

# 2023

## Annual Report





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# Message from the Mayor



**Mike Little**

Mayor, District of North Vancouver

The North Vancouver District Public Library continues to be an integral resource within the District, helping us build a thriving, connected, and engaged community.

As our libraries continue to evolve into hubs of learning and innovation, this annual report highlights some of the notable achievements of our public library system throughout the year.

In 2023, Library staff welcomed over 1.3 million visitors and answered over 128,000 questions. The library continues to provide equitable access to high-quality resources, with over 1.8 million items lent out that year.

As part of the library's commitment to developing and launching unique collections, the variety of items available for lending has expanded to include puzzles and board games, eReaders, caring community resource kits, first language storytime kits, radon kits, CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring kits, and more.

I am proud to report that the North Van District public library system is ranked second among all British Columbia libraries for circulation per capita, with residents borrowing an average of 20 items per year.

Beyond lending materials, our libraries provide welcoming spaces where we can all get access to essential tools like Wi-Fi, computers, and quiet

areas for study and collaboration. Our libraries continue to be a place where we can come together with our neighbours to share, learn, and connect.

The library also plays a crucial role in fostering a lifelong love of learning. Programs like the Summer Reading Club, which is one of my favourite programs, ignite a passion for reading among our youngest residents, helping to build a foundation of curiosity and literacy that carries into adulthood.

On behalf of the District of North Vancouver Council and residents, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the NVDPL Board, leadership team, staff, and volunteers.

The team's dedication to providing exceptional library services that support the social well-being of those of us who live here is truly admirable. We look forward to another exciting year of learning, innovation, and deeper community connections.



**Mike Little**

Mayor, District of North Vancouver

DISTRICT OF  
**NORTH  
VANCOUVER**



# Message from the Director and Board Chair



**Jacqueline van Dyk**  
Director of Library Services



**Kulvir Mann**  
2023 Board Chair

In many ways, 2023 felt like a return to connection and celebration. It was also a year of evolution, reminding us of the special role libraries play in our lives: they grow with us and adapt to inspire and support every stage and phase of life.

As we emerge stronger from a few collectively challenging years, we're proud to reflect on another great year of public library service. Demand for library services in North Vancouver remains strong, with circulation reaching a 10-year high in 2023.

We launched more community-focused collections, including French Caring Community Kits and Chromebook laptops. With over 1,700 non-traditional items available, including puzzles, e-readers, board games, and more, we're proud to offer more ways for people to access resources that enrich their lives.

Bringing people together has always been at the heart of what we do. In 2023, we hosted 1,250 programs with 25,664 attendees. We co-hosted the first in-person North Shore Writers Festival since 2019 at West Vancouver Memorial Library, welcoming over 500 attendees to celebrate the power of stories. We were also recognized with four PRXchange Awards from the American Library Association.

The Library Board launched an extensive strategic planning process to ensure we continue meeting

the needs of our growing community. By gathering input from Library Trustees, staff, and the public, we are shaping a refreshed vision for 2024.

We're grateful to the District of North Vancouver for their continued collaboration and financial support, and to the Province of BC for additional funding that extends our reach and impact. We're also thankful for the Friends of the Library, who generously give their time to raise funds for special initiatives.

Our libraries have always been more than our buildings and books—it's the lovely humans who create amazing library experiences that make them so special. To our staff, thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to work each day. Whether you're assisting a curious reader, creating a new program, or working behind the scenes, your efforts have a lasting impact on every visitor.

We look forward to another year of inspiration, connection, and sharing in the year ahead.



**Jacqueline van Dyk**, Director of Library Services



**Kulvir Mann**, 2023 Board Chair



# 2023 by the Numbers



**40,151**

cardholders



**7,486**

new library cards



**128,364**

reference questions answered



**1,248,608**

visits in person and online





**31,830**  
computer sessions

**1,824,676**  
total circulation



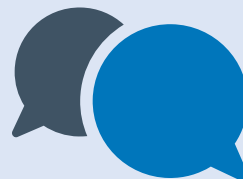
**333,980**  
digital items



**1,490,696**  
physical items



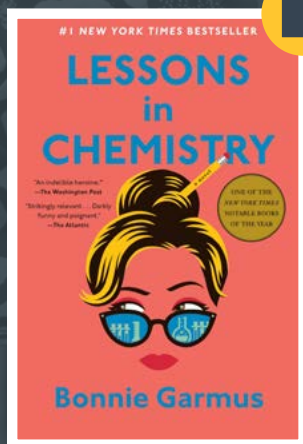
**4,250**  
Summer Reading  
Club participants



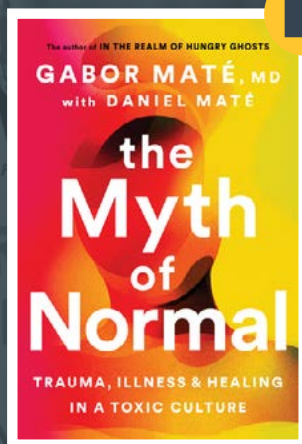
**25,644**  
program attendees

# Most Borrowed in 2023

## ADULTS



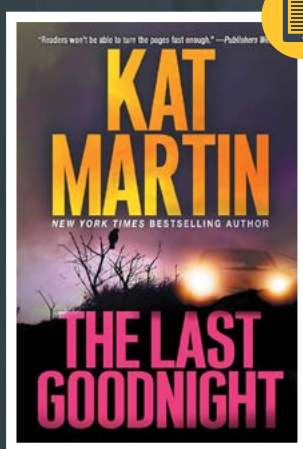
*Lessons in Chemistry*  
Bonnie Garmus



*The Myth of Normal*  
Daniel Maté and Gabor Maté



*Spare*  
Prince Harry The Duke of Sussex



*The Last Goodnight*  
Kat Martin



*Top Gun: Maverick*

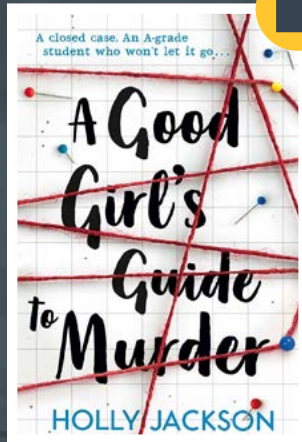


*The Fabelmans*



A selection of your favourite reads this year.

## TEENS



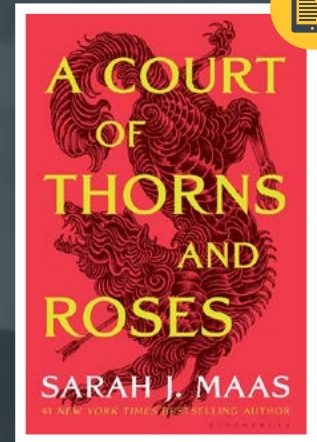
*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* series

Holly Jackson



*The Summer I Turned Pretty*

Jenny Han



*A Court of Thorns and Roses* series

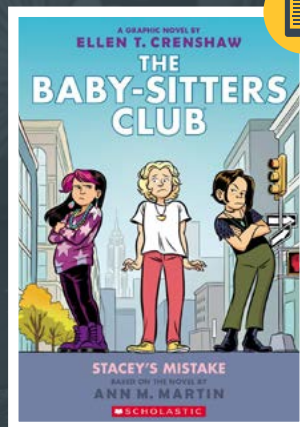
Sarah J. Maas

## CHILDREN



*Dog Man / Cat Kid* series

Dav Pilkey



*The Baby-Sitters Club* series

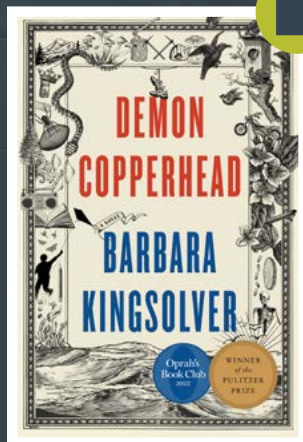
Ann M. Martin



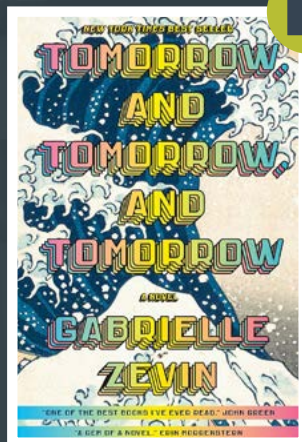
*Harry Potter* series



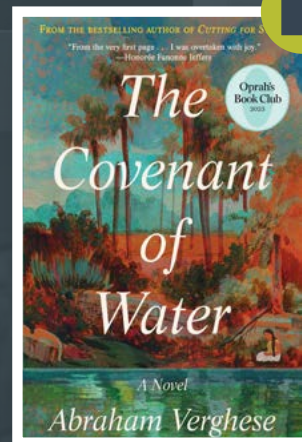
## Staff Favourites from 2023



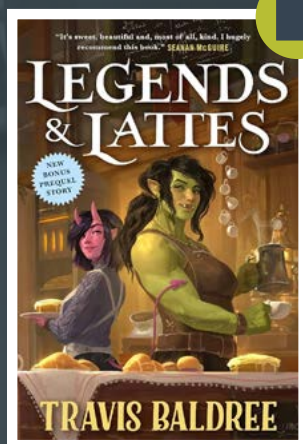
***Demon Copperhead***  
Barbara Kingsolver



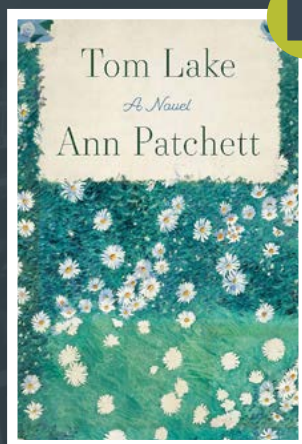
***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow***  
Gabrielle Zevin



***The Covenant of Water***  
Abraham Verghese



***Legends & Lattes***  
Travis Baldree



***Tom Lake***  
Ann Patchett



***Yellowface***  
R. F. Kuang

A few of our recently published favourites!



*A Man Called Otto*



*Are You There God?  
It's Me, Margaret.*



*Barbie*



*Past Lives*



*The Last of Us*



*The White Lotus*









# Community Comments

“ Thank you for sharing the power of SHARING. There is no place that encourages this value as you do.



“ Libraries are so important for the community and I cannot imagine a community without a library. They are vital. Thank you for all you do.





“ Growing up, NVDPL was my happy safe space. I owe my creative and overall love of books to staff working there!

“ The library is safe because of the people who work there, the space itself, and because I can escape whatever is going on in my mind by diving into a million worlds woven through words.



“ The library is a pillar of accessibility and inclusivity and learning. It's truly a place that offers access to information and entertainment for everyone.









# 2023 Statement of Operations

## Operating

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
District of North Vancouver contribution*	\$ 8,419,203	7,549,843
Government grants	709,732	220,180
Donations	19,718	25,944
Book fines, photocopy charges & sundry	124,343	124,973
Total Revenue	9,272,996	7,920,940
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits	5,843,674	5,178,583
Facility rent, operations & maintenance	951,301	833,778
Administrative costs & professional services	458,144	644,456
Library subscriptions & digital materials	289,825	316,040
Depreciation & loss on disposal of capital assets	742,050	675,469
Total Expenses	8,284,994	7,648,326
<b>Annual surplus</b>	\$ 988,002	272,614

\* The District of North Vancouver revenue includes both Operating and Capital funding.

## Capital

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Library collection	\$ 637,415	654,590
Information technology, furniture & vehicle	190,605	22,090
Work in progress—net change	187,399	1,748
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	\$ 1,015,419	678,428







# Connect.

## Outreach in Action

Library outreach goes beyond promoting services—it builds a culture of lifelong learning and belonging. Bringing the library into the community helps break down barriers and meet people where they are, creating impactful connections to library services. In 2023, NVDPL's Youth Services Teams exceptional outreach efforts created thousands of meaningful touchpoints, surging past pre-2020 levels.

Highlights include over 35 visits to local schools, over 10 visits to Tsleil-Waututh Nation School and the Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw Capilano Little Ones School, 2 Ready, Set, Learn events at the North Vancouver School District, 4 Fun in the Sun programs, a special Fresh Air Learning for World Bee Day at Loutet Farm, and participation in community celebrations like Highland Little League's Opening Day, Dorothy Lynas School's Summer BBQ, Lynn Valley Day Parade and Fair, Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, and more!

This outreach in action demonstrates the power of outreach to spark curiosity, create and strengthen relationships, and encourage



learning in unique ways—through these efforts, NVDPL reached over 7,300 connections.

Here's to more opportunities for our libraries to come alive beyond our physical walls, bringing joy, enrichment, and essential library services to our community.

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**I love NVDPL because it's my third space to visit. It's full of possibilities and exploration, appealing to every single person's interests.**





## Open Doors to Connection and Care

NVDPL has been running the Open Door Community Hub since 2022, with funding from the BC Strengthening Communities grant and SPARC BC. The vital program creates a welcoming space where all community members—particularly those experiencing homelessness—can gather, access care kits, enjoy refreshments, and connect with others in a relaxed and supportive environment. The program serves as a bridge for fostering relationships and strengthening connections at Parkgate and Lynn Valley Library.

Library staff play a key role by hosting engaging group activities such as word games, discussions, and puzzles, while also providing access to resources and guidance on accessing services like housing and mental health support. They also assist with library services like signing up for a library card and using onsite technology.

By fostering a sense of belonging and providing accessible spaces where people are free to be themselves, library staff are making a meaningful difference in the lives of community members and promoting a stronger, more inclusive community.

**Community spaces—  
especially indoor ones  
with our weather!—are  
so valuable and needed.**



# Share.

## Brews & Books: Sharing Stories in Unexpected Places

After a three-year hiatus, we were delighted to bring back our Brews & Book series, now in partnership with North Vancouver City Library and West Vancouver Memorial Library. This North Shore-wide series took our libraries beyond our walls, transforming four local breweries and restaurants into vibrant spaces for storytelling and connection.



120 bibliophiles and brew enthusiasts enjoyed events all summer long, which highlighted the work of four talented local authors:

Jayne Seagrave, Colin Stein, Cathalynn Labonté-Smith and Renée Sarojini Saklikar. Each event explored a different topic, from camping in British Columbia and cycling advocacy to rescue operations and fantasy storytelling.

By bringing our libraries into the hearts of our community, we have the opportunity to highlight local businesses and reinforce our commitment to lifelong learning—wherever people gather.

## The Fire Still Burns: An Evening with Sam George

As part of our ongoing work to support Truth and Reconciliation, we were honoured to host an event featuring Sam George, a Squamish Elder, residential school survivor, and author of the memoir *The Fire Still Burns: Life In and After Residential School*, in collaboration with North Shore libraries. A full room of attendees listened to Sam share the dark history and truths of his time in residential schools with open hearts and open minds. Despite the painful subject matter, it was a poignant and uplifting event for all who attended.





The evening of learning and reflection included a heartfelt discussion where Sam shared his life experiences and process of writing the book, and included a portion outlining how the memoir stemmed from an oral history project guided by Jill Goldberg and Langara students Liam Belson, Dylan MacPhee, and Tanis Wilson.

The event included a warm Traditional Welcome led by Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George, who shared Squamish Nation teachings on the cultural significance of notable places across the North Shore and Vancouver. Guests also enjoyed Bannock, a traditional

fry bread, from Lisa Lewis, and 32 Books was on hand to sell copies of Sam's book.

Events like these bring us closer together as a community, allowing us to listen, learn and unlearn, and discover new ways to support truth, reconciliation, and decolonization.

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**I love coming  
with my son for  
events, and also just to  
be surrounded by books  
and choose different  
adventures together.**



# Inspire.

## Digitizing Histories: Connecting our Past, Present & Future

In 2023, NVDPL took strides to support preservation and celebrate the rich history of our collective history and personal stories.

The North Shore Digital Libraries project launched, providing free and open access to the stories that shaped our community. The unique collection of digitized North Shore newspapers, from 1976-2000, ensures that past, present, and future generations can access the stories, events, and memories that defined our community's history. The initiative was launched in partnership with North Vancouver City Library and West Vancouver Memorial Library, with support from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC.

In another collaboration, Tsleil-Waututh Nation speakers utilized StoryLab's resources to record the Hul'q'umi'num' names of local animals in our Audio Booth. These recordings are now part of North Van Arts' interactive online map, the North Shore Culture Compass, contributing to the preservation and celebration of local Indigenous language.



StoryLab is also helping bridge the gaps for beginners and paving the way for new users to explore their creative and digitization projects through innovative partnerships, workshops, and educational programming. The new Digitization Station empowers patrons to preserve cherished personal memories by digitizing materials, including converting old VHS tapes into digital formats. As new technologies and formats emerge, the new service plays a role in helping our community carry their personal memories into future generations.

These new initiatives highlight the power of using digital literacy skills to preserve our history!



## Literacy Pathways: A Pokémon Adventure at NVDPL

NVDPL was abuzz during spring break thanks to a wildly successful Pokémon Scavenger Hunt that inspired over 1,200 kids to participate across three branches. Participants searched for Pokémon hidden in the stacks and collected badges, all while engaging with literary content they love, just like the characters in the books and TV show. Kids displayed their badges with great pride and many enthusiastic children even came adorned in their favourite PokéGear.



1793 total buttons were handed out, and over 300 children visited all three locations to receive all three badges. 120 children also visited Lions Gate Express Library to receive a special bonus sticker.

Staff were able to create memorable and special moments for young community members to engage with the library and explore the library, all while using their imagination and skills to locate characters!

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**The Summer Reading Club is always so special... especially now that it has adapted so much to be accessible to all kinds of storytelling.**



# With Gratitude

## Our Donors

We deeply appreciate additional financial support from those who are able to contribute. Thank you to the many generous community members and organizations who provided financial contributions and in-kind gifts to the Library in 2023.

- *Adam Newsome*
- *Amy Pressman*
- *Ann McKinnon*
- *Bruna Martinuzzi*
- *Charles Martineau*
- *Danielle and David Sharp-Bell*
- *Daria Evans*
- *David Cechini*
- *David Hunter*
- *Dave Obee*
- *Ellen Domm*
- *Elyssa Manis*
- *Frederick Zbikowski*
- *Friends of the Library*
- *Gemma Sawyer*
- *Genevieve MacMillan*
- *Houman Keyani*
- *Ivan Terziev*
- *Literacy for All Fund*
- *Lynn Valley Garden Club*
- *Margaret Hume*
- *Marilyn Books*
- *Peggy Trendell-Jensen*
- *Sam Bedry*
- *Vancouver Foundation*
- *Variath Kutty*

We also extend our gratitude to the many donors who wish to remain anonymous.

As a registered charity, we provide tax receipts for donations of \$25 or more. To make a contribution, visit any NVDPL location or donate online at **[nvdpl.ca/donate](https://nvdpl.ca/donate)**



## Community Partners

We love to collaborate and engage with our community! A heartfelt thank you to the incredible community partners we worked with throughout 2023:

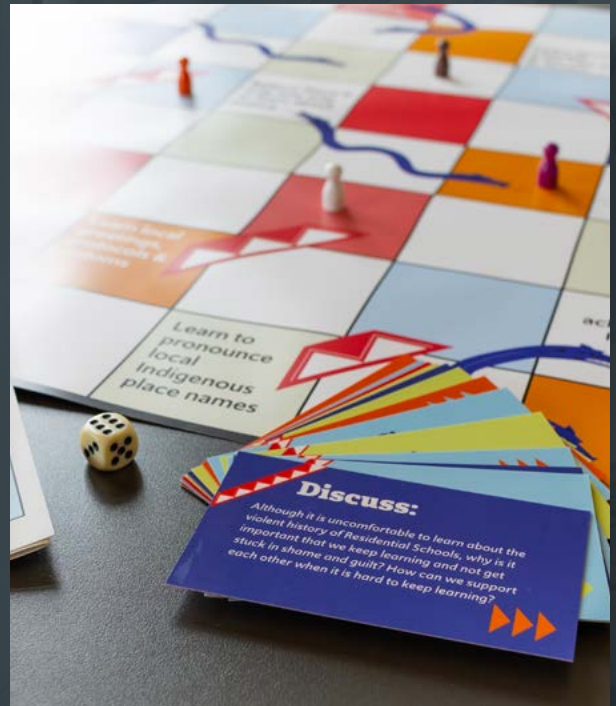
- *Baha'is of the North Shore*
- *BC Libraries Co-op*
- *BC Library Association*
- *Capilano Community Services Society*
- *Capilano University*
- *District of North Vancouver*
- *Family Services of the North Shore*
- *Impact North Shore*
- *InterLINK*
- *MONOVA*
- *National Canadian Film Day (NCFD)*
- *National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS)*
- *North Shore Blackbear Society*
- *North Shore Community Resources*
- *North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM)*
- *North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership*
- *North Van Arts*
- *North Vancouver City Library*
- *North Vancouver District Fire and Rescue Services*
- *North Vancouver RCMP*
- *North Vancouver Recreation and Culture*
- *North Vancouver School District #44*
- *OWL Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society*
- *Parkgate Community Services Society*
- *Project Drawdown*
- *Seniors First BC*
- *Service Canada*
- *West Vancouver Memorial Library*

Interested in collaborating on a program or project? We'd love to hear from you! Email us at [info@nvdpl.ca](mailto:info@nvdpl.ca)

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**As a teenager, the library is THE go-to spot for meeting up with, hanging out with friends, surfing online and having a nice time!**









# Connect with us

## **Lynn Valley Library**

1277 Lynn Valley Road  
North Vancouver, BC, V7J 0A2  
604-984-0286

## **Parkgate Library**

3675 Banff Court  
North Vancouver, BC, V7H 2Z8  
604-929-3727

## **Library Administration**

300-1277 Lynn Valley Road  
North Vancouver, BC, V7J 0A2  
604-990-5800

## **Capilano Library**

3045 Highland Boulevard  
North Vancouver, BC, V7R 2X4  
604-987-4471

## **Lions Gate Express Library**

1733 Lions Gate Lane  
North Vancouver, BC, V7P 1X7  
604-998-3033

## **Find us online**

[www.nvdpl.ca](http://www.nvdpl.ca)



@nvdpl

