

Mission Statement
Freedom to Discover

Strategic Priorities
A Community Beacon Relevant and Responsive
Learning and Innovative Organization

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Inaugural Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Central Library, Board Room

6:00 PM Meeting

AGENDA

1. Discussion Period

- 1.1 Land Acknowledgement - NV
- 1.2 Order of Hamilton - George Geczy - NV

2. Acceptance of Agenda

3. Minutes

- 3.1 Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Hamilton Public Library Board Meeting - AS - Attachment # 1.1

4. Declaration of Conflict

5. Report of the Nominating Committee Meeting

- 5.1 Minutes of the Nominations Committee and Proposed Slate of Officers - PT - Attachment # 5.1
- 5.2 Election of Board Officers - PT

6. Board Chairman Calls the Inaugural Meeting to Order

7. Presentations

- 7.1 2021 Budget Presentation - PT/TD - Attachment # 7.1

8. Consent Items

8.1 Access to Information & Communication Technology (2nd Review) - SF - Attachment # 8.1

Suggested Action: Recommendation

8.2 Upcoming and Outstanding Agenda Items - PT - Attachment # 8.2

Suggested Action: Receive

9. Business Arising

9.1 Update on COVID-19 Restrictions & HPL's Response - PT - Attachment # 9.1

Suggested Action: Receive

9.2 Carlisle Project Update - TD - Attachment # 9.2

Suggested Action: Receive

9.3 Central Staircase Lights - TD - Attachment # 9.3

Suggested Action: Recommendation

10. Correspondence

11. Report

11.1 Final Report on 2020 Goals - PT - Attachment # 11.1

Suggested Action: Receive

11.2 Chief Librarian Report - PT - Attachment #11.2

Suggested Action: Receive

12. New Business

12.1 Waldon Research Funding Request - LW/TD

Suggested Action: Recommendation

13. Policies

14. Private and Confidential

15. Date of Next Meeting

15.1 Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - 6:00 pm Meeting

16. Adjournment

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Alyssa Seul, Senior Leadership Support Manager
Subject: **Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Hamilton Public Library Board Meeting - AS - Attachment # 1.1**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Board Meeting	1/26/2021	Cover Memo

Mission Statement
Freedom to Discover

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HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Central Library, Board Room

6:00 PM Meeting

MINUTES

VIDEO

PRESENT:

N. van Velzen, E. Bowen, R. Coruzzi, J. Kirkpatrick, S. Laurie, L. Spence-Smith, H. Dhaliwal, Councillor Pearson, C.A. Klassen

STAFF:

P. Takala, S. Fahim, L. Weaver, D. Wark, T. Del Monaco, L. DuPelle, A. Seul

REGRETS:

Councillor Partridge

Time to Order:

The Library Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Discussion Period

1.1 Land Acknowledgement - NV

The Hamilton Public Library is situated upon the traditional

territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee(pronounced “Hau-dee-no-sho-nay”) and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek (pronounced “Ah-nish-ih-naw-bek”) to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

1.2 Submitting Nominations - NV/PT

2. Acceptance of Agenda

MOVED by Stu Laurie, seconded by John Kirkpatrick,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

MOTION Passed

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Wednesday, November 18, 2020 Library Board Meeting- Attachment #3.1

MOVED by Elly Bowen, seconded by Stu Laurie,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION Passed

4. Declaration of Conflict

5. Presentations

5.1 Update on 2020 & Looking Ahead to 2021 - PT - Attachment #5.1

MOVED by C.A. Klassen, seconded by Elly Bowen,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RECEIVE THE UPDATE ON 2020 AND LOOKING AHEAD PRESENTATION FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT.

MOTION Passed

6. Consent Items

MOVED by C.A. Klassen, seconded by John Kirkpatrick,

THAT CONSENT ITEMS 6.1, 6.2 AND 6.3 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION Passed

6.1 Upcoming and Outstanding Agenda Items - PT - Attachment #6.1

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the Upcoming and Outstanding Items Report for information.

6.2 2021 Letter from the Board -PT - Attachment #6.2

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive and approve the 2021 Letter from the Board.

6.3 Fines & Fees Policy (2nd Review) - DW - Attachment #6.3

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive and approve the Fines and Fees Policy.

7. Business Arising

7.1 Multi Year Business Plan & 2021 Goals (2nd Review) - PT/TD - Attachment #7.1

MOVED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith, seconded by Maria Pearson,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE THE MULTI-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

MOTION Passed

7.2 2021 Operating Budget (2nd Review) - TD - Attachment #7.2

MOVED by John Kirkpatrick, seconded by Elly Bowen,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CITY OF HAMILTON THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AT AN INCREASE OF \$459,000 OR 1.5%.

MOTION Passed

8. Correspondence

9. Report

9.1 Chief Librarian Report - PT - Attachment #9.1

MOVED by C.A. Klassen, seconded by Maria Pearson,

THAT THE LIBRARY BOARD RECEIVE THE DECEMBER 2020 CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT.

MOTION Passed

9.2 COVID-19 Response & Planning Report - PT - Attachment #9.2

MOVED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith, seconded by C.A. Klassen,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD ENCOURAGES LIBRARY STAFF TO WORK WITH THE CITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC), THE CITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH TO EXPLORE WAYS HPL CAN PROVIDE AS MUCH DIGITAL ACCESS TO HAMILTON RESIDENTS AS CAN BE DONE SAFELY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

MOTION Passed

MOVED by John Kirkpatrick, seconded by Maria Pearson,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RECEIVE THE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND PLANNING REPORT AS AMENDED FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT.

MOTION Passed

10. New Business

11. Policies

11.1 Access to Information & Communication Technology (1st Review) - SF - Attachment #11.1

MOVED by John Kirkpatrick, seconded by Maria Pearson,

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RECEIVES THE POSITION STATEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT.

MOTION Passed

12. Private and Confidential

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 6:00 pm Meeting

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

MOVED by Maria Pearson, seconded by Stu Laurie,

**THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 BE ADJOURNED.**

MOTION Passed

Minutes recorded by Alyssa Seul

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Alyssa Seul, Senior Leadership Support Manager
Subject: **Minutes of the Nominations Committee and Proposed Slate of Officers - PT
- Attachment # 5.1**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Minutes of the January 11 2021 Nominations Committee	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Special Meeting - Monday, January 11, 2021
Teams Live Meeting, 5:30 PM

MINUTES
Meeting of the Nominations Committee

1. **Present:**
Robert Coruzzi, Stu Laurie, Paul Takala (Non-voting Member), Lori-Anne Spence Smith, Alyssa Seul
2. **Agenda Approval**
Meeting called to order by Paul Takala at 5:31 pm
MOVED by Stu Laurie
SECONDED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith
THAT THE AGENDA BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.
MOTION Passed.
3. **Review of Board Bylaws** on Nominations and Election Process
See Appendix I
4. **Private and Confidential**
MOVED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith
SECONDED by Stu Laurie
THAT THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE GO IN-CAMERA TO DISCUSS PERSONAL MATTERS ABOUT IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUALS.
MOTION Passed.

MOVED by Robert Coruzzi
SECONDED by Stu Laurie
THAT THE IN-CAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED.
MOTION Passed
5. **Motion to Adopt the Proposed Slate of Officers**
MOVED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith
SECONDED by Stu Laurie

That the 2021 Nominating Committee Proposed Slate of Officers are:

POSITION	PROPOSED SLATE
CHAIRPERSON	Nicolas van Velzen
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	C.A. Klassen
SOUTHERN ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE (SOLS) REPRESENTATIVE	Elly Bowen
AUDIT COMMITTEE (3) + BOARD CHAIR	Elly Bowen Robert Coruzzi Stu Laurie
SECRETARY TREASURER	Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO as prescribed in Bylaws

MOTION Passed.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

MOVED by Robert Coruzzi

SECONDED by Lori-Anne Spence-Smith

THAT THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2021 BE
ADJOURNED.

MOTION Passed

Minutes recorded by Alyssa Seul

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Tony Del Monaco, Director Finance and Facilities
Subject: **2021 Budget Presentation - PT/TD - Attachment # 7.1**

BACKGROUND:

HPL's budget presentation is scheduled for Thursday, January 21 at around 10 am. The Board Chair, Chief Librarian and the Director of Finance & Facilities will be presenting remotely this year. Board members may watch the meeting on the City's Live-stream: <https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/council-committee-live-stream>

The presentation is attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
HPL 2021 Operating Budget Presentation	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

HPL OPERATING BUDGET

JANUARY 21, 2021



Hamilton
Public
Library

FREEDOM TO DISCOVER

hpl.ca



OUTLINE

2021 Operating Budget Overview

Review of Recent Budgets

Proposing 1.5% for 2021 = \$459,000

1% Maintenance Budget, Plus 0.5% for New Parkdale Branch

2020 Highlights and Looking Ahead

A Few Acknowledgements



OPERATING BUDGET 2021





Budget Year	Direction	Library
2011	2.0%	0.7%
2012	0.0%	1.0%
2013	0.0%	0.0%
2014	0.0%	0.2%
2015	—	1.5%
2016	1.0%	1.0%
2017	1.8%	1.8%
2018	1.5%	1.8%
2019	—	2.4%
2020	2.0%	2.5%
2021	2.0%	1.5%

4

2021 Budget Overview			2021 Budget Submission vs. 2020 Budget	
	2020 Budget	2021 Budget Submission	\$	%
Expense	33,345,440	33,678,740	333,300	1.0%
EMPLOYEE-RELATED COST	22,480,920	22,502,530	21,610	0.1%
MATERIAL AND SUPPLY	3,751,280	3,751,280	—	— %
VEHICLE EXPENSES	85,640	101,360	15,720	18.4%
BUILDING AND GROUND	2,524,640	2,553,660	29,020	1.1%
CONTRACTUAL	1,529,710	1,672,710	143,000	9.3%
RESERVES / RECOVERIES	2,341,330	2,485,410	144,080	6.2%
COST ALLOCATIONS	241,200	236,370	(4,830)	(2.0%)
FINANCIAL	390,720	375,420	(15,300)	(3.9%)
Revenue	(1,774,390)	(1,648,690)	125,700	(7.1%)
FEES AND GENERAL	(554,940)	(382,240)	172,700	(31.1%)
GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES	(1,219,450)	(1,266,450)	(47,000)	3.9%
Net Levy	31,571,050	32,030,050	459,000	1.5%



2021 BUDGET DRIVERS

Pressures

Salaries, Wages, Benefits – \$327,000

Gross Impact before gapping;
1.6% COLA, benefit cost increases.

Fines Elimination – \$280,000

Software / Equipment Maintenance – \$150,000

Software Licences, Sorters,
RFID Gates, Self Check Units.

New Parkdale Branch – \$144,000

Positive Drivers

Gapping – \$305,000

Expected vacancies during pandemic.

Staffing Savings, Via Attrition – 2020 FTE - 299 2021 FTE - 292

Grant Revenue – \$154,000

Newcomer Learning Centre, New Horizons,
Young Canada Works, Ontario 211.

Improved Technology – **Shift to Higher-Value Work,** Control of FTE.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

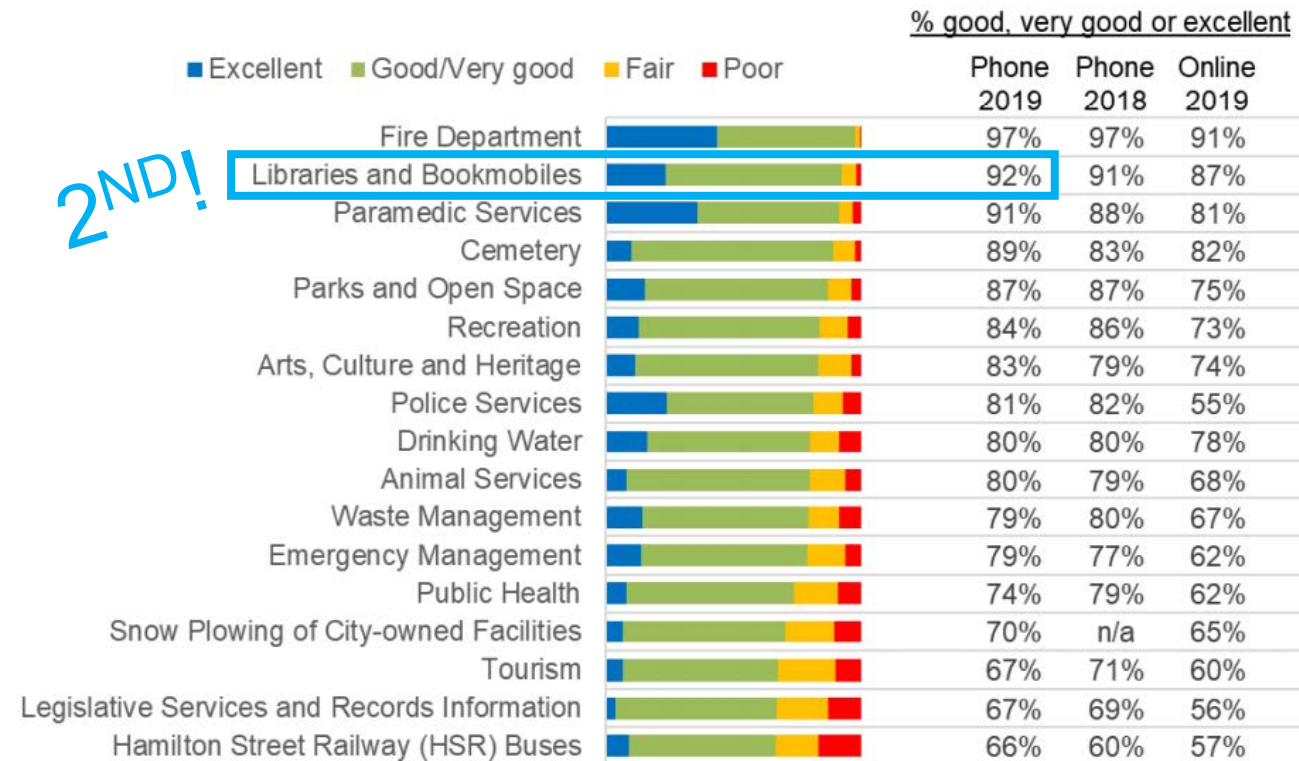




2020 STARTED WITH

- 2019 was a very successful year, started 2020 with strong growth in library usage.
- March **COVID-19 Pandemic** changed our priorities.
- Work done since March has been tremendous:
 - Supporting the Emergency Response
 - Redesigning Library Service

Ratings of Services





ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020!

- Pandemic planning and leadership.
- Working with the City and community to support the emergency response.
- Supporting Hamiltonians during the pandemic with excellence in library service.
- Rapid shift to online in Spring.
- Reopening library branches in Summer.
- Enhanced safety and distancing ...
- Ended 2020 increased restrictions again. HPL continues to do more than most of our peer Libraries.

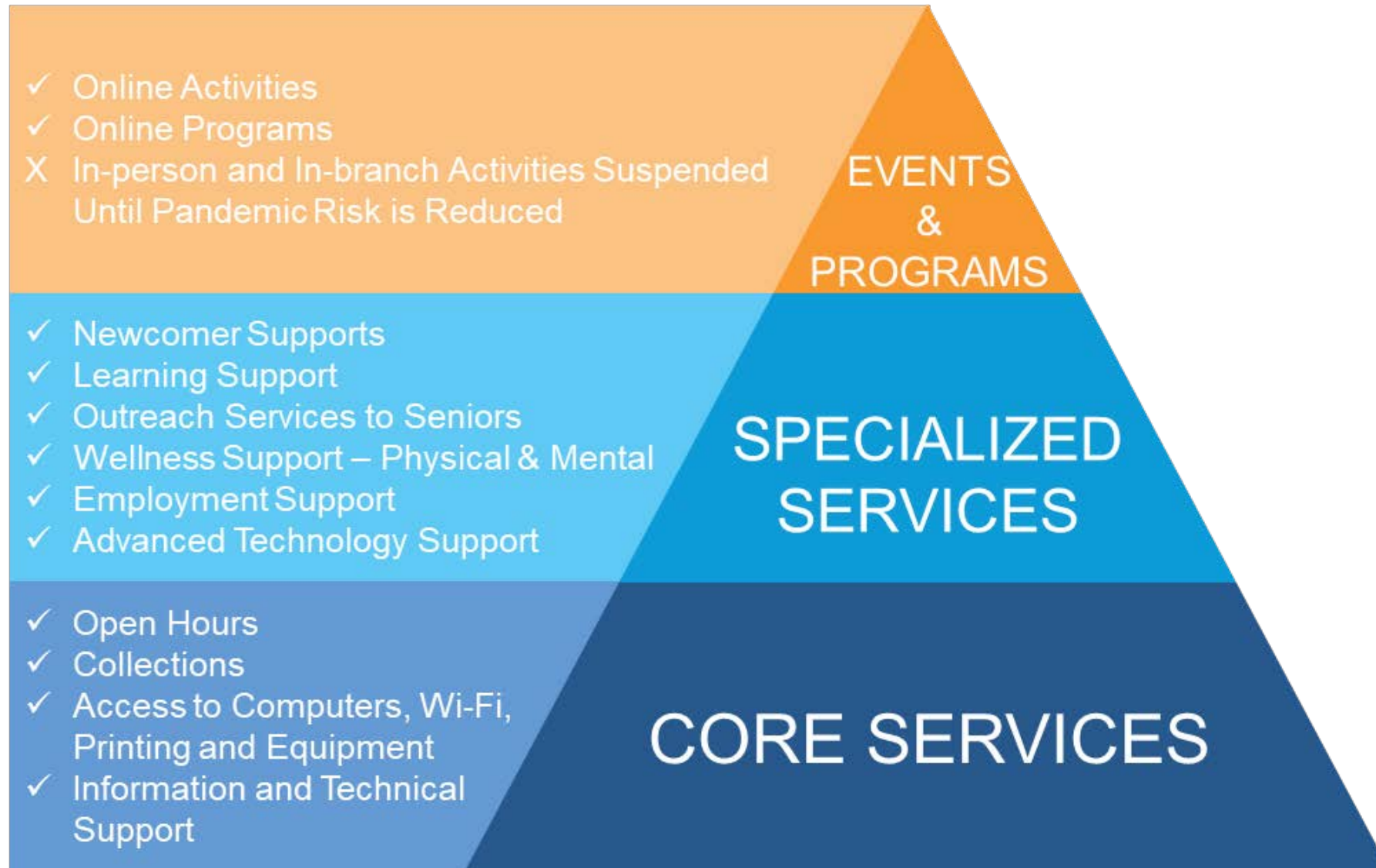


The Hamilton Public Library has been fantastic during this COVID uproar ... Always in touch, letting us know what is going on ... Then when they opened for business, they were very organized and courteous. Well done. – **Maureen M.**





SERVICE PRIORITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

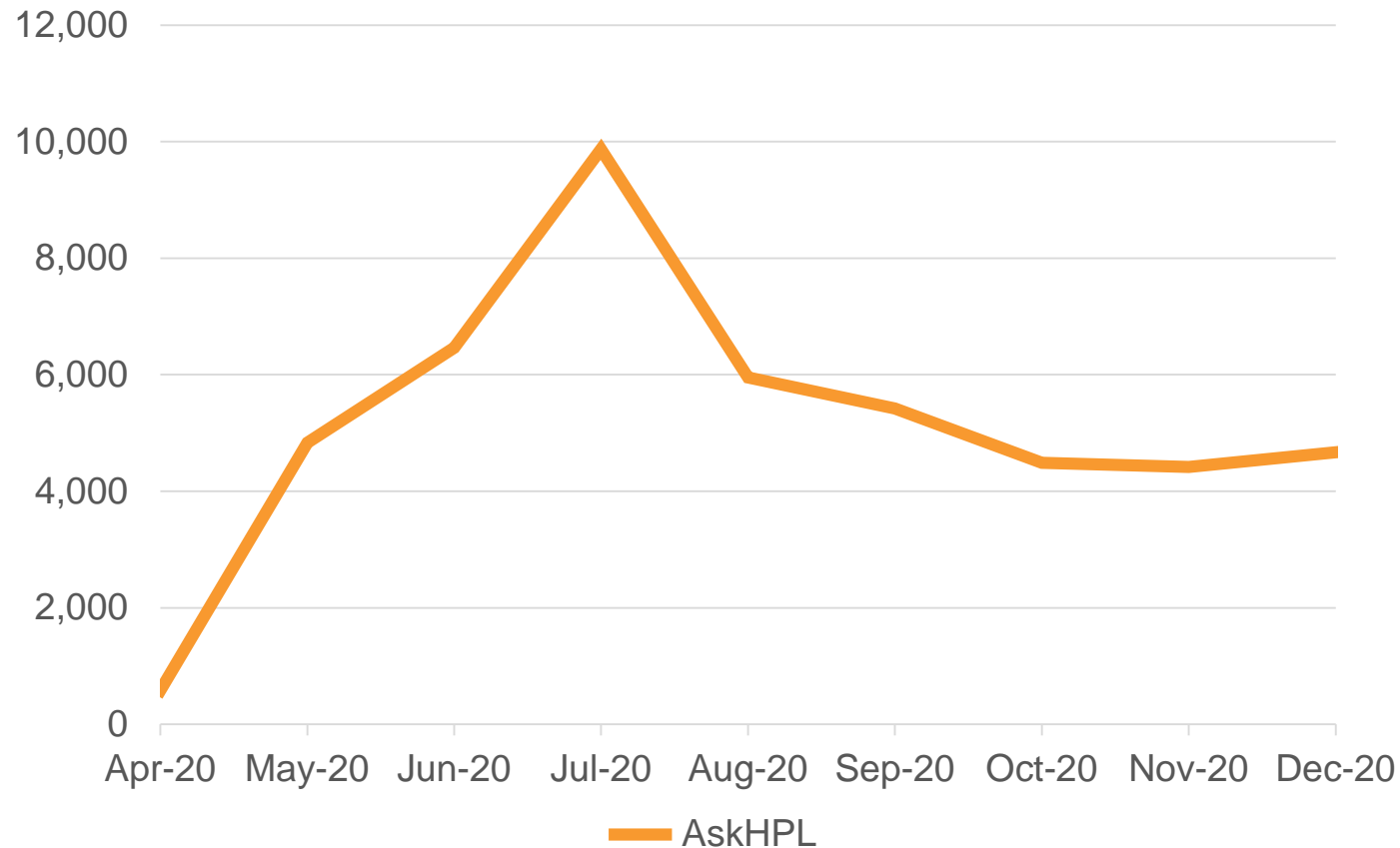


During the pandemic, our priority has been to provide **as much service** as we **safely can**.



LIBRARY SERVICES IN 2020

AskHPL Remote Information Service



You've been a treasure trove of information; I am so grateful you have called! – local senior resident

AskHPL

- Allowed staff to respond remotely to members through email, phone and chat.

Friendly Calling

- HPL staff reached out into the community to reduce social isolation with **8,734 calls**.
- We supported technical literacy with over the phone help with devices, referrals to community resources and helped more residents access what they needed from home.



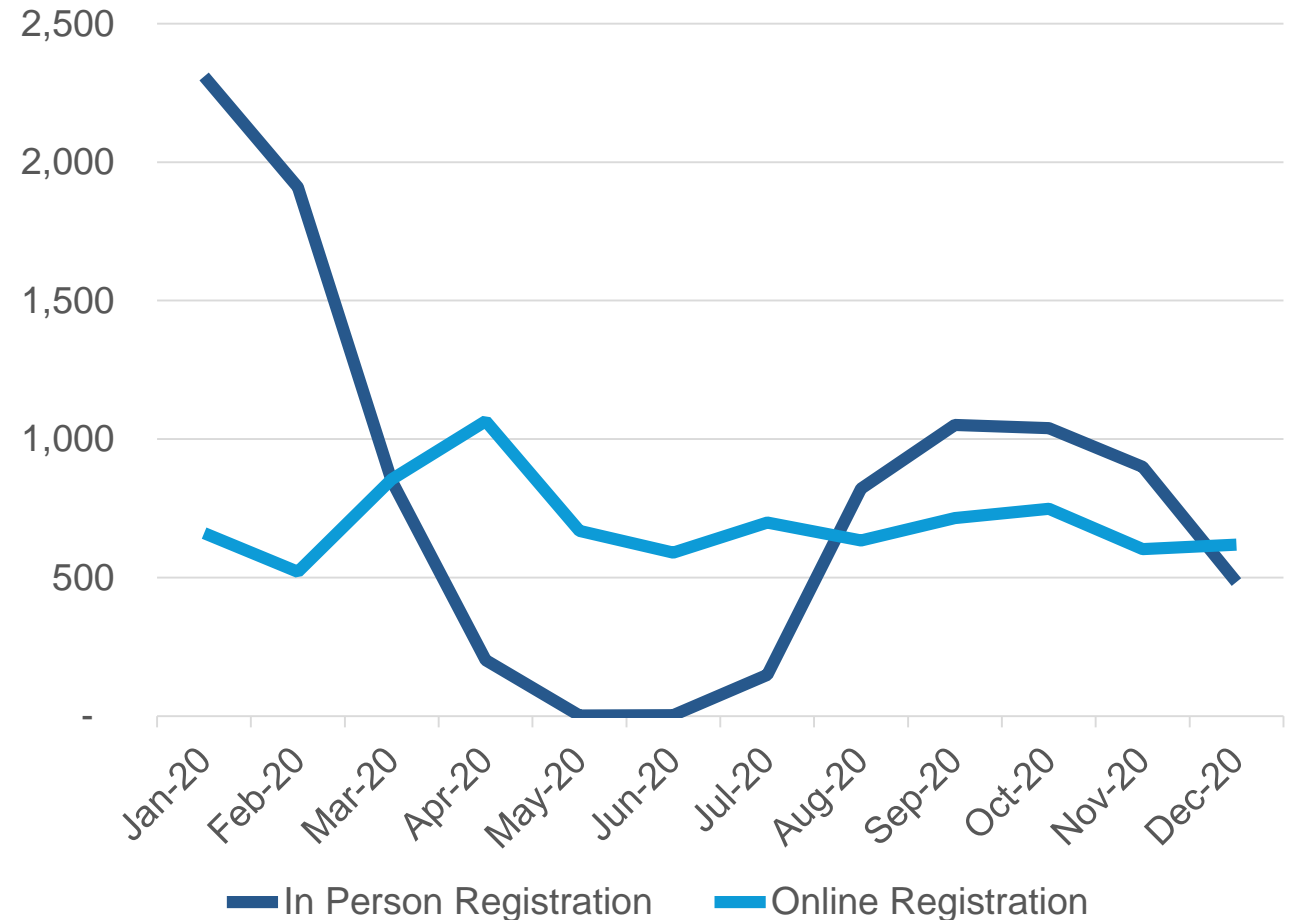
LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

- Online registration, which debuted in April 2019, increased during the spring to enable more members to access the Library.
- Online registration saw a 77% increase over last year, so far.
- Using Library Cards to support contact tracing.



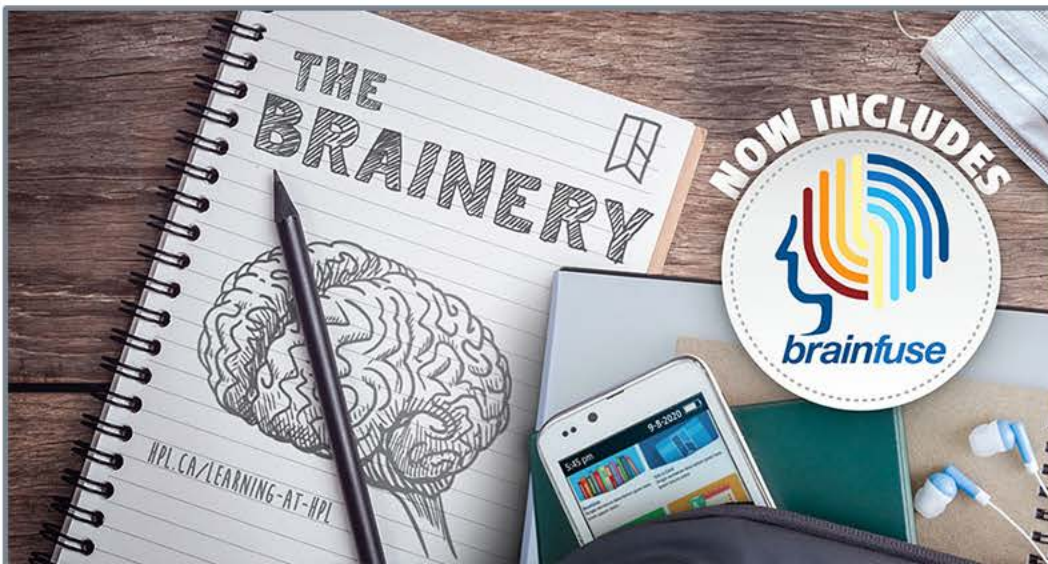
Love your easy-to-use website and all the help when I visit a branch!
Thank you. – **Donald R.**

New Members, by Month





ENHANCED ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES



Fun Stuff to do Online at Home

[ALL AGES](#) | [KIDS ACTIVITIES](#) | [TEENS ACTIVITIES](#)

ALL AGES



Get a Card
Register for a Hamilton Public Library card if you live, work or attend school in Hamilton.



Hoopla
Instant access to a great selection of movies, books, audiobooks and music.



Kanopy
Watch classic films, documentaries, world cinema, popular flicks and independent movies.



OverDrive
Borrow from more than 100,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks and more.



PressReader Newspapers and Magazines
Includes the Hamilton Spectator and many international publications.



Movies and Music
Watch, listen, and learn on [LinkedIn Learning](#), [Acorn TV](#), or [Great Courses](#).



Mango Languages
Learn a new language.



More Online Resources
We have more in store on our website.



Links to Learning
Educational activities for all ages, to do at home.

KIDS ACTIVITIES



Tumblebooks
Animated, read-aloud books.



Movies and Music
Summa Kids, Kanopy Kids and Freegal entertain and educate.



Colouring Pages
A creative outlet for artists.



Activities
For those who like writing, crafts, coding, science, exercise and more.



Learning at Home
In-house and external events, activities, book lists, online courses and more.



Storytime
Watch our popular Storytimes and Puppet Shows at home.

Learning at HPL

This is a school year unlike any other. To help students, educators and caregivers, HPL has put together learning resources below to support learning. Help yourself to this compilation of in-house and external events, activities, book lists, online courses and more. A HPL card unlocks a world of discovery.



Booklists
Pick a title any title and find a new read or two or three.



Get a Card
Sign up online or in person.



Get an eClassroom Card / Collection
Students, connect with HPL's online resources.



Early Literacy Calendar
Pick a day any day and learn something new.



Read, Watch, Listen
Explore a world of information, courses and learning tools.



Links to Learning
A collection of useful educational resources for everyone.



Off the Shelf Books
Start a book club. HPL has titles with 10 or more copies.

Classroom Reads - Titles your whole class can check out at once.

- **My Capstone Library** - Youth fiction and non-fiction eBooks and eAudiobooks for students.
- **Hoopla** - Instant access to a great selection of movies, books, audiobooks and music.
- **Kids Classroom Reads** - Unlimited borrowing on educational eBooks and Audiobooks.
- **TeenBookCloud** - Graphic novels, classic literature, National Geographic videos, educator resources and audiobooks.
- **Kids and Teens** - Unlimited borrowing on educational eBooks and Audiobooks.
- **Fiction for High School** - Unlimited borrowing on educational eBooks and Audiobooks.
- **Non-Fiction for High School** - Unlimited borrowing on educational eBooks and Audiobooks.

Tutoring - Learning support for elementary and high school.

- **Free Online Tutoring** - Free online tutoring from Frontier College beginning October 19.
- **Brainfuse for Students** - Real-time help with homework, feedback on essays and skill building for all ages.
- **Brainfuse for Job Seekers** - Resume review, online coaching and career advice.

French Resources / Ressources en français

- **Brainfuse for Students** - Real-time, French-speaking support with homework, feedback on essays and skill-building for all ages.
- **French eBooks / Livres numériques** - Titles from French Canadian and European publishers.
- **French content in HPL's collections** - From DVDs to storybooks, check it out.

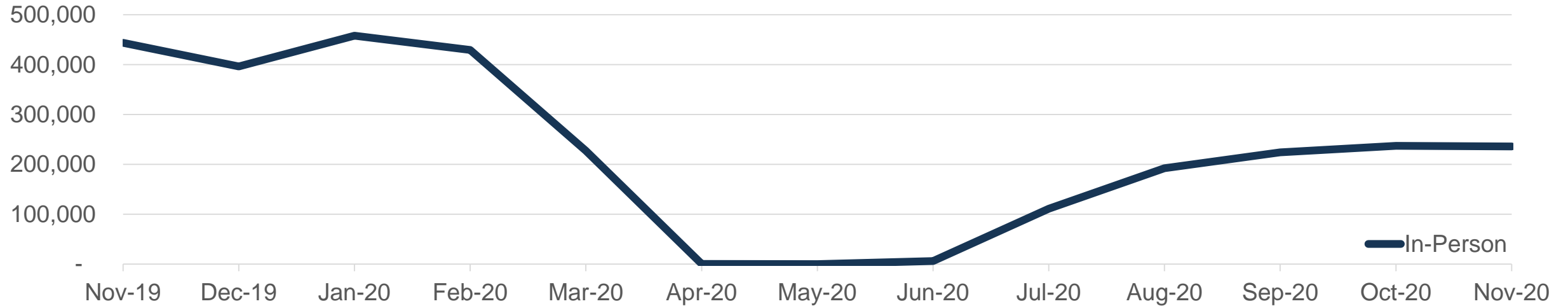
More Resources for Educators

- **Mosaic Identifier Project Education Kits** - Lesson plans for Grades 1-8 that promote awareness of First Nations, Métis and Indigenous cultural historic sites and venues in Ontario. These sites are marked with images of moose.
- **Storytime and Puppet Shows** - Watch our popular Storytimes and Puppet Shows at home.

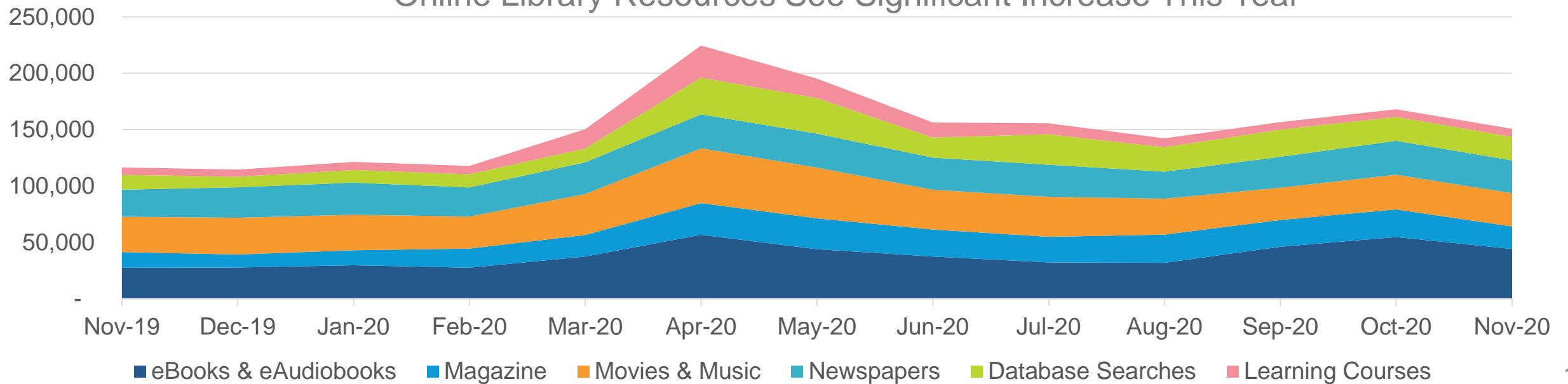


COLLECTIONS

Usage of Physical Books and Other Materials



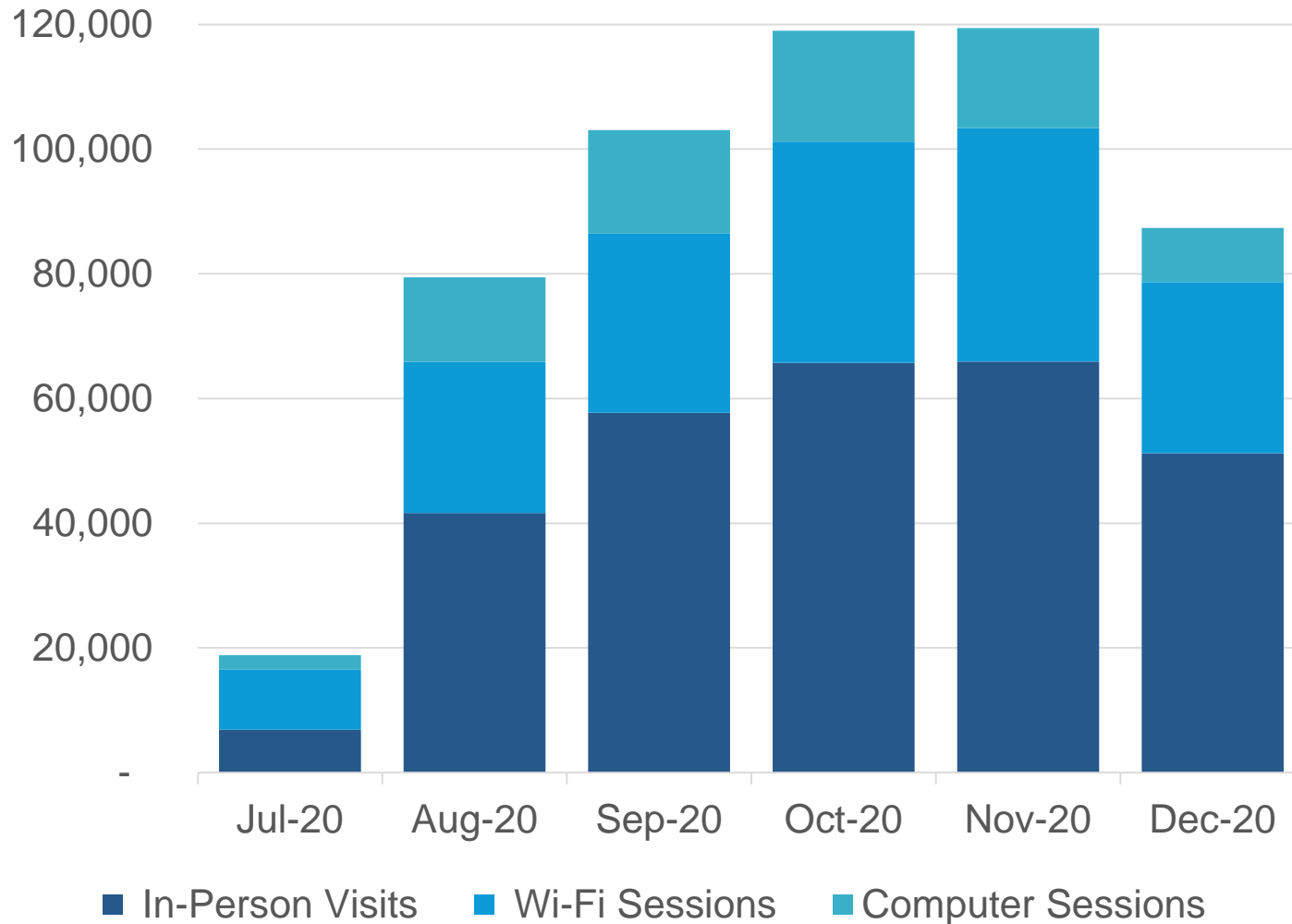
Online Library Resources See Significant Increase This Year





VISITS AND ONSITE DIGITAL ACCESS

Visits and Onsite Digital Access



- HPL provides **24/7** outdoor Wi-Fi access.
- HPL's rural outdoor Wi-Fi is popular with local families, migrant workers and newcomers who may not have high-speed internet at home.
- Nearly **30,000** hours of Wi-Fi a week in Q4 2020.
- **100,000** Wi-Fi sessions in Q4 2020
328,000 Wi-Fi sessions in Q4 2019
- **59,000** Computer sessions in Q4 2020
192,000 Computer sessions in Q4 2019
- HPL supported virtual meetings for:
 - Ontario Courts
 - McMaster Children's Hospital
 - Virtual Job Interviews



FACILITY RENEWAL UPDATE

Carlisle - Design of the new branch completed in 2020. Construction to begin in 2021.

Thank you to TD Bank for donating the building and property.



Greenville - Construction of new Library and Recreation space to be completed early 2021 at the site of the Greenville Elementary School.





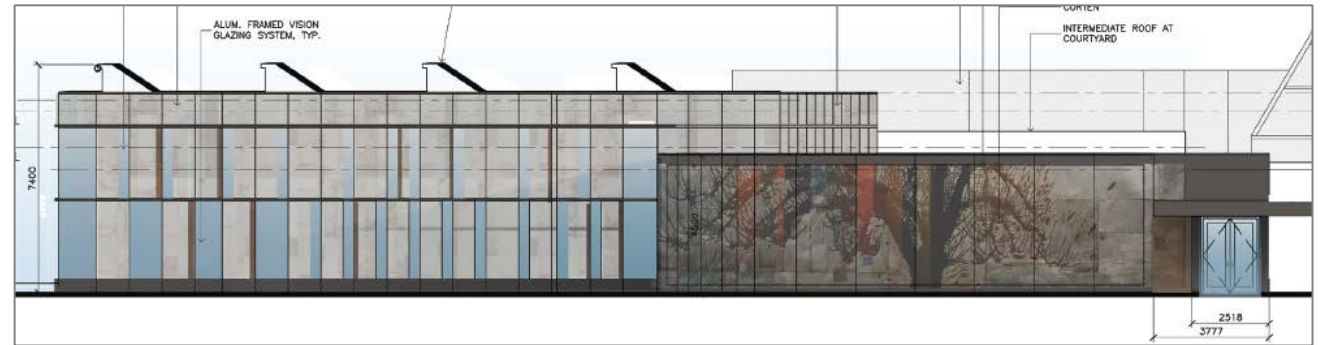
FACILITY RENEWAL UPDATE

Parkdale

Construction of the new branch in partnership with Indwell is almost complete.



Valley Park
Construction is progressing well. To be completed in early 2022.



LOOKING AHEAD





NEXT YEAR

Top Priorities for 2021

- Continued focus on the **pandemic response**.
- Offering **Library service** following all the safety protocols.
- Emphasis on supporting **Learning** and **Digital Access**.
- Connecting people to **supports**.
- Planning for **post-pandemic recovery**.
- Working with partners to help Hamiltonians succeed.

2018
2021

STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR MISSION

Freedom to Discover

OUR VALUES

Intellectual Freedom

Inclusiveness

Innovation

Respect

Accountability

OUR PRIORITIES

Community Beacon

Relevant & Responsive

Learning & Innovative Organization



THANK YOU LIBRARY STAFF & COUNCIL



2019-2022 HAMILTON LIBRARY BOARD

Nick van Velzen Chair
C.A. Klassen
Councillor Judi Partridge

Councillor Maria Pearson
Elly Bowen
Harjit Dhaliwal

John Kirkpatrick
Lori-Anne Spence-Smith

Robert Coruzzi
Stu Laurie

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Sherry Fahim, Director Digital Technology and Creation
Subject: **Access to Information & Communication Technology (2nd Review) - SF - Attachment # 8.1**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Board endorse the attached Position Statement on Access to Information and Communication Technology.

BACKGROUND:

Hamilton Public Library Board endorses the Position Statement on Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that was adopted by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA/FCAB) on August 2017. HPL's Access to Information and Communication Position Statement was last approved by the Board in May 2017.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Access to Information and Communications Technology	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

Access to Information and Communication Technology Position Statement

Policy Level: Library Board
Author: Director Digital Technology and Creation
Review Period: 4 years
Approval Date: January 20, 2021

POSITION STATEMENT

The Hamilton Public Library Board adopts and endorses the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA/FCAB) Position Statement on Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

STATEMENT DETAILS

Preamble

CFLA/FCAB views the Internet and other publicly available ICT networks as public goods essential to participation in a democratic and information-driven society. Therefore, CFLA/FCAB recognizes that access to ICT is an essential part of the universal access to information that Canadian libraries provide and support.

CFLA/FCAB and its members will co-operate with governments, agencies, industry, and other organizations to ensure that these fundamental rights are represented in all policies and laws governing access to and dissemination of information via ICT.

The Hamilton Public Library Board endorses **that all Canadians have the right to:**

1. Universal, Equitable, and Affordable Access to Robust ICT networks

- Access to high-speed ICT networks should be available and affordable to all regardless of factors such as age, religion, ability, gender, sexual orientation, social and political views, national origin, economic status, location, and level of information literacy.
- Special efforts should be made to ensure equity of access in rural and remote areas and access to inclusive technologies for people with disabilities.
- A public policy framework should support the development of ICT infrastructure that meets high standards of speed, reliability and universality

2. Access to Information Literacy

- Everyone should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to find and use information using ICT.

3. Open Access to Information

- Open access to information should be encouraged at all levels of government and in all publicly funded institutions. This information should be available free of charge with as little restriction on re-use and modification as possible.
- Government and public institutions should take responsibility for archiving information in order to preserve collective memory.

4. Freedom of Expression

- Individuals have the right to create, share, exchange, access and receive the widest range of ideas, information and images.
- Public policy should encourage neutrality of traffic flow on ICT networks, neither privileging nor restricting information based on content or type. Libraries and other knowledge organizations should encourage the development and use of neutral search and retrieval mechanisms.

5. Privacy

- Privacy of personal information on ICT networks should be carefully protected by legislation.
- In all situations, there should be a written statement outlining the purpose for which personal data is collected. The collection of personal information should be limited to that which is necessary for the purposes identified by the organization. Consent should be required for the collection of personal information and the subsequent use or disclosure of this information.
- This data should not be traded or sold without the express written permission of the individual affected. Information about privacy policies and mechanisms should be easily accessible and all changes to these should be made on an “opt-in” basis.
- Individuals should have the right to examine their own personal information collected by government, public bodies and corporations and to have mistakes corrected, both without charge.

Source: <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/guidelines-and-position-papers/access-to-information-and-communication-technology-ict/> Adopted August 26, 2017

APPROVAL HISTORY

Last Approved on May 2017

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: Upcoming and Outstanding Agenda Items - PT - Attachment # 8.2

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Board receive the Upcoming and Outstanding Agenda Items Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Upcoming Agenda Report	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Library Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Upcoming Agenda Items**

2021 LIBRARY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- ❖ Items are listed for the month they are scheduled for 1st Review
- ❖ Staff will continue to provide updates to the Library Board on COVID-19 in 2021

Month	Agenda Items
January 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Election of Officers ✓ Operating Budget Presentation to Council ✓ Final Report on 2020 Goals
February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Year-End Metrics Report • Audit Committee Report • Access by Design & Privacy by Design • New Strategic Plan Timelines & Process • Legal Review <i>Working with Us Policy</i>
March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on Partnerships • Copyright & Intellectual Property Policy • Purchasing Policy • Privacy Policy for Library Customers
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 Metrics Report • Initial Report on Last Year Financials (Pre-Audit) • Reserve Report Update • Policy Development Framework • Cash Handling Policy
May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Children & Teens in the Public Library • Safety of Children in the Public Library • Displays & Exhibits Policy • Local History & Archives Collection Policy
June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mid-Year Progress Report on 2021 Goals</i> • Report from the Audit Committee • Board Bylaws • Fines and Fees Report
July, August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Meetings
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 Metrics Report • Holiday Closures for Following Year • Capital Budget Submission • Update on Capital Projects

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donations & Sponsorship Policy
October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating Budget Next Year• Multi-Year Business Plan & 2022 Goals• Security Camera Policy• Staff Development & Training Policy• Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
November 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Dates for Following Year• Board Nominating Committee• Q3 Metrics Report
December 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022 Budget Presentation

ITEMS TO RE-SCHEDULED

Annual Report on Revenue Generation

Municipal Benchmarking Report

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Update on COVID-19 Restrictions & HPL's Response - PT - Attachment # 9.1**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Board receive this report for information and comment.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The COVID-19 Pandemic is a public health emergency. Our first responsibility in this crisis is to protect the health of staff and the public. As an organization, we then need to support the broader emergency response as we enhance online services during the closure. Finally, we need to play a positive, leadership role in helping residents and the communities we serve recover.

In the coming months we will continue to investigate and report to the Library Board the potential financial, staffing and legal implications of the pandemic and the accompanying public health and economic challenges that this brings.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
COVID-19 Response Report- January 2021	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Library Board
From: Paul Takala, CEO/Chief Librarian
Subject: Update on HPL's COVID-19 Response

On January 12, 2021 the Ontario Government declared a [Second Provincial Emergency](#)ⁱ to address the growing COVID-19 crisis. In the last half of 2020, HPL was able to provide a lot of services, albeit with major restrictions and health precautions in place. With the new Stay-at-Home Order from the province we are moving into a period of enhanced restrictions. There are several implications for the new order on Library operations.

Specific Instructions for Libraries: The new orders for public libraries have not changed since the Shutdown phase, they are: *Libraries may open:*

- *For contactless curbside, delivery, and pick-up*
- *For permitted services (e.g., child care services, mental health and addiction support services to a limit of 10 persons [AA meetings], provision of social services)*
- *If they ensure that circulating materials returned to the library are disinfected or quarantined for an appropriate period of time before they are recirculated*
- *Contact information recording required*ⁱⁱ

Duration of Restrictions: The restrictions take effect on January 14 and will continue for at least 28 days; this may be extended. With the increasing cases of COVID-19 and relatively slow initial rollout of vaccinations, we should anticipate that we will be operating under major restrictions for the next few months. It is possible that we may return to the Grey-Lockdown Phase or the Red-Control Phase in the next couple months, however, given the state of the pandemic, we should assume that for the next several months the emphasis will be on heightened safety protocols.

Supporting the Emergency Response: Since the pandemic was declared in March our plan has stated that our first priority is supporting the emergency response: *HPL's highest priority during the emergency needs to be supporting the City's and Public Health's response, assisting with relief efforts and preparing to assist with the recovery*ⁱⁱⁱ.

Early in the pandemic HPL was asked by the City Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Public Health to second staff to assist with deliveries of emergency supplies and supporting contact tracing. The City reimbursed staff for their salaries while seconded to

these roles. Recently, HPL was asked to provide staff to support the remote scheduling of vaccines and tests. We have agreed to this request and have advised the City that we will make it a priority to provide additional staff, if needed.

Implications for Library Services: As HPL moved into the autumn and early winter of 2020, we were pivoting to offering more services. Library hours were expanded in October to include evening service. In December as the province moved to increased restrictions we scaled back our service somewhat. The current regulations limit service to Take-out. With our inability to welcome members into our spaces and the risk of increased absenteeism due to potential COVID-19 exposure, we are not planning to expand service hours in the next couple months. Making it a priority to support the emergency response could cause further reductions in Library service if we face staff shortages. Helping Hamilton get through the pandemic safely and as quickly as possible is the best thing we can do to get to a point where we can move back to welcoming members in our spaces. Effective January 25 we will be closing on Mondays moving to service Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. Freshdesk will still be offered on Mondays 10 am to 6 pm. Through at least Q1 of 2021 we will not expand service hours beyond this. During this time we will monitor capacity on a regular basis and make adjustments, if necessary. Supporting the emergency response could also temporarily reduce our capacity to do library programs.

Importance of Take-out Services: Supporting members with library collections is helping people get through the pandemic. This will also help us avoid backlogs that will disrupt service when restrictions are loosened. The new Grab and Go service is off to a promising start. In addition to providing collections, HPL is also supporting members with Take-out print and scanning service. In the early weeks of 2021, we have many people relying on us for printing and scanning to support their interactions with government services. Supporting members with critical supports during the pandemic is an important role we can play. The initial launch of the Print-on-the-Go services has seen some technical challenges and staff are working on resolving those. We are also working on alternatives that will support printing through email and FreshDesk. As we provide this critical service to members, we are implementing safety protocols to ensure it is done safely.

Increased Emphasis on Remote Work: The updated regulations mandate us to ensure people that can work from home do so. We know that supporting Take-out requires staff to be present in our spaces, so work from home is not an option for many. Some key points about this:

- Our focus during this heightened period of pandemic risk is to ensure we only have the staff onsite to support onsite-specific work. All other staff will work from home. Limiting the number of staff at work may (at times) cause us to deliver Take-out service and fill holds slower than we normally would.

- Staff working from home should only come into the Library when it is necessary to do so for business reasons.
- **Maintaining Physical Distancing and wearing PPE** while working on-site is critical. We are generally seeing very good compliance from staff; however, this needs to be maintained at all times. We are hearing reports that compliance is a problem at some other work places in lunch rooms and vehicles. We have reminded staff to ensure they are in compliance at all times. There is report of increased workplace inspections by the Ministry of Labour. We have also reminded staff about the procedures to follow if a Ministry of Labour Inspector arrives on site and to cooperate with them fully.

What to Expect in the Coming Months? We anticipate strict restrictions will be place for at least the first half of the year. They may not continue exactly as in the first few months of 2021, but we should anticipate several challenging months as it takes time for vaccinations to be widely administered. Sometime in the second half of the year, we should start seeing a loosening of restrictions. Until then, we will continue to do what we have been doing to help Hamilton get through these difficult months. As time permits, we will engage in planning for our post-COVID-19 role in supporting the recovery.

Thank You to Staff and Please Follow Public Health Guidance: I want to extend a personal thanks to staff for all their efforts. We are getting through this together. Regarding personal behaviour when not working, I am beseeching everyone to follow the current public health guidance. Collectively, the more we all comply with all of the rules, the less suffering there will be in the next few months and we will be able to more easily restore the state of things.

ⁱ <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59922/ontario-declares-second-provincial-emergency-to-address-covid-19-crisis-and-save-lives>

ⁱⁱ <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-enhanced-provincewide-shutdown-en-2021-01-12-v3.pdf> Pg. 29

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.hpl.ca/sites/default/files/HPLReopeningPlanJune2020.pdf> Pg. 1

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Tony Del Monaco, Director of Finance & Facilities
Subject: **Carlisle Project Update - TD - Attachment # 9.2**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the Carlisle Branch Project Update Report for information.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Carlisle Branch Library Capital Project #7501841700 currently has an approved budget of \$1,750,000.

A pre-tender Class A cost estimate was recently done. The updated project costs based on that estimate is as follows:

Description	Estimated \$
Consultants	\$201,388
Permits & Approvals	\$36,249
Furniture & Equipment	\$287,000
Misc Expenses	\$10,000
Construction	\$1,007,900
Contingency	\$201,580
Internal Project Mgmt	\$174,412
Non-Recoverable Taxes	\$30,696
TOTAL	\$ 1,949,225

Based on this we are projecting that we will need to add an additional \$200,000 to the project budget.

The Class A costing represents an estimate only. Actual costs may come in over or under this amount. A pre-qualification for prospective bidders is currently being drafted. Successful proponents will then be able to bid on the work and the final project budget will then be known at that time. Should additional funds be required to proceed with the project we will advise the Board at that time.

Cost increases are a result of a more extensive roof review that has revealed that the

roof is in poorer condition than originally thought. The project consultant is now recommending a full roof replacement as part of the renovation work along with replacement of the roof-top HVAC unit.

Some scope adjustments were also made during the design phase. Scope changes from the original feasibility study and budget include exterior landscaping and an extended canopy around two sides of the main entrance.

BACKGROUND:

Attached to this report is the proposed library floor plan and exterior rendering. The interior space is 2,350 square feet. TD Bank's ATM would remain in the entrance vestibule. The existing ATM will be replaced with a free-standing unit which will not require access into the branch. The Children's area is located next to a large bank of windows overlooking the new outdoor patio area. Mobile shelving will be located in the centre of the space to allow flexibility for programming. A Reading Area with magazine shelving is proposed. A Meeting Room/ Quiet Study space is shown located in the existing vault area. The staff workroom, washrooms, and back-of-house electrical/storage area are located in the back portion of the building. An exterior book drop bin is located outside the building next to the parking lot.

The new Carlisle branch will operate with the new Extended Access Hours model that has been successful at both Freelton and Lynden, when it is appropriate to do so. The Extended Access Hours model adds new service hours and will significantly improve access to this brand-new library space.

A pre-qualification document for prospective bidders is being drafted and is expected to be issued in February. A Request for Tender will then be issued. Once bids come back, the project budget can be finalized, and the work awarded. We anticipate awarding the work in April/May.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Appendix A - Carlisle Design & Renderings	1/13/2021	Cover Memo

CARLISLE ROAD

EX. 1 STOREY
BUILDING (SERVICE GARAGE)

EX. ASPHALT

6465 4900

NEW EXTENDED
BOARD FENCE

EX. HP

3005

EX. SOD

3000

SETBACK

NEW CONC. WALK

14075

EX. TREE

EX. PYLON
SIGNAGE

EX. HYD

PROPERTY LINE

EX. SOD

15750

3000

SETBACK

PROPERTY LINE

EX. WOOD PRIVACY FENCE

EX. SOD

3000

SETBACK

EX. GAS METER

EX. HP

EX. SOD

EX. TREE

EX. TREE

6

7000

SETBACK

PROPERTY LINE

EX. PARKLANDS

EX. SOD

EX. ASPHALT
PARKING
(18 SPACES)

EX. CB

BF

PAINTED
MARKINGS

4900

NEW CONC. WALK

NEW BIKE RACKS

BIKE FIXIT
STATION

EX. TREE

EX. VENT

EX. TREE

EX. UNDERGROUND
WASTEWATER TANK

5

PROPERTY LINE

EX. CONCRETE CITY SIDE WALK

EXISTING DRIVEWAY

EX. CHAIN LINK
FENCE

7

CENTRE ROAD

CLIENT APPROVAL:

Signature

Date

NEW CARLISLE LIBRARY
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

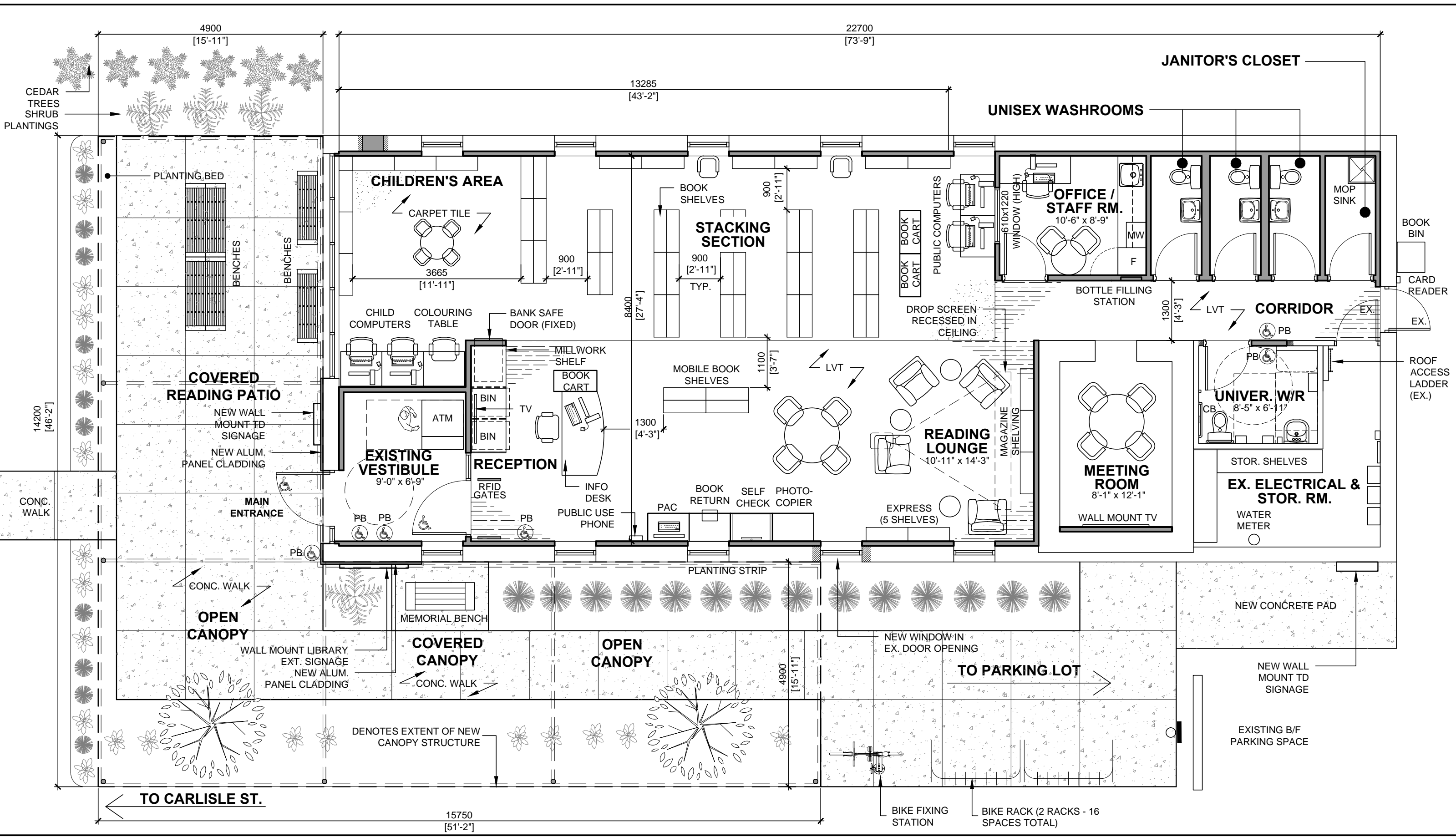
277 CARLISLE ROAD, CARLISLE, ON L0R 1H2

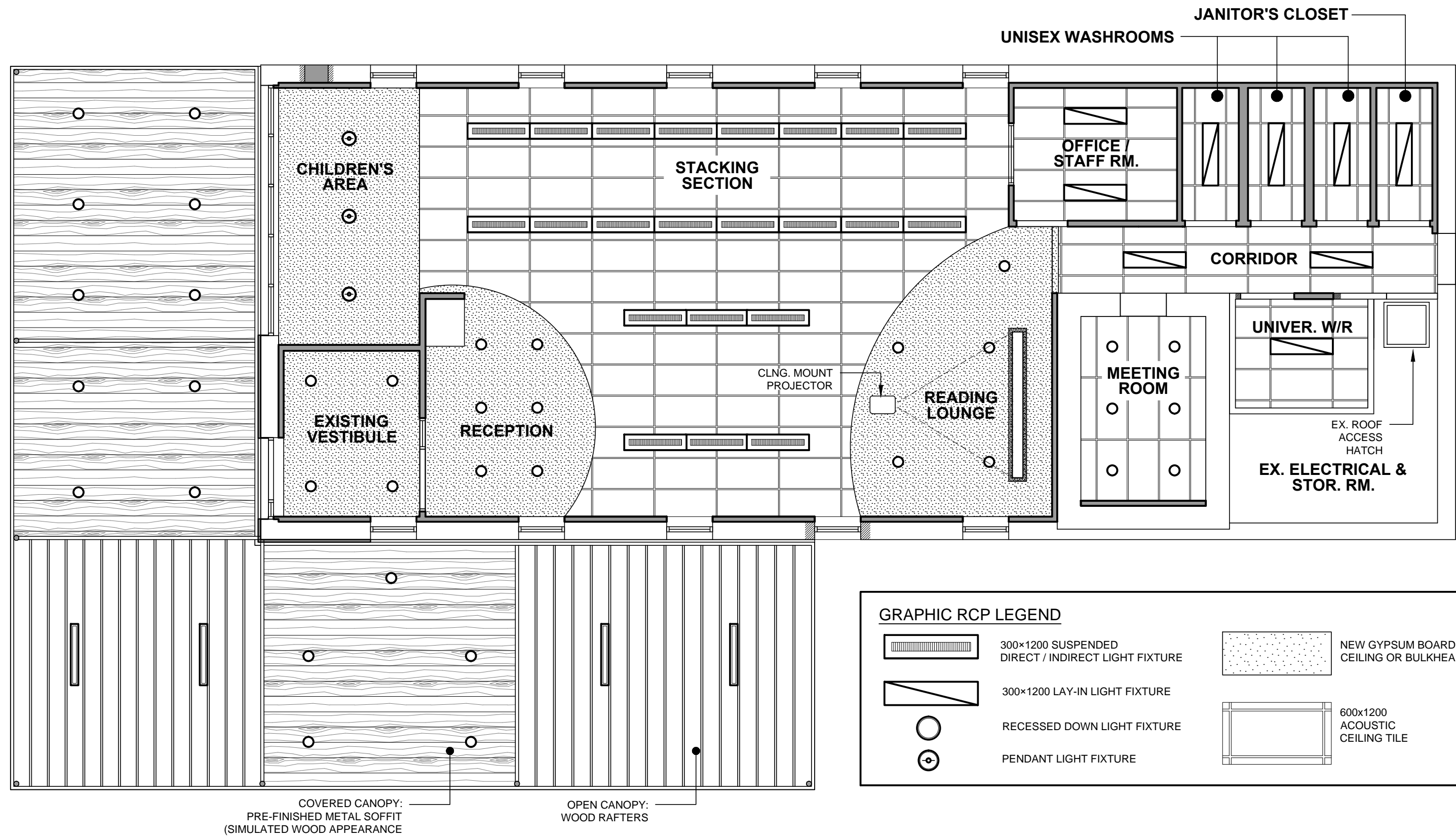


PROJECT NO. 2020-17
DATE: 2020-06-08
SCALE: 1:200

GRGURIC
ARCHITECTS
INCORPORATED









CLIENT APPROVAL:

Signature _____

Date _____

NEW CARLISLE LIBRARY
PROPOSED EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE
277 CARLISLE ROAD, CARLISLE, ON L0R 1H2

PROJECT NO. 2020-17
DATE: 2020-06-09





Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Tony Del Monaco, Director of Finance & Facilities
Subject: **Central Staircase Lights - TD - Attachment # 9.3**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the use of \$70,000 from the Library Capital Enhancement Reserve #106013 for the replacement of the Central Library atrium stairwell lights.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding is being requested from the Library Capital Enhancement Reserve #106013 for the replacement of the main public stairwell lights at the Central Library. Cost of the work is expected to be \$50,000. We are asking for additional funds as a contingency.

The Capital Enhancement Reserve has sufficient funds (projected to have a year-end balance of about \$95,000). The Capital Enhancement Reserve is currently funded by surpluses in the annual capital enhancement operating budget of \$100,000 per year. An additional dedicated reserve transfer of \$85,000 has been included in the 2021 operating budget submission to provide a more sustainable regular funding stream for the reserve on an annual basis.

BACKGROUND:

The light fixtures directly over the atrium stairs were last replaced as part of the first floor renovations about 10 years ago. Many of the lights are now flickering and failing. We are proposing to replace the light fixtures with similar looking long-life LED models that have a life expectancy of 10 years. (See Appendix A).

Due to the location of the lights directly above the stairway, scaffolding will likely need to be erected to access and replace the light fixtures.

The use of scaffolding would result in the stairwell being closed for several days while the work is done. If the floors are open to the public at that time, we will open the emergency stairwell for access, like we did when the window replacement project was taking place.

The bulbs in the current light fixtures were replaced during the window replacement

project last year. Unfortunately, the ballasts in the existing fixtures are old and not compatible with new LED bulbs on the market, and the bulbs and ballasts that were originally in the fixture are no longer available.

As a result, the replacement bulbs have only lasted about a year and have started failing again. We are recommending replacing the existing light fixtures with long-life LEDs that are expected to last 10 years. The proposed fixtures do not have bulbs that need to be replaced periodically. This is a plus, because the lights over the atrium staircase are not easily accessible for repair and maintenance. Long-life units would help to avoid frequent repairs which may necessitate the use of scaffolding which in turn requires the closure of the staircase.

Pending approval, we can proceed with tendering the work. We would like to issue the work soon and take advantage of the shutdown currently in place if possible.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Appendix A - Central Staircase Lights	1/13/2021	Cover Memo

Spheres

AIP12043 24 in

SPILIGHTING

PROJECT DETAILS

JOB NAME:

TYPE: **GL24**

NOTES:

DESCRIPTION

Designed with the timeless appeal of elementary geometry, Spheres is a modern revival of a classic form that symbolizes completeness, unity, and balance. Every point on its surface is equidistant from its center. Available in 18", 24", and 30" diameters.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- White matte acrylic diffuser enhances a space with filtered, uniform illumination
- The double semi-sphere diffuser is joined together and then finished with an opal matte treatment to create a unified look to the globe
- The light engine is located at the center of the sphere, rather than the top, for the most even illumination
- Standard overall height of 48" allows designs to incorporate multiple sizes while maintaining a clearly defined lighting plane or vary OAH as desired
- Different sizes and mounting heights can be used to create visual arrays and three-dimensional collages
- All visible fasteners are flush mounted, providing a clean design
- Available in high and low wattages; both options are great for providing usable light while minimizing power consumption
- Handcrafted in USA

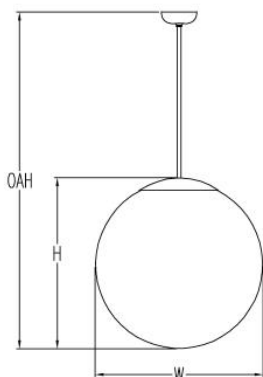


SPECIFICATIONS

- **LIGHT SOURCE:** White LED light engine
- **LUMEN MAINTENANCE:** L70 = >50,000 Hrs.
- **EFFICACY:** 83 lm/W delivered
- **CCT:** 3000K, 3500K, or 4000K
- **VOLTAGE:** 120-277V standard
- **DRIVER:** Integral Class II power supply standard
- **DIMMING:** 0-10V controls standard to 1% on LED light engines
- **INTEGRATED SURGE PROTECTION:** LED components are protected against minor surge events
- **DIFFUSER:** UV-stabilized acrylic
- **CONSTRUCTION:** Aluminum housing

- **FINISH:** Housing and mounting components finished to match.
To specify separately, contact factory. Choose from more than 30 thermoset polyester powder coat paint colors. RAL®, Pantone®, or custom finishes available upon request.
- **MODIFICATIONS:** Consult factory for all modification requests, including RGB
- **APPROVALS:** ETL listed to UL standards (US & Canada) for use in damp locations; not recommended for exterior applications

DIMENSIONS



W	H	OAH
24 in	24 in	48 in
61 cm	61 cm	121.9 cm

Mounting Weight
Approximate: 20 lb (10 kg)

CONFIGURATOR

To configure your spec sheet online, go to www.spilighting.com/AIP12043. Not all options are available in all configurations; consult factory for details.

Required Field *

Catalog	Light Source*	Primary Finish*	Voltage*	Lamp Options*	Mounting*	Other Than Standard Options
AIP12043						
	A		B	C	D	E

A - LIGHT SOURCE *

To ensure color consistency, SPI uses precise bin selection and strict quality processes to maintain a 3-step (MacAdam) SDCM on all white LED lampings. Published LED luminaire wattages are calculated using a typical power supply efficiency of 88%; exact wattages may vary based on application. Alternative wattages available upon request.

☐ **L29W** | White 29W LED Light Engine | Delivered Lumens: 2,375

☒ **L57W** | White 57W LED Light Engine | Delivered Lumens: 4,749

See last page for finish options

B - VOLTAGE *

☐ **120-277V** | Universal Voltage

C - LAMP OPTIONS *

Delivered lumens shown are at 4000K CCT; apply multiplier for delivered lumens at other CCT.

☐ 3000K ¹ | 3000K CCT

☐ 3500K ² | 3500K CCT

☒ 4000K | 4000K CCT

¹ Apply .95 multiplier for delivered lumens

² Apply .97 multiplier for delivered lumens

D - MOUNTING *

Mounts to standard 4" octagonal junction box. Canopy is 5.5" diameter with a 45 degree swivel. Aircraft cable mount features a white power cord. Field adjustable aircraft cable allows the fixture to be mounted at an application appropriate height (up to OAH). Choose a mounting from below:

☐ DF_STM | Stem Mount (default)

☒ AC | Aircraft Cable & Power Cord Mount

E - OTHER THAN STANDARD OPTIONS

Specify overall height required from ceiling to the bottom of the fixture.

OAH | Pendant suspension length other than standard

Length:

Available Finishes

Not all finishes are available in all configurations; consult factory for details.

Paint Colors

PT01 Super White	PT02 White	PT03 Morning Light	PT04 Warm White	PT05 Putty
PT06 Warm Beige	PT07 Light Taupe	PT08 Medium Taupe	PT09 Medium Grey	PT10 Dark Grey
PT11 Black	PT12 Dark Chocolate	PT13 Warm Grey	PT14 Light Grey	PT15 Sage
PT16 Spruce	PT17 Red	PT18 Deep Red	PT19 Blue	PT20 Dark Green
PT21 Pearl White (Metallic)	PT22 Platinum (Metallic)	PT27 Deep Copper (Metallic)	PT28 Dark Stainless (Metallic)	PT29 Red Brass (Metallic)
PT31 Medium Bronze (Metallic)	PT32 Dark Bronze (Metallic)	PT33 Dark Blue	PT40 Yellow	PT41 Orange
PT42 Sky Blue	PT43 Teal	PT44 Green	PT45 Purple	PT46 Aluminum (Metallic)
PT47 Deep Red Brass (Metallic)	PT48 Brass (Metallic)	PT49 Bronze (Metallic)	PT51 Matte White	

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Final Report on 2020 Goals - PT - Attachment # 11.1**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Board receive the Final Report on 2020 Goals.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

As part of our annual business planning process, the Library Board approves goals for the year that are included in our budget submission to the City. During the year the Board receives a Mid-Year Progress report and a Final Report.

BACKGROUND:

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our plans for the year were significantly disrupted. I want to thank the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Library Board for all the support I have received. I want to thank Library staff for all their work and the work of the Management Team to help us navigate through this public health emergency. Thanks to the support of the City of Hamilton, HPL has been a leader in providing library service during the pandemic. We end 2020 with a lot to be thankful for.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Final Report on 2020 Goals	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Library Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Hamilton Public Library Goals 2020 – Final Report**

Introduction	1
Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic	2
HPL's Service Response in 2020	2
Public Health Measures	3
Directly Supporting the Emergency Response.....	4
HPL Remote and Online Service Developments	5
In-Person Services Developments.....	6
Other Organizational Achievements	9
Advancing Community Priorities Through Partnerships	9
Financial & Operational Accountability.....	12
Facility Renewal	13
HPL Pandemic Response Documents in 2020.....	14

INTRODUCTION

The initial [2020 Goals](#) were approved in January and the [Mid-Year Progress Report](#) was received in September. The emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March resulted in a significant priority shift for 2020. HPL's response to the pandemic was shaped by our commitment to support Hamilton's emergency response and to maximize delivery of safe library service. Staff worked closely throughout the year to ensure the Board was engaged and well informed of changes HPL made to respond to the crisis.

2020 put a lot of pressure on staff to deliver services differently, the collective response of staff to support the community and each other has been positive. Several new service innovations were adopted for service continuity during the shutdown periods. The investments made in these service innovations will continue to serve us during the remained of the pandemic and will strengthen our support of Hamilton's recovery.

On behalf of the HPL Team I would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Library Board, Council, City staff and the community for all the support we received during this challenging year.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

HPL'S SERVICE RESPONSE IN 2020

Phase	Dates	Activity Summary
Online Only Services	Mar. 17	Implementation of FreshDesk remote customer support system and MS Teams to support work from home. HPL staff assist with EOC deliveries and Public Health. Virtual programs and friendly calling to seniors. Enhanced access to digital collections.
Take-out Service	Jun. 23	Central, Red Hill, Terryberry and Dundas started take-out service June 23 rd . Ancaster, Kenilworth, Sherwood, Saltfleet, Turner Park and Waterdown opened for scheduled pickup beginning Jul. 14 th . Staff continued to provide quality online programming, friendly calling and support through virtual AskHPL services.
Modified Reopening	Jul. 30	22 branches reopened July 30 th for browsing, holds pickup, computer access and the use of printers, scanners, fax and Central makerspace equipment. Appropriate PPE, all visitors provide library card for contact tracing, physical distancing and enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures. Bookmobile take-out service restarted Sep. 22 nd and VLS extended to include Library Mail Service Oct 6 th .
Red-Control Zone	Nov. 16	Hours were extended into the evening on Oct. 19 th to increase access equitably across Hamilton.
Grey-Lockdown Zone	Dec. 21	Access to computers, printing and the holds shelves for customers to perform contact-less pickup.
Provincial Shutdown	Dec. 26	On demand takeout of holds, print on the go and makerspace projects. Bookmobile service continues and branches are open for temporary branch service hours reducing evening hours.

Proactive Planning & Reporting

HPL's early leadership in the pandemic was greatly assisted by the advanced planning that staff had engaged in over several years. When there were indications that a pandemic could be emerging, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) reviewed and updated our contingency plans for a pandemic. We shared our [Pandemic Service Continuity Plan](#) on the website and widely within the Canadian public library community. In addition, with uncertainty about how long the pandemic would last and the implications, in April the Board received the first version of our [Working Assumptions for 2020](#). That document provided needed context at a time when it was unclear what to expect next.

As more details about the nature of COVID-19 emerged, the Library developed our [Phased Reopening Plan](#). That plan was modelled after the City's [COVID-19 Recovery Plan – A Road Map to our New Reality](#)ⁱ but it was also adapted to better align with our context. HPL also participated in the development of the Canadian Urban Library Council's (CULC's) [Toolkit on Recovery & Reimagined Public Library Services Post COVID-19](#)ⁱⁱ.

HPL Emergency Response Team (ERT)

Our plan called for activating an **Emergency Response (ER)Team** in the case of a pandemic. The core role of the ERT was to make prompt informed decisions and to communicate those decisions to impacted stakeholders. The ERT spent the early days of the pandemic meeting daily. As the situation became more stable the ERT gradually reduced the frequency of its meetings. By the end of 2020 it was meeting once weekly, although, special meetings are called whenever necessary. The ERT meets remotely using the Microsoft Teams platform.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Throughout the pandemic, HPL is following public health guidance and direction to ensure the Library protects staff and the public.

Facilities Preparations & Enhanced Cleaning

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) assessments were done to allow us to install new higher-grade air filters where needed and where possible. Enhanced cleaning procedures were developed based on City-approved standards and remain in place.

Enforcing Personal Protective Equipment

One of the key public health measures that has been proven to be effective is wearing face masks. We have all staff supplied with reusable face masks and face shields. We also have supplies of disposable masks. We strongly encourage the public to wear face masks and give them a disposable mask if they do not have one. In December we started to require library visitors that are exempt from wearing face masks to wear a face-shield.

Physical Distancing and Reduced Capacity

As we were preparing to reopen, Public Health gave us a formula to calculate the maximum public capacity = *Estimated square public footage/144 (12ft X 12ft per person)*. After making this calculation we reviewed each location and defined an Adjusted Capacity. This has been monitored closely.

Supporting Contact Tracing

Since HPL has reopened for in-person service we have been having members check-in using their Library card or provide their name and phone number. In 2020 we had a few Library staff confirm a positive COVID-19 test. In all cases we provided Public Health with the appropriate information. Our environment is considered low risk because of all the precautions we are following. None of the cases we reported lead to other positive tests being reported at HPL.

Library Materials

Although there is mounting evidence that quarantining materials may not reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, throughout 2020 we continued to keep returned materials in quarantine for 72 hrs. We continued to monitor this issue in partnership with other library systems and applicable legislation. We end 2020 still not allowing in branch use and sharing of newspapers, magazines and children's toys and equipment. All materials are available for hold and loaned for 28 days and we continue to monitor hold and loan periods.

Matching Service to the State of Public Health Risk

Since the public health emergency was declared, HPL adjusted our service model to align with the City of Hamilton and Public Health guidance. The phases of service we have offered in 2020 are included in the Phases of the Pandemic table.

DIRECTLY SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

According to our approved plans, HPL's highest priority during the emergency is supporting the City's and Public Health's response, assisting with relief efforts and preparing to assist with the recovery. In the first phases of the pandemic this was a major focus of our efforts. Throughout 2020 we have continued to offer our assistance to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). We continue to look for ways we can work in partnership to support the emergency response.

Providing HPL Staff to the City EOC and Public Health

Early in the pandemic we proactively reached out to offer our assistance to the City of Hamilton and the EOC. The two main areas of support we provided were delivery supports and assisting Public Health in booking COVID tests.

Additional Community Support Activities

Early in the pandemic, while under strict limitations for what we could do, and after addressing HPL and COH needs, HPL engaged with community agencies for staff to support the community response where appropriate. We assigned staff to several activities including:

- Dundas Community Services - friendly calling to isolated people in the Dundas Community
- Kids Help Phone – staffing phones to answer calls from concerned children
- Hamilton CareMongering - grocery drop off to people in need
- Scrub Caps for Ont. Frontline Workers - sewing of scrub caps and headbands
- Canadian Blood Service – Donations of Blood, Plasma and Platelets
- Stinson Neighbourhood Association and St. Clair Community Church - preparing care packages for Frontline workers (approx. 30)
- New Vision Church (Rest and Hygiene Centre) - assisting at rest and hygiene centre

3D Printing of PPE Parts

Early in the pandemic, when there was a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), HPL assisted with creating PPE parts using our 3D printers. We partnered with the City of Hamilton, Innovation Factory, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and shop3D.ca to source and print the PPE. At one point we had 30, 3D printers running 24/7 at Central Library. Of these, seven were from HPL, one from the City's Planning Department and 22 on loan from the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. The finished face shields were distributed by the City's EOC to local health organizations, including Six Nations.

Friendly Calling Seniors

One of the most well received activities staff engaged in was our calling members 75+ to check-in and see how they were and if they needed any assistance. They were also asked if they want a weekly check-in call, responses have been overwhelmingly positive. These calls also led to follow-up virtual appointments, where staff assisted people learning how to access eBooks and our other online resources.

Cooling and Warming Centres

In response to a heat emergency the library opened 4 branches as cooling and hydration centres early in the summer in collaboration with the City. As we opened for modified services, our Library branches were being used as Cooling Centres. As we moved into winter, HPL worked with the City to support the creation of warming centres should cold advisories be issued.

HPL REMOTE AND ONLINE SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

The long-term investments HPL has made in technology infrastructure, including equipment, staff capacity and training, contributed to our ability to rapidly shift to an online only environment. 2020 has resulted in a lot of innovation that will benefit us moving forward.

Remotely Supporting Individuals with Freshdesk

On May 3 we launched a new call support system called Freshdesk (FD). This enabled us to redirect phone calls to staff working remotely. Our AskHPL service has been integrated into FD. This system provides us with a timely view of activity levels and going forward will be our main way members contact us remotely.

Connecting Hamiltonians to Available Services

HPL maintains the [Red Book Hamilton](#) database of community information. Staff created custom lists to support people looking for supports during the pandemic. For example, staff created a list of agencies providing [Mental Health Hotlines](#). The information from the Red Book Hamilton is integrated into the new Chalmers App. that is targeting supports for people experiencing homelessness.

Expanding Digital Collections Access

Increased focus on/promotion of digital resources and increasing access to digital resources by purchasing more titles and increasing limits. Coordinating promotion for the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) customers who are without materials. Other changes include:

- HPL, Burlington PL and Mississauga PL started sharing their e-collections giving HPL members access to 211,400 titles.
- Improved Home Access: move from in-branch databases to unlimited online databases (Ancestry.com, IELTS, Open Library, Kanopy and CBC Curio for movies and documentaries)
- Promotion of partner-run online programs that benefit customers while at home (for example, HPO online concerts, YWCA in-home/online workouts, Hamilton Arts Council Concerts)
- A reciprocal online borrowing program was launched between HPL, Mississauga Library and Burlington Public Library. Initial feedback from residents in all cities has been very positive.
- eExpress Collection – via OverDrive and increased loan limits
- Increased loan limits via Kanopy streaming
- Return of Hoopla – movies, music, books and audio
- Digital Magazines – expansion of the collection to include 3000 new titles

Shift from in-Person to Remote Programs

With restrictions on people gathering in person, HPL rapidly shifted to offer online programs. Public programming is being provided through Microsoft Teams. Staff were trained to provide programming from their homes with minimal technical support required. Staff can set up meetings and invite external presenters (for discussions like book clubs) or create public live events where customers can join without an invitation. For special events throughout the year, livestreaming

provided a live event feed on hpl.ca. After events are finished, event listings were updated with the recorded video so that customers can quickly view events directly in Communico event listings.

- **Supporting Local Artists** - HPL has partnered with the Hamilton Arts Council and AGH to create online learning performance opportunities for local performers. These online events paid local artists to bring some needed live music and entertainment to our community. HPL also sponsored artist performances during Hamilton Art's Week, Hamilton Literacy Awards and Cobalt Connects events.
- **Which Book Next** - The Library has introduced a new online service called Which Book Next. This is an email-based Reader Advisory (R.A.) service run by the AskHPL team. Sample feedback received from customers: "Wow, thank you so much for the speedy reply! I am very excited about your new service! I just put 3 of them on hold. You totally nailed the suggestions based on the summaries of these books. Thank you! I will use this service again, I love it!"
- **Writer in Residence** – HPL, McMaster University and McMaster Library welcomed Janet Rodgers as our new Writer in Residence and we've moved the program online. Janet is available for Hamilton writing and aspiring writers digitally via englwir@mcmaster.ca.
- **Code Club** – We have launched a 10-week Code Club Online program for children between 8 – 12 in different creative exercises sessions to learn and develop coding skills.
- **Google (GISC) Project** – In total 52 learners in the program have completed their courses in different levels. We promoted a workshop about virtual interviews and workshops to the learners.
- **Digital Literacy Programs** – There was growth in online digital literacy programs in 2020. Example of new initiatives include: Grow with Google, 3D print TinkerCad, Create a Website and others.

Supporting Learning from Home

In 2020 we increased visibility and promotion of online card registration including a streamlined form for teachers to help students access library resources online. Several library eResource vendors offered temporary free access to new databases while schools and library branches were closed. We currently offer **remote technical support** to customers. As learning from home is increasingly relied upon, we want students and their families to know they can get remote help from HPL staff.

- [Online Things to Do at Home](#) links to some of our most useful and popular online resources.
- A special page of [Resources for Learning](#) was also created.
- For learners of all ages, a rich collection of [Do-it-Yourself Resources](#)
- A new [simple online library card application](#) has been created for students

IN-PERSON SERVICES DEVELOPMENTS

After the initial lockdown in March, HPL was gradually able to restore modified in-person service during the summer and build on that foundation by phasing in additional service in the autumn. In November and December increased restrictions were again put in place. With all the restrictions we have in place due to COVID-19, our in-person capacity is much lower than what it normally would be. While we end 2020 in a Provincial Shutdown, only offering limited in-person Take-out service, we are proud of the fact that in 2020 HPL was able to provide more services than most Libraries in other communities. We need to acknowledge the support of the City of Hamilton that made that possible.

Library Service Hours

Expanding Library Service Hours has been a long-term goal of the Library Board. Work on expanding Library hours around the system has been a major focus since 2015. The following tables show the major phases of Library Service hours since the initial closure due to the pandemic. We have achieved a greater consistency of hours for our branches to be open despite the pandemic, in contrast to irregular hours schedule pre-pandemic. One of the major barriers to service identified in recent years for members is the confusion that a complex and challenging matrix of service hours provides for members. While a very active Library member learns to adjust to the complexity, potential and infrequent members find closed days and other service complexities difficult to navigate. This creates a barrier to usage and undermines our ability to easily communicate our service offerings to existing and new potential members.

Several factors temporarily put constraints on Library service hours, including:

- **COVID-19 Restrictions:** With HPL operating under pandemic restrictions and many people limiting their outside movement, the demand for and our ability to serve the normal volume of in-person visitors is limited.
- **Operating Budget:** Many public libraries have had their 2020 operating budgets reduced. HPL did not experience this in 2020, however, HPL understood that the City, as with most other municipalities, is facing severe budget pressures, so we did not anticipate extra levy funding to support our COVID related expenses. The operating assumption, that the Board approved, is that we will need to self-fund through savings all required expenses.
- **Staffing:** Initially many Library Pages had not yet been returned to work and other retirements and vacancies have not yet been filled causing constraints. In early stages Library staff were seconded to support the City's emergency response and staff were accommodated to work remotely during the pandemic. Regarding vacancies, we are currently holding off filling most vacancies until we have more certainty around the 2021 operating budget.
- **Additional Work Requirements:** Implementing enhanced cleaning including regularly frequently touched surfaces and checking-in members as they enter our spaces have required additional staff resources.

ONLINE ONLY SERVICE HOURS – STARTING MAY 3

Location	MON - FRI	SAT	SUN
Online Only Service	8 - 10	8 - 5	1 - 5

INITIAL TAKE-OUT SERVICE HOURS

Location	TUES - FRI	SAT	SUN
Phased in Reopening of Branch	11 - 7	8 - 5	1 - 5

SERVICE HOURS – STARTING JULY 28

Location	TUE - THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
All Locations	11 - 7	11 - 5	11 - 5	-

SERVICE HOURS – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 5 TO HOLIDAY CLOSURES & LOCKDOWN

Location	MON	TUE -THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
GROUP 1 – Central, Dundas, Red Hill, Terryberry, Barton, Concession, Kenilworth, Sherwood, Turner Park, Waterdown.	10 - 9	10 - 9	10 - 6	10 - 5	-
GROUP 2 - Ancaster, Binbrook, Locke, Saltfleet, Stoney Creek, Valley Park, Westdale	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 5	-
GROUP 3 – Bookmobile, Carlisle, Freelon, Greensville, Lynden, Mount Hope	-	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 5	-
FRESHDESK (ASKHPL) – Remote Information Service & Member Support (Phone, Email, Online Chat)	10 - 9	10 - 9	10 - 6	10 - 5	

SERVICE HOURS – EFFECTIVE DURING PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN (END OF 2020)

Location	MON	TUE-THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
GROUP 1 – Central, Dundas, Red Hill, Terryberry, Barton, Concession, Kenilworth, Sherwood, Turner Park, Waterdown.	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 5	-
GROUP 2 - Ancaster, Binbrook, Locke, Saltfleet, Stoney Creek, Valley Park, Westdale					
FRESHDESK (ASKHPL) – Remote Information Service & Member Support (Phone, Email, Online Chat)					
GROUP 3 – Bookmobile, Carlisle, Freelon, Greensville, Lynden, Mount Hope	-	10 - 6	10 - 6	10 - 5	-

Physical Collections

- Community Collections – expansion of collections to Food Banks and Community Housing
- Interlibrary Loan – resumed filling ILLO requests created during pandemic closure
- Initiated Reciprocal Agreement with Six Nations Public Library
- HPL was awarded the only public library donation of the Canadian Children’s Book Center Collection

Fines Free

Fines on Youth materials were eliminated permanently in 2020 and Fines on all other materials were suspended until the end of 2021. Fines have long been a barrier for many people and a

relatively small and decreasing revenue stream has been resulting in disproportionate costs to administer while creating real and perceived barriers for library members. Many positive comments have been received related to the Fines-free initiative and we've encouraged library members to "pay-it-forward" by donating the value of their fines.

Rural Service Expansion

Extended Access was suspended at Freelon and Lynden. The construction projects at Carlisle and Greenville will add two more Extended Access locations. Plans for Mount Hope which are not as advanced will later address that location, bringing all rural branches the Extended Access service. In 2021 HPL plans to relaunch Extended Access when it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Local History and Archives (LHA)

LHA continues to move forward with a number of important initiatives, including:

- Internet Archive (IA) and Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) - National promotion and presentations of Legal Opinion and National Emergency Library
- Media responses to COVID related research and remote collection access
- Celebrating Local History through Social Media
- Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) research and preparations

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Library Membership Growth

Online Card Registration was launched in 2019. There were over 30,000 new members using the library's OverDrive collection in part due to COVID and as part of our reciprocal online agreement with Mississauga and Burlington Public Libraries. At the end of 2020 HPL had 157,992 active members.

A Learning & Innovative Organization: Setting up our Staff for Success

HPL's current strategic priorities are relevant to supporting staff to be equipped to meet current and future needs, and our being a **Learning and Innovative Organization** stresses this. Serving communities that are facing rapidly changing technology, with their needs evolving and changing, means equipping our committed staff to meet this challenge must be a major area of focus. Early in the pandemic with most of our staff working from home, we placed a major focus on staff completing online training and maintaining a weekly learning logⁱⁱⁱ. With all the changes to how we work, getting staff trained was a priority. Major focuses of this year have been on Microsoft Teams and FreshDesk.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Although much of our partnership activity is currently suspended due to COVID-19, HPL continues to explore partnerships to respond to COVID-19. Partnerships will play a critical role in HPL's actions supporting the post pandemic recovery. Important partnership priorities for 2020 include:

- **Indwell at Parkdale** – Funding for the project was approved in early 2020. Construction is proceeding well and our lease with Indwell has been finalized. The location will likely be open for business in early 2021. Parkdale will be HPL's 23rd branch. It will be located on Parkdale Avenue between Barton & Melvin Avenues on the ground floor of Indwell's affordable housing community complex. Branch amenities will include a popular collection, public computers, free

Wi-Fi, and community meeting rooms. We will also be able to take advantage of two on-site gardens to offer some fun outdoor programming.

- **Urban Indigenous Strategy** – Working with the Urban Indigenous Strategy the library was the host of local Indigenous Artists as part of Hamilton Reads. We look forward to continued work with UIS as we work towards the Calls to Action in both the UIS and Truth and Reconciliation Report.
- **Indigenous Programming** – HPL is dedicated to highlighting Indigenous voices through our programming. Our current Writer in Residence, Janet Rogers, is a Mohawk/Tuscarora writer from the Ontario Six Nations, and she launched her new book *Ego of a Nation* in celebration of National Indigenous People's Day at an author event, and she also produced a podcast that was aired on McMaster's podcast system in June. The 2020 Hamilton Reads title is *Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice, who is an Anishinaabe writer and journalist from the Wasauksing First Nation. On HPL's YouTube Channel you'll discover studio tours with artists Tsēmā Igharas who is an award-winning, interdisciplinary artist of Tahltan descent, and Dani Jonathan, a crafter from Six Nations. Tsēmā and Dani, along with Nunavummiuq artist Jesse Tungilik created Achievement Badges as part of our Hamilton Reads Summer Reading Program.
- **McMaster University and McMaster Library** – HPL partners with McMaster in multiple ways, including in the annual Writer in Residence. HPL is a key partner in two national research initiatives led by McMaster Researchers, one explores the effectiveness of digital literacy programs and services in the public library and the other explores strategies to keep seniors socially engaged and developing. In collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University, HPL is developing a conceptual community research platform to support current and future Community-Based Participatory Research initiatives. The platform will formalize the partnership and support these initiatives, providing McMaster faculty and researchers with access to the community via the Library; in turn, the Library benefits from the scholarship to inform decision-making about our programs and services and to contribute to demonstrating the Library's social impact.
- **McMaster Children & Youth University (MCYU)** – HPL had offered in-person programs, but they are now evolving to online clubs and on-demand delivery of these programs that bring the university right to kids in the community.
- **Continuing Education – Google IT Support Certificate Scholarship** – Working with Google, HPL provided free continuing education opportunities to 100 Hamiltonians, over two years, to obtain an IT support certificate to prepare them for an entry level technology career.
- **Frontier College** – HPL is distributing 1000 booklets filled with learning activities from Frontier College. HPL and Frontier College have expanded the partnership by offering online math tutoring and reading help for kids, and teen tutoring for a variety of high school subjects.
- **Reading Programs** - The library continues to celebrate readers, reading and writing this year in many ways. We continue to host a Writer-In-Residence in partnership with McMaster and celebrate writers with the Power of the Pen and Short Works Prizes. HPL launched the annual Hamilton Reads program early this year in order to engage readers across Hamilton during the first weeks of the pandemic. With a successful launch in mid-April the ebook for our featured title *Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice has been circulated 5000 times, we have hosted book clubs and featured artist and author events through our Virtual Branch. Our annual reading programs include hundreds of Hamilton readers with the TD Summer Reading Club, Top Teen and Junior Teen Novel, Hamilton Reads and Telling Tales festivals.

- **Supporting Authors** – As part of the promotion for the Short Works Prize, HPL has hosted a weekly program through the Virtual Branch called Poems and Stories from Home, which features local writers reading their work. These programs offer opportunities for local writers to find an audience for their work during this unprecedented time. HPL has also hosted several live author events online.
- **Seniors Programs** – Supporting Seniors through programming to help reduce social isolation was a priority for programming the Virtual Branch. We continue to work with many of our partners including City of Hamilton Recreation, Metcalf Foundation, McMaster, Ontario Bar Association, and the Hamilton Council on Aging to offer both face-to-face programs online, as well as interactive live informational events. During the physical branch closure staff called thousands of isolated seniors and supported them with accessing library and community resources as well as a recreational/social check in.
- **Hamilton Pride 2020** - The library supported Hamilton 2020 Pride and inclusion by providing information and resources for Pride Hamilton to share and promote, including booklists containing reads by and about 2SLGBTQIA+ communities (Kids, Teen, Adult). Also shared were lists of books to support conversations about race, racism and resistance (Kids, Teen, Adult), titles by Indigenous authors (Indigenous Authors), and books about teen mental health (Teen Mental Health). HPL also supported Pride this year by promoting a curated list of 2SLGBTQIA+ community resources in the Red Book (Community Resources). In addition, a Pride-themed Discover At Home activity was created and posted in June to coincide with Hamilton Pride.
- **Gender Identity and Expression Protocol Training City of Hamilton** – In 2020 we continued the process of ensuring all permanent staff participate in this training. In 2021 library pages will be participating in a modified version of this training.
- **Ongoing local community partnerships with Farmer's Markets** – HPL strives to becoming a visible presence in the community at Farmer's Markets across the City promoting library services and programs along with food literacy. During the physical location closure the library donated print resources to Food Banks for sharing with customers and included a Hamilton Farmer Market Display at Central.
- **Newcomer Learning Centre** – The Newcomer Learning Centre continues to support its 100 student and tutor pairs, in person while the library was open to the public, and 70 pairs online since March 2020. The Seniors language classes have all transitioned online, and they continue to be running weekly. Two additional conversation circles have been added online while library locations are closed for entry.

Important Partnerships Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic

- **Mohawk College** – City School by Mohawk – Hamilton Public Library continues to grow its partnership with Mohawk College to offer a wider selection of free college credit programs. Before the pandemic, City School was delivering 4 programs twice a week at Hamilton Central Library covering topics about music, business plans and careers in Technology. Although more credit programs were planned for the Winter of 2020 at Central and Red Hill with a focus on small business entrepreneurship and child development those programs have taken a pause. We will be exploring ways we can continue working with Mohawk on this important and growing initiative.
- **Xperience Annex** – Is a partnership initiative between HPL and the City of Hamilton located at Central Library Circuit 4.0 (4th floor, Central Library). Xperience Annex support youth in achieving their goals by connection and collaboration with education, health care and

employment providers. With the help of youth navigators 6 days a week, Xperience Annex works with youth to understand their needs and create pathways to community services and employment. The program is currently paused, but we are looking to relaunch at the appropriate time.

- **Our Future Hamilton (OFH)** – OFH's positive vision for the future informs HPL activities to advance the key themes in our work. Normally, HPL actively supports OFH events, including their annual summit. HPL will look for ways work with the City and Library partners to advance the vision as we work on recovery.

FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Operating budget** – We will continue to ensure operating funds are effectively used to maximize our impact and relevance to the community. This will include ensuring we work within the 2020 and 2021 operating budget while we plan for the 2022-2024 operating budgets that meet the City of Hamilton's budget targets as closely as possible.
- **Revenue Generation** – We will continue providing the Board with an annual report that highlights alternative sources of funding we received in the previous year. This includes fines, fees, donations and special grant funding. The first report on revenue generation was received in March 2017. We will continue to focus on ways we can supplement our funding in ways that are consistent with our vision and values as an organization.
- **Fundraising Strategy** – Pending Board approval, staff will undertake a study to develop potential revenue generation strategies and tactics. That report will provide the Board with options to consider for future directions. In 2020, the Board approved funds for a fundraising feasibility study to identify potential fundraising strategies. Due to COVID-19 that project has been deferred.
- **Expanded Metrics Program** – Building on past work, we will continue to improve our metrics reporting. In 2020 we moved to a weekly dashboard model to support our operational agility during the pandemic. We continued to participate in national library data strategies and are committed to data transparency.
- **DC Charges** – Public Libraries are now eligible for full cost recovery for eligible capital expenses as outlined in Development Charges Act. The mandatory 10% deduction was removed for all services that remain eligible in the Development Charges Act. This allows 100% of the portion of library growth-related projects to be collected from development charges vs a 90% capped maximum in the past. We will be working with the City in 2021 as they update the Development Charges By-law to reflect this change.

Policy Development

HPL will continue to update and refine our organizational policies. The review schedule as approved by the Library Board in the Policy Manual will continue. In 2020 we continue with that process as we also expedite our review of our Inclusion, Program, Space Rentals and Partnership policies to ensure we address current policy challenges facing libraries in other communities.

- **Fines and Fees Policy** – HPL began assessing the impact of our fines and fees in 2018 and have made significant inroads and passed the new Fines and Fees Policy in June 2020. Now everyone in Hamilton – kids, teens and adults – can have a fresh start by resolving and waiving library fines until December 31, 2021. All youth material fines have been eliminated permanently. Previously blocked members have borrowed 3.45% of 2020's circulation and 8,026 kid and teen members can now borrow materials.

FACILITY RENEWAL

In 2011 HPL had 6 locations that could not be brought up to current standards and provide accessible services into the future. Only one facility remained without a plan, Mount Hope. A feasibility study will soon be underway, and options are being explored. In 2018 the Library Board completed an independent assessment of our facilities to evaluate how HPL services and physical locations will align with the expected demographic patterns throughout the City. In addition to identifying potential gaps in library service, we will continue to incorporate future capital maintenance costs into our Facilities Master Plan and long-term planning. As we work to build our service, we will need to ensure we have a plan to effectively manage existing facilities over the long term. In early 2019 the 5th version of the Facilities Master Plan was approved by the Library Board.

- **Carlisle** – This past year, we continued to advance the redevelopment of a new Carlisle branch. We appreciate the generous donation of the TD Bank building in Carlisle. A 2020 capital budget submission has been approved for a \$1.75m capital project. In 2020 staff worked with the Library Board on finalizing the scope of the work and a final design has now been completed. An analysis of the state of the existing roof was recommended by the design consultant. A roof replacement was originally out of scope. Pending the outcome of the roof review we may need to add to the scope and budget. The project is expected to be tendered in early 2021 with construction to start in the spring.
- **Greensville** – In 2020, we continued to work in partnership with the HWDSB and the City of Hamilton to advance the project. Staff were instructed to advance construction of the new library and work with the City to identify additional funds for the project. Options for value engineering were considered and approved for redesign to bring the budget down without compromising the functionality of the space. Additional reserve funding was approved by the Board in April 2020. The Joint Development Agreement between the City and the School Board was then updated and executed. Our scope of work was added to the project and construction proceeded smoothly with work now nearly complete. Shelving, equipment, and furniture is now on order in anticipation of a Spring 2021 occupancy.
- **Mount Hope** – In September 2019 the Library Board approved use of \$75,000 from Library Reserves to undertake a feasibility study for a new or renovated branch that would address accessibility issues and provide for long-term sustainability at that location. The City's Recreation Department has been exploring other options which could have an impact on plans for the site. The feasibility study has been temporarily paused until we have some more clarity on their plans for the site. Work on the study should resume in 2021.
- **Valley Park** – The temporary location was opened in Q1 2020 at nearby 1050 Paramount Drive. Requests for tenders for the Library portion of the work related to the new branch came in over budget. Additional reserve funding was approved by the Board in April 2020 with additional Development Charge funding approved as part of the 2021 Capital Budget Process. Construction work is now well underway. The frame of the new library is now up, the roof has been installed, and concrete flooring has been poured. A Fall 2021 occupancy is anticipated.
- **Parkdale** – Funding for the project was approved in early 2020. Construction is proceeding well. Our lease with Indwell has now been finalized. The location will likely be open for business in early 2021. Parkdale will be HPL's 23rd branch. It will be located on Parkdale Avenue between Barton & Melvin Avenues on the ground floor of Indwell's affordable housing community complex. Branch amenities will include a popular collection, public computers, free Wi-Fi, and community meeting rooms. We will also be able to take advantage of two on-site gardens to offer some fun outdoor programming.

HPL PANDEMIC RESPONSE DOCUMENTS IN 2020

Pandemic Service Continuity Plan, March 2020

<https://www.hpl.ca/sites/default/files/HPLSystemPandemicPlan-2020-03-13.pdf>

Working Assumptions, May 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=859&MeetingID=78>

Phased Reopening Plan, June 2020

<https://www.hpl.ca/sites/default/files/HPLReopeningPlanJune2020.pdf>

Service Hours Strategy Report, September 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=928&MeetingID=80>

Mid-year Progress Report, September 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=919&MeetingID=80>

Statement on Service Continuity, November 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=942&MeetingID=82>

Multi-Year Business Plan 2021, December 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=993&MeetingID=83>

Update on 2020 and Looking Ahead, December 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=998&MeetingID=83>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, April 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=846&MeetingID=84>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, May 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=855&MeetingID=78>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, June 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=869&MeetingID=79>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, September 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=881&MeetingID=80>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, October 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=895&MeetingID=81>

COVID-19 and HPL's Pandemic Response, December 2020

<https://hpl.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=915&MeetingID=83>

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- ⁱ City of Hamilton Recovery Roadmap - <https://www.hamilton.ca/reopens>
- ⁱⁱ CULC Think Tank Tool Kit - <http://culc.ca/advocacy/thinktank/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.hpl.ca/articles/professional-development-resources-hpl-staff>

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Chief Librarian Report - PT - Attachment #11.2**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Library Board receive the January 2021 Chief Librarian Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
Chief Librarian Report- January 2021	1/15/2021	Cover Memo

Chief Librarian Report – January 2021

COVID-19 Shutdown Response Updates

Library services were limited to computers and contactless pickup for mid-December as Hamilton was moved to the Provincial Grey. We then moved to a stricter Shutdown over the holidays. Effective January 25 the library will open for on demand takeout of materials and print requests with reduced hours, with no in-person service on Mondays. As of January 13, 8 HPL staff are working with the City's Public Health department support COVID testing and vaccine response lines.

City of Hamilton – 175 Programs and Acknowledgment

The library will create 175 read watch listen lists as well as 175 things to do with Parks and Recreation to acknowledge the City's 175th. At the same time the library acknowledges the lands upon which we work, live and learn are on the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The library will this year work with the Haudenosaunee Institute via the Urban Indigenous Strategy to create a draft treaty education program.

Canada's First Bilingual Digital Book Club

Canada's first bilingual digital book club is being led by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC). Simultaneous unlimited access to English and French eBook Vi by author Kim Thúy January 1-31, 2021. Brief, beautiful book focuses on the invisible strength of women and probes the refugee narrative available via <https://hpl.overdrive.com/>

Junior Librarian In Residence

We're excited to have welcomed our new (first!) Junior Librarian in Residence, Ainara, a local Grade 6 student and book enthusiast with a passion for promoting stories by BIPOC authors and featuring BIPOC characters. Her residency will run from January through June 2021, in which time she'll be working on several activities including developing book lists, taking over HPL's social media for a day, and co-hosting a program. The story was picked up by the [CBC's the National](#). We hope to have this as a recurring position for K-8 students in our community.

Learning With HPL

The 2021 January Literacy calendar as well as thousands of simultaneous use titles are available to read, watch or listen to while learning at home or school. <https://www.hpl.ca/learning-at-hpl>

Grab and Go Bags

Members can now request a surprise bag of 10 items for pick up via the web or phone. Staff will share hidden gems in the collection based on member interests. <https://www.hpl.ca/grab-and-go>

Order of Hamilton

George Geczy is being recognized for his long and tremendous contribution to the Hamilton Public Library. Since 1982 George has been an active advocate for early technology adoption, internet connectivity and digital literacy across the city. George has served as a member of the Hamilton Public Library's board for 18 years from 2001 to 2019 serving as chair or vice-chair for 9 years. He helped steer the library system through amalgamation and supported public computing through the HPL's 22 branches. As the past chair of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Science and Technology Committee, former board member of the Hamilton-Wentworth FreeNet, and as member of the Hamilton Spectator Community Editorial Board he helped build a connected and future ready Hamilton. George Geczy is a digital pioneer whose support allowed the library to transform from modems and CD-ROMS to in-branch laptop lending and eBooks. He never let the board forget that everyone deserves digital access. George is a champion for digital literacy and has contributed immensely to the Hamilton we all interact with digitally.

Cable 14 Program Promotion

Visit the Library on your television. We are thankful to Cable 14 for their promotion of a variety of library programming in their daily programs.

Community Program Sponsorships

The library is working with the following community organizations via sponsorship of community programs:

- Hamilton Arts Council to support the Fiction Literary Awards [won by Michael Mirolla] being announced via Cable 14 Broadcast – congratulations to all the winners.
- Green Venture virtual seed swap programming online in Feb and via mail this spring
- Hamilton Arts and Letters to support open access to the local writers published in the online magazine

Loan Periods

In response to the Provincial stay at home order library loans periods will remain the same with 28-day loans for all materials and a two week hold pick up window.

Collection Updates

As the Internet Archives (IA) responds to a lawsuit from major publishers access to content from the library catalogue has become inconsistent and the Library will continue to work with IA to update access this year. All magazines from RB Digital will be moving to OverDrive this month. Access will no longer be available in RB Digital after March as OverDrive has purchased RB Digital and is working to merge their collections into one online/app platform.

ABEA at HPL

The library is looking forward to welcoming the Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA) to Hamilton Public Library this March. While most services remain online at this time, ABEA and HPL are planning on collaborating more in person later this year and in the future. The ABEA used to be located at Central and look forward to working with them to advance adult literacy supports and coordination.

Coming Soon to HPL

This February the Program Team is looking forward to sharing the following opportunities with members in addition to the traditional Virtual Branch Programs:

- Canadian Black History curated content via Hoopla <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- Black History Discover at home activities via <https://www.hpl.ca/learning-at-hpl>
- Jackie Washington program via Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonLibraryVideo>
- I read Canadian Day lists and activities via social media <https://twitter.com/HamiltonLibrary>

Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO

January 2021

December 2020 Media Coverage Highlights

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL STILL BE OPEN IN LOCKDOWN

The Bay Observer, December 19, 2020

Source:

<https://bayobserver.ca/2020/12/19/hamilton-public-library-will-still-be-open-in-lockdown/>

After the lockdown goes into effect Monday Hamilton Public Library will be open, but with some restrictions. Here's a list of what is available and some of the new measures that will be taken:

Is the library open?

As of December 21, all HPL branches are open for holds pickup, computer access* and use of printers, scanner, fax and Central Makerspace takeout service. No browsing of shelves; HPL staff will retrieve holds for you.

Visits at all branches are limited to a maximum of two (2) hours.

No food or drink is permitted, to reduce the risk of transmission.

*Locke Branch doesn't offer computer access.

Can I come into a branch without a mask, if I am medically exempt?

As of Dec 7, 2020, anyone entering HPL branches must wear a mask or face shield. For Members who are medically exempt (according to the City by-law) Staff will offer a sanitized face shield to be worn. If Members choose to refuse the face shield, they can't enter a branch. Members may request their holds be brought to them outside. Hamilton Public Library is committed to reducing the spread of COVID -19 in our community.

Does my library card work online?

Yes. HPL has all you need to keep you informed and entertained. Register for a card to access movies, music, newspapers, magazines, e-learning and more, all for free.

When can I use a computer?

All branches except Locke offer computer access and use of printers/copiers, scanners, fax* and Central Makerspace equipment. Visits are limited to (2) two hours. Computers shut down 30 minutes before closing. All computer users need a library card. Computer use is first come, first served.

How long can I use a computer?

Computer use is limited to one-hour, with up to one-hour extension, depending on availability.

Can I print items while I'm on the computer?

Yes. All members can print up to 10 black and white copies per day. Beyond that, black and white

copies are 10 cents each and colour copies are 25 cents each.

What is the safety protocol for libraries in the Grey-Lockdown category?

HPL follows the province's COVID-19 safety plan.

Can I print remotely?

Yes. HPL has Print on the Go service. Print at home, pick up in branch.

Do I need to bring back my library items?

Yes. Please return all library materials on the due date or when they are no longer renewable. Return all library materials into any of the drop boxes at HPL's 22 branches.

Will I be fined for overdue materials?

HPL is permanently eliminating fines and fees on children's and youth materials and waiving fines for everyone else until December 31, 2021. More information is on our FAQ page.

Can I place holds?

Yes. Visit hpl.ca to browse titles and put items on hold. When you receive a phone call or email from HPL indicating they're ready, pick them up at your selected branch. No appointment necessary.

When can I pick up my holds?

When you receive a notice from HPL that your holds are ready, pick them up at your selected branch.

No appointment necessary.

How long can I borrow library materials?

You have 28 days to enjoy your items.

I returned my library materials, but they still appear as overdue on my account.

Rest assured HPL received your items but items are quarantined for three days. Thank you for your patience.

Is HPL offering programs?

All HPL and partner-led programs are virtual. Go to hpl.ca/events for more information.

How long can I borrow an eBook/eAudiobook through OverDrive?

HPL now has unlimited borrowing of more than 100,000 eBook and eAudiobook titles. For more magazines, movies, newspaper and more, visit HPL's online resources.

Is the Visiting Library Service running?

Yes. In a modified way. Read more information about the Visiting Library Service.

When will the Bookmobiles be back on the road?

Please check the Bookmobile page for more information about the hours and stops it'll be making and how you can pick up your holds and drop off your returns.

Is Local History & Archives open?

No. It is currently closed to in-person visits, due to health precautions. Staff are available to answer questions. Email askus@hpl.ca or call 905-546-3200 or chat at hpl.ca.

I have more questions. Who can answer them?

Email askhpl@hpl.ca, call 905.546.3200 or chat at hpl.ca.

WHAT'S OPEN AND CLOSED IN HAMILTON DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By: Jennifer Moore, Hamilton Spectator, December 24, 2020

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2020/12/24/whats-open-and-closed-in-hamilton-during-the-holidays.html>

OPEN AND CLOSED

RBG

Royal Botanical Gardens will be temporarily closed to the public as of Saturday, Dec. 26.

Hamilton Conservation Authority

HCA's main office and administrative headquarters are closed at noon on Dec. 24 until Jan. 3.

Hamilton Farmers' Market

The market is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 24. The market is closed Dec. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

City Hall

City of Hamilton is currently in [lockdown](#). As a result, city hall and all municipal service centres are closed to walk-in customers.

Appointments are required for in-person transactions, active health screening will be required. To make an appointment call 905-546-2489 (CITY). Residents are encouraged to [access municipal services online where available](#).

No garbage day on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Garbage pickup will be delayed by a day for the next two weeks in Hamilton, Halton and Niagara.

In Hamilton, live Christmas tree pickup is during the weeks of Jan. 4 and 11. Remove decorations before placing the tree at the curb. Check your waste schedule.

In Halton, live Christmas tree pickup is during the weeks of Jan. 10 and 17. Check your waste schedule.

Libraries

Hamilton-branch locations are closed on Jan. 1, 2021; open Dec. 29 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the provincial lockdown, Dec. 26-Jan. 23, 2021, HPL branches are open for pickup of holds, printing jobs and Makerspace projects. Computer use is unavailable. On Demand Takeout is available; no appointment necessary. More details on the [COVID updates](#) page. Visit hpl.ca/hours

Transportation

HSR — Christmas Eve will follow a regular weekday schedule; Christmas Day, special holiday schedule with limited bus service until 9 p.m.; Boxing Day follows a Saturday schedule on some routes; New Year's Eve runs on regular weekday schedule, to encourage safe celebrations at home there will be no free or extended service offered; and New Year's Day is a Sunday/holiday schedule with service ending at 9 p.m. For HSR information call 905-527-4441, hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares

Burlington's Downtown Transit Terminal is **closed** Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1. Transit service will run until 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve; modified holiday service Christmas Day; Boxing Day follows the Sunday schedule; regular service returns Dec. 27; modified holiday service Jan. 1. Call 905-639-0550 or visit burlingtontransit.ca for real-time schedule information.

GO Transit will run on regular weekday and weekend schedules except on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 when it will run on a Sunday schedule; and on Dec. 28, will run on a Saturday schedule. [Be sure to check the schedule at gotransit.com](#).

On New Year's Eve, GO will not be running extra late-night service.

Canada Post

Post offices are **closed** and there is no delivery Dec. 25, 26 or Jan. 1.

LCBO and Beer Store

On Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1, the LCBO will be closed for the holidays and will operate from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Hours at [the Beer Store](#) will be changed for the holidays. On Dec. 24, all stores will close at 6 p.m. and select stores will not reopen until Dec. 26. Stores will open with regular hours from Dec. 27 to 31, when all stores will close at 6 p.m. All stores will be closed on New Year's Day.

TENANTS AT HAMILTON'S MCQUESTEN LOFTS ARE HOME JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

By: John Rennison, Hamilton Spectator, December 25, 2020

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2020/12/25/tenants-at-hamiltons-mcquesten-lofts-are-home-just-in-time-for-christmas.html>

"Home for the holidays' looks very different for all of us this year," says Rachel Courey, Indwell's program manager at Parkdale Landing and McQuesten Lofts.

"Thankfully, for tenants moving into our newly opened building, we know that coming home will mean affordable rent, better access to support and community, and space to call their own — for some, for the very first time. Despite the lockdown, we are welcoming residents of McQuesten Lofts home this week and in the weeks to come."

"In September, 45 tenants moved into [North End Landing](#), owned by James North Baptist Church and operated by Indwell. As well as drastically reducing impact on the environment, the Passive House design will lower the tenants' heating and cooling bills.

Twenty per cent of the units will be designated for people of Indigenous heritage.

In addition to on-site services and supports, McQuesten Lofts boasts community spaces, and will be the **future home to Hamilton Public Library's newest branch.**

It is the second building for Indwell at the corner of Melvin and Parkdale.

McQuesten Lofts is the third Indwell building in Hamilton built to the rigorous and highly energy efficient Passive House standard. Parkdale Landing, a conversion of the old George and Mary's Banquet Hall, is home to 57 tenants.

Indwell is a Hamilton-based charity that creates community-based multi-unit residential affordable housing. Its programs support more than 650 households in Hamilton, Woodstock, Simcoe, and London.

7 THINGS TO DO IN HAMILTON AND BURLINGTON OVER THE HOLIDAYS UNDER COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Go skating, watch a virtual puppet show and more

CBC News, December 29, 2020

Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-to-do-holidays-1.5843559>

The COVID-19 pandemic means a quieter holiday season in the Hamilton area — but there are still ways to keep busy. Here are some things to do over the holiday break.

1. Go skating

There are several skating options in Hamilton and Burlington.

Four outdoor rinks are open with limited capacity, said Hamilton's Director of Recreation Chris Herstek. You'll need to [register in advance online](#), and change rooms and washroom facilities will be closed. Face masks are "strongly encouraged," the city says.

A number of community rinks are also open in Hamilton parks, run by volunteers.

In Burlington, you can pre-register to skate at Burlington's Rotary Centennial Pond.

You can pre-register to skate at Burlington's Rotary Centennial Pond. (Downtown Burlington/Twitter)

2. Tobogganing

There are four city-approved tobogganing hills in Hamilton with special safety measures, says Herstek.

He notes that two of those hills used to be ski slopes.

3. Puppet show, workshops, film clubs and more

The Hamilton Public Library hosts several virtual [events and clubs](#).

Join a film discussion, or watch local authors read during virtual story time. There are also tax filing and website-building workshops on Dec. 30.

Kids can watch a virtual puppet show, *The Sky is Falling*, on New Years Eve, or participate in online activities.

You can see the [library's calendar of events here](#).

4. Drive through 'Frosty's Village' in Burlington.

Neighbours in one Burlington subdivision have put up more than 130 inflatable snowmen [in their area](#).

Take a drive through the snowman-filled neighbourhood and bring a donation for the food bank.

5. Enjoy the Royal Botanical Gardens

The Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington has [gone virtual](#) during the pandemic. Explore the garden

at home, and access virtual events and programming.

6. Walk in a winter wonderland

Herstek says the city of Hamilton maintains several trails throughout the winter. You can also walk or ski on one of the city's municipal golf courses.

7. Check out Burlington's holiday lights

There are lots of seasonal light displays to see in Burlington, provided you're following safety precautions. Walk through Spencer Smith Park for the annual [Lakeside Festival of Lights](#), every day from 4 p.m. until midnight.

Downtown Burlington will also be lit up with for their "Bright Nights" until January 10. According to the city's website, the downtown area will feature interactive displays, including a "singing tree."

HERE ARE THE MOST POPULAR BOOKS AT THE HAMILTON LIBRARY FOR 2020

CBC News, December 30, 2021

Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/top-books-rentals-hamilton-2020-1.5847130>

Thrillers top list of most-circulated novels in the city

As Hamilton faced the pandemic this year, many people scrolled through a good read from the Hamilton Public Library (HPL) to get by.

There were so many people diving into stories that by October, the HPL hit a milestone of 1 million digital book checkouts in 2020.

But what was everyone reading?

Here are some of the top books and movies rented from the HPL since March.

Top 10 circulating books

1. *Blue Moon* by Lee Child

The 24th book in the "Jack Reacher" crime thriller series was checked out 790 times. At the start of 2020, it was reported that the [series would be adapted for a run on Amazon's streaming service](#), with the first book published in 1977— *Killing Floor* — serving as inspiration.

The latest in the series, *The Sentinel*, was published in October, and co-authored with Child's brother, Andrew. *Blue Moon* also was a popular eBook in the city.

2. *A Better Man* by Louise Penny

A Canadian title captures second place — the 15th novel in the Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series. Mystery writer Louise Penny used to work as a CBC journalist, and has sold more than 4 million books. This book was rented 729 times.

Penny's *All the Devils are Here* is also listed among the [bestselling Canadian books in 2020](#).

3. *The Guardians* by John Grisham

John Grisham's 40th novel was read 644 times this year. This title, along with Grisham's *The Reckoning: A Novel* also made the list of top eBooks this year.

The Guardians tells the story of a young Black man who has been wrongfully convicted, and the lawyer and Episcopal minister he asks for help.

4. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama and *A Minute to Midnight* by David Baldacci

The memoir written by former first lady of the United States Michelle Obama was a hit, with 642 people checking out the title. It tied for fourth place with *A Minute to Midnight*, where an FBI agent investigates her sister's abduction.

Becoming also appears on the lists for top eBooks and eAudiobooks.

5. *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood

The sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, which was among Hamilton's most popular eBook titles, chalked up 633 rentals. Atwood didn't publish *The Testaments* until 2019, 34 years after the first book.

BookNet Canada, which tracks book sales and library circulation, said her novel was [the most borrowed library book in the country](#) this year.

6. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

[Where the Crawdads Sing](#) follows Kya Clark, who was abandoned in the coastal marshes of North Carolina, as her story intertwines with a murder investigation. It was rented 623 times, and it too made

the lists for most popular eAudiobooks and top eBooks for Hamiltonians this year.

Actress and producer Reese Witherspoon, who once listed the book among her top reads in 2018, has plans to adapt it into a movie.

7. *Elevator Pitch* by Linwood Barclay

The Canadian thriller weaves a suspenseful tale of free-falling elevators in Manhattan, and was checked out 614 times.

Barclay's bestseller [Fear the Worst will be adapted into a film](#), starring Canadian actor Jason Priestley.

8. *Criss Cross* by James Patterson

The 25th book in the Alex Cross series clocked 578 rentals in 2020. Patterson has written stories featuring the Washington D.C. detective since 1993 when he started with *Along Came a Spider*, with a few being adapted into movies.

His books appear on this list of top rentals three times.

9. *Many Rivers to Cross* by Peter Robinson

The 26th instalment of the Inspector Alan Banks series got 561 rentals. English-Canadian writer Robinson, who lives in Toronto, talks through Banks' latest case in his popular crime series that has run for 30 years on [CBC's The Next Chapter](#).

10. *The 19th Christmas* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro, and *Lost* by James Patterson and James O. Born

Patterson rounds out the list of top 10 books by tying with himself. The festive read in the Women's Murder Club mystery novel series and the Miami crime story *Lost* were both checked out 559 times.

Digital copies

Here are the top reads people either scrolled through or listened to. Digital copies of eAudiobooks and eBooks can be accessed through OverDrive's [Libby reading app](#).

The Top 10 eBook titles

1. [Moon of the Crusted Snow: A Novel](#) by Waubgeshig Rice

The HPL announced that Rice's *Moon of the Crusted Snow* was their must-read book for Hamiltonians in 2020. Rice is a writer from Wasauksing First Nation and former host of CBC Radio's Up North.

Hamilton's must-read book for 2020: Waub Rice's *Moon of the Crusted Snow*

The story focuses on a small northern Anishinaabe community grappling with dwindling resources and an unexpected visitor.

2. [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama

3. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens

4. [Nine Perfect Strangers](#) by Liane Moriarty

5. [Past Tense](#) by Lee Child

6. [The Handmaid's Tale](#) by Margaret Atwood

7. [The Reckoning](#) by John Grisham

8. [Blue Moon](#) by Lee Child

9. [Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone](#) by JK Rowling

10. [The Guardians](#) by John Grisham

Top 10 eAudiobook titles

1. [Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#) by JK Rowling

2. [You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life](#) by Jen Sincero

3. [Moon of the Crusted Snow: A Novel](#) by Waubgeshig Rice

4. [The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life](#) by Mark Manson

5. [The Year of Less: How I Stopped Shopping, Gave Away My Belongings, and Discovered Life Is Worth More Than Anything You Can Buy in a Store](#) by Cait Flanders

6. [Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know](#) by Malcolm Gladwell

7. [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama

8. [The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself](#) by Michael Alan Singer

9. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens

10. **[Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are So You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be](#)** by Rachel Hollis

Top 10 Circulating Physical Titles (all DVD)

1. *Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw* was rented 1225 times.
2. *Joker* - 1197 times.
3. *Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood* - 1137 times.
4. *John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum* - 1119 times.
5. *Downton Abbey (The Film)* - 1074 times.
6. *Spider-Man: Far From Home* - 1027 times.
7. *Rambo: Last Blood* - 1006 times.
8. *Rocketman* - 987 times.
9. *Avengers: Endgame* - 979 times.
10. *Ad Astra* – 974 times.

TEN NEW ORDER OF HAMILTON MEMBERS HONOURED AT MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

The Hamilton Spectator, January 3, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/01/01/ten-new-order-of-hamilton-members-honoured-at-mayors-new-years-levee.html>

Ten city residents were recognized as members of the Order of Hamilton Sunday as part of Mayor Fred Eisenberger's virtual New Year's Levee.

The new award of merit was created in 2019 to honour lifelong volunteers who make Hamilton a better place.

A committee that includes the city manager and clerk and is chaired by the mayor reviewed the nominees. The honourees received a medal.

This year's ceremony was done online because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on gatherings.

Here are your newest Order of Hamilton members:

Lifelong volunteer Rabia Saleem Awan was honoured for work inside and outside Hamilton's Muslim community, working to help seniors and promote interfaith understanding.

Lawyer Jim Cimba was recognized for 30 years of volunteer work and board participation with many local community and children's aid organizations.

Dr. Margaret Denton was recognized as a community leader and champion for seniors in Hamilton, helping push forward successful programs like Age Friendly Hamilton and Let's Get Moving.

Beautiful Alleys group founder Brenda Duke was honoured for decades of community garden and environmental service in her neighbourhood and beyond.

Longtime Beavers leader Mary Elop was recognized for 40 years of service with Scouts Canada and young Hamiltonians.

Advocate Anthony Frisina was honoured for his dedication to promoting improved accessibility via a television program he created and the Above and Beyond organization he founded.

Library supporter George Geczy was recognized for decades of advocacy for both the Hamilton Public Library and digital literacy and access.

Dr. Nadia Eva Rosa was honoured for a lifetime of Holocaust education, advocacy for survivors and anti-racism work.

Ancaster champion Robert J. Wilkins was honoured for decades of service and fundraising, particularly for the arts, in his community and across Hamilton.

AUTHOR ANNE BOKMA WINS TWO HAMILTON LITERARY AWARDS

By: Graham Rockingham, The Hamilton Spectator, January 3, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/entertainment/books/2021/01/03/author-anne-bokma-wins-two-hamilton-literary-awards.html>

Anne Bokma's memoir about her search for spirituality outside of mainstream religion has won two Hamilton Literary Awards.

Bokma's "My Year Of Living Spiritually: One Woman's Secular Quest for a More Soulful Life" took the prize in the non-fiction category, as well as the Kerry Schooley Book Award for the work "most evocative of the Hamilton region."

Marilyn Gear Pilling won the award for poetry with "The Gods of East Wawanosh," while Michael Mirolla took the fiction category for "The Last News Vendor," a novella about a man's surreal obsession with a one-legged newspaper salesman.

The winners of the 27th annual Hamilton Literary Awards were announced Sunday afternoon during a virtual telecast on Cable 14, hosted CBC Radio broadcaster Jeff Goodes.

Judges praised Bokma's work for its "good humour and personal candour ... as we learn much about seeking meaning and balance in life and finding comfort and solace in our relationships with family, friends and community."

Other nominees in the poetry category were Paul Lisson for "The Perfect Archive," Laura Furster for "The Absence of Thirteen," Elizabeth Ross for "After Birth," and Emma McKenna for "Chenille or Silk."

Also nominated in the fiction category were Nahanni Shingoose for "Powwow Summer," Nicola Winstanley for "How To Give Nominees for the Kerry Schooley Book Award also included David Baillie for "Little Bones," Lisson for "The Perfect Archive," Marg Heidebrecht for "In the Shade: Friendship, Loss and the Bruce Trail."

Your Cat a Bath," and John Corr for "Eight Times Up."

In the non-fiction category, other nominees were Heidebrecht for "In the Shade: Friendship, Loss and the Bruce Trail," Valerie Nielsen for "Golden Girl: A Child in Wartime England," and Michael Mitchell for "Final Fire: A Memoir."

Mitchell, an acclaimed filmmaker, photographer and writer, died at the age of 76 in May, 2020, before it was announced that his "Final Fire" had made the shortlist for the awards.

"Michael would have been so pleased and proud to be a finalist for the Hamilton Literary Awards," his family said in a statement. "Although Michael lived in Toronto for many years, he was born, and died in Hamilton. After moving back in 2017, Michael found Hamilton visually seductive and by the winter of 2018/19 he was exploring new places and subjects through his filmmaking and photography, a project that was near completion before he fell ill."

During the awards broadcast, each of the nominees read from their shortlisted books. Mitchell's son Jacob read on behalf of his late father.

The 27th Hamilton Literary Awards were organized by the Hamilton Arts Council to celebrate works published by local authors in 2019. This year's sponsors included Cable 14, Judy Marsales Real Estate, Susan Evans Shaw, the Hamilton Public Library and A Different Drummer Books.

TEN RECEIVE THE ORDER OF HAMILTON

The Bay Observer, January 4, 2021

Source:

<https://bayobserver.ca/2021/01/04/ten-receive-the-order-of-hamilton/>

At his annual New Years Levee, virtual this year, Mayor Fred Eisenberger awarded the Order of Hamilton to ten individuals with records of community service.

The 2020 Order of Hamilton recipients are:

Rabia Saleem Awan

Jim Cimba

Dr. Margaret Denton

Brenda Duke

Mary Elop
 Anthony Frisina
 George Geczy
 Dr. Nadia Eva Rosa
 Raven Van Bommel
 Robert J. Wilkins

“Congratulations to the ten extraordinary Hamiltonians who have been awarded the 2020 Order of Hamilton. It was a pleasure to come together virtually to recognize and celebrate these individuals who have dedicated their time and efforts to the betterment of our community. Thank you to each recipient for everything you have done for our City and will continue to do in 2021,” commented Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

2020 Order of Hamilton recipients

Rabia Saleem Awan

Rabia originally immigrated to Canada in 1996 from Pakistan. Rabia is being acknowledged with the Order of Hamilton for her tireless work as a volunteer in the Hamilton community. A pillar of the community, Rabia has been running programs both within and outside of the Muslim community. Over the past five years she has tirelessly served seniors at the Hamilton Mountain Mosque. She has secured annual funding, over \$53,000 since 2015 from federal and provincial sources to take the seniors on outings to the Royal Ontario Museum, Grand River lunch cruises and Hamilton Harbour boat tours among others. Raising two children of her own, Rabia was also a foster parent to two children aged 5 and 3. She has served on the board of several local organizations including the Hamilton Mountain Mosque Rabia has served as the Chair of the Muslim Association of Hamilton Seniors Committee, a member of the Muslim Council of Greater Hamilton, volunteered with the Canadian Muslim Vote as Volunteer lead Hamilton Chapter. Organized a Ramadan Campus Iftar (fast breaking) by creating a working bridge between anti-violence and McMaster Muslim Students Association, where Muslims and non-Muslims alike broke fast together. Rabia serves as a wonderful example to her community on the value of volunteer service.

Jim Cimba

Jim has been named to the Order of Hamilton 2020 for his contribution to a wide array of charitable causes to the benefit of the residents of the City of Hamilton. Jim is a lawyer who has built a lifelong legacy of community service. His commitment to volunteer service began over 30 years ago which included his serving as a member of the board of directors of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth, the Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation and the Hamilton Waterfront Trust. He has served as the president of the Rotary Club of Hamilton, the Hamilton Club, Theatre Aquarius and the Hamilton Port Authority. He is a founding member of the Lawyer's Legacy Fund for Children. As a member of the John Howard/Liaison College/David Lane Youth Success Fund Committee he has raised academic scholarships for youth at risk.

He has also served on the boards of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Jim's volunteerism and community service has spanned the City.

Dr. Margaret Denton

Margaret is being recognized with the Order of Hamilton 2020 marking several decades of work as a community leader and advocate for older adults in Hamilton and beyond.

She has inspired through her leadership, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours to have been contributed to advocacy work to improve life for older adults and to forwarding projects such as Age Friendly Hamilton, Let's Get Moving and Hamilton's Senior Isolation Impact Plan to improve the life of older adults in our city.

Margaret has served as the Chair of the Age Friendly Hamilton Collaborative Governance Steering Committee for six years. She has volunteered with the Hamilton Council on Aging for 15 years. She is a founding board member and has served as the president, vice -president and past-president of the

Council. As a volunteer she chairs the Southern Ontario Age Friendly Network and she is the treasurer of the Ontario Council on Aging. Margaret has had a tremendous impact on life in Hamilton. She has ensured that the guiding vision of Hamilton include older adults- 'the best place to raise a child and age successfully.' To improving access to information and skills for countless older adults to positively age in Hamilton. Margaret is an Age Friendly Hamilton Champion.

Brenda Duke

Brenda is a dedicated and engaged resident of the City of Hamilton. She began by leading volunteer clean up and greeting activities in the GALA neighbourhood and her efforts have grown across the city. Brenda is the visionary and founder of Beautiful Alleys and is a tireless advocate in her keeping our community and city clean and green. She is truly a shining example of what can be accomplished by a small group of people. Brenda inspires and organizes volunteers with multiple programs and projects such as the Team Up to Clean Up program, Community gardens, Pollinator Gardens and the Adopt-A-Park program. She was the lead volunteer in recruiting volunteers to help out with the Extreme Park makeovers at Birge Park, Woodlands Park and was instrumental in the recruitment of over 200 volunteers for the Extreme Park Makeover at Powell Park which was part of a TVO TV special called The Giver. She has also served on the Clean and Green Citizen Committee with the City of Hamilton. Brenda is the lead on the adoption of Powell Park, Birch Avenue Greenspace and co-lead on Woodlands Park and is now in the process of adopting J.C. Beemer Park. She is currently the editor of the North End Breezes community paper. From community gardens, to extreme park makeovers from alley way cleanup to community Easter events Brenda Duke is there serving her community.

Mary Elop

Mary is being recognized with the Order of Hamilton for her 40 years of service with Scouts Canada. She has held numerous positions within the organization. She has been the driving force behind the Ancaster Beaver unit held at Marshall Memorial United Church in Ancaster. Mary has inspired others to volunteer with the movement even after their own children have graduated from the program. Besides being a weekly Beaver leader Mary has served 11 years as the Hamilton-Wentworth Area Registrar, as a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Area Service Team for 25 years, as Area Commissioner for Beavers for 4 years, Sub-Area Commissioner for Hermitage Springs for over 10 years and as a Venturer Advisor for 2 years. As a local Beaver leader Mary communicates with the families of her Beaver unit weekly. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic she is still holding weekly virtual and in person meetings for her Beaver group of children ages Kindergarten to Grade 2. Over 1,500 young people and their families have benefited from the volunteerism of Mary Elop over the past 40 years.

Anthony Frisina

Anthony has been named as a 2020 Order of Hamilton recipient in recognition of his volunteer work in support of his passion for accessibility. In 2014, Anthony was named a Mohawk College Alumni of Distinction recipient and recognized by the Rick Hansen Foundation as a Difference Maker. Anthony has created and produced a local television program that tackles accessibility awareness and inclusion in the Hamilton area. He has also founded *Above and Beyond* an organization helping to bridge the gap to accessibility and inclusion across the City of Hamilton. Anthony's continued commitment to serving those in need of accessibility is an inspiration to the wider community.

George Geczy

George is being recognized for his long and tremendous contribution to the Hamilton Public Library. Since 1982 George has been an active advocate for early technology adoption, internet connectivity and digital literacy across the city. George has served as a member of the Hamilton Public Library's board for 18 years from 2001 to 2019 serving as chair or vice-chair for 9 years. He helped steer the library system through amalgamation and supported public computing through the HPL's 22 branches. As the past chair of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Science and Technology Committee,

former board member of the Hamilton-Wentworth FreeNet, and as member of the Hamilton Spectator Community Editorial Board he helped build a connected and future ready Hamilton. George Geczy is a digital pioneer whose support allowed the library to transform from modems and CD-ROMS to in-branch laptop lending and eBooks. he never let the board forget that everyone deserves digital access. George is a champion for digital literacy and has contributed immensely to the Hamilton we all interact with digitally.

Dr. Nadia Eva Rosa

Dr. Nadia Eva Rosa was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in 1938. She lived with her mother and her maternal grandparents in the Bratislava ghetto during World War II.

Captured on Christmas Day 1945, Nadia and her mother were transported to the Sered and Terezin concentration camps. She was six-years-old when she became a prisoner in the death camps. Her grandparents and many relatives perished. Nadia now holds a PH.D. in microbiology. She and her husband fled Soviet occupied Czechoslovakia in 1968. Dr. Rosa has been a lifelong advocate on behalf of local survivors. She inspired a small group of educators to form the committee that launched an annual seminar on the Holocaust, that is now in its 22nd year, with a total of 15,000 students having participated. She has spent her life delivering education about anti-Semitism, anti-racism and bullying. She has received the Shem Tov Award for her volunteer work at Beth Tikvah Synagogue and the UJA Federation of Hamilton's highest award, the CeCe Schreiber Volunteer Excellence Award. Dr. Rosa is being recognized by the 2020 Order of Hamilton for a lifetime spent in the struggle against hatred, discrimination and her work in educating thousands of students on the powerful lessons of the past.

Raven Van Bommel

Raven is being acknowledged with the Order of Hamilton for her tremendous work on behalf of the low-income sector in Hamilton. She is the founder of Essential Aid and Family Services of Ontario; a vocal advocate for some of the most vulnerable families in Hamilton. Their mission is straightforward, to prevent hunger in children and lower health risk by providing free infant and children's essentials to families in need.

Essential Aid has been serving the Hamilton area for over 10 years and is now serving over 600 families a month. Raven is a successful local entrepreneur in the tech sector. She has nonetheless made the necessary sacrifices of time, energy and treasure to launch and sustain Essential Aid. Today, Essential Aid is both a well funded and consistent contributor to the community we all live in.

Robert J. Wilkins

Robert has been named a recipient of the Order of Hamilton in 2020 in recognition of his accomplishments in support of a wide range of community projects. He has served most recently as the Public Fundraising Chair for Ancaster Performing Arts Centre inspiring many philanthropists and residents to donate time and money to the project. Robert has raised \$5 million dollars in donations, pledges, and gifts in-kind to the Centre. He has helped raise money for the Music at Fieldcote program over the past 20 years. His work in the community has seen the beautification of the Ancaster Village Core, the creation of the Ancaster Farmers' Market, restoration of the Hermitage with the Hamilton Conservation Authority and the maintenance and improvement of the Fieldcote Museum. He has served the broader community for many years as a member of the Ancaster Rotary Club, six years on the board of the Ancaster Information Centre, nine years on the board of the Bay Area Trust Fund and six years on the board of the

Victorian Order of Nurses of Hamilton-Dundas branch. Robert's service to Ancaster and the broader City of Hamilton has been exemplary and far ranging.

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND IN ANCASTER, DUNDAS, HAMILTON MOUNTAIN, STONEY CREEK AND AREA

Ancaster News, January 6, 2021

Source:

<https://www.hamiltonnews.com/whatson-story/10299220-things-to-do-this-weekend-in-ancaster->

[dundas-hamilton-mountain-stoney-creek-and-area/](#)

Hamilton Public Library Story Break

Listen to staff read stories from a variety of genres over the phone one week and join in a telephone group chat to talk about your latest reads with fellow book lovers the next week. Register by calling Seniors' Centre Without Walls at [905-973-0891](tel:905-973-0891).

Location and Venue: Hamilton Public Library - Virtual Branch, hpl.ca **Event date and time:** Friday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Audience:** Seniors **Price:** Free

[More details](#)

Handcrafted Perogies at Dundas Legion

Handcrafted perogy dinners available by order and pickup only from Legion Banquet Hall. You must wear a mask to place and pick up orders. For more, see br36dundas.org.

Location and Venue: Dundas Legion, 280 King St. W., Dundas **Event date and time:** Friday, Jan. 8, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Audience:** All Ages **Price:** Not stated

[More details](#)

TERRA Winter Market Express

TERRA is introducing an express market outdoors. All shopping must be completed at terragreenhouses.com followed by curbside pickup during market hours. Orders must be placed the Thursday before each market day. Customers will be given pick-up time.

Location and Venue: TERRA Hamilton, 340 Hwy. 20, Hannon **Event date and time:** Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Audience:** All Ages **Price:** Not stated

[More details](#)

Hamilton Public Library How to Film a Video From Home

Learn the basics of video filming with your smartphone in this [online program](#). Discover best practices for framing and lighting to create an engaging video.

Location and Venue: Hamilton Public Library - Virtual Branch, hpl.ca **Event date and time:** Saturday, Jan. 9, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Audience:** All Ages **Price:** Free

[More details](#)

Food Drive for Neighbour to Neighbour Centre

Church of the Resurrection is holding a food drive for Neighbour 2 Neighbour Centre each Sunday in January in the church parking lot. Items needed include non-perishable food items, flour, oil, sugar, personal care products, diapers and more.

Location and Venue: Church of the Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W., Hamilton Mountain **Event date and time:** Sunday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Audience:** All Ages **Price:** Free

[More details](#)

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES GRAB AND GO LOOT BAGS

By: Jennifer Moore, The Hamilton Spectator, January 12, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/01/12/hamilton-public-library-launches-grab-and-go-loot-bags.html>

The library is offering new loot bags we can all read into.

Hamilton Public Library announced Tuesday that is launching Grab and Go bags, the library's version of a surprise loot bag.

"Tell us a bit about you — age group, preferred genres and formats (CDs, DVDs, Audiobooks, magazines, Large Print books.) Choose anything from dinosaurs to Swedish mysteries, gardening magazines to classical music," the library announced in a press release.

"Grab and Go could introduce you to a new favourite artist, author or genre. Great for adults, teens, children and anyone looking to try something new. Especially during the current provincial shutdown." The program is to start January 13. Participants can visit the library website [grab and go page](#) or call 905-546-3200, answer some general interest questions, pick a branch for pick up and library staff will

have a loot bag ready for you within three days.

The library will package 10 items in the bag with your name on it and contact you when it is ready for pick up. You can keep the items for up to 28 days.

Visit the library online at hpl.ca.

SNOW MUCH FUN: CITY LAUNCHES WINTERIZED RECREATION PROGRAM

By: Fallon Hewitt, The Hamilton Spectator, January 12, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/01/11/snow-much-fun-city-launches-winterized-recreation-program.html>

The City of Hamilton is launching new winter recreation activities to help residents get off their “rear ends” during a chilly COVID-19 lockdown.

Paul Johnson, emergency operations centre director, announced Monday that the city will be offering snowshoe, Nordic walking pole and winter disc golf rentals in the coming weeks. **The city will also be hosting self-guided story walks in partnership with the Hamilton Public Library.**

“This is a really critical time where adhering to the rules and conforming to the lockdown measures is critically important,” said Johnson. “Along the way ... we do need to be active, we do need to do things that appropriately get us out of our homes and at least get us off our rear ends once in a while.”

Rentals will be by reservation only and can be booked online. All three are designated for use at King’s Forest Golf Club, according to the city’s website.

There are also recreation options available for families hoping to stay indoors or just closer to home.

Starting Monday, Johnson said the city will be providing take-home recreation kits that were “very popular” in the summer. The kits include crafts and activities that kids can do at home, said Johnson.

In the virtual world, the city will be hosting an online scavenger hunt for 13- to 17-year-olds starting Jan. 18.

Johnson also reminded residents that the city’s Seniors’ Centre Without Walls continues to offer fitness classes, brain games and trivia over the phone.

“(It’s) critically important right now that we reach out to those that are isolated and older adults who are isolated, (who) may be at a particular risk,” he said. “We would love to see our seniors centres up and thriving with all the people they normally have in them but ... that can’t happen at the moment.”

The new activities — launched as the [“Frosty Fun” program](#) — are in addition to outdoor skating, tobogganing, winter golf and hiking already offered in the city.

Johnson said while people are encouraged to take advantage of the outdoor rinks in the community, residents are asked to follow the rules surrounding hours of operation.

City staff have had to “take action” against those using the rinks after hours, said Johnson, noting that they had to “disperse” a group of nearly 70 people that were skating when it was prohibited.

Residents can also be ticketed by bylaw and police if caught, he warned.

“Please stay off it,” said Johnson. “With no one there to control it, the numbers can get out of control ... We want to make sure people are enjoying all of these great opportunities in a safe way.”

COVID-19 IN HAMILTON: CASES FOUND AT CENTRAL LIBRARY BRANCH, TWO FORTINOS GROCERY STORES AND CENTRAL POLICE STATION

By: Fallon Hewitt, The Hamilton Spectator, January 14, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/01/14/covid-19-in-hamilton-cases-found-at-central-library-branch-two-fortinos-grocery-stores.html>

Cases of [COVID-19](#) have been confirmed at the Hamilton Public Library and two Fortinos grocery store locations in Hamilton.

In [an “alert”](#) on their website, the public library said it was notified Thursday that a staff member at the Central branch had tested positive for COVID-19.

"While at work, the employee was wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and maintained physical distancing," stated the alert.

The basement, first floor and second floor of the library have been cleaned and disinfected, according to the library service. Public health is handling contact tracing.

It's unclear if the case announced Thursday is connected to an employee from the Central branch going "home ill" on Wednesday, while another was "notified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case," according to an alert sent out Wednesday evening.

As a result, the Bookmobile service was paused for the day and Bookmobile items on the affected floors were "quarantined out of an abundance of caution."

In [a tweet](#) Thursday, Hamilton police said two officers working out of the Central station had tested positive for the virus.

The officers were last at work Jan. 7 and all "close contacts" have been notified. An officer at the station had [previously tested positive](#) on Wednesday.

A third staff member at an upper Stoney Creek grocery store has also tested positive for COVID-19.

Loblaws was notified Wednesday that [another worker](#) at the Fortinos at [21 Upper Centennial Pkwy. S.](#) in upper Stoney Creek tested "positive on a presumptive test for COVID-19," according to its [online case tracker](#).

Two staff members had previously tested positive on Tuesday. The employees last worked on Jan. 6, Jan. 8 and Jan. 9.

According to the company, a worker at the Eastgate Fortinos at [75 Centennial Pkwy. N.](#) in Hamilton has also tested positive for the virus.

Their last shift was on Jan. 10.

According to Loblaws, when a worker tests positive they "work closely with public health and follow their guidance to ensure proper notification of close contacts and required cleaning and sanitization in our stores."

It's unclear if any other staff members were affected by the cases or if any were recommended to self-isolate as a precaution. The database does not specify which part of the store the employee worked in.

WEEKEND PLANNER: FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

By: Jennifer Moore, The Hamilton Spectator, January 14, 2021

Source:

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/01/14/weekend-planner-five-things-you-can-do-without-leaving-home.html>

First thing on the "to do" list this weekend is to flip the cushions on the chesterfield.

We have a whole new definition of couch potato in 2021. The province has ordered us all to stay home and the sofa is feeling the brunt.

Once you're finished flipping, here are five other things you can do from the comfort of your home.

1. Start a new book or binge some library materials. The Hamilton Public Library has a new [Grab and Go program](#) that eliminates your need to spend time in the library but offers you a medley items where you can find a new favourite author, musician, film title and more. Visit <https://www.hpl.ca/grab-and-go> to register.

2. Spot iconic Hamilton landmarks without backing out the driveway. This week The Spectator's Daniel Nolan wrote about how he loves to look for Hamilton while watching "Murdoch Mysteries" and "Frankie Drake Mysteries" on the CBC.

"If you have watched "Murdoch Mysteries" over the years, you can glimpse scenes of Dundas homes and streets, the Scottish Rite, the Tamahaac Club, the Balfour House, Fifty Point Conservation Area and old Hamilton factories, [writes Nolan](#).

3. Hockey Night in Canada. While some are condemning the NHL for its return during the pandemic, others laud it. If you're in the yes camp, there's nothing better than to cheer your team, forget your

troubles for a few hours and enjoy a little Canadiana on Saturday night. Catch it on [CBC Sports](#) as usual. The 7 p.m. game is Toronto at Ottawa and the late game is Vancouver at Calgary.

4. Visit the Art Gallery of Hamilton with AGH at Home. This interactive delivers engaging exhibition and collection content for visitors to enjoy from the comfort of their own homes. Regularly updated with at-home activities, AGH Magazine articles, and behind-the-scenes videos, this platform brings the art gallery experience straight to your fingertips. Visit artgalleryofhamilton.com to check it out.

5. Couch surfing is hard work. Need nourishment? Looking for some takeout? Spectator foodie Diane Galambos checked out the local dining scene this week and [has some amazing eateries](#) that offer takeout and delivery. Think Laila's Cheesecake Co., Cowabunga Pizzeria, Monster Nuts, Hangry (Piri Piri) Chicken and more.

Date: January 20, 2021
To: Chair and Members of the Board
From: Lisa Radha Weaver, Director Collections and Program Development
Tony Del Monaco, Director Finance and Facilities
Subject: **Waldon Research Funding Request - LW/TD**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the use of a maximum of \$25,000 from the F Waldon Trust funds (account #23163) to support a post doctorate McMaster University Researcher in Residence [RiR] at the library in 2021.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

McMaster is supporting the RiR program via grant funding totalling \$15,000 as well as through a fund matching application to Mitacs a non-profit national research organization that, in partnerships with Canadian academia, private industry and government, operates research and training programs in fields related to industrial and social innovation.

There is currently \$53,000 available and unallocated in the F Waldon Trust fund (account #23163). Staff are recommending use of up to \$25,000 of these funds for the RiR.

BACKGROUND:

Telling and sharing the story of what the library does in the community and with the community has been part of what we do regularly in reports. The library is now working with other Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) members to formalize how our stories are shared.

A post doctorate student will work on creating a research blog, newsletter, network and application process for the community to work with us to share collaborative efforts, document evidence and create linkages across Canada about the work of public libraries.

Dr. Waldon's view of library service to the community extended far beyond the provision of information and good reading. In 1942 she organized Hamilton's first adult education conference. She campaigned for a new art gallery. Dr. Waldon served on the executive of the Ontario Library Association and served as the first president of the Canadian Library Association. She helped write the brief that led to the creation of the National Library of Canada. Her part in this long campaign was cited in May of 1954 when she received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from McMaster University in recognition of her contribution to Canadian librarianship.