

Browser Briefs

Compiled by Leanna Jantzi.

Mentorship program in full swing

The BCLA Mentorship Program launched its second session on October 15. The eight-week session will run until December 10, with 17 mentoring pairs participating. The Mentorship Program pairs library workers throughout the province, and is open to those working at all levels and in all types of institutions. The program aims to connect and empower BCLA members by fostering positive relationships in the library community, promoting leadership and a culture of sharing. More information about the Mentorship Program can be found on the program's website at <http://www.bcla.bc.ca/mentorship/page/home.aspx>.

If you're interesting in having or being a mentor, please keep an eye out for the launch of the next session in spring 2013!

Submitted by Amy Ashmore.

BCLA supports Media Democracy Days

The B.C. Library Association is a supporter of this year's Media Democracy Days in Vancouver, to be held Nov. 2-3.

Launched in 2001, MDD is western Canada's signature event for the growing global media democratization movement. This movement seeks to create a more participatory media system by supporting independent and public service media production, celebrating innovation and creating dialogue around the politics and biases linked to our increasingly corporate and concentrated media.

This year, MDD events will be taking place over two-days at SFU Woodward's Goldcorp Centre for the Arts and the Vancouver Public Library – Central Library. To learn more, visit <http://www.mediademocracyday.org>.

North Kamloops Library is golden

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System is proud to announce that the new North Kamloops Library received LEED® Gold Certification.



North Kamloops Library

The new library is part of a mixed commercial and residential complex that serves a key role in the revitalization of the neighbourhood. The new library is 20,500 square ft. and includes two 3M self checkout stations; a self-serve holds area; a quiet study room; a multipurpose program room; wireless internet, internet workstations and an instructional computer lab. The reading garden is scheduled to open in 2013 when construction on the residential tower is complete. The new facility houses the Outreach department as well, including Readers' Home Service and Audiobooks as well as our 35 foot biodiesel Bookmobile. Patrons, staff and the community at large are very pleased with the new library.

The next time you find yourself in Kamloops, please stop by for a visit!

Exploring Open Data

On Sept. 21st, in partnership with the BC Libraries Cooperative and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Libraries and Literacy Branch developed a one-day summit to explore opportunities for open data learning and leadership in BC libraries. Engaging speakers and sessions included how-to presentations, moderated panels on best practices, storytelling, other uses of open data

and open data leadership for librarians. Open data newbies, early adopters and the curious all left this summit thinking about the possibilities for using open data to support communities of users and libraries.

Here are some ways to learn more about the event and open data:

- Recap by Loren Mullane from the DataBC Team: <http://blog.data.gov.bc.ca/2012/09/a-recap-the-open-data-learning-summit-for-librarians/>
- Open Data Learning Summit website: <http://bc.libraries.coop/open/>
- Open Data Learning Summit video: <http://www.youtube.com/bclibraries>

-Libraries and Literacy Branch

VPL & partners open doors with Inspiration Pass

Free is a good price - especially when it comes to admission to some of Vancouver's top attractions and facilities.

Vancouver residents can now enjoy the best of Vancouver - at no charge - through the new [Vancouver Inspiration Pass](#), which opens the door to the city's most popular attractions, performing arts, recreation facilities, and heritage, arts and culture venues.

And all it takes to borrow the new pass is a Vancouver Public Library card.

The Vancouver Inspiration Pass program is a collaboration of VPL, the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board and 18 Vancouver- and UBC-based organizations.

It's the first pass of its kind in Metro Vancouver, and it offers free admission to top attractions including: Vancouver Aquarium, Science World, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Bach Choir, Vancouver Opera, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and UBC Museum of Anthropology, along with the Park Board's many fitness centres, swimming pools, skating rinks, pitch and putt golf courses, and botanical gardens.

How the pass works: once a year, Vancouver residents aged 14 and older can use their VPL library card to borrow the pass - which allows admission for a family of two adults and up to four children, or a group of up to six young people (aged 14 to 18 years old) to participating venues.

Passes can be redeemed, as well, for a limited number of seats at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Opera and the Vancouver Bach Choir.

A total of 120 passes will be available for borrowing every two weeks starting Nov. 1. Fifteen passes will be available at VPL's central library downtown; five passes will be available at each VPL branch. Learn more about the Vancouver Inspiration Pass program at VPL.ca/InspirationPass or by visiting any Vancouver Public Library branch.



The Vancouver Inspiration Pass is a free arts, culture and recreation pass program that opens the door to exciting experiences and fun things to see and do across the city. Photo by VPL.

- Vancouver Public Library

Library book author honoured

Dave Obee, noted journalist, author and historian, is being honoured by the University of Victoria with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree on November 13. Dave Obee is the Editor-in-Chief of the Times Colonist newspaper and author of "The Library Book: A History of Service to British Columbia".

Dave is passionate about newspapers, libraries, archives and literacy. In addition to his 40 year career as a journalist, he has researched and written several books on BC and family history. Without access to the collections and services of libraries and archives, much of what he has accomplished as an author and journalist would not have been possible. He is co-founder of the annual Times Colonist Book Drive, raising more than \$1.5 million in 15 years for education and literacy projects on Vancouver Island.

Dave Obee, Lieutenant Governor Steven Point, educator Gwendolyn Point, and scientist Naomi Halas will all receive honorary doctorates during fall convocation ceremonies, Nov. 13-14.

-Libraries and Literacy Branch