

Town of Sexsmith Library Board
Plan of Service
2016 – 2020

Approved
April 21, 2016

Town of Sexsmith Library Board Plan of Service 2016-2020

Shannon Municipal Library Overview

The Shannon Municipal Library started in 1946 and the Town of Sexsmith Library Board was formally established under the Alberta Libraries Act in 1980. It serves the Town of Sexsmith population of approximately 2400, as well as providing services to County of Grande Prairie residents under a joint-use agreement between the two library boards.

The Shannon Library collection totals almost 20,000 items including books, DVDs, music and audio books. Library circulation in 2015 was 41,609; an average of over 3400 items per month. In addition, 8440 items were lent out to other libraries and 8543 items were borrowed from other libraries.

Library programs range from traditional story-time to a drop-in family- oriented program for parents of young children to the Lego Blockbusters Club. A vibrant Summer Reading Program is well-attended with over 150 registrants. A full slate of programs is offered in the library as follows:

Storytime (ages 3 – 5)	123 Look at Me (Parents and children ages 0-5)
Rhymes Alive (ages 0-6)	Afterschool crafts (ages five and up)
Lego Block Busters (ages 5 and up)	Hippo Quippo Readers' Group (ages 9 and up)
Tween and Teen Movie nights	Family matinees
Book Club	Alternative Art classes

Reputable electronic resources not available to casual Internet browsers are easily accessible with a library card. From Press Reader and Hoopla to Mango Languages and Zinio magazines, there is a vast amount of on-line resources available to our users through regional and provincial licenses.

Overdrive and 3M EBooks	Hoopla	Zinio Magazines
Press Reader	World Book Early World	Tumble Books
Grant Connect	Auto Repair Ref. Centre	Small Engine Repair
Ancestry.com	Novelist K-8	Novelist Plus

Many other reference databases that include reputable periodical and journal references are also available with a library card.

A Sexsmith library card also grants instant access to TRAC, a consortium of four library systems representing more than 170 libraries across the province. Patrons may also walk into almost any public library in Alberta and use their card to borrow items.

2016 brings the offering of free library memberships to residents of Sexsmith and the County of Grande Prairie. This exciting initiative is in celebration of the Shannon Library in Sexsmith reaching its 70th year.

Challenges

Limited space is still the biggest challenge facing the Shannon Library. The library is often stretched to capacity with library users, programs, tutoring and staff juggling for space.

Despite frequent weeding of the Library's collection, it is apparent that shelf room can no longer provide the variety that our increased customer base requires. This is demonstrated by the increase in the number of items being borrowed from other libraries. Backlist titles are often sacrificed in the effort to keep a fair representation of new books. E-books have helped alleviate some of this problem, but a strong physical collection is always in high demand by library patrons.

It is also a challenge to maintain effective communication with the residents of Sexsmith, not only for community events but also for the many services that the library provides to card holders beyond the provision of recreational reading. Awareness of services such as: Ancestry.com; World Book On-Line; Grant Connect; Auto and Small Engine Repair, and our many databases was identified as an area that needs promotion. Offering training in these services may provide increased awareness and usage.

Library programs have been identified as something that we do well and that our users wish to see continue as an important part of library engagement. To that end, existing and new programs will be continue to be regularly reviewed, evaluated and revised to ensure that these valued services continue to meet our community's needs.

It has become apparent through this process that many users regard the library as a "community commons," of sorts ; for friendship and conversation; as a meeting place for tutors and for people with shared interests; for resume help and access to printing, copying, faxing; and for assistance with government forms on the Internet. All of these things come together to make the Shannon Library what it is today. Thank you for being involved in the process leading up to this plan.

On behalf of the Town of Sexsmith Library Board, welcome to our Plan of Service for 2016 - 2020. We hope that you are excited by the opportunities that lay ahead.

Elizabeth Bell
Chairperson
Town of Sexsmith Library Board

Sheryl Pelletier
Library Manager
Shannon Municipal Library

Service Response – Know your community: Community resources and services.

Residents will have a central source for information about the wide variety of programs, services, and activities provided by community agencies and organizations.

Goal #1

All Sexsmith and area residents will have access to information about what is happening in the library and in the community.

Objective: Starting summer of 2016, work with local seniors' group to help inform those that are not "wired" in.

Objective: Starting winter of 2017, work with Sexsmith Wellness and FCSS to develop a quarterly event calendar for mailing or hand out.

Objective: Start an outdoor bulletin board.

Goal #2

Sexsmith and area organizations have the ability to promote their events at a hub location (Library) on a programmable sign.

Objective: Create a committee with Friends of the Shannon Library Society to examine feasibility of casino funding for a digital sign. Summer of 2016.

Objective: Work with Town of Sexsmith for approval of location and ongoing shared support and maintenance. Fall of 2016

Objective: Install sign in spring of 2017 (sooner if possible)

Goal #3

Sexsmith and area residents see the library featured regularly in a variety of media.

Objective: Ensure library is featured monthly in the community newspaper either with an article, an event, or a column.

Objective: Enhance promotion of library programs through on-line and non-print media. Ongoing

Service Response-- Satisfy Curiosity:

Lifelong learning. Residents will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Goal #1

Sexsmith and area residents have access to locally and regionally provided training and learning opportunities.

Objective: Actively advocate that vested and responsible organizations with regional boundaries support and provide learning opportunities with the Sexsmith Shannon Library. This will be done through maintaining and enhancing existing connections with organizations, and creating connections with other related organizations and groups. Ongoing.

Service Response – Express creativity: Create and share content.

Residents will have the services and support they need to express themselves by creating original print, video, audio, or visual content in a real-world or online environment.

Goal #1

Adults and youth of all ages have access to creative workshops available at convenient times on topics of interest.

Objective: Explore community interest in workshops, on-line video creation, storytelling, etc.

Objective: Enhance Lego Club with prizes and contests. Explore advanced Lego workshop potential for engaging older kids.

Objective: Re-evaluate and re-brand adult programs for better ongoing connection to the community.

Service response – Connect to the Online World:

Public Internet access. Residents will have high-speed access to the digital world with no unnecessary restrictions or fees to ensure that everyone can take advantage of the ever-growing resources and services available through the Internet.

Goal #1

Sexsmith and area residents have access to wireless printing for their devices.

Objective: Approach Friends of the Shannon Library Society for support with replacing printer with new color printer with wireless capability. Summer of 2016

Goal #2

Sexsmith and area residents have access to current technology on public computers.

Objective: Approach Friends of the Shannon Library Society for support with replacing public computers and providing larger screen monitors. Evaluate feasibility of touch screen technology. Summer of 2016

Service response -- Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information:

Information fluency. Residents will know when they need information to resolve an issue or answer a question and will have the skills to search for, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to meet their needs.

Goal #1

Sexsmith and area residents have access to the training they need to fully make use of all the services that the library offers.

Objective: Develop a list of services for which individual training is available.

Objective: Develop mini-workshops for small groups to be offered regularly. Start with Grant Connect, Resume Software, and Ancestry.com. Winter 2017-2018

Objective: Develop website library of YouTube webinars on library services either by linking to existing resources or partnering with Peace Library System.

Objective: Library staff will create short video training webinars that are posted on the website. Feature a monthly service on Facebook with link to website. 2017

Service response - Stimulate Imagination: reading, viewing, and listening for pleasure

Residents will have materials and programs that excite their imaginations and provide pleasurable reading, viewing, and listening experiences.

Goal #1

Sexsmith and area residents of all ages are encouraged to share and contribute to discussion on a range of resources.

Objective: Continue to explore and expand book clubs to include other genres and interest groups. 2017-2018.

Goal #2

Teachers regularly make use of the library as an encouragement to read.

Objective: Send letter of invitation to each school early in the school year inviting them to make the public library part of their education plan.

Objective: Develop protocols to make it easy for teachers to integrate the library into the school year.

Objective: Explore the Reading Buddies volunteer program.

Service response -- Create Young Readers:

Early literacy. Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

Goal #1

Parents and children continue to use the library as a positive literacy–building force in their lives.

Objective: Maintain and enhance existing connections with South Peace Rural Community Learning and other programming groups to continue and to increase family literacy programming through partnerships.

Objective: Maintain an active role in the South Peace Area Rural Kids Early Development (SPARKED) Coalition through acting as Fiscal Agent and keeping an active awareness of their work.

Objective: Regularly monitor and improve existing pre-school library programs to ensure that they meet the needs of parents and their children.

Goal #2

Parents have knowledge and tools about early development that they can use.

Objective: Provide both passive (handouts, resources) and active (parenting workshops, speakers, coffee klatches) tools for parents to access the information of interest about early childhood development.

Service response – Visit a comfortable space: Physical and virtual spaces

Residents will have safe and welcoming physical places to meet and interact with others or to sit quietly and read and will have open and accessible virtual spaces that support networking.

Goal #1

Sexsmith and area residents will have a library that is large enough to meet their needs regardless of age, ability, or pressure of programs.

Objective: Complete a study on what those needs actually are and how they translate to space based on accepted library standards. Fall of 2016

Objective: Make presentation to Town Council about requirements and seek support to move forward with a declared mutual goal. Spring of 2017

Objective: Develop a marketing strategy to gain community support. Chautauqua Day 2017

Objective: Commence fundraising and grant applications: Fall 2017 to Winter 2020

Objective: Approach community for involvement in planning. 2019

Objective: Mayor, MLA, and Board Chair place shovel in ground to begin construction. Summer of 2020

Appendix One: *Raw data from Community meeting*

Appendix Two: *Board review of data*