

A Busy Fall for RPL

By Shelley Civkin.

There's never a dull moment at Richmond Public Library but this fall has already been extremely busy, and it's only just started! A community job fair, a brand new collection launch, educational programs and a Depression Week event for seniors all contributed to a lot of foot traffic and high circulation.

Job Fair Draws 2,158 People

Our wildly successful job fair in September featured employers from a wide range of sectors including food, retail, hospitality, health, technology and more. Employers were on hand to share employment facts and information about individual job opportunities, provide information on career choices and the qualifications needed, and to guide interested candidates in the application process. It was a terrific opportunity for job seekers to meet prospective employers. Some employers even did on-the-spot interviews. Reflecting the current state of the job market, 2,158 people attended this job fair.



Over 2,100 people attended RPL's Job Fair in September

Starry Night Astronomy Program

As part of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in September, we held Starry Night, an astronomy program. This fun, educational program offered

people a better understanding of astronomy and included fun activities for kids like a telescope display, 3D videos, a workshop on astrophotography, and a variety of astronomy related arts and crafts. Five hundred people attended. The event was co-sponsored by The Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and the Richmond Public Library.

Filipiniana Collection Launch

To launch our new Filipiniana collection we held a big event to recognize the generosity of the Filipino Scotiabankers and Scotiabank who made it all possible. Originally, the Filipino Scotiabankers of Metro Vancouver approached the Library and proposed a campaign to establish a Filipiniana collection. Their idea was to solicit donations to Richmond Public Library directly from the community, and whatever funds they raised would be matched by the Scotiabank. They have raised \$12,200 so far and the proceeds have gone towards the purchase of 645 Filipino books, DVDs and music CDs in Tagalog, as well as books in English about Filipino culture and history, and books in English by Filipino authors. There are books for adults as well as children and the collection now has 1,171 items for borrowing. The gift was comprised of a \$6,100 donation from the Filipino Scotiabankers, and matched by a \$6,100 donation from Scotiabank. Richmond Public Library also purchased 526 items for this collection. This popular event drew 740 people and I'm happy to report that the collection is circulating well.

Depression Anxiety Education and Screening Day

October 7th saw 154 seniors participating in our Depression Anxiety Education and Screening Day program, and 16 others tried the first-time-ever online Depression Anxiety Education and Screening test. Clinicians were on hand to meet confidentially with the clients and refer them on to other health professionals if necessary. The program also featured speakers Dr. Adrienne Wang who talked about reducing anxiety, Dr. Susan Biali who spoke about depression, and naturopath Dr. Neetu Dhiman who talked about improving sleep naturally and sleep's relationship to anxiety and depression. This successful



event was co-sponsored by: Canadian Mental Health Association, Richmond Public Library, City of Richmond Senior Services, Volunteer Richmond Information Services – Seniors Community Support Services, and Vancouver Coastal Health.

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