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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

FVRL OZOBOTS PROGRAM
INSPIRES A NEW GENERATION OF CODERS
Library partners with Science World to bring
pocket-size robots to the Fraser Valley

[Abbotsford BC] – Ozobots have arrived in the Fraser Valley, and you can find them at your local library! This month Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) will launch *Tech-Up with Ozobots* at seven library locations throughout the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland. Aimed at children in Grades 4 to 6, this program offers a fun introduction to coding and digital exploration.

Participants will use logic and creativity to program the Ozobot Bit, a pocket-size robot that can move, change its speed and direction, and display coloured LED lights. Children can control the Bit's movements by drawing coloured lines on paper using markers. Once they learn the basics, they can use tablets and drag-and-drop coding to program the robots through a series of challenges.

FVRL's Ozobots program grew out of a partnership with Science World British Columbia. The regional library system received a donation of 18 Ozobot Bits as a result of Science World's Tech-Up program. This initiative promotes coding and computation thinking instruction in schools and libraries throughout British Columbia. FVRL supplemented the donation by purchasing 10 more Ozobots, along with tablets and learning resources. Ozobots are a welcome addition to The Playground at FVRL, which supports STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) in FVRL libraries.

Heather Scoular, FVRL's Director of Customer Experience explains, "FVRL has a strong partnership with Science World British Columbia. We've worked together on many library programs over the years, and we're always looking for new opportunities to bring Science World to the Valley." In addition to the donation of Ozobots, Science World has provided expertise and training to library staff.

Ozobots are just the latest addition to the FVRL Playground, a collection of non-tradition library offerings that foster STEAM learning. The Playground began in 2016 when FVRL received a donation of ukuleles from a local arts group. Since then, the Playground has grown to include programmable robots, telescopes, green screens, circuit boards and virtual reality experiences.

To register for *Tech-Up with Ozobots,* please contact one of FVRL's participating libraries.
- **Terry Fox Library** (Port Coquitlam): Saturday, March 9, 1 pm–3 pm (604-927-7999)
- **Abbotsford Community Library**: Wednesday, March 13, 3 pm–4 pm (604-853-1753)
- **Yarrow Library**: Thursday, March 14, 2:30 pm–4 pm (604-823-4664)
- **Chilliwack Library**: Thursday, March 21, 2 pm–3:30 pm (604-792-1941)
- **Tsawwassen Library**: Friday, March 22, 1:30 pm–3 pm (604-943-2271)
- **White Rock Library**: Wednesday, March 27, 1 pm–2:30 pm (604-541-2201)
- **Mission Library**: Friday, March 29, 2 pm–3 pm (604-826-6610)

Learn more about Ozobots at FVRL (Multimedia):
- Learn about Ozobots, the newest addition to the FVRL Playground: www.fvrl.ca/ozobots.
- Meet the Ozobots in this promotional video: https://youtu.be/CdWesejP24o.
- See attached artwork for The Playground/Ozobots at FVRL. Please give photo credit to Fraser Valley Regional Library.

About Fraser Valley Regional Library
Fraser Valley Regional Library is the largest public library system in British Columbia, with 25 community libraries serving almost 700,000 people in its service area. Established in 1930, it is funded with taxes raised in the communities it serves, plus a Government of BC operating grant. The governing Board consists of elected officials representing 15 member municipalities and regional districts. With its mission of "opening minds, enabling dreams," FVRL plays a prominent role in communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

FVRL Member Libraries

Abbotsford Community	*Agassiz*	*Aldergrove*
Boston Bar	*Brookswood*	*Chilliwack*
Clearbrook	*Fort Langley*	*George Mackie*
Hope	*Ladner Pioneer*	*City of Langley*
Maple Ridge	*Mission*	*Mount Lehman*
Muriel Arnason	*Murrayville*	*Pitt Meadows*
Sardis	*Tsawwassen*	*Terry Fox*
Walnut Grove	*White Rock*	*Yale*
Yarrow		

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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