

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 2004

I love a parade! And, evidently so does the rest of the Library staff. With a presence in both the Junior Ski to Sea Parade and the Grand Parade, staff marched down the street to remind the community of our spirit and dedication.

Volunteers from both the Library and the Parks Department donated their time and talents to provide a fun event full of enthusiasm and camaraderie.

The Friends of the Library hosted another successful book sale during the Ski to Sea celebration. On opening day, there was a line of excited customers that snaked around the corner and up the stairs waiting for the doors to open at 10:00am. The following week, staff composed a wish list of items they would like to see purchased with these proceeds. Next week, I will meet with the Board of the Friends to discuss funding for these projects.

The migration of our computer system continues on course as staff work with the detail of screen design and software configuration. Next month, training will begin in earnest and computer workstations will be upgraded for staff. We would also like to see upgrades to the public workstations—perhaps with funding from our “Friends”.

As mentioned in last month’s Report, a committee has been working with representatives from the Whatcom County Library System to hammer out some policy differences between the two libraries. The goal of this effort is to lessen confusion on the part of library users that borrow from both libraries and at the same time enable us to take advantage of some added opportunities for resource sharing. A copy of our proposals is included in your packet for your consideration and discussion on June 15th.

We Share A Story : a Pacific Rim Literacy Connection reaches a new level...

Scott Blume, Head of Children’s Services, and Linda Lambert, WCC Director, are organizing a committee of local librarians interested in traveling to our Sister City, Port Stephens, Australia. The Bellingham/Whatcom County librarians will initiate a librarian exchange visit scheduled for this fall. Port Stephens is planning to reciprocate by sending librarians our way in 2005.

The Bellingham/Whatcom County team’s travel dates will coincide with the We Share A Story 2004 simultaneous story sharing scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th. Librarians traveling with this exchange will be sharing and learning about library systems, comparing and discussing what works and what doesn’t.

Port Stephens will coordinate We Share A Story 2005

The area surrounding the Library will again be the venue for this year’s Relay for Life cancer fundraiser on July 9th-10th. During this time, the entire perimeter of the Library will be closed to traffic (from afternoon on Friday through afternoon Saturday).

On July 3rd, there will be a bicycle race through downtown Bellingham that will impact only the Central Avenue side of the Library—there will be temporary handicapped parking assigned on Commercial Street. Although organizers do their best to mitigate impact on library users, it is inevitable that there be some disruption to regular service.

Gayle Helgoe
Acting Director