



Director's Report

September 2024

1. Operational Highlights

Love is Love Story Time

As part of Bruce County Public Library's commitment to being welcoming and inclusive, we once again offered Love is Love Story Times across our branches as part of Pride month. This is the fifth year that staff have presented these Pride story times and they continue to be well-received.

Senior's Month

Several programs were offered throughout June that were geared to support seniors in the digital age. BCPL staff provided our Phones and Tablets Digital Literacy program, with participants commenting in their evaluations how patient and knowledgeable staff were when delivering the workshops. As well, the Canada Revenue Agency offered presentations at the Kincardine, Port Elgin, Wiarton, and Walkerton Branches to share best practices to avoid frauds and scams and offer tax tips specifically for seniors. The Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic presented information on avoiding consumer fraud and how seniors can protect themselves. On a lighter note, the Summer Outreach Student presented a Senior's Story Time that was enjoyed by six attendees.

Outdoor Movies

This summer, BCPL offered outdoor movies using an inflatable outdoor screen and projector, and licensed through Criterion. The outdoor movies were our contribution to the Wiarton Homecoming and Paisley's 150th Anniversary, allowing us to promote our services and connect with our communities. The Cargill and Lion's Head branches also hosted outdoor movies. Over 140 people of all-ages attended the movies. We appreciate the Lion's Head Friends of the Library who provided popcorn and funded a portion of the licensing fees at the Lion's Head movies, and Realtor Team Lisk wo provided free popcorn to attendees of the Wiarton Homecoming movie presentation.

Summer Reading Club

The Summer Reading Club Kick-Off, held at the Walkerton Branch on June 15, had record attendance. The event included a foam pit, musical entertainment, face painting, and animal shows. Staff were pleased to have Board Member Catherine Dickison attend and assist. This Kick-Off launched our most successful Summer Reading Club ever, with 826 participants reading 330,069 minutes.



Grant-Writing Workshop

Funded through the Cultural Action Plan, BCPL offered two grant-writing workshops with Lindsay Zier-Voegel. Representatives from many non-profit organizations learned best practices to achieve success in their grant-writing proposals. Lindsay's dynamic presentation drew on her experience as a grant-writer and as a panelist on grant committees. People mentioned they enjoyed connecting with other non-profit representatives, felt the presenter was knowledgeable and engaging, and felt more confident in what they learned overall.

Indigenous History Month

On June 19, the Port Elgin Branch hosted Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Dr. Jennifer Brant. She spoke to the audience about Indigenous literature as it relates to and supports the Calls to Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

2. Personnel

Retirement

After 34 years of service to BCPL, Dan Blacklock retired at the end of July. Staff celebrated his dedicated service on July 26 and presented him with a plant as an expression of appreciation from the Library Board.

3. Facilities

Paisley Branch Opening

On July 12, the Bruce County Public Library Board welcomed the public to the relocated Paisley Branch on the second floor of the Paisley Community Centre. This first open day saw 110 people visit the new branch and 152 attend the Mr. Oh! Magic Show. Visitors have been encouraged to share memories of the previous location as well as their comments on the new space. Many positive comments have been received, with one patron writing, "I am so happy to see this space transformed. How wonderful for this community centre and for this town. I am looking forward to seeing so many children come through here, discover a love for reading and make wonderful memories."

Accessibility

We continue to make progress with our municipal partners to provide accessible library branches. In Kincardine, renovations to make the public washrooms accessible began in June and are anticipated to be completed in September. Saugeen Shores outfitted all washrooms at the Port Elgin Branch with accessible door openers in August.

4. Administration

Tobermory Friends of the Library Donation

The Friends of the Tobermory Branch provided three new benches for outside the branch. This updated seating was well utilized throughout the summer and is greatly appreciated by staff and patrons.

This Friends group also sponsored two special events, Wild Ontario and Scales Nature Reserve.



ILL Transition Update

Ontario Public Libraries are moving from VDX to a new interlibrary loan platform called Resource Sharing for Groups. The new platform will automate several of the manual practices currently utilized. Staff are in the process of configuring the new software. Training will occur in October with the new platform launching in November.

5. Strategic Plan

The Q2 Strategic Action Plan Update is attached.

6. Business Plan

The Q2 Business Plan update is attached.

7. Financial Update

At the end of Q2, we are projecting a \$20,000 surplus in library revenues, although with the elimination of fines this will likely be reduced. Salaries and benefits are currently projecting a \$40,000 surplus due to vacancies and new staff placement on the salary grid. Programming expenses are over budget largely owing to increased participation. A variety of lines are projecting small surpluses or deficits.

Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO