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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SEE WHAT'S UP WHEN YOU BORROW A TELESCOPE FROM THE LIBRARY *Fraser Valley Regional Library's telescope lending program takes off.*

Abbotsford, B.C. – Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) has expanded its *Playground* to include telescopes. Starting today customers can borrow an easy to use portable telescope from the library and explore the wonders of the night sky.

“FVRL had been looking for another engaging STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) experience to add to its *Playground* lending collections, and the stars seem to align when the Mission Heritage Association approached the library with a donation of seven telescopes”, says Heather Scoular, Director of Customer Experience. “They inspired us to launch a collection of 50 telescopes, and in turn we hope to inspire customers to start their astronomy journey with the library.” Over the coming months FVRL will grow the collection with a range of telescopes for different backgrounds and knowledge levels.

“With the naked eye, you can only see a few thousand stars. Put a telescope on that and all of a sudden you can see millions of stars – it's just amazing! This collection is going to open a lot of eyes,” says Brian Antonson, President of the Mission Heritage Association. “Telescopes contribute to the whole STEAM learning concept, particularly in the areas of science and technology. Libraries are repositories of knowledge. They are a place where people come together to learn and so it is perfect for a telescope lending program.”

As part of the launch celebrations, FVRL will be hosting an Astronomer Series at the Terry Fox Library on April 26 from 7. to 8 p.m. and Maple Ridge Public Library on May 10 from 7 to 8 p.m. Customers can learn more about the universe as local expert Christa van Laerhoven brings light to some of the wonders of the night sky.

Looking for other STEAM experiences? FVRL's *Playground* also features a lending collection of Sphero SPRK+s (app-enabled robotic balls) and ukuleles. In-library experiences include virtual reality, green screens, Makey Makeys, and KEVA Planks. Learn more by visiting www.fvrl.ca.

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Learn More about Telescope Lending at FVRL (Multimedia)

- Be inspired by the wonders of the night sky, watch https://youtu.be/HdMw77_fzk8.
- Learn about telescope lending and meet our donor, watch https://youtu.be/1_Zqzeg29aA.
- See attached photo of customer and telescope in an FVRL library – please give photo attribution to Fraser Valley Regional Library.

About Fraser Valley Regional Library

FVRL 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 "to connect people to the world of information and ideas," FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

FVRL Member Libraries

Abbotsford Community

Boston Bar

Clearbrook

Hope

Maple Ridge

Muriel Arnason

Sardis

Walnut Grove

Yarrow

Agassiz

Brookwood

Fort Langley

Ladner Pioneer

Mission

Murrayville

Tsawwassen

White Rock

Aldergrove

Chilliwack

George Mackie

City of Langley

Mount Lehman

Pitt Meadows

Terry Fox

Yale

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