

More books, readers at library

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By Oliver Ho

Alaska Highway News

Numbers were up in many key areas of the 1989 year-end statements, according to the Fort St. John Public Library's annual report.

As well, as a result of Thursday's Annual General Meeting, the library has a new board of directors.

In the five years since it moved into its location next to Overwaitea Foods, the library has more than doubled its space (going from 1,500 square feet to over 3,000).

Much of the library's book stocks have gone up, according to the report, notably in the juvenile fiction (4,900 books), paperback (3,335) and multilingual book (225) sections.

The total book stock last year went up to 28,044 books from 27,909 the previous year.

Total circulation went up as well, to 82,958 books from 78,818 — mostly

in the adult and juvenile paperback sections (10,964 and 10,433 books borrowed) and in videos and talking books (1,339 borrowed).

The library increased its number of videos and talking books from none last year to 62 talking books and 157 videos this year.

The number of books lost went up to 534 (from 392 last year), along with the number of books thrown away, which rose to 2,116 (from 1,392).

Library memberships rose to 7,284 (from 6,804), mainly from people in the rural areas because the library eliminated the rural membership fees last year.

The new memberships grew to 1,964, from 1,363 last year.

And the budget was balanced again.

The library began its general operating budget with \$6,997 in cash, and ended with \$5,109.

Approximately 20 people attended last night's meeting, and they voted in seven new board members.

The new library board members are Brian Cameron, Christine Normand, Judy Orosz, Jaynie Clark, Daniela Parker, Vi Woodward and Ingrid Fischer.

Board President Riccardo Loro said the library's two main goals next year will be to "influence the political powers that be" to make sure the Arts Centre gets its required funding, and to make sure the city gives enough money to the library to operate for the next year.

Within the next two months, the library will present its new budget to the city.

According to the report, the library's total budget requirements this year will be \$139,191, and its total request will be \$132,091.

The report predicts this year's income to be \$7,600.



A NEW BOARD of trustees was elected at the annual general meeting of the Fort St. John Public Library Association. Members are, from left, front, Daniela Parker and Vi Woodward; rear, Judy Orosz, Ingrid Fischer, Judy Thomas, Jaynie Clark, chairman Riccardo Loro and retiring member Jack Bailey. Brian Cameron was absent when the photo was taken.

Libraries to receive computers

VICTORIA — Lyall Hanson, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, has announced a grant of \$185,000 to the B.C. Library Association to purchase microcomputers for public libraries.

"This grant will improve library service, particularly in the more remote communities," Hanson said.

With the computers, libraries from Atlin to Sparwood will be networked electronically to share scarce and costly resources.

The microcomputer purchase will enable 70 B.C. public libraries to establish an electronic interlibrary loan network, using telephone lines to transmit information.

The network will have access to all major library collections across Canada.

Hanson expressed his appreciation to the British Columbia Library Association for its part in the project.

The BCLA is working with the library services branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture to design a provincial interlibrary loan code.

The branch is also assisting libraries with installation of the computers and training.



These three lads decided to take the informal approach while enjoying the Repercussion concert at Bert Bowes School on Tuesday evening. Over 100 people took in the performance by the Montreal-based quartet. The show, well received by the audience, lasted about two hours.

Photo by Scott Crowson



Photo by Scott Crowson

MAR 3, 1990

Canadian author Budge Wilson was at the library Thursday morning for a reading of some of her works. About 30 students attended the

session. Most of Wilson's books for children take place in the imaginary fishing village of Blue Harbour in Nova Scotia. See story page 3.

Library supporters need volunteers

By Judy Thomas

The Friends of the Library Society is in need of volunteers to help out.

Basically, the Friends are raising money for children's furniture in the new Arts Centre library. They have three book sales a year and also run the hardcover book rack in the Co-op Mall and the paperback sales book cart in the library.

The used books come from donations and from library discards.

In previous years, when the membership was higher, the Friends of the Library have sponsored a book week, mall displays and children's Christmas parties.

Meetings are held informally. Volunteers are needed to help sort books for the book carts and to help out at three annual sales. It is not a large time commitment.

A book sale is coming up soon at the Totem Mall. People interested in helping the Friends of the Library Society should contact Romi Haseo at the library.

The loan period for talking books has been increased to three weeks, and fines reduced to 50 cents per day.

The loan period was increased at the suggestion of some of our

trucker patrons, many of whom enjoy listening to books while they drive but may be out of town for extended periods.

Actually, books and cassettes from the Fort St. John Library may also be returned at the Fort Nelson, Hudson's Hope and Dawson Creek

libraries by a mutual return arrangement in the Peace River region.

The longer loan period for

cassettes also makes it more convenient for people going on holiday to borrow talking books to listen to while driving.