



To: Members of the Peterborough Public Library Board
From: Jennifer Jones, Library CEO
Meeting Date: September 14, 2021
Subject: Library CEO Report September 2021, Report PPL21-026

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 PPL21-025 dated September 14, 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

New Board Members

Council appointed three new Library Board members with terms until November 30, 2022. They were provided with a brief orientation on July 28, 2021, and will be attending their first Board meeting on September 14, 2021.

General Service

The Library continued to operate on modified hours throughout the summer, returning to 7 days per week and regular operating hours on Sunday, August 22, 2021.

Membership levels have been holding steady throughout the summer. June saw 141 new members and 542 membership renewals. July had 296 new members with 942 renewals, and August had 324 new memberships with 767 renewals. July and August increases resulted from the TD Summer Reading Club, where many children registered for their first library cards. New membership numbers are very similar to those seen in 2019.

We are continuing to average 75 members per day, placing over 300 holds daily for pickup.

Staff have received a lot of positive feedback from patrons who are very happy to be back in the physical Library, browsing books, using the space to read, study and meet up with friends. People are pleased to have full access to the Library again.

Kiosk

The self-serve Kiosk at the Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre (PSWC) officially opened for use on August 25, 2021. Pop-up activities are being planned for the fall on-site to continue promotion and to encourage use.

Public Computers

Challenges with public computers continue, though there are a small number of machines available for public use. They are limited in number to ensure physical distancing is maintained. There have been some challenges with the hardware, which staff will continue to troubleshoot and attempt to resolve.

Children's Programming

The Children's department was lively with the TD Summer Reading Club programs in July and August. While most of the programming remained offered online, 6 in-person Story Time in the park sessions were held, providing a break from screen time and the opportunity for 152 people to interact at a safe distance with staff.

PJ Family Story Time ran on June 22 (6 participants), July 22 (9 participants), and August 26 (12 participants) over Zoom.

Three Special Events were held this summer, two on Zoom and one in person. On July 7, we had Tribal Vision perform Visions of Turtle Island, which explored first nations history and traditions and confronted stereotypes (19 people attended). On July 14, families were invited to join Ariko Traditional Dance & Rhythm to learn basic rhythm on spoons and a simple dance step (22 people attended). The question-and-answer period for both events was incredible, and everyone learned a lot. On August 18, we had our

first in-person event. Local artist Tim Holland performed for a live audience of 50 people at the Nichol's Oval Pavilion.

We applied and were successful in acquiring a StoryWalk (*The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashley Spires) as part of the TD Summer Reading Club programming this summer. We coordinated with Peterborough GreenUp to have the StoryWalk at Ecology Park for July and worked with the City to have it at Millennium Park for August. An online survey was created and posted on the StoryWalk to encourage families to provide us with feedback on their experience reading the story and tell us how many people in their family participated. We also learned that several day camps read the StoryWalk at each location – 96 campers in July and 120 in August!

Adult Programming

The Library hosted a successful author visit with Drew Hayden Taylor, a local author from Curve Lake First Nation. For National Indigenous History Month, we chose his most recent novel *Chasing Painted Horses* which explores issues of belonging and spiritual “seeing.” Drew also discussed his writing process and appreciation of indigenous voices in genre fiction, such as mystery and fantasy, introducing our group to many new authors.

Our summer programs, although few, have been very successful, with excellent participation. The Grab n' Go “Cards for Caring” kits for adults were gone within the first 3 days of the month. Participants were encouraged to make and send cards to those who needed a pick-me-up during the pandemic. Our special online *Decluttering* event drew in 30 participants (twice as many as anticipated!), and the Teen Reviewers had 18 participants, which is unprecedented for a summer meeting.

DelaFosse

At the May 11, 2021, Library Board meeting, it was moved that an updated building condition assessment of the DelaFosse be completed. The first step was taken by working with the City's Facilities and Energy Manager. Experts were invited to review, assess, and report on the possibility of the DelaFosse meeting today's accessibility, energy efficiency, and serviceability standards.

Despite initial plans to reopen the DelaFosse branch when the Library returned to its regular operating hours on August 22, a draft copy of the engineer's report indicated some significant concerns with the structural state of the floors. The weight load distribution that the floor was designed for (60 pounds per square foot) is exceeded by the current layout and quantity of books and shelving, creating a health and safety risk.

It was determined that the best approach given this information was to keep the DelaFosse branch closed until the full consultant's report is received and presented to the Board at a future meeting for discussion.

Submitted by,

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