



Haldimand County Public Library
1-117 Forest Street East
Dunnville ON N1A 1B9
(905) 318 5932

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Haldimand County Public Library Board
Thursday, November 19, 2020
Cayuga Library, Program Room, 5:30 pm

Present:	Linda Van Ede, Chair	Jo Geary
	Pat MacDonald, Vice-Chair	Paul Diette, CEO
	Mary Kent	
	Malcolm Millar	Absent: Rob Shirton, Councillor

1. Call to Order

Linda Van Ede called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

20-34 **MOVED** by Mary Kent, **SECONDED** by Jo Geary
THAT the Agenda be adopted as circulated with the addition of item 6.3, Board Christmas Dinner.
CARRIED.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of previous Minutes

20-35 **MOVED** by Pat MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Mary Kent
THAT the Minutes of October 22, 2020 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED.

5. Staff and Board Reports

5.1 *Cash Flow Statement, October 2020*

20-36 **MOVED** by Mary Kent, **SECONDED** by Malcolm Millar
THAT the Summary Cash Flow statement be accepted.
CARRIED.

5.2 ***Monthly Activity Report, October 2020***

The report was received as information.

5.3 ***New Cayuga Branch Project***

No new business.

5.4 ***New Hagersville Branch***

No new business.

6. Business Arising

6.1 ***Board Member Vacancy***

An advertisement for the current Board position vacancy was posted on the County's website and in the local media between October 19th and November 2nd and announced an application submission deadline of November 6th.

One application was received by the municipality's Manager of Citizen & Legislative Services and it will be further assessed by the Manager and the Mayor prior to an appointment.

6.2 ***Attorney General's Office Request***

The County's I.S. Division was able to allocate several laptops to the library for the purpose of in-house loans to residents attending virtual Ontario court sessions. These devices will be configured to limit software access to Zoom sessions only and will be distributed to branches in late November. These surplus laptops are scheduled for auction in March, 2021; the CEO has submitted a 2021 project request for six new laptops in the upcoming ten-year capital budget, referencing this initiative as the primary rationale for the request.

6.2 ***Board Christmas Dinner***

Members agreed to proceed with the Board Christmas dinner early in 2021, with meals to be ordered off-menu, as opposed to the selection of a Christmas-themed menu, from a local

restaurant. It was confirmed that the chosen restaurant is closed Mondays through Wednesdays and open Thursdays through Sundays.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Strategic Plan

No new business.

7.2 Policies Review: OP-04 Collection Development

The CEO learned from another library system in Ontario that some of its patrons had complained about two classic Christmas movies, both of which were in that library's collection, depicting scenes of "blackface". Staff at the library were unsure if the content warranted warning labels, removal of the items from the collection, or no action at all.

The CEO was reminded of a news article in October regarding the Walt Disney Corporation's new messaging at the beginning of several of its older films (Lady and the Tramp: 1955 – anti-Asian stereotypes portrayed in two Siamese cats; Jungle Book: 1968 - racist caricatures of African-Americans portrayed in King Louie the ape ; Song of the South: 1946 – perpetuates an old racist myth that slaves were happy in the cotton fields, etc.) which contain instances of racism and cultural stereotyping. The new messaging reads as follows:

"This programme includes negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures. These stereotypes were wrong then and are wrong now. [We] want to acknowledge its harmful impact, learn from it and spark conversation to create a more inclusive future together."

Section 2, Selection of Materials, of HCPL Policy OP-04 Collection Development, states that "the selection of materials is based on the professional judgement of library staff, with appropriate consideration given to community needs and interests ...". Section 6, Challenges to Materials in the Collection, of the Policy goes on to state that " ... many materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. The materials selected for the library's collection will vary to suit the needs of different parts of the community. Not all materials selected, therefore, will be suitable for every patron or group of patrons. The Library believes that while anyone is free to reject for himself materials of which he does not approve, he cannot exercise this right to restrict the freedom of others. The Library also believes in the rights and obligations of parents and guardians to develop, interpret and maintain their own code of values in children. In support of this belief, the responsibility for the choice of library materials used with children rests with the parents or guardians."

Although the latter statement addresses concerns that might be raised from controversial film scenes such as those mentioned above, the CEO recommended appending *Section 6* of the Policy to include text which clarifies, in a more transparent and forthright way, the Board's position on collection content which the vast majority of its patrons would find objectionable or,

at least, questionable when viewed in different contexts. In light of current anti-racism movements and priorities, a statement on library materials containing racist remarks or scenes may prove valuable. The recommended text mirrors the Disney messaging included above:

The Library acknowledges that some materials, particularly books and movies produced generations ago, include negative descriptions or depictions of some people, cultures or beliefs and that these stereotypes are universally considered wrong and hurtful. The intent of retaining said content in the collection is to maintain historical integrity, to learn from past inaccuracies and how those inaccuracies have contributed to today's challenges, and to encourage positive conversations and actions which lead to a more inclusive and just future in our community and beyond.

20-37 MOVED by Pat MacDonald, **SECONDED** by Jo Geary

THAT Policy OP-04, Collection Development be amended to include the text “*The Library acknowledges that some materials, particularly books and movies produced generations ago, include negative descriptions or depictions of some people, cultures or beliefs and that these stereotypes are universally considered wrong and hurtful. The intent of retaining said content in the collection is to maintain historical integrity, to learn from past inaccuracies and how those inaccuracies have contributed to today's challenges, and to encourage positive conversations and actions which lead to a more inclusive and just future in our community and beyond..*”

CARRIED.

7.3 Reporting Requirements

No new business.

8. New Business

8.1 SOLS and OLS-North Merger

In February, an amalgamation strategy was developed to merge Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS) with Ontario Library Services North (OLS-N) by April, 2021. The purpose of the amalgamation is to streamline services to libraries throughout Ontario, avoid duplicated efforts, and achieve greater efficiencies. The new organization will become known simply as OLS: Ontario Library Service.

On April 1st, 2021, an interim board, made up of representatives from both the SOLS and OLS-North Boards, will begin to govern the OLS. The new board will be composed of thirteen individuals: nine elected representatives and four Ministerial appointees. Board terms will run for four years, beginning at least one full year after Ontario municipal elections. Representatives will be elected from their corresponding Board Assembly.

Nine Board Assemblies, based on population served, will represent Ontario public libraries and each library will be invited to appoint an official Board representative to their respective Board Assembly. The Assembly to which HCPL will belong includes libraries serving a population between 40,000 and 74,999.

Board Assemblies will meet virtually three times per year. Assembly meetings will include trustee training and networking opportunities and members will be able to provide feedback to OLS on services and community needs.

At the inaugural Board Assembly meetings in the spring of 2021, each of the nine Assemblies will be responsible for electing a candidate to serve as a member of the OLS Board. SOLS will provide further information about these meetings in the coming months.

8.2 Ontario Parks Permit Lending Invitation

The CEO received an invitation from Ontario Parks to participate in its *Day-Use Vehicle Permit Library Lending Program*. The Program has been piloted successfully at a few libraries throughout Ontario over the past several year and involves the supply of annual day-use vehicle permits, free of charge, which can be loaned to library patrons.

Borrowers will receive a park permit which provides access for one vehicle and its occupants to more than 100 provincial parks in Ontario. This program is motivated by a commitment to help Ontarians spend more time in nature, by making it easier and more affordable for people to enjoy the benefits of provincial parks. A wide body of research supports the idea that time spent in nature has significant benefits to individuals' mental and physical health.

The CEO completed the online application to participate in the program in late October, prior to the December 3rd deadline. One application was submitted on behalf of all branches within our system.

Each branch will receive three (3) annual day-use vehicle permits to loan at one time. Additional permits are available, but at the library's expense (the purchase price of an annual day-use vehicle permit from the Ontario Parks online store is \$99). Permit loan periods can be decided by individual library systems; the CEO recommended that the loan period be limited to one week in order that as many residents as possible can participate. A one-week loan period is also the most common loan period adopted by libraries already enrolled in the program.

Ontario Parks suggests that patrons be limited to one permit loan per year, although the maximum number of times an individual can borrow a permit is up to individual library systems. The CEO recommended delaying enacting any limits until the popularity of the program can be ascertained. Usage trends may also suggest having more permits available at some branches (e.g. Dunnville and Selkirk) and fewer at others.

Ontario Parks will not provide replacements for any permits which are lost or unreturned. Each library system can decide charge rates for late or unreturned permits. Because of the value of

the permits, the CEO recommended that a \$1/day overdue rate apply on late returns and a \$99 replacement charge apply on lost items.

Permits provide unlimited day-use access for one vehicle and its occupants to all provincial parks in Ontario where fees are normally charged. Park capacity limitations will apply. Permits must be displayed on the rear-view mirror or dashboard of the vehicle while it is in the park. There are two provincial parks in Haldimand County: Rock Point P.P. (near Lowbanks) and Selkirk P.P. Other nearby parks include Turkey Point and Long Point, both in Norfolk County.

Ontario Parks will supply the permits in December. The permits can be loaned beginning in January and will remain valid until December 31, 2021. Ontario Parks has asked that participating libraries not advertise the program until permits have been received.

20-38 **MOVED** by Mary Kent, **SECONDED** by Malcolm Millar

THAT *Policy OP-12, Circulation, Section 3: Borrowing* be amended to include the following rules for lending park permits:

- *The permit loan period is one week*
- *The permit daily overdue fine is \$1*
- *The permit lost/replacement fee is \$99*
- *Limits on the number of loans to individuals and the distribution of permits among branches will be periodically reviewed and implemented to best and fairly meet user demands.*

CARRIED.

9: Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in person on Thursday, December 3rd, 5:00 pm at the Dunnville Branch, second-floor program room.

10: Adjournment

20-33 **MOVED** by Malcolm Millar, **SECONDED** by Jo Geary

THAT the meeting adjourn at 6:42 pm.

CARRIED.

Linda Van Ede, Chair

Date