



Library Board

Meeting Date: **October 27, 2015**

Submitted by: **Sandi Burgess, CEO/County Librarian**

SUBJECT: **CEO'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2015**

BACKGROUND:

As directed by the Library Board, every month the County Librarian will pass on to the community and the Library Board an account of accomplishments and highlights of the library over the past month and information about upcoming library events, projects and programs.

INFORMATION UPDATES:

- A reminder that Ontario Public Library Week is October 18 – 24. Special events are being held at most Middlesex branches this week. The official provincial celebration is taking place on Tuesday, October 20th at the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch and includes tours of Toronto's 100th branch, which houses a Digital Innovation Hub.
- Data Migration Project Update – Staff have now had an opportunity to take a preliminary look at our data in the new Sierra system and are examining it closely to determine whether changes to data maps will be needed before the final migration in December. The data looks generally good. Transactional test data will be loaded prior to circulation training in November. A significant amount of staff and management time needs to be dedicated to this project in October and November to ensure deadlines are met with accuracy and appropriate attention to detail. It is much easier to resolve potential issues before launching the new system and our goal is to minimize the number of challenges and customer service impacts we might encounter once the system is live.
- A public information night will be held in Glencoe on Thursday, October 22nd at 7pm to share information and gather community feedback on plans for a new comprehensive library. Lindsay Brock and Glencoe Branch Supervisor Janice Moniz will be attending on behalf of the library to speak to the benefits of comprehensive library services and answer questions.

- Staff have been gathering information and price quotations from vendors of electronic resources. The province's decision to discontinue funding access to resources for all Ontarians effective January 1, 2016 will have an impact of \$31,017 on the library's budget in order to maintain access to comparable resources at the best price. On reviewing statistical usage and considering pricing, staff have made some difficult decisions not to renew excellent resources that have only had moderate use due to high prices. Resources with low usage will not be renewed. Staff will be forwarding a budget request to assist with covering the shortfall.
- The 2016 budget process involves an exercise to contemplate scenarios of budget increases and reductions. The Library Board will be discussing service priorities at our October meeting.
- The Annual Library Survey for 2014 has been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Typical Week statistics for the 2015 survey will be collected the week of November 23-28.
- The final report for the Ontario Library Capacity Grant 2014-15 has also been submitted. Grant funds were used to pay 50% of the migration costs for the Sierra project and to purchase eReaders and tablets for branch staff to practice using and to demonstrate the process of downloading eBooks, magazines and music from the library web site.
- Lindsay Brock chaired a kick off meeting for the Healthy Kids Community Challenge that brought together representatives from recreation departments at lower-tiers and community partners to discuss the guidelines and timelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The first phase of the project is a community assessment. The project manager will review available statistics and determine next steps.
- Staff have been in discussions with the Director of Economic Development, Cara Finn, regarding the use of space in library branches for tourism information. Lindsay will be showing Cara library branches that would have adequate space for this initiative the week of October 19th and the idea will be further developed. The library would be happy to provide this information to visitors and day-trippers.

BRANCH ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS:

For a full list of programs and upcoming events, visit www.middlesex.library.on.ca.

Ailsa Craig

- Nine teens enjoyed a *Minion* themed Teen Challenge and as always, anxiously await the monthly draw winner.
- Families enjoyed apple tasting, crafts and books at our Family Fun Day on Saturday Sept 26th.
- Staff have been busy preparing a community scavenger hunt challenge to start in October and end during Ontario Public Library Week later in October. Staff and partners from the Ailsa Craig business community have been very enthusiastic about this project.

Coldstream

- September has seen the start of a few weekly programs at Coldstream Library. Read 4 Fun Literacy Help for struggling readers in Grades 2, 3 and 4 began Sept 23 with the assistance of volunteers who encourage reading and literacy skills with the participants.
- The Coldstream Library played host to several caterpillars and there was excitement during the first fall story time session as one of the Monarch butterflies broke out of its chrysalis and unfolded his wings in front of the group. We released a Monarch butterfly that had emerged over the weekend at the end of the story time.
- There are many new faces at story time which has been started again after a three year hiatus at the Coldstream Library.
- October is gearing up to be a busy month at the Coldstream Branch as they celebrate Ontario Public Library Week and participate in the In motion Challenge in partnership with Middlesex-London Health Unit.



Delaware

- The Back-to-School scavenger hunt held during the month of September had 32 participants.
- The new 'Stitch n Chat' program started up this month and Delaware staff were pleased to have 3 ladies attend the first session, with promises to return next month with friends.
- Delaware has some exciting events planned for October including a special visit from the Fire Department as part of Ontario Public Libraries Week.

Dorchester

- On Friday September 11, staff from the VON set up a display promoting their Day Program and services. Registrations were being accepted and volunteers recruited for the Shared Reading Program.
- Dorchester Library hosted the MCL Staff Association meeting on Sept 28. Following the business portion of the meeting, staff enjoyed a demonstration of indoor kite flying and then were invited to go fly a kite. It is very enjoyable to watch and much harder than it looks to do.

Glencoe

- Staff were very involved with the Glencoe Fair the weekend of September 25 – 27. The library was part of the Kids Zone where children enjoyed sharing library books, colouring 4H themed pictures and making "sticker stories". South West Middlesex also asked the library to join them in the arena to promote their plans to build a comprehensive library in Glencoe. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community to talk about MCL and library services. People are passionate about our local library and are very interested in getting more information about the future plans. A public meeting is planned for Thursday October 22nd at 7 PM.

Ilderton

- This was an exciting month at the Ilderton Library. It started with their first ever Geronimo Stilton Day. The Geronimo Stilton books are very popular in the community and staff were very happy with the outcome: a total of 21 participants and 7 who took part in the trivia contest. Many of Ilderton's regular programs started up again after a summer hiatus including Lego Club, Ilderton Reads, Stitch n Chat and Techie Tuesdays.

- The library has also been preparing to participate in the upcoming Ilderton Fair. For the last two weeks in September, craft supplies were provided in-branch for children to make their own creations to enter into the fair. Twenty-one kids used their imaginations to create animals from cookie cutters, skunks from toilet paper rolls, and butterflies from egg cartons. This year there is a friendly competition between the Coldstream Library and Ilderton Library. Both are entering a scarecrow into the Ilderton Fair. Ilderton had a total of 39 children and parents help them build and decorate their scarecrow.

Komoka

- This month the Komoka Library began a new partnership with the Middlesex-London Health Unit. A nurse will now be visiting the branch every other Tuesday to offer a Well Baby/Child drop-in clinic. The Well Baby Program will be offered at the same time as another partner program, the Ontario Early Years Centre's Playgroup, in order to target parents already attending the playgroup. Two clinics were held in September and the nurse was pleased to see 12 mothers and babies.

- The Ontario Early Years Playgroup also continues to bring people to the library with 149 children and 111 caregivers attending 5 sessions this month.

- Many of the Komoka Library's regular programs began again after a brief summer hiatus, including Book Buzz, Stitch n' Chat, Lego Club and Lego Challenge. The Stitch n' Chat group celebrated their first fall meeting with a special guest; a volunteer from Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre spoke about knitting nests used for the birds and small animals being treated at the centre.

Lucan

- September kicked off with a fabulous Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, September 12. The day was wonderfully well-attended with our traffic counter logging 446 visitors in the branch. We received many positive comments regarding the new space, new programming, services and service partnerships at Lucan. More service partnerships have also begun with various organizations this month. Employment Services, Social Services and Community Employment Choices have met clients at the Lucan Branch in September.

- Middlesex Children's Services Network toured the branch and held their meeting in the programming room. The Middlesex London Health Unit's water testing has continued to be a very popular service at Lucan with a total of 18 bottles submitted for water testing this month.

- Programming has also started to increase with the start of the 55 Up Club for our “mature” patrons. A total of 14 participants attended the inaugural meeting on September 23. The response was overwhelmingly positive with many topic suggestions for upcoming meetings being received and investigated by staff. Our Computer Class for Beginners began on September 24. The class maximum of 4 has been reached with three others remaining on a waiting list. This is definitely a program we will be running again in the very near future.

Melbourne

- The Lego and Scavenger Hunts were big hits this month. The children made some amazing creations and enjoyed looking for the scarecrows hidden around the library.
- Promotion of the Health Unit’s In-Motion challenge has encouraged 16 people to participate.

Mount Brydges

- For the month of September, the branch held a month-long book sale that was well received from the community. Many residents donated their gently used books for the sale, and approximately \$200.00 was raised for the branch.
- To help the students in our community adjust to going back to school, a program called “Get you brain back in gear” was offered during the first two weeks of September. There was a wide range of activities to help get their brains back in “thinking” mode such as a word wheel, trivia, memory games and a scavenger hunt. Even some parents wanted to get in on the fun!
- A new after school program began on Tuesdays for tweens ages 9-12 in response to the library being a popular hang-out spot right after school. The first session drew 8 participants! We hope to continue to program through the year and continue to spread awareness throughout the community. We will be doing new activities each week: Game Show Day, a Halloween party, crafts, trivia etc.
- We were happy to welcome back our storytime families on September 18. Alana, our new branch assistant, is doing a wonderful job in her new role as our storyteller!
- The month ended with a Friday Movie Matinee and Tea Time for seniors – both were well attended and the patrons were happy to be back enjoying our programming.

Newbury

- Preparing for storytime and the arrival of new shelving.

Parkhill

- The library launched two new afterschool programs in the first week. The new Gaming Club runs every Thursday and participants had the most fun creating airplanes and racing each other. The tween and teen takeover has had a slower start, but allows youth to have their own space in the library to be used as they need. The LEGO club and After School Stories programs got a fresh start in September and ensure that there is always something to do at the library after school. Roblox continues to be a large draw for children using the library's computers and a group of friends meets almost every day to play together at the library.
- Local artist Lize McCormick displayed her weavings in the library during September and her stunning weavings were appreciated by the community.
- The ERC experienced an increase in the number of users with the return to school as the number of individuals looking for assistance with job applications, Gale courses, and college assistance grew.
- Library staff and patrons are eagerly anticipating October for the In Motion Challenge, Ontario Public Library Week, and pumpkin carving contest.

Strathroy

- We hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party at the beginning of September to invite all our volunteers who had helped at our Summer Reading Club to reunite for a pizza lunch sponsored by Domino's Pizza in Strathroy.
- Wednesday storytimes have returned for the fall season and we are seeing a great turnout for both Books for Babies, and Tales of Tots. Over the month of September we saw an average of 10 adults and 10 babies, and 18 adults and 17 tots weekly.
- The YA!YA!YA! teen group met the first Friday of the month, and the Tween Titans met later in the month to attend Buttonpalooza. Both groups were excited to have an evening dedicated to creating their own buttons.
- A new program launched this month for kids in grades 2 to 6 called Number Ninjas where they practice their numeracy skills through various fun math games and challenges.

Thorndale

- International Dot Day took place on Tuesday, September 15th to celebrate the book The Dot by Peter Reynolds. Staff engaged in successful outreach at the local elementary school and encouraged seniors participating in a Wonderful Wednesday program to also participate. In all, 85 dots were decorated and displayed on the walls of the branch.
- 24 children and 10 parents visited the library on the days leading up to the fall fair to create fair entries.

Wardsville

- Wardsville Library patrons are excited about the change to library hours. Quad County is really looking forward to being able to visit the branch on a regular basis.
- The book club is doing well and members recently enjoyed discussing *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

STAFFING:

Nadine Devin is the successful candidate for the position of Healthy Kids Community Challenge Project Manager. Nadine has a Masters of Health Science in Community Nutrition and has several years of experience planning programs to combat childhood obesity, counselling families with diabetic children, conducting needs assessments, analyzing data and fostering partnerships between community groups to achieve broad goals. She recently received an award in Ottawa for a "Chefs-in-training" program she created to teach children how to prepare healthy food. Nadine will work out of offices in both the County building and Library Office in Strathroy and will report to Lindsay and Cindy Howard.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY CEO/COUNTY LIBRARIAN:

- Along with Lindsay Brock, attended an ARUPLO meeting where the results of a performance benchmarking exercise were discussed related to the rural library guidelines.
- Attended a meeting with Sara Middleton from the United Way that was organized by the Director of Economic Development. Sara provided an update on the investments the United Way is making throughout the County. Library staff will put together information about library spaces and services that Sara can distribute to the United Way's partner agencies.
- Attended a LOMSET meeting with regional counterparts to discuss strategies for mitigating the impact of the withdrawal of provincial funding support for a suite of core electronic resources. Also learned about the SOLS Internet Connectivity Grant, which may be available to subsidize the cost of wireless access points needed to accommodate a new system recommended by the IT department to replace the library's existing outdated wireless equipment.
- Along with Mallory Austin, met with Sierra migration project managers from Elgin County Library and St. Thomas Public Library to share learning and solutions in preparation for launching the new system.
- One of our Strathroy Branch Assistants, Gail Barker, is also a life balance coach. A book launch to celebrate the release of her new book, *What Matters Now*, was held on October 15th at the Highland Golf and Country Club. The library is fortunate to have such a talented writer on staff.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Budget Priorities for 2016