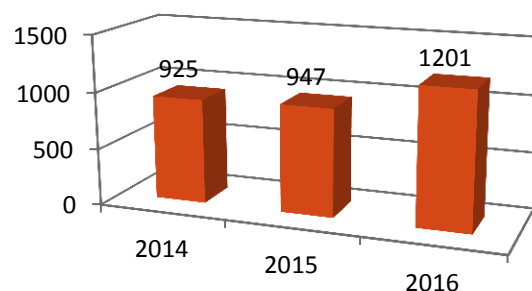
### Circulation

Picture Books were the highest Circulating Genre at 7131 and 8295 Books were read in the library without being checked out!

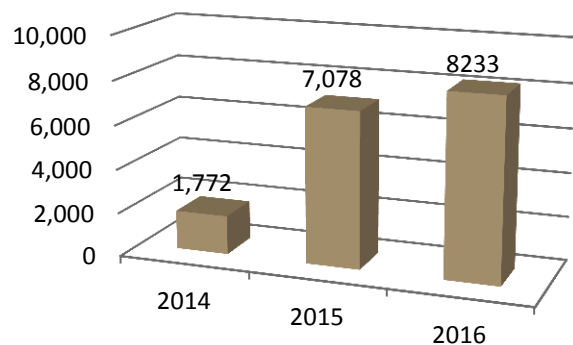
## Total Current Cardholders



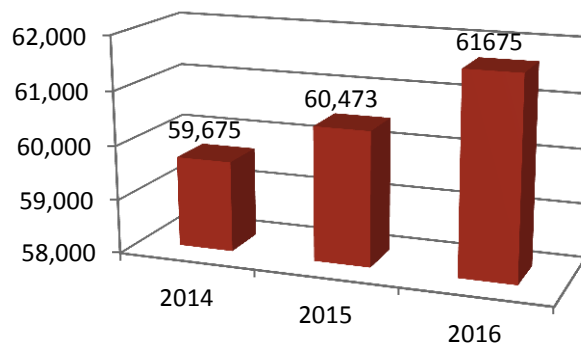
## Total Active Cardholders



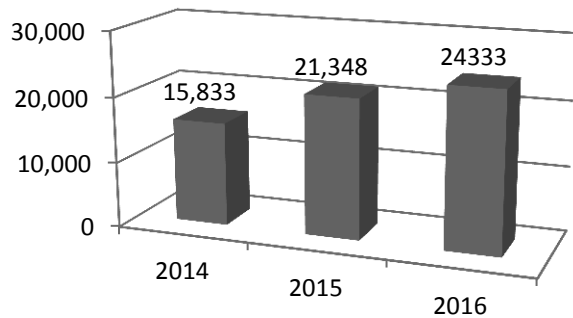
## Program & Event Attendance



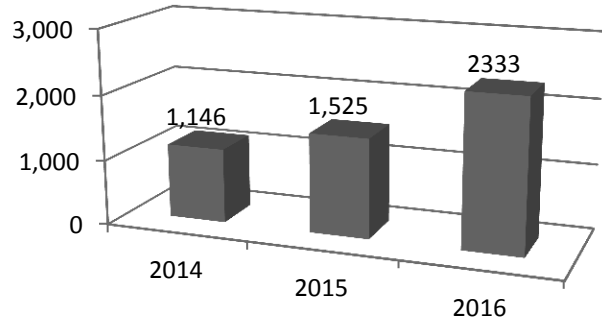
## In-Person Library Visits



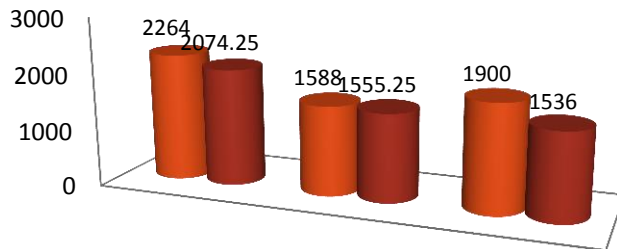
## Physical Materials Circulation



## Digital Materials Circulation



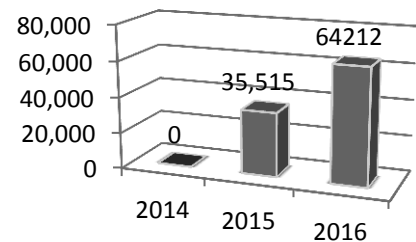
## Public Access Computers



|        | 2014    | 2015    | 2016 |
|--------|---------|---------|------|
| People | 2264    | 1588    | 1900 |
| Hours  | 2074.25 | 1555.25 | 1536 |

■ People ■ Hours

## Wifi Connections Per Month



**Total Annual Connections is  
2016: 770,553**

