



## CEO – MAY 2025

### Sector Updates

#### Ontario Library Association (OLA) & Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL)

Working together on the following priorities

- Ontario Digital Public Library:
  - OLA and FOPL are advocating for the creation of a digital platform that would provide all Ontarians with access to a wide range of e-learning and online resources through their local public libraries.
- Increased Provincial Funding:
  - The organizations are seeking to increase provincial operating funding for public libraries to address critical community needs and shared priorities.
- Sustainable Funding Model:
  - Building on the 2024 budget, OLA and FOPL want to develop a sustainable funding model for libraries on reserve, ensuring they are fully funded and viable.
- Advocacy:
  - OLA and FOPL are actively involved in advocating for libraries, including hosting information sessions and questioning all political parties to understand their support for public libraries.

#### Local advocacy

Council will be reviewing potential advocacy presentations/delegations to request at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August held in Ottawa, Ontario. Requests for a 15-minute delegation to the appropriate Minister needs to include very specific information – Corporate Services is leading the process. CEO D. Fraser will be working with N. Leece, Special Projects Advisor, to assemble information as the Ontario Digital Public Library was accepted as an item on the Town's 2025 proposed government relations and advocacy plan.

### Operations

#### Exploratorium

The Request for Tenders has been issued for the renovation of the room to be the Exploratorium. A mandatory site visit was held on May 22, fifteen (15) contractors attended. Submissions are due June 16, 2025. At which time an evaluation team will work to select the winning bid.

### Digital Screen Project

The library is proud to be a collaborative partner in the Town's Digital Screen Project, following the guidance of the IT Division. We have officially signed on with Capital Networks and are now in the final stages of implementation. This initiative represents a strategic investment in digital display screens that will be installed in the lobbies of all library locations.

Hardware: Dell Micro Form Factor devices have been delivered and are ready for deployment.

Design: Our team has been working closely with a designer from Capital Networks to finalize the screen mockups, ensuring they align with our branding and communication goals.

Benefits of the Town's Digital Screen Project:

Increased Engagement: Digital signage will feature promotions, upcoming events, and key announcements, transforming static displays into dynamic tools that capture attention.

Brand and Community Building: Customizable content allows us to maintain a consistent and professional look using our brand colors, logos, and messaging.

Sustainability and Cost Savings: Reducing reliance on printed materials supports our environmental goals and lowers printing costs.

Versatility: The screens can display full schedules or integrate additional content, making them adaptable for various settings, from lobbies to meeting rooms and community spaces.

### Canada Post and the Interlibrary Loan Program (ILLO)

The Interlibrary Loan program is a province-wide initiative that significantly expands access to library materials by allowing public libraries to borrow items from one another. This service is especially valuable for patrons seeking specialized or less common materials not available in their home library's collection.

At OPL, staff use the Library Materials Shipping Tool (LMST) to generate shipping labels and send items via Canada Post at a special library rate. In 2024 alone, OPL shipped 1,720 items through this program. Once postage was calculated, staff manually applied physical stamps to each package, a process that is both labour-intensive and time-consuming. Frustrating when items are not picked up by the requester, the board could consider applying a \$2 fee for any interlibrary loan item not picked up by the deadline.

While the use of stamps has long been a unique privilege extended to libraries through a grandfathered agreement with the Canadian Urban Library Council and Canada Post, this is changing. As Canada Post modernizes its services, libraries will soon be required to transition away from stamps as a form of payment. Staff are working with accounts payable for a work around. This shift will likely introduce new workflows and potentially higher costs.

Given its high operational demands and financial implications, the ILLO service requires ongoing monitoring. Despite these challenges, it remains a vital resource for the community, ensuring equitable access to a broader range of materials across the province.

### Telephone System

Due to a cyber incident at the end of February, our corporate telephone system was disrupted. In response, the IT division has implemented a temporary solution to reactivate our main library number (519-941-0610). While the phone system is currently under review, which may lead to the selection of a new telecom platform for the Town, the old number has been reestablished and now rings on three corporate cell phones located at each of the three service zones. Please note that extensions are currently inaccessible.

### Financial Statements 2024

The auditors would like to present the 2024 audited financial statements for library board approval. The finance division has requested this be completed early in August. This date may coincide with a meeting to review the 2026 budget estimate submission before it is entered into the Town's financial management system. Could we please work to find a date and time that works for the board to ensure everyone's availability (quorum is four members).

### Program Update as submitted by Lauren Tilly



Intermediate Battle of the Books was hosted at Alder Recreation on April 24 with four schools competing: Mono Amaranth, The Maples, St. Andrew and Spencer Avenue. Spencer Avenue Elementary School was crowned the 2025 Grand Champion.





The Junior Battle of the Books was a fierce competition between 7 area schools: MAPS, PEPS, St. Peter, The Maples, St. Andrew, Spencer Ave and new this year the Pajama Scholars (homeschool team)! The Spencer Avenue team came out victorious as the 2025 Grand Champions.





Nurses Week was celebrated on May 15 with an Author Talk from local author Cheryl Van Daalen Smith who spoke to her new novel: *The Chronicles of Paisley • Corners*. Cheryl's thoughtful story reminded us of the importance of reframing our thinking from "What is wrong with them?" to "I wonder what happened to them", and to carefully consider who matters when it comes not only to healthcare but building belonging in our communities.



May 17 marks the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia every year, a global moment of solidarity and visibility for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and communities. In partnership with Child and Youth Mental Health at Dufferin Child and Family Services, Queer Village and with the support of the Town of Orangeville EDI Strategy, OPL had the honour of hosting a literary event to mark the occasion - Power & Poetry in Communities: Queer Poets Panel. The evening was celebratory, insightful and full of community.

## Up and Coming

- After School Club has two more sessions before the summer break and both will feature special guests: [May 26 theme National Pet Month](#) – pet care and [June 23 theme Do you believe in Magic?](#)
- [The May 29 Experts in the Library](#) series will feature teacher, author and educational consultant Linda Kent for a presentation on Rethinking Dyslexia
- OPL will have an outreach booth at the Blues and Jazz Family Market on Saturday, May 31 just outside the Mill Street Library on Broadway from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in addition to hosting a [series of workshops](#) inside the building
- The Spring session of Storytime comes to an end the first week of June (June 6 is the last day), taking a three-week break in preparation for summer programming
- Summer Reading Program Assistant will be starting on June 2 to plan and execute OPL's 2025 TD Summer Reading Program through to the end of August
- The [June 5 100% Certainty Book Club](#) in partnership with Bethell Hospice will feature The Friend a novel by Sigrid Nunez
- June is Seniors Month and the [Experts in the Library series will feature author Alex Lam](#) speaking to his book: "Long Life: Mapping your Well-being with Purpose and Meaning" on Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m.
- The annual Celebrate Your Awesome (CYA) event will take place on June 21 and will feature a Rainbow Storytime in Alexandra Park with the Orangeville Library and special guest Sapphyre at 12 p.m. as well as an OPL Community Information booth in the vendor market
- Save the date! The TD Summer Reading Club will officially kick-off with a Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, June 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Alder Street Recreation Centre back parking lot