Instructions on Earthquake Monitoring from Home!

You can access the live feed to our seismograph online at the library website, www.bellinghamlibrary.org. Scroll to the bottom right of the page and click on the first link: Click Here to connect to a live feed from the Bellingham Library’s Seismograph.

If you see unusual activity on that page there are a few of ways to check and see if it is an earthquake or some other interesting event:

1. Click on the second link on the bottom right of the library website to get to the Boston College Educational Seismology Project’s blog to see recent earthquakes they have verified on seismographs throughout the region.

2. Click on the third link on the bottom right of the library website to get a live feed to many seismographs in our area. You can compare what you are seeing on our seismograph to others. If you see the same activity it is not just a local event, it is probably an earthquake.

3. Click on the fourth link on the bottom right of the library website to get a listing from the United States Geological Survey set to show earthquakes over 2.5 in magnitude that have taken place all over the world. You can customize the display for location, time and other information by clicking on the settings button in the upper right corner of the site, next to the question mark. If you look at the time of the event on our display (each of the last 24 hours is displayed on one line) and match it with the time on the USGS site, you can verify earthquakes!

This is a photograph of a 6.6 earthquake on April 24, 2014 in British Columbia as it was recorded on our seismograph. Note the wave shape of the activity. (more info on reverse!)
So there is activity and it isn’t an earthquake, what could it be?

1. If it shows only on our machine and no where else, it is local activity. It could be as simple as someone bumping into the table on which the seismograph sits. We had one instance where there was a quarry blast in Blackstone that was originally flagged by USGS as a 1.7 earthquake, but in the verification process was changed to a quarry blast.

   ![Image of a 1.7 quarry blast in Blackstone](image1.png)

   This is the 1.7 quarry blast in Blackstone. Notice that it is a very quick up and down drawing, without a lot of extended wave motion.

   ![Image of quick up and down activity](image2.png)

   This, on the bottom left, is quick up and down activity that was not linked to any seismic activity. It was probably someone bumping the table.

2. Ocean activity! Not only does our seismograph register earthquakes, when coastal storms cause crashing waves on the ocean, those waves register on the seismograph.

   ![Image of March 26, 2014 coastal storm](image3.png)

   This is a screenshot from the blog showing the March 26, 2014 coastal storm and how it displayed on our seismograph (and the seismograph at the Duxbury Middle School). Note the continued very dark waves. This is the ocean waves hitting the shore causing seismic activity. Note the waves are darker in Duxbury... they are closer to the ocean.