



Peterborough Town Library

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Update from Corinne Chronopoulos, Library Director

While the 1833 Society and Library Trustees been working towards a library for the future, the present library continues to serve. Every day we open our doors for an average 200 visits. We are a vital resource to so many who rely on the building for a place to be, work, learn, communicate, and find information!

Technical literacy has been one of our most exciting focus areas. We recently worked with a patron who was job searching and had just finished her degree. She was having trouble with her search, in part because her technology skills were not great. This patron began attending our tech



This family celebrated reading 1,000 books before Kindergarten and received our gift of Frog and Toad books.

classes and listed them on her resume. A year later, this patron has a full-time job. We were thrilled to support her to improve skills, broaden her job search, and boost her confidence! We provided her with a physical place to *be* and stay on track. This is just one example of how a strong technical literacy curriculum can help improve opportunities for our patrons. Imagine the impact we will make when we have the much-needed technology upgrades in the new building and a proper classroom to enable an improved learning environment and larger class sizes!

Life-long learning opportunities are an important service-need in our community, especially for underserved populations. We have sought out programs such as our partnership with Project Lift to offer HiSET (formerly GED) classes and a Basic Math class for adult learners. Dozens of students have used the library for this service in the

last two years, however we have struggled with the lack of space for tutors and students to work together with confidentiality. We want to expand this program and intersect it with our career development services. Imagine a resource where folks can work towards a diploma, receive career mentoring, attend technology classes, and do it all in a space that is confidential and free!

Lastly, I want to tell you about the serious issues we have with accessibility in the library. We recently noticed one of our regular patrons stopped attending storytime. They let us know that they had a new job caregiving for a person with limited mobility. They could no longer use the



stairs to move from the children's area to the children's program room. They found it too cumbersome to travel from the top floor of the library, outside and through the exit of the parking lot, and in through the first-floor door. How sad that our regular patron had to sacrifice use of the library because of these accessibility issues. Our patrons have been very patient with the space constraints, but everyone agrees that an inaccessible public library is no longer acceptable!

A full-house of preschoolers are ready to talk, read, sing, and play!

We serve the public every day, and we see a *demonstrated need for improved library services*. There is so much to look forward to and many urgent upgrades that will be addressed because of this amazing project. We are glad to see a growing base of patrons who look to the library for support in accessing opportunities for success, growth, and joy.

Thank you for being a part of this project. The public library is for everyone. It's a building that will act as an anchor in our community and a point of connection between people, ideas, knowledge, and most importantly, opportunity.

I look forward to the day we all attend the ribbon-cutting!

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