

# Teens Volunteers at the West Vancouver Memorial Library

Sarah Donald, Youth Librarian



Volunteers are an important part of the West Vancouver Memorial Library. Our library offers one of the Lower Mainland's only in-library volunteer programs.

We offer two programs for teens who want to get involved at the Library.

T.A.G. Teen Advisory Group & Teen Volunteer Program. Both groups have been instrumental in the delivery of a number of programs at our library.

**\*Agreement in 1990 with Staff Association. Restrictions on jobs volunteers can do. Jobs have to be vetted by association.**

**\*Currently, over 55 community members volunteer (including adults) their time every week.**

**\*It gives people a sense of connection in their community**

## West Vancouver Information

- Approximately 42,130 (2006).
- Youth (ages 10-19) approximately 8%.
- Three Youth Librarians. No Teen Librarian.



Our library has two full time Youth Librarians and one part-time. We do not have a teen librarian.

In the Youth Dept., we look at the teen volunteer program as a way of serving youth in our community. Most teens need volunteer hours as part of their high school curriculum and/ or want to develop skills for their resumes. With our volunteer programs, we are able to give them an opportunity to do that.

It is a program that brings teens to the library who might not otherwise come.

## Becoming a Teen Volunteer or T.A.G. Member

- Application form.
- Interview.
- Criminal Records Check.
- Training.

We like to have an idea of what their interests are; If they've participated in activities at the library before, if they have volunteered before.

They have to give a couple of references (teachers or family friends).

If they are applying to be members of TAG, they have to agree to be respectful of other members of the group, come to meetings, be on time for meetings, etc.

If they are applying to be teen volunteers, they have to agree to be available for one two hour shift a week.

We tend to choose teens who come into the library and show initiative, rather than the teens whose parents come in for them.

Anyone who works or volunteers at our library is required to have a criminal records check. The library pays for this.

Training - We try to emphasize that as volunteers, they are the 'face of the library.' How they interact with the public can determine the kind of experience patrons have at our library and whether they will continue to visit the library. We want it to be positive. I'll talk more about the training in a little bit.

## Things to Think About

- Consider asking a few extra teens to come.
- Choosing projects that are easy to complete.

One thing we keep in mind:

-The adolescent **brain** is going through some pretty big changes.

-The parts of the **brain** that control physical movement, vision, and the senses mature first, while the regions in the front that control higher thinking (controls impulsivity, sense of judgement) don't finish the pruning process until the early 20s.

-Researchers caution that they can't prove links between **brain** parts and behavior, but it might explain why teens don't always remember to show up for their volunteer duties.

•Shute, Nancy. "Amazing Teen Brain." *US News and World Report*, February 2009. Vol. 146 Issue 1, p37-39.

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-A lot of our teens are reliable, prompt. Others are not. -We've found that it works well to have one extra teen around in case someone forgets to come.

-Teens in West Van are busy people. They have lots of great ideas, but not always time to carry them out. So, short projects that can be complete in a few sessions work well for us.

## Teen Advisory Group

- 12-15 teens.
- Meets once a month during school year.
- Brainstorm, decide on and host events for teens at library.
  - Teen Movie Night; Wii
- Book, movie & music reviews & suggestions for teen collection.
- Assist with events at library.

12-15 members in grades 8-12

Here's TAG'S mandate:

TAG provides input and feedback on library services for teens.

Act as spokespersons for teens in the community.

Assist with projects to enhance teen involvement in the library.

Advocates of the library within the teen community.

One general meeting every month of school year.

One workshop, event or project a month.

Projects: -teen movie nights, Wii, Teen Rock Concert, book launches & author readings. Serve refreshments.

Book, movie and music reviews, suggestions for the teen collection.

Assisting with library events such as our summer reading club medal ceremony.

## Events and Projects

- READ posters
- [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org)



It works well for us to have projects that can be completed in a short amount of time.

The READ posters was an easy project to do with the teens.

Our library purchased READ Design Studio cds from the American Library Association.

Took photos of teens with their favourite books and used the templates from ALA to make little posters which we've put around the Teen section.

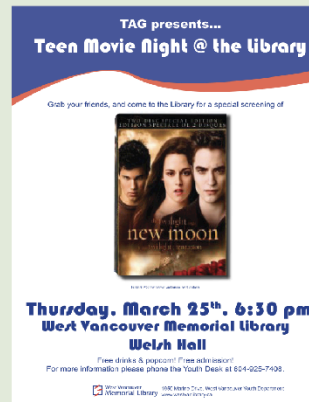
If you visit the American Library Association, you can purchase for about \$150.

You must have Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or compatible software, but it gives you a license to use the ALA Read product trademark for non-profit, promotional use.

You wouldn't have to use the READ Design Studio to do something like this. I think it could be done by taking digital photos and pasting them into Word or even just printing photos, cutting them out and putting onto some kind of paper background. Or use a colour photocopier. Or, a few libraries could get together, purchase the cds and share.

## Wii & Teen Movie Nights

- Once a month
- Teens choose movie
- Serve refreshments
- Initially intended for teens



Teens choose the movie. Usually they like to choose something that has just come out on dvd. For example, New Moon, Harry Potter, Star Trek. The library buys the dvd.

They come to the library before movie starts, make microwaveable popcorn, get drinks ready. We usually serve fruit juice, pop and water.

Stay for the movie.

Wii & Movie Nights were initially intended for other teens, but were not drawing large audiences. Pre-teens were VERY interested in attending.

So, we've opened our programs up to pre-teens, which has been bringing in big crowds. Other teens are, of course, still welcome.

Successful because teens essentially run the program, get the volunteer hours, experience of working with children.

Too successful – We went from attendance of about 10 teens for a movie last fall to 90 pre-teens who showed up for New Moon recently.

Costly. It is not much work for us to offer this program, but it is costly because the library purchased the public performance rights to show movies. Cost is approximately \$1600 a year, but it isn't just for Youth Dept. Also, cost of Wii. One way to make it less expensive might be to share one between some libraries. If you would like more information about the performance rights, send me an email, and I can give it to you.

## Teen Volunteer Program

- About 10 teens.

### **Tasks:**

- Book Buddies.
- Shelving paperback books.
- Assisting librarians with programs.

Come in on Tuesdays afternoons or Saturday mornings for two hour shifts.

- Duties include shelving paperback books.
  - Assisting with programs –craft component.
- and Book Buddies



## Book Buddies



### Book Buddies

-Usually about two to three teens for a two hour shift. We like to have one extra teen available in case one of the teens doesn't come.

-Librarians sign children up for half-hour sessions with teens. A Book Buddy program usually goes for 4-6 weeks.

We give them training in greeting children, introducing themselves to children, and to parents. Making eye contact.

Safety -They should always check with parents for who will be picking up children, stay with the children until parents come to get them.

We tell them that they are not expected to teach children how to read, but to give them help if they are struggling with words.

-We show them how to help children choose reading material.

-If there are more than three words on a page that children can't read, then it is probably too difficult.

-We explain that even if they are just reading to the kids, that it is okay –doing this can help children with their reading.

-Any questions from parents, we ask them to refer to the librarian.

-Part of their task as book buddies is to phone children to remind them to come for their next session.

-We could make the Book Buddies program a lot bigger, but the size it is now is manageable for us and not a great deal of work.



## Teen Anime & Manga Club

Amy Dawley, Teen Librarian

Prince George Public Library

teen anime & manga club

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otakus  
for life

artwork by charlie smith



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## The Lingo Explained

What is anime?

What is manga?

What is cosplay?

Bonus:

What is an otaku?





## Prince George Public Library

Prince George population approx. 75,000

1 main and 1 branch library

- 1 full time children's librarian

- 1 full time program coordinator / children's programmer

- 2 part time children's programmers

- 1 part time teen librarian

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## Background

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The Teen Saturdays & Part Series

**teen raves** **hey teens!**  
at your library

#2 April 4: **Anime Manga Mania!**  
Meet other anime fans, learn how to draw manga style, and eat pocky. For teens 12+. Free!

#3 April 18: **Game On!**  
Attention gamers! play Nintendo Wii, Guitar Hero, Dance Dance Revolution, board games, and more. For teens 12+. Free!

#4 April 25: **Earth Day Project Runway**  
Celebrate Earth Day by creating bags, wallets and purses out of recycled materials. Project Runway style! For teens 12+. Free!

Teen Saturdays  
are at the Bob  
Harkins Branch.

Drop in between  
1 - 3 pm. FREE!



The Prince George  
Public Library  
[www.lhb-pg.bc.ca](http://www.lhb-pg.bc.ca)



Bob Harkins Branch  
407 Cassin Street • (250) 963-4772  
Nashua Branch  
6047 Hart Highway • (250) 963-4738






## Ask Teens What They Want

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- Ideas for teen events
- Suggestions for purchase
- Ideas for music and DVDs
- Why they like the library
- What could make the library better
- Anything else?



**your suggestions**

ideas to help make the library more teen friendly!

ideas for teen events:

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ideas for books/graphic novels the library should have:

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 The Prince George Public Library

ideas for music & dvds for teens:

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## Club Activities

Manga drawing

Cosplay

Manga magnets

Meet a manga artist

Speak Japanese

Manga papercraft

Manga art exhibit





## **Movie Night: Operation Anime**

### **What is it?**

**Program supporting anime club, run by Funimation Productions, Ltd.**

### **What do we get?**

**Free anime DVDs**

**Free rights to screen titles they send**

**Shipped to you via UPS for free**

**Keep and add them to DVD collection**

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## What's the Catch?

Teens fill out Funimation's marketing survey

Only allowed 1 DVD per month

Cannot charge fee to audience members

**Nefarious Fine Print:** must share photographs of club events with Funimation



www.operationanime.com

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LOGIN |

| HOME | FAQ | PROMOTIONS | FORUM | AVAILABLE TITLES | BUY NOW |

GET THE POPCORN!  
[aka: this month's featured selections]



#### Case Closed Movie : The Phantom of Baker Street

The game is afoot! Conan Edogawa may look like he's only in elementary school, my dear Watson, but he possesses perhaps the keenest eye for detail of any living detective. His latest case finds him trapped in a virtual recreation of 19th century London and pitted against none other than Jack the Ripper! To save his friends, Conan must follow in the footsteps of his hero - Sherlock Holmes - and crack a case that's gone unsolved for over a hundred years, catching the most notorious serial killer of all time is their only chance of survival, but Conan will have to be smarter than Sherlock to apprehend the Phantom of Baker Street!

For more about the characters and the show, go to [www.funimation.com/cascclosed](http://www.funimation.com/cascclosed)

This title is rated **TVPG**. If you are unsure about the content of the DVD, please watch it before you show it to your club. If you feel this title is inappropriate for your members, please email [operationanime@funimation.com](mailto:operationanime@funimation.com) and we will send you a replacement. Please allow 10 business days for your new request to be processed and shipped.

> [Click to learn more](#)

#### ABOUT OPERATION ANIME

##### Interested in viewing new titles from FUNimation?

Operation Anime is a DVD request program for anime clubs to provide their members with screenings of our latest titles. Once your club application has been accepted, you may log in to your account and begin requesting DVDs for your club. All we ask for in return is survey feedback so that we can serve you better.

- > [Click here for program details](#)
- > [Click here to register your club!](#)

#### ONLINE SURVEY

Operation Anime surveys can now be taken online!



#### Sands of Destruction : Disc 1



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## Why It Works

### Teen ownership

- Named the club
- brainstormed events
- posters use their art
- vote what to watch

Likeminded teens come together around a common interest.

teen anime & manga club

**otakus for life**

**jan 18: manga magnets** new  
Learn how to make one-of-a-kind manga magnets. Give them as gifts to fellow manga lovers or use them to snazz up your boring locker.

**feb 1: anime movie night**  
It's another evening of anime fun on the big screen! Come watch episodes of xxxHolic with other fans at the library.

**feb 22: meet a manga artist**  
We've invited Rebecca, a professional manga artist, to the library to tell you about her job, manga drawing, and storyboarding!

**Loans**  
Free! for teens ages 12-18  
Just drop in! Takes place at the Bob Harkins Branch from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

The Prince George Public Library  
www.bogibog.ca

Bob Harkins Branch  
880 Tennessee Street  
Phone: 250-962-7251

Archibald Branch  
1542 Hwy 14 Highway  
Phone: 250-962-7710