

## Presentation to Mayor and Council

Our Public Library supports the cultural integrity and identity of our community in many ways; offering free access to books, internet, and programs for local residents, as well as providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere to newcomers. The library is a place open to the entire community. It offers an engaging, visually attractive space and information hub for residents and visitors alike.

Our library provides enjoyment and entertainment to our patrons in two important ways: 1) through our ever-changing collections of books, CDs, DVDs (only resource for DVD's in the community), e-Resources (including eBooks, audio books as well as research and entertainment databases), magazines and a wide range of other materials (we distribute Government Publications) and 2) as a place to hang out, socialize and relax. Living in a small northern rural community, both of these functions may be of even greater importance than in a larger urban centre.

Our Library is the only remaining resource center in our community providing students with an intellectual environment outside of school. The Library's collection of literary resources (fiction and non-fiction) is available to all community members. The library offers materials and adaptive technologies that facilitate literature and media access in both official languages.

Not everyone has reliable access to the internet or computers in their homes, and so the connections offered by the library are crucial for public computer access to web-based information or services. **(Four (4) new public computers purchased with the Information Technology and Service Capacity Grant)**. These services are available even to those without a membership card, making them more accessible for people residing outside of the community and visitors alike. Likewise, membership cards are not required to attend programming or on-site use of the collections, ensuring that rural population and visitors can access the public library as a shared commons.

Our library is a central hub for community members and community partners throughout the region. Our Library offers students from both KLDCS & ESJV the opportunity to complete their 40 hours of mandatory community service required for graduating. We are a developing member of the Northern Lights Library Network (Collaborative group of Northern Libraries which has successfully received two **Trillium Grants** for IT support (technician) and technology (iPads, lap top, eReaders). Our Library, working with Probation/Parole Officers, provides a welcoming environment to individuals who are legally required to complete "community service hours". Our Library has partnered with NeoNet for free course instructions on a variety of electronic devices for seniors. Our library serves as a repository for local historical archives while working diligently with the Historical Society to preserve and digitize our historical collection.

Our library's various programs and workshops are designed to encourage and support computer literacy and promote the access of technology among community members of all ages. Our Library Assistant is a valuable and reliable resource for technology and plays a vital role in keeping the older population connected to distant family members with our free access to computers/computer training and the use of social media.

Our Library promotes adult programming with craft nights for adults, afternoon movie events, adult card game nights, gardening information (with Charlie Warner), local artists' exhibits in both painting and photography as well as a 10 week photography course. These presentations and exhibits demonstrate and share the wide range of interests and talents of members of our community. **All costs associated with these events are covered by the Library Board through our fund raising events.**

Our library hosts author visits/signing, displays and readings from both the local community and surrounding areas. We have supported local authors Charlie Angus, Bernie Jaworski, Ruth Reed, Sonia Jensen, Angie Carter as well as a book launch for author Ed Ross. We held a commemorative celebration for the Anniversary of Vimy Ridge at which time Mr. Ross shared a book reading which was enjoyed by all who attended from our community and surrounding communities. **Refreshments for these events were provided by the Library Board through our fundraising events.**

Our library invests heavily in our youth through the summer student programs, training that significantly builds student capacity for employment in other workplace settings. Skills and a sound work ethic gained through the program are transferrable to future endeavors. Since 2005, **through grant applications**, the Library has provided two (2) summer student jobs each year, giving these students an opportunity to come home for the summer. The Service Canada student position is 100 % funded while the Young Canada Works position is 75% funded; this position is shared with the Municipality for the Tourist Center while working on our historical collection. **Through our fundraising efforts the Library Board proudly awards bursaries to graduating students from Larder Lake who have excelled in literacy to both of the high schools.**

Our children's programming creates opportunities for parents to meet one another, engage in much-needed adult social interaction, and develop long-term friendships. In addition to these programs, the library instills a sense of community and assists in developing life skills for families and future generations in a clean and safe environment.

**All of the children, youth and family programming costs are covered by the Library Boards' fund raising events; there is no impact on the Municipal Grant.**

Our Library programming for children, youth and families is provided free of charge. Events that are specifically geared toward children including monthly craft nights, popcorn movie nights (**Library Board purchases a Public Performance License-costs covered by fund raising events**), our summer programming includes the TD Summer Reading Program (in partnership with the TD Bank), the Gardening Program, Rock Band, Nintendo Switch, and Maker Space (these items were purchased through the **Improving Library Digital Services Fund 2017-2018**) as well as unique events like Valentine's for Vet's, write a Letter to Santa (in partnership with Canada Post), Anti Bullying information sessions, Fire Safety with our local Fire Department including "Sparky", a celebration with the MNR for Smokey the Bears' 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday and "Make a Book" event with the Early Years Program.

Our library also provides a number of entertaining programming geared towards family enjoyment. These free community events include Magic Shows, Patches the Musical Clown, Science North, Science Timmins, The Latchford Exotic Animals, Little Ray's Reptiles, Christmas Caroling with Musician-Mellow Lily and our Annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale (26<sup>th</sup>). **Once again, costs for these events are covered by various fundraisers held by the Library Board. These events are always well attended and enjoyed by everyone.**

The safe and welcoming environment is highly regarded by community members as they do not have to travel outside the community for programming or services, which helps keep them safe as well as reducing the environmental damage of travel. The library has also proctored exams for educational institutions, allowing community members to remain in the community while completing an education. Our Library is a valuable resource for families who "home school" their children.

We accept all donated books and DVDs to enhance our collection, stretch our book budget and use for our book sales to raise funds. We are partnered with "Better World Books", (gently used books are donated to organizations such as Books for Africa and Feed the Children, shipped out at no cost to our Library), thereby diverting extra items from our landfill site. We accept craft items which we utilize in our craft nights and raised funds through the sales of 200 donated puzzles.

Numerous leadership development opportunities also exist within the library. The library board, for instance, consists of seven members and is responsible for contributing to the budgeting and policy manual, conducting employee evaluations, and strategic planning which are valuable skills in the job market. Volunteers are also highly valued, whether they are high school students or adults from the community. At the library, these volunteers develop workplace and interpersonal skills which help them become better employees outside the library.

We offer additional services including laminating and book binding (**both items purchased through the ILDS Grant**), faxing, photocopying (**Xerox work center purchased through the Trillium Grant**) and Inter Library Loans. Our Library supports community events; Canada Day celebrations, the Children's Christmas Party and the Christmas Food hamper with **in kind donations as well as cash donations from our fund raising events.**

Each library has built a unique mix of resources—collections, programming, services, etc. in response to community needs, enabling community members to improve their quality of life and to participate in the life of the community in meaningful ways. In many instances, libraries have demonstrated leadership by promoting services that are otherwise non-existent, under developed or under serviced.

The Municipal Grant currently covers the basic operations of the Library, **all other programming and events as well as collection enhancement and children's DVD's are paid for by the Library Board through our fundraising efforts.**

Further budget cuts will effect staffing/hours of operation and our summer student program or the reallocation of our fund raising monies from programming to operations therefore eliminating special events as well as adult and children programs.

Our Library is a well used and valuable asset to our community and to the people who live and visit here.