



To: Members of the Peterborough Public Library Board
From: Jennifer Jones, Library CEO
Meeting Date: June 8, 2021
Subject: Library CEO Report – June, Report PPL21-016

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 PPL21-016 dated June 8, 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

Curbside pickup continues to run fairly smoothly. Both staff and the patrons are seasoned pros with our process. Tuesdays remain our busiest day. We believe that this is likely due to the fact that we are closed on Sunday and Monday. Our theory is also supported by the list of over 500 holds for staff to pull on Tuesday mornings, and the

additional backlog of patron queries coming in over the phone and via email from the weekend.

Collections

The last couple of months have seen quite a bit of change in our digital collections. We were able to successfully migrate our digital products Transparent Language Online (May), LinkedIn Learning (April), RBdigital Streaming Video (May). Though it wasn't the smoothest of transitions, most of the issues we encountered have been resolved as of last week. Several e-blasts were sent to notify/update patrons of the changes to all these services.

With the dissolution of RBdigital, we have lost access rights to Acorn TV. There are some titles available through the Hoopla interface, and staff are looking into other alternatives.

ArtistWorks is a new streaming video learning platform that patrons have access to through Libby (OverDrive). Patrons of all musical abilities can take courses taught by award-winning musicians – they can choose classes in wind, string, percussion, voice, and music theory. Initial access is for 30 days, and then patrons have the option of returning and accessing it for another 30 days, and so on (the Library's monthly budget limits apply).

A new addition to the **Library of Things** was launched on June 1: Disc Golf Sets.

Are you interested in trying Disc Golf? Also known as frisbee golf, this game is played by throwing discs at a series of targets along a Disc Golf course. The rules of play are very similar to regular golf. Check out a Disc Golf kit from the Library to try your hand at this fun sport.

Each Disc Golf Kit includes 3 Discs: a putter, a midrange and a driver. Plus Instructions for playing the game, along with a map of free, local Disc Golf Courses

Kits are available in our catalogue for members to place a hold and pick up when notified.

We also have some kits available on a first-come, first-served basis for those spontaneous outings. Ask at the Main Check-Out desk.

Adult Programming

In May, our Adult Book Club discussed **Furious Hours: murder, fraud, and the last trial of Harper Lee** by Casey Cep. The discussion explored a wide variety of ideas, connected people with each other, and related collection items with internet resources. One participating patron held up copies of at least three library titles that she had

borrowed in connection with this book (Capote, *Go Set a Watchman*, and *In Cold Blood*.) At the meeting another patron mentioned exploring Isabel Wilkinson's *The Warmth of Other Suns* in relation to race relations and the northern migration of African Americans, which *Furious Hours* briefly mentions. A great example of a library program propelling readers to explore independent learning and discovery.

Children's Programming

The Results of **Patch's Colouring Contest** (for 3–5-year-olds) and the **Creative Writing Contest** (for 6-12-year-olds) were announced this month. The kids were thrilled to receive calls from Library staff letting them know that they had won! It was a particularly tough competition this year; the judges scores were all very close and the Library CEO had to weigh in with the tiebreaker vote. The winners' names and submissions will be posted on the library website from June 1 to August 31.

The Tween Book Club met on May 20 to discuss an Asian Heritage Month title **Front Desk** by Kelly Yang. Nine kids attended the Zoom meeting.

315 Grab & Go Craft Kits were distributed this month. These have been very successful with more than 60 kits per week going out; 75 for Mother's Day weekend and 60 for the other weekends in May. The Library is also working on partnerships with a couple of local organizations to support them in their grab & go efforts this summer.

AccessAbility Week

Mayor Diane Therrien proclaimed the week of May 30 to June 5, 2021 as National AccessAbility Week in the City of Peterborough. The theme of National AccessAbility Week 2021 is **Disability and Inclusion: No one left behind.**

An introduction to the Library's Visiting Library Service was featured that week, as well as a special **Shelf Talk** blog post highlighting books from the children's collection that include themes about disability, accessibility and inclusion or that feature protagonists that have a disability.

Visit peterborough.ca/accessibility for links to all online videos and content.

Healthy Communities Initiative Grant Funding

The Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) is a \$31 million investment from the Government of Canada to transform public spaces in response to COVID-19.

From the HCI website:

Public spaces are the glue to our communities: they enable a feeling of belonging, of social cohesion and encourage our sense of collective identity. COVID-19 has seriously constrained our access and use of these spaces in communities across Canada. Impacts of the virus have also been extraordinarily uneven, underscoring inequalities across communities and disproportionately

impacting those who are already experiencing vulnerability as a result of systemic inequalities.

In the face of these challenges, communities have been extraordinarily resourceful and resilient in improvising temporary and longer-lasting solutions to the challenges of COVID-19. Many are undertaking work for immediate needs but also thinking about how to build pandemic-resilient spaces for the future. We are seeing new digital solutions, that allow people and communities to feel connected, safe and healthy all while respecting public health measures and norms such as physical distancing and mask-wearing.

The Healthy Communities Initiative will provide funding to a broad range of organizations, including local governments, charities, Indigenous communities and non-profits, for projects, programming and services that help communities

- create safe and vibrant public spaces
- improve mobility options
- provide innovative digital solutions

The Library was successful in receiving funding through this grant initiative for a **Library Book Bike**.

As part of the grant application, the Library submitted the following:

The Library is uniquely positioned to influence many of the social determinants of health positively. Our services improve education and literacy, provide employment support, offer positive childhood experiences, provide social support programs, and offer resources for self-help and self-improvement. As an institution, we are inclusive of race, culture, and gender, all factors which are determinants of health.

The Library Book Bike project will remove the institutional boundaries associated with the physical building and transport our programs and services into community public spaces. By bringing the Library out into the community, we can provide a new way for City residents to access our services and learn about the free resources available to them where they are.

The Library Book Bike can participate in any outdoor community event and be a support for pop-up Library focused events. For school-aged children, the Library Book Bike would also serve as a fun way to help reduce the summer literacy slump.

The Book Bike will be an eye-catching outreach tool for the Library and a conversation starter at events. It will also serve as a hot spot, bringing free Wi-Fi with its community visits so that Library staff can demonstrate the use of technology to access library materials such as e-books, e-audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, and databases.

The physical nature of the Library Book Bike will also provide a mental health break from the digital world everyone is currently experiencing as part of the pandemic in the

form of a socially distanced human interaction and a leisure diversion with library materials.

One of the elements suggested to expand library services in the community as part of the 2020 Service Review was the use of bookmobile. This idea was received favorably by survey respondents. A bookmobile is a cost-prohibitive project, whereas a scaled-down and environmentally sustainable option of a Library Book Bike is a more economical and achievable alternative.

Given that more than half of the Peterborough population does not use the Library regularly, we believe that the Library Book Bike project will allow us to connect with the entire community in a fun and engaging way while allowing us to hear their voices and working to incorporate their perspectives into our library services. This project will significantly improve our ability to meet our community right where they are, outside the library walls, in the spaces where they feel most comfortable. Our outreach plan's ultimate goal is to build trust and lasting relationships that will empower our community to actively participate in helping to develop library programs and services to meet their specific needs.

Submitted by,

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