



AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
Enhancing our Community through Learning, Leisure and Literacy

Chief Librarian's End of Year Report – 2019

Highlights:

- **January 2:** The library reopened from the Christmas/New Years break.
- **January 23 & 29:** The library was closed due to inclement weather
- **February:** The library closed early on February 7th and 12th, and all day on February 13th due to inclement weather. The February Library Board meeting was postponed due to weather.
- **February 11:** Harry Potter Book Night, originally scheduled for Thursday, February 7th, was postponed to Monday, February 11th due to a winter storm. This event included the Hogwarts Battle Board Game, a Scavenger Hunt, Wand Making, Word Games, a Quiz, Make a Book, Decorate a Sock for Dobby, Create a Bookmark, the Bertie Botts Jellybean Challenge, Have You Seen This Wizard?, and Making Glow in the Dark Slime including a Black Light Box. Attendees also enjoyed refreshments, including Broomstick Cheese and Pretzels. 42 parents and children attended this event. Many thanks to volunteers Merridy Marshall, Andrew Filion, Gary Thornhill, and Susan Filion (who prepared the snacks).
- **February 18:** The library was closed for Family Day.
- **February 19:** The scheduled Board Meeting was cancelled due to a winter storm.
- **March 1:** The library has catalogued all the equipment for the Recreation Lending Library which has been received so far. The Township is finalizing the lending agreement which will be required to borrow the equipment.
- **March 13:** The library hosted a March Break program: “Making Bird Feeders With Recycled Materials”. 19 children and 6 parents/caregivers joined us to make bird feeders from recycled containers such as plastic plates, toilet paper rolls, pine cones and plastic drink bottles. The participants were very enthusiastic and creative. Thanks to staff at the Maynard Transfer Station for providing plastic drink bottles for our project.

- **March 22:** The library hosted “Spring Fling – Painting Tulips in Watercolour” taught by Diane Godwin-Sheridan. 20 people took part in this very enjoyable introduction to watercolour painting. Diane provided all the materials and her expertise, and the library provided refreshments. This class sold out and there was a waiting list. Another class is planned for April. Thanks to Jacquie Kelly for planning this event.
- **April:** Problems with the failure of the server continue to increase. Gary Thornhill has spent many volunteer hours attempting to troubleshoot these issues. The Board has applied for a Brockville Community Foundation Grant to partially fund a new server. No Grant announcement has been made as of April 30.
- **May:** As a result of Provincial government cuts of 50% to the operating budget of the Southern Ontario Library Service, courier service between libraries has been cancelled and the inter-library loan system has been suspended as of May 31, 2019. This will impact inter-library loans and the rotations of the DVD and The Large Print Pool. SOLS is reviewing operations to try to minimize the impact of these cuts. The library has expressed it’s concern through letters to MPP Steve Clark and Minister Tibolo.
- **May:** The library is partnering with the Township to apply for a Trillium Grant for the purchase and installation of a shed to house the Recreation Equipment Lending Library.
- **May:** Problems with the failure of the server led to a complete crash. Gary Thornhill was able to recover the library files and create a new system using 2 NAS devices to take the place of the server. In May Gary donated 44 hours of tech support. The Board had applied for a Brockville Community Foundation Grant to partially fund a new server, this request was denied. The township has agreed that the library may fund the new system through the reserve fund.
- **June 1:** The library hosted our Spring Sale which included a plant and yard sale. The total raised by the sale was \$692.50. Many thanks to all those who donated plants and items for the sale, and to volunteers Jack Tennant, Donna DeJong, Barry DeJong and Barbara Dymant.
- **June 1:** The suspension of Interlibrary Loans was lifted on a limited basis. Lending libraries will not be fully compensated for postage, and lending libraries will decide individually if they can afford to continue to loan materials.g
- **June 11:** The library and Township partnered to submit a Trillium Grant application for funding to purchase and install a storage shed to house the Augusta Recreation Lending Library equipment. The funding application included regrading the rear of the library and installing drainage, replacing a window with a door in the library office, and the purchase of a custom shed..

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- **July 4:** Our TD Summer Reading Program has started. 32 children have registered. Club members earn stars by reading books. Children who earn 12 stars may choose a free book to take home from our treasure box. All club members are invited to our Wind-Up Party in September, when Little Ray's Reptiles will be visiting the library.
- **July:** The library purchased and installed two new shelving units. One in the front lobby for books for sale, and one in the main library for new special display space.
- **July:** The library continues to add items to the Recreation Equipment Lending Library. The collection now contains 113 items. This collection has been very popular with Patrons.

September 21: The library hosted a presentation by Little Rays Reptile Zoo to celebrate the end of our TD Summer Reading Program. 47 young readers and their parents, siblings and care givers attended and enjoyed meeting several interesting creatures. 32 children registered for the program this year and read a total of 253 books. 20 children earned 12 stars and were able to choose a free book from our treasure box.

- **October:** Contact has been made with the woodworking teacher at South Grenville District High School. The class will work on our mini libraries and will have them ready for installation by spring 2020.
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- **October 1:** The Library Board met in an extraordinary meeting to make up for the February meeting which was cancelled due to weather.
- **October 9:** The motion sensor light on the front of the building had stopped working and was replaced by Four-O-One Electric.
- **October 15:** The CEO indicated that circulation has increased significantly since the same month in 2018. Most of this increase has come from circulation of juvenile print materials. Wednesday morning story time is popular and our Summer Reading Program was very popular.
- **October 15:** Board members present at the Board meeting completed the Accessible Customer Service quiz required by AODA. Absent members will complete the quiz at a later date.
- **October 17:** The new kitchen storage cabinet was delivered and installed by Gary Thornhill and Barry DeJong. This cabinet was purchased by CPHC for their exclusive use.
- **October 22:** The library hosted our Volunteer Appreciation evening. There were no Pillars of strength recipients this year and there was no Dreamers and Doers nominee. The event was well attended by many library volunteers who were thanked for their service by Board Chair Fran Wright and Deputy Mayor Jeff Shaver.

- **November 19:** The Library Board approved the 2020 Draft Budget.
- **November 21:** The library hosted our first Art for Literacy silent auction. We received many fine donations of art work and crafts from the local art community. Thanks to Hang-Ups Picture Framing for donating framing and matting services. While attendance was disappointing, the response to the auction from those attending was very positive. The library raised \$1125.00 before expenses.
- **December 17:** Amendments to the Public Library Act provide for the minimum number of required Board Meetings per year to be reduced to 7 from 10. The Board decided to eliminate meetings in February and March. In 2020 the Board will meet in January, April, May, June, September, October, November and December.
- **December:** Trillium Grants have been announced, so the board can speak publicly about the shed which will hold the new Recreation Equipment Collection. Construction of the shed will start asap in the new year. The shed will be placed in the parking lot in March and moved to the permanent site as soon as the drainage work and pad are completed. .
- **December:** Staff have created a new section in the juvenile area for parent resource books on issues such as bullying, death of a family member etc. Angie noted the very positive comments from patrons about staff, and praised their initiative, enthusiasm and excellent customer service.
- **December:** Heating cable in the front eavestrough was replaced by Barry DeJong.
- **December:** Overdrive has been renewed for 2020..
- **December:** E-Resources have been ordered for 2020 and include Ancestry Library, A-Z World Travel, A-Z World Food, Lingo Lite, Small Business Builder and World Book Kids.
- The library has renewed membership in the DVD and Large Print Pools.

The library continued the Needles and Pins needlework group. Participants meet in the Schoolhouse on Monday afternoons to work on projects and share advice and expertise.

Our LEGO club continues on Saturday mornings.

The library continues our program of lending Museum Passes: We now have passes to the Aquatarium, the Museum of Canadian History and the Canadian War Museum, the Museum of Science and Technology, the Museum of Agriculture and Food, the Museum of Air and Space, and the Canadian Museum of Nature available for our patrons to borrow.

Circulation:

Total 21190 (2018 = 20,148)

(Library was open 1,326 hours on 255 days)

- Books.....10850
- Magazines.....401
- Inter-library loans.....270
- Museum Passes.....108
- Audio-Visual.....1130
- Overdrive (e-books).....7265
- Board Games.....45
- Recreation Equipment.....156

Membership:

90 new members

Material Available:

- 25997 books: 12,912 juvenile, 12,941 adult, 144 reference plus 400 titles per year from The Large Print Pool.
- 30 periodical subscriptions
- Brockville Recorder and Times daily newspaper
- 508 books on CD and read-along kits
- 344 DVDs plus 500 DVD titles per year from the SOLS DVD Pool
- 16 Board Games
- 121 items of Recreation Equipment
- local history collection
- five computers for patron use – all with internet access, one with voice recognition software.
- WIFI available
- two early literacy stations
- three printers, one colour
- Copier, scanner, fax machine
- Telephone directories for Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall, Brockville and the Laurentians

New Additions:

- 989 Books added
- 541 Books discarded
- 34 Audio-Visuals added
- 0 Audio Visual discarded
- 0 Board Games Added.
- 39 pieces of Recreation Equipment added.

Programs:

- TD Summer Reading Program – 12 years and under – 32 children registered. A total of 253 books were read by program participants.
- March Break and Summer Break reading and craft programs
- Wednesday morning story time.
- Every Child Ready to Read
- Read to Every Kid Every Day
- Lego Club
- Mapsack
- Needles and Pins needlework group

Miscellaneous Funds Collected:

- Overdue fines:.....\$412.70
- Copies, faxes and printouts.....\$137.70
- Used Books.....\$390.00
- Donations.....\$350.00
- Replacements.....\$93.65
- Membership fees..... \$15.00
- Misc.....\$112.89 (Bag sales etc)
- Programming.....\$360.00
- Rental.....\$1740.00 (94 Bookings)

Miscellaneous:

- Total In-Library Volunteer Hours – 603 An average of 11 volunteer hours per week.
- Total Number of Sessions using the Public Access Computers – 226 *Does not include use of Wifi on patron’s device.

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