



Peterborough Public Library

To: Library Board
From: Jennifer Jones, Library CEO
Meeting Date: May 11, 2021
Subject: Report PPL21-010
Library CEO Report May 2021

Purpose

A report to inform the Library Board on general matters concerning Library operations and services.

Recommendation

That the Library Board approves the recommendation as outlined in Report PPL21-010 dated May 11, 2021, of the Library CEO as follows:

That the report to inform the Library Board on general matters concerning Library operations and service be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendation of this report.

Background

General Service

After briefly reopening to the Public at the end of February, the library resumed curbside pickup services when Peterborough entered the Red Zone designation due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in early March. A four-week Provincial Stay at Home order

was issued in early April, then extended until late May. We will continue to offer curbside pickup until at least the end of the Stay-at-Home Order.

Our membership levels have been holding steady throughout the latest provincial closure. March saw 156 new members and 479 membership renewals. April had 152 new members with 464 renewals. The library was closed for half of March and all of April 2020 so equivalent comparative data is not available for that time.

We are averaging 150 per day for curbside pickup, with just over 426 total checkouts per week. This is lower than the numbers we experienced over the summer months of 2020, but our service levels are more consistent now than they were at that time. We continue to receive positive comments for our curbside services from very thankful patrons. Most of our patrons are so happy to still have access to books during this crazy time and they like to let us know when they come in to pick up their items.

Several library staff volunteered to assist Peterborough Public Health and work some of their hours at the vaccine clinics or on the public inquiry phone lines. This has been a bit of a challenge for scheduling, but we have been able to make it work. Staff who have been able to participate have commented that it has been a rewarding and unique experience.

In April, the Library received a fair bit of social media attention in connection with the needle drop box at the rear of the building. There was a post made on the Peterborough Scanner Feed Facebook page concerning a father who had a negative experience which generated an extremely large conversation in the comments on that Facebook page. Library staff were troubled by the safety concerns that were raised, so we made the decision to post on our Facebook feed in response to that post to reassure patrons that there has not been a case of mistaken identity with the needle box, and that it has indeed provided a noticeable difference being there. Staff are in the process of acquiring some additional signage for that corner of the facility as well to help clearly indicate the path to the item return box.

Programming

The programming committee has been taking some time to explore the possibility of adopting a more community-led approach to future programming. This is partially in response to current trends in librarianship, as well as connected to the feedback from the library service review that was conducted in February 2020.

	Programs	Participation
Adult & Teen Programs in March	8	102
Children's programs in March	6	383
Adult & Teen Programs in April	8	122
Children's programs in April	9	289

March Break 2021 was changed to a spring break in April. This created a bit of a delay in our programming efforts, but we were fortunate to be able to retain all our guest presenters and reschedule them for the new dates in April.

April 12 – AM	Rainbow Felted Rocks	10 participants (12 spots)
April 12 – PM	Rainbow Felted Rocks	18 participants (12 spots)
April 13	Writing Workshop with Lindsey Carmichael	5 participants (10 spots)
April 14	Comic Book Scripting Workshop with J. Torres	9 participants (12 spots)
April 14	Kids Scavenger Hunt	9 participants (12 spots)
April 15	Writing Workshop with Helaine Becker	16 participants (20 spots)
April 16	Kids Build LEGO	9 participants (12 spots)

There are now over 100 subscribers to the Story Time at Home program. This program started on March 31, 2020.

Throughout the month of April, the library ran two contests for kids – Patch’s Colouring Contest (for 3–5-year-olds) and a Creative Writing Contest (for 6-12-year-olds). First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to the winners. We invited three Canadian authors to deliver writing workshops to kids ages 6-12 years to help support the Creative Writing Contest (give them some tips and inspiration). Library staff are helping to judge submissions. There were 10 colouring contest submissions and 23 writing contest submissions.

Collections

The library will be introducing a new circulating collection of Disc Golf discs once the stay-at-home order has been lifted and the courses reopen.

We have also updated some of the features in the My Account area of our catalogue to allow patrons to edit some of their personal information.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Jones
Library CEO

Contact Name:

Jennifer Jones
Library CEO
Phone: 705- 745-5382 Ext.2370
Fax: 705-745-8958
E-Mail: jjones@peterborough.ca