

Libraries offer books and so much more

Sitting on the beach, basking in the sun with a good book is the quintessential Shuswap experience. And what's better than having one good book than having a whole stack? That's where the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) comes in really handy.

The ORL is Canada's 16th largest library system with 29 branches throughout B.C.'s Southern Interior including branches in Salmon Arm, the South and North Shuswap, Enderby, Silver Creek, Sicamous and Revelstoke. If you are a visitor to the Shuswap area, you can still access internet and computer terminals for free in the local branches.

With a BC OneCard, any BC resident with a valid library card can borrow all materials at the ORL.

Besides the one million books in the system there are magazines, newspapers, CD's and DVD's.

The kids can take part in the Summer Reading Club. They get a colourful reading log, a bookmark and contest entry forms. When their logbook is full, they get a certificate of achievement that will impress their teachers in September.

Many of the local branches offer free children's story times with your family, as well as special events and guest speakers.

And as if this wasn't enough, you can also enjoy wireless access in-branch and a growing collection of feature films – all free with your ORL card.

On the ORL's redesigned website at www.orl.bc.ca, you can access the information you need with a mouse-click: story time schedules at each branch, librarian-recommended book lists and websites, access to the catalogue and subscription-only databases, and upcoming events. The professional (and very friendly) librarians can help you find answers to everything from car repair manuals to award-winning novels through e-mail or online chat. You can also download Audio books and eBooks free of charge by clicking on Library to Go.

Enderby, 514 Cliff Avenue: phone 250-838-6488

North Shuswap 3867 Squilax Anglemont Hwy:
phone 250-955-8198

Revelstoke 605 Campbell Avenue: phone 250-837-5095

Salmon Arm #285 Piccadilly Mall, 1151 10th Ave. S.W.:
phone 250-832-6161

Sicamous 1133 Highway 97A: phone 250-836-4845

Silver Creek 921 Salmon River Road: phone 250-832-4719

The Sorrento branch has relocated to Blind Bay Unit 1, 2676 Fairway Hills Road: phone 250-675-4818



Many golfing options

The Shuswap is a popular tourist destination not only for water sports but also for its numerous golf courses.

Without exception, they are surrounded by stunning scenery, whether it be right by the forested mountains, the lake or on the rolling hills. Whether you're a novice at the game or a pro needing a challenge you will find the local greens just what you're looking for.

Club Shuswap Golf & RV has a breathtaking view of the 'Lakeview green' 18 hole, par 59 executive course. Or you can try the tricky 'Coyote Ridge' 9-hole par 29 executive course. There are also putting practice facilities and a 30 stall covered driving range.

You will find them 8 kms east of Salmon Arm at 5751 Trans Canada Highway N.E. Phone 250-832-7345.

In the Blind Bay area Shuswap Lake Estates is the place to be. The 18-hole course (pictured above) offers well bunkered, undulating greens, generous fairways and four beautiful lakes. This course has a variety of challenges so it's good for the casual and serious golfer. Practice facilities include a driving range, two practice greens and practice sand bunkers. They're located 26 km west of Salmon Arm right along the Trans Canada Highway. Phone 250-675-2315 or 800-661-3955.

Birchdale Golf Course is off the beaten track and offers a quiet country atmosphere for a relaxing and leisurely round of golf. It's an easy walking course so it's accessible for the whole family. It has a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains. This nine hole course is six miles north of Enderby and 10 miles south of Mara Lake. The address is 7023 Hwy. 97A. Phone 250-838-7740.

Other golf courses in Salmon Arm are the Salmon Arm Golf Club and Canoe Creek Golf Course. In the Squilax area is Talking Rock Golf Resort and Chase has the Sunshore Golf Club. The North Shuswap is home to the Anglemont Estates Golf and Country Club. Hyde Mountain on Mara Lake Golf Course is near Sicamous, as is the Eagle River Golf Course. At Mabel Lake, east of Enderby, is the Mabel Lake Golf and Country Club.

Local Olympians

The Shuswap area is home to a number of athletes who have proudly represented Canada in the Olympics.

Among them are speed skaters Marcia Beckner and Mike Hall, curler Sandra Jenkins, Joanne Sargent in basketball, and swimmer Rick Say. Shea Weber, who played on the men's hockey team for the 2010 Olympics, was born in Salmon Arm and raised in Sicamous.



This osprey uses the totem at the Salmon Arm fair grounds as a perch.