



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Library Board
From: Rebecca Hine, Chief Librarian
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Subject: **Summary of Library Activities, November and December 2021**

Background: To provide the Library Board with an overview of events and activities from across the library system.

Hours and Services Update

As of December 23 all library branches have gone back to curbside service and computer bookings by appointment. We continue to work with the public to assist them with printing off their QR codes. I have also reduced our open hours slightly in order to accommodate the fact that 4 staff have been redeployed back to public health in order to assist with the booster shot clinics as well as multiple leaves of absence for a variety of reasons. The slight reduction in open hours has allowed us to re-allocate staff so that service levels can be maintained at all locations. We continue to offer all virtual services and programmes that have been established throughout the past 2 years.

12 Days of Reading

The launch of this new initiative in November was so widely embraced it almost overwhelmed the system. The number of families who signed up the first weekend filled most of the available spaces and staff have received many thanks for the ingenuity of the idea. Thank you to the Elora branch staff and Elora supervisor Danielle Arial for recognizing a great idea back in 2020 that went system wide this year. We had nearly 160 families participate and it will be a yearly event going forward.

Wellington County Writers Festival

WCMA and WCL are partnering to create the new Wellington County Writers Festival. While still in the early stages of planning, the festival will feature writers who live in Wellington County as well as writers who have written about Wellington County. There will also be a variety of other activities throughout for members of our communities who would like to participate in the events. The Festival will kick off at the Museum on April 23 with a full day event and then close at the Hillsburgh Branch on June 25 in conjunction with the launch of the TD Summer Reading Club. In between those two dates will be a series of author talks at a variety of library locations as well as the museum.

Digital Magazines

WCL introduced our new digital magazine collection this month. It is available through Overdrive and gives access to more than 3,000 magazines. Patrons can now read their favourite magazines on their computers or through the Libby app on their mobile devices. Downloading a magazine does not count toward your checkout limit, there are no wait lists and the magazines are renewable. This is an exciting new addition to our digital collections and just in time for people to access during the latest lockdown measures in place for January.

County Staff Picks of 2021

After going through a second round of voting, County staff settled on the top reads of 2021. The top ten staff picks are published in this month's newsletter as well as on our website.

Ontario Library Association Super Conference 2022

The OLA Super Conference is once again virtual this year. It runs from February 1 – 5 and registration is open at this time. The theme this year is "Together". Wellington County Library had 2 staff accepted to participate in a poster session this year. Kaitlyn Armstrong and Lindsay Wain from the Marden Branch will be presenting their successful programme *Gnome of the Month* and sharing with colleagues the benefits of doing a monthly, ongoing programme as a successful way of engaging with the community and a means of keep patrons coming back.

Recommendation:

That the Chief Librarian's report for November and December 2021 be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Hine
Chief Librarian