
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Peterborough Town Library champions literacy and encourages life-long learning by providing resources that enrich, educate, and entertain. We strengthen our community by promoting connections between people, ideas, and knowledge.

USAGE UP SINCE 2016:

- 10% MORE items borrowed since 2016
- 44% increase in program attendance
- 5% more visits to the library

WHAT DID WE DO IN 2018?

- Welcomed 472 new card holders
- Served 3,488 active patrons
- Loaned 76,924 items to patrons
- Hosted an average 215 visits to the library PER DAY
- Facilitated 27 Technology classes to 187 adult students
- Helped ready kids for kindergarten with 1,152 attending early literacy programs
- Hosted 178 educational and entertaining programs for families
- Gave out 201 museum passes for deep discounts to area attractions.
- Offered WiFi, public computers, and printing and scanning to the public
- We added 3,314 new items
- Withdrew 8,426 items (includes magazine archive withdrawals)

NEW SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:

- Technical literacy is a huge part of our services. We created a Drop-in Technology Help program held every Wednesday. Tim Brezovec offers instruction and advice on all tech questions. Over 100 people have used the service so far!
- We added Hoopla- an online streaming service with no lines and no wait. Hoopla provides a great collection of music, ebooks, audiobooks, graphic novels, and movies.

- Added two more decades of digitized newspapers to the Peterborough Town Library Digital Archive. The Peterborough Transcript is now fully indexed and searchable through 1960. Visit <http://peterborough.advantage-preservation.com/>.
- Created an all-ages Summer Reading program to encourage families to read together! 185 readers kept reading through the summer and avoided the *summer slide* in their learning.
- Mary Hubbard created a program titled, "Talking about Race," in collaboration with Grace Aldrich and Jim Guy. The program was attended by over 80 people and has evolved into a monthly discussion group with an ongoing reading list. The program was featured on the ALA Advocacy blog.

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AND ACCESS:

PTL is committed to being open to all people. We consistently work to understand barriers or limitations in providing access to underserved members of our community.

- We are exploring ways we can improve outreach to those who have limited access to library services because of library hours, transportation, or other barriers.
- We are fine-free and work to eliminate other barriers to having a library card.
- We offer public places for all.
- We provide vital services, such as access to books, internet, printing, newspapers, affordable family activities, early literacy and educational support, and career counseling services.
- Five members of our staff are certified in Mental Health First Aid.

PLANS FOR 2019:

- More Technology classes! For those who grew up analog and those who want to stay engaged in new technology. PTL creates new classes every month. We are open to any suggestions for tech classes and are excited to grow this service.
- Hot Spots! The library is currently researching and creating a procedure to offer circulating internet hot spots. Do you work from home? Have a big project? You could check out a hot spot for the week and enjoy reliable internet. Stay tuned!
- We are adding Kanopy! Kanopy is a streaming service for thoughtful entertainment. They have thousands of amazing films for all ages. We continue to fine-tune our online resources and are excited to try out providing more online always-available content.

- Homebound services are on the way! We have plans to unveil a new service where friends and family can easily facilitate library usage for a person who may be unable to physically visit the library for an extended period.

VISIT US!

The best way to gain a return on your investment in the Peterborough Town Library is to use it!

- Visit a museum with a library pass. A family could save as much as \$54 by using a library pass.
- Ditch the Audible subscription and save \$144 annually! Check out the library's vast collection of audiobooks available through Libby and Hoopla. Both are readily available as an App. All you need is a library card!
- Stop buying so many books! Use the library. We'd love to find you exactly what you are looking for to read next. Save the \$ and save a tree!
- Plan your trip using library resources. We have travel guides and an excellent foreign language App called Transparent Language. We can help you make copies of your documents and ready yourself for the big trip!

LIBRARY PROJECT UPDATE

A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.

-Henry Ward Beecher

At Town Meeting last year, the Town of Peterborough voted overwhelmingly in favor of the library warrant article for an \$3 million bond to build and renovate the Peterborough Town Library. The \$8.5 million project is a true public/private partnership with \$5.5 million (65%) to be raised privately and \$3 million contributed from the Town.

The library trustees and 1833 Society made significant progress towards a new library for the future. They are currently in the final stages of private fundraising with less than \$800,000 to raise, assuming the town will accept traditional financing methods.

Designed by Ann Beha Architects, the plans call for the historic 1892 building, with its iconic portico and granite stairs, to be restored and respectfully integrated with a new wing that points to a progressive future. The flexible design prioritizes space for community connections, educational support, and meeting rooms. The library will become the living room and meeting place of the community. An expanded children's area and young adult space will allow the growth of youth programming and collections.

The new Peterborough Town Library will profoundly impact the region's economy and business sector by helping to build technology skills; provide workforce development; offer access to career services; and promote civic engagement, participation, and collaboration.

Plans call for the use of renewable energy solutions, including a biomass boiler and a solar array to offset the electricity needed for the library campus.

The 1833 Society is profoundly grateful to the volunteers and supporters of the library project. Over 11,000 hours of resident volunteer time has been put towards this project. Dozens of residents assisted with answering questions and promoting the project door to door before Town Meeting. Dedicated volunteers continue to tirelessly work towards raising the final private funds for the project. The next year will be exciting and full of changes as the library moves to temporary quarters and begins construction. Stay tuned for updates!

Full project details may be found at <http://peterboroughtownlibrary.org/libraryproject/>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corinne Chronopoulos

Library Director