



Aurora Public Library Board
MEETING
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
3. Minutes of:
 - .1 November 16, 2022 Meeting *(enclosure)*
4. Correspondence
5. Reports
 - .1 2023 Strategic Goals and Objectives Report *(enclosure)*
SR2022.29
6. Items for Consideration
 - .1 Membership and Borrowing Policy Report *(enclosure)*
SR2022.30
7. Library CEO Updates
 - .1 CEO Updates *(verbal report)*
8. General Business Information/Questions *(enclosure)*
 - .1 APL Updates
 - .2 ATS Stakeholder Update
9. Member Announcements
10. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, February 15, 2023**
11. Adjournment

**** Please advise Maida Rae of regrets for attendance, by noon on December 14th at mrae@aurorapl.ca.**





Aurora Public Library Board

MINUTES of MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

The Aurora Public Library Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 via video conference.

Present: Tom Connor (Chair), John Clement, Adam Mobbs (Vice Chair), Marie Rankel, Ken Turriff

Regrets: Councillor J. Gallo

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Gorman

Staff: Mario Baleno, IT Manager; Mary Ann Gruppuso, Manager, Collections and Access; Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community Collaboration; Jodi Marr, Manager, Customer Opportunity; Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder); Julie Rocca, Business Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: **22.08.62**

THAT the agenda be approved

Moved by: K. Turriff

Seconded by: J. Clement

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Interest

3. Resolution to Move Into Closed Session

.1 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of real property

MOTION: **22.08.63**

THAT the Board move into Closed Session to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of real property

Moved by: J. Clement

Seconded by: M. Rankel

CARRIED

At 7:01 p.m. the Board moved into Closed Session.

Due to technical issues, Vice Chair Adam Mobbs assumed the role of meeting Chair.

MOTION: **22.08.64**
Moved by: J. Clement
Seconded by: K. Turriff
CARRIED

THAT the Board return to Open Session

At 8:05 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

MOTION: **22.08.65**
Moved by: K. Turriff
Seconded by: M. Rankel
CARRIED

THAT the Library Board approve the architect's conceptual plans dated November 16, 2022

4. Approval of Minutes

.1 Regular meeting of October 19, 2022

MOTION: **22.08.66**
Moved by: T. Connor
Seconded by: K. Turriff
CARRIED

THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting dated October 19, 2022 be approved

5. Reports

.1 Revised Personnel Provisions for Non-Union and Management Staff Report SR2022.28

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **22.08.67**
Moved by: M. Rankel
Seconded by: J. Clement
CARRIED

THAT the Aurora Public Library Board approve the revised Personnel Provisions for Non-Union and Management Staff Policy dated November 16, 2022

6. Items for Consideration

.1 Library Value Calculator Demonstration

A demonstration of the Library Value Calculator was conducted.

MOTION: **22.08.68**
Moved by: K. Turriff
Seconded by: J. Clement
CARRIED

THAT the Board receive the Library Value Calculator demonstration.

.2 Library Staff Holiday Dinner Budget

A verbal request was provided at the meeting.

MOTION: **22.08.69**

Moved by: J. Clement

Seconded by: M. Rankel

CARRIED

THAT the Board approve a budget increase from \$35 to \$45 per person for the annual Library staff Holiday dinner

7. Library CEO Updates

.1 CEO Updates

A verbal report was provided at the meeting.

MOTION: **22.08.70**

Moved by: K. Turriff

Seconded by: T. Connor

CARRIED

THAT the Library CEO Updates be received as information

B. Gorman attended the inaugural Council meeting for the Town of Aurora. He will be meeting with Councillor Ken Weese later in the month.

APL has hired a new Teen Librarian, with lengthy librarian work experience. This individual studied and worked in Qatar before joining our team.

B. Gorman anticipates the MOU for room usage will be completed soon.

On November 7, 2022, the Library hosted their annual Staff Development Day. The day focused on improving communications and building stronger, more resilient teams.

B. Gorman will be meeting with Sandra from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce later in November.

The Public Libraries Act indicates that a new Library Board should be appointed within sixty days of a municipal election. The Town will post a notice in December for citizens interested in becoming a Library Board member, with appointments expected in early 2023. Current Board members are welcome to re-apply.

The December 14th Library Board meeting will be held in person. The traditional APLB Social will follow the meeting.

8. General Business Information/Questions

.1 APL Updates

Articles and photographs and a project update were issued prior to the meeting.

.2 Aurora Town Square November Stakeholder Update

A project update was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **22.08.71**
Moved by: T. Connor
Seconded by: K. Turriff
CARRIED

Agenda item 3
THAT the APL Updates and
and Aurora Town Square
November Stakeholder Update
be received

B. Gorman was part of a recent tour of the new Town Square facility progress. It is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2023.

On January 11, 2023, there will be an event in the Library living room to welcome 2023. It will include poetry and song from George Eliot Clarke, Sonical Bees, Vanessa Wang.

M. Gruppuso announced that Overdrive will return to APL on January 9th, 2023.

The APL booksale returned in November for the first time since 2019, raising over \$2500.

A Scrabble Club launched today at the library with a great turnout. It used to be run out of the Senior's Centre, but they do not have volunteers to continue the program, so APL might make it a regular program.

We heard from a customer about an eight-year-old who loves the Mad Scientist Program. It is a six-week program, and the child and his parent walk 30 minutes to attend.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: **22.08.72**
Moved by: M. Rankel
Seconded by: J. Clement
CARRIED

THAT the meeting be adjourned
at 8:41 p.m.

T. Connor
Chair

B. Gorman
Chief Executive Officer

November 10, 2022

Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy
MPP Laurie Scott, Chair
Whitney Block, Room 1405
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Submitted via email to: schicp@ola.org

RE: Submission of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) regarding Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act*, 2022

On behalf of Ontario's public libraries, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) and the Ontario Library Association (OLA) welcome the opportunity to provide this submission to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy as the committee considers Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, 2022. In particular, we want to highlight the importance of development charges in supporting public library capital needs in growing communities across Ontario in the context of Bill 23.

In recent years, our members have increasingly expressed to us the important contribution that development charges make in ensuring that public libraries can continue to make the critical capital investments required to serve our growing population. This need will only continue to increase as the province achieves its ambitious target to build 1.5 million new homes over the next decade.

In addition to helping support the construction of new, modern public library facilities to serve expanding communities, development charges support a wide range of important public library capital needs, including:

- Expansion and retrofitting of existing public library facilities to fulfill new community needs or access to technology;
- Technology assets in new or significantly upgraded facilities for public use; and
- Day one lending collections for new public libraries.

The Ontario Government has recognized the vital importance of ensuring that public libraries can continue to meet growth-related capital needs. In 2020, the Ontario Government made the historic decision to amend the *Development Charges Act* to make public library capital costs a fully cost-recoverable eligible service. For the first time, municipalities and public libraries could work together to fully fund capital projects through development charges, without placing additional financial burdens on tight public library budgets to raise a portion of the capital funding required. FOPL and OLA strongly supported this important amendment as an unequivocal recognition of the role that public libraries perform as critical community infrastructure in municipalities of all sizes across the Ontario.

As the committee considers the proposed changes to the *Development Charges Act* included in Bill 23, FOPL and OLA urge the Ontario Government to ensure that any such changes not adversely undermine the much-needed contribution that development charges have made and

continue to make in helping to maintain strong, sustainable public libraries for current and future residents alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelagh Paterson".

Shelagh Paterson
Executive Director, Ontario Library
Association
spaterson@accessola.com
416-363-3388 ext. 224

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina-Marie Stevens".

Dina-Marie Stevens
Executive Director, Federation
of Ontario Public Libraries
dinastevens@fopl.ca
416-873-8139



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT

SR2022.29

SUBJECT: ***AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REPORT***

FROM: Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 14, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the *Aurora Public Library 2023 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Report* dated December 14, 2022 be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Aurora Public Library 2023 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives chart was developed by the Library's management team to track their progress in achieving identified goals and objectives relating to the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 "Place of Possibilities". This chart will be reviewed regularly by the Library management team and shared quarterly with the Board to provide details of key accomplishments throughout the upcoming year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Aurora Public Library 2023 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

***Assisted by: Executive Leadership Team
Maida Rae, Human Resources Coordinator/EA***

*Bruce Gorman
Chief Executive Officer*

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
--------	-------------	----------	-------	-----	-----------------	-------	------------------	----------

Strategic Direction 1. Build Community								
1.1 Review/ refresh of APL marketing materials	Reccia		Q1	Q3		Create postcard creative for various services, such as newcomers, children, creative studio		
1.2 Update Community Collaboration contact/partners list	Reccia		Q1	Q3				
1.3 Town Square Integration	Bruce		Q1	Q4	Successful network integration and SLA with Town (See 3.2) MOU completion and effectiveness Library usage			
1.4 Post Pandemic/Construction Library	Bruce		Q1	Q4	Compliance with new government regulations Monitor and update related policies as required Ensure ongoing safety of customers and staff Advocate with Town Square Committee to ensure library interests are a priority			

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
1.5 Introduce ongoing blog posts	Jodi		Q1	Q3	Train all Customer Opportunity Staff on how to write a blog post for the website. Transition Readers' Advisory social media posts to the blog on the website.	Train Customer Opportunity staff to write a blog post and transition our current Readers' Advisory social media posts to blog format. Link these blogs to our social media posts to draw traffic to the website. Encourage staff to write short posts about topics that advocate for the library and promote programming.		
1.6 Develop a Partnership Program Guideline and Application process	Jodi		Q1	Q4	Guidelines posted on website with a form for potential partners to complete and submit.	Create partnership programming guidelines for Customer Opportunity staff and make the application available on our website to encourage more community members to partner with the library and share their passions with Aurora.		

Strategic Direction								
2. Place of Possibilities								
2.1 Implement Library tablets in the main floor rotunda for customers to read eMagazines and eNewspapers.	Mario		Q1	Q4	Tablets installed Utilization	Determine whether table mounted, or mobile devices are best. Give customers a more comfortable way to enjoy eMaterial in Library.		
2.2 Branding of remote lockers	Reccia		Q3	Q4		Timeline pending when solution is acquired and installed		
2.3 Construction Skilled Trades Expo (online)	Reccia		Q1			Opportunity to network directly with employers, unions, community partners and training providers to learn about growing career opportunities in the skilled		

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
						construction trades and the pathways to get there. In partnership with ACCES Employment.		
2.4 Capital Plan	Bruce		Q1	Q4	Inclusion of remote lockers Final report from consultant Establish Financial Plan with Julie (See 3.6) Establish timelines Discussion with Town			
2.5 Introduce satellite collection in community	Mary Ann		Q2	Q4		Confirm Location for remote lockers Develop RFP Select Vendor Develop Implementation Plan		
2.6 Implementation of Overdrive	Mary Ann		Q1	Q2	Increase in use of eBooks	Promotion using social media tools Website – adding information Transfer of material from Cloud to Overdrive Staff and customer training		
2.7 Assessments of digital collection	Mary Ann		Q3	Q4	Establishment of effective usage measurement tools for eResources			

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
2.8 Enhance digital signage solution	Mario	95%	Q1	Q2	3 additional digital signage panels installed in Library. Additional digital signage panels installed outside of the Library in the bridge and new building.	Consider signage in new building and in the bridge and the corridor TV's, signage boxes and mounting equipment have been received. Waiting on Town electrician to install new plugs	Carry over from 2022	
2.9 Investigate early literacy possibilities	Jodi/Mary Ann	30%	Q2	Q4	Investigate tactile early literacy addition to the children's area	Review current best practices and innovations. Reached out to other libraries. Jodi and Bruce to attend vendor expo at OLA 2023 Conference in January	Carry over from 2022	
3.0 Review of Other Language Collections	Mary Ann		Q2	Q4	Increase in circulation figures in 2024			
Strategic Direction 3. Organizational Capacity								
3.1 Deploy MS Teams to improve departmental collaboration, communication meeting and file sharing.	Mario		Q1	Q4	Teams fully deployed and integrated. Staff collaboration improved.	Meet with stakeholders to determine departmental needs		
3.2 Work with TOA to integrate wireless and wired computer networks.	Mario		Q1	Q4	Networks integrated.			

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
3.3 Investigate updated audio solution including a library PA system and event audio solutionsolution. Implement where appropriate	Mario		Q1	Q4	Establish plan. Installed PA solution if viable. Investigate audio sound solution			
3.4 Improve remote meetings and collaboration by implementing an updated video conferencing system in the boardroom.	Mario		Q1	Q4	Video conference system designed and installed.			
3.5 Strategic Plan	Bruce		Q1	Q4	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Indigenous Relations Mental Health Strategy Marketing and Communications Strategy			
3.6 Develop 10 year capital funding plan	Julie		Q1	Q4	Define funding sources			
3.7 Participate and utilize new Town of Aurora Financial ERP System to streamline processing, electronic payments and efficiency	Julie		Q1	Q4				

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	STATUS %	START	END	SUCCESS MEASURE	NOTES	ON TRACK/AT RISK	ACHIEVED
3.8 Communication Training for Librarians, Digital Literacy Assistant and Information and Programming Specialists	Jodi		Q1	Q3	Customer Opportunity staff will complete a minimum of one assigned communication training module.	Investigate and deliver communication training for staff to improve their oral and written communication skills.		
3.9 Showcase the depth and variety of Library Programming options	Jodi		Q1	Q4	Create a menu of programming that includes at least 5 programs for various ages and demographics. Develop a page on the website with information and contacts for arranging programming for library visits for groups.	Create a menu that clearly outlines for teachers and outside groups what deliverable programming they can get from the library. Examples include: Intro to 3D Printing, Intro to Online Research, Library Scavenger Hunt, and Intro to the Catalogue for Elementary Schools, Storytime for Daycares etc.		
4.0 Investigate Volunteer Management solution	Jodi	50%	Q1	Q4	Develop a needs assessment and seek IT input on software solution Recommend a final solution	Investigate a volunteer management solution and if feasible implement. Met with Galaxy Digital for a demonstration and quote.	Carry over from 2022	
4.1 Develop a merchandising plan	Jodi/ Mary Ann	20%	Q1	Q4	Develop a merchandising plan for the library to enrich user experience. Increase the number of displays and improve user engagement with passive Readers' Advisory. Increase physical fiction and digital circulation by 5%.	Engage Elrod regarding additional millwork. Meeting scheduled Train staff on how to maintain the visual standards. Create a display schedule Create standard display guidelines Recommend possible new display solutions Consider online content	Carry over from 2022	

4.2 Organizational Structure Review	Bruce		Q1	Q4	Improved workflows	Focused on chain of command, process efficiency, resource use		
----------------------------------------	-------	--	----	----	--------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

DRAFT



Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT SR2022.30

SUBJECT: ***MEMBERSHIP AND BORROWING POLICY REPORT***

FROM: Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 14, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the *Membership and Borrowing Policy* dated December 14, 2022 be approved.

PURPOSE

To update the Library Board's previous Circulation and Fees policy to a Membership and Borrowing policy. These changes follow a review of other GTA library policies. They are also the result of becoming fine-free and focusing on equitable access to all library services.

The proposed policy revision updates language to be more customer friendly and inclusive. It also removes barriers to accessing library services by eliminating references to fines and fees. These changes are in keeping with Strategic Plan directives as well as a scan of similar policies and practices in other GTA public libraries.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Membership and Borrowing Policy, December 14, 2022

PRE-SUBMISSION REVIEW

Executive Leadership Team

***Assisted by Mary Ann Gruppuso, Manager, Collections and Access
Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA***

*Bruce Gorman
Chief Executive Officer*



AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMBERSHIP AND BORROWING POLICY **CIRCULATION AND FEES POLICY**

1. ~~1.~~ PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy applies to all users of Aurora Public Library.

The Library's Membership and Borrowing Policy will:

- **Provide a mechanism for ensuring the equitable access and fair use of collections and services;**
- **Establish rules and regulations that are consistent with the principles of financial accountability and the Library's responsibility to its stakeholders;**
- **Be administered in a manner that considers the individual accessibility needs of all members and respects the principles of dignity, equal opportunity and integration.**

~~The Aurora Public Library (the Library) Circulation and Fees Policy allows the Library to serve all customers in an accurate, consistent and accountable manner, and supports staff in providing equitable service.~~

2. LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

2.1 General

Membership is free to all who live, work, attend school or own property in Aurora or any York Region municipality (as per YRPLP Agreement).

Children 13 years of age and under require the permission of a parent/guardian to become members.

A member's library account expires every two (2) years biennially. Business, Student and Non-Resident memberships expire every year. To renew their account, a member must provide address and photo identification to verify their account information. All outstanding fees must be paid in full before the member's library account can be renewed.

~~At that time, the member's name, address and telephone number are verified. All outstanding monies owed to the Library must be paid in full before the member's library account can be renewed.~~

A registered member ~~can only have~~ should be in the possession of only one ~~(1)~~ Aurora Public Library account. A second account may be issued for educator use and for children of divorced/separated parents; a separate account for use with each caregiver.

The replacement fee for a lost library card is \$3.00.

2.2 Non-Residents

There is an annual membership fee of ~~\$8~~60.00 per person for those who do not live, work, attend school or own property in York Region. A three-month (3) membership will cost \$20.00 per person.

Non-resident library cards may have service restrictions around the use of eResources. The Library will provide as much access as is allowed within the limits imposed by license and service agreements.

~~Temporary residents may apply for a three (3) month membership and will be charged a deposit of \$20.00 which is refunded upon the return of all materials and the membership card including receipt for the deposit.~~

~~Customers in temporary housing (e.g. shelters or hostels) who are unable to provide a permanent address may borrow three (3) print materials at a time, unlimited e-resources and must renew their account every three (3) months. A letter from the shelter on letterhead is required to confirm residency and to waive the \$20 deposit.~~

Commented [MAG1]: Moved to 2.3a

2.3 Registration

In order to register as a member of Aurora Public Library, a phone number is required and personal identity and address must be verified by the Library.

Signing a ~~the~~ library card implies acceptance of and adherence to all the rules and regulations of the Library. The signatory is responsible (or the parent/guardian if the cardholder is under 18 years of age) for all fees ~~ines~~ and damage or loss of materials.

Current identification providing name ~~and~~ address and photo must be presented:

Adult (18+ years of age)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Driver's Licence | • Utility bill |
| • Ontario Photo ID card | • Bank statement |
| • <u>Current</u> Pay stub or | • Ontario Motor Vehicle |
| Direct Deposit PDF | Permit |

- Mortgage, rental or lease agreement

Or any other source of identification that gives the customer's name and current address (preferably photo ID)

Youth (14 – 17 years of age)

- Driver's ~~License~~ License
- Ontario Photo ID card
- Bill (ex. cell phone)
- Report card with address
- Pay stub or Direct Deposit PDF
- Bank statement

Children (Birth – 13 years of age)

- Parent's identification and proof of address
- Date of birth of child (birth certificate, passport, etc.)

2.3a Customers in Temporary Housing

Customers in temporary housing who are unable to provide a permanent address may borrow two (2) print materials at a time, and access eResources. They must renew their account every three (3) months. A letter from the shelter on letterhead is required to confirm residency.

2.3b Educator Account

Educators who qualify for free membership may open a second account to keep their professional borrowing separate from their personal borrowing. The named individual is still personally responsible for all borrowing and the same ~~finances and~~ fees apply to both accounts. To qualify, educators must have a personal membership account in good standing, plus produce any of the following forms of ID:

~~Educator Account~~

- ~~—~~ Pay stub, direct deposit, T4 from school, daycare, etc.
- ~~—~~ Employment letter on school, daycare letterhead
- ~~—~~ School security pass with photo ID
- ~~—~~ Registered homeschool papers with Ontario Ministry of Education

2.4 Borrowing Privileges

A valid library account ~~must be presented~~ (via library card, barcode in library app, or sufficient ID) is required in order to borrow any material.

Members are responsible for all materials issued on their account. Notify the library immediately if a card is suspected lost or stolen.

Changes in personal information such as address, telephone number or email address should be reported immediately.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the selection, usage and safe return of Library materials borrowed by their children under 18 years of age.

~~In addition to having a valid library account, the borrowing of the following materials has age restrictions:~~

- ~~• To borrow Blu rays/DVDs rated "R", or Video Games rated "Mature" (as classified by the Ontario Film Review Board and the Entertainment Software Rating Board) a member must be 18 years of age or over and must show proof of age upon request.~~

2.5 Loan Period

A standard loan period of three (3) weeks exists for materials borrowed except for those materials for which special loan periods have been established (Schedule 4.1.5).

2.6 Loan Limits

The Library reserves the right to limit the number of bestseller, popular or seasonal materials borrowed, or categories in which there are limited holdings (Schedule 4.1.4).

The total number of items that can be borrowed on a single library account at any one time is 100.

2.7 Renewals

All items may be renewed five (5) times except for:

- Items with holds
- Bestseller and Express titles
- ~~High demand materials~~
- Seasonal Material
- Book Club Kits
- Another library's materials (ILLO) unless authorized by the lending library

~~Each renewal is considered a new loan period for the calculation of any overdue fines.~~

Renewals can be requested in person, by telephone, through the library website at www.aurorapl.ca, ~~catalogue www.aurora.bibliocommons.ca or using the APL app (Android or Apple).~~

2.8 Holds

Most library materials may be reserved in person, by telephone, through the library website at www.aurorapl.ca, catalogue www.aurora.bibliocommons.ca or [using the APL app](#) ~~(Android or Apple)~~ ~~(Schedule 4.1.5)~~.

The maximum number of holds at one time is 30.

When picking up holds, the customer must bring the card on which the hold was placed.

2.9 Returns

Customers are responsible for ensuring all material is returned, by the due date, to Aurora Public Library. ~~Material may be returned inside during operating hours or via the outside drop box.~~

~~A return bin is also available at the Aurora GO Station, 121 Wellington St E., northwest corner, beside the bike racks. All material returned to the GO Station is backdated to the date of last pickup.~~

~~2.10~~ Overdue Fines

~~Failure to receive courtesy email or telephone notification for materials coming due does not absolve the borrower of the responsibility to return items by their due date.~~

~~Overdue fines are assessed on the basis of the material type, regardless of the age of the borrower (Schedule 4.2).~~

~~Clients of the Visiting Library Service are not charged overdue fines but are charged for lost or damaged materials.~~

2.1~~0~~ Overdue Notification

Members will be notified when material is seven (7) ~~ten (10)~~ days overdue and two (2) more times thereafter. When material is 31 days ~~six (6) weeks~~ overdue, members will be billed for material not returned.

Delinquent accounts may be forwarded to a collection agency. An additional \$20.00 +HST service charge is levied for each overdue account referred to the collection agency.

2.1~~1~~ Suspension of Borrowing Privileges

All privileges will be suspended when members have ~~finer and/or~~ overdue materials in excess of \$20.00 or ten (10) late items. Privileges will be reinstated when the charges are paid and/or materials are returned.

All ~~fees monies~~ owed to the Library must be paid in full before a library account may be renewed. ~~The Library accepts cash, cheque, debit and credit in person at the service desk. For your convenience, the Library also accepts credit card payments over the telephone and debit and credit payments at the Self-Checkout stations.~~

2.1~~23~~ Lost and Damaged Material

Members shall report lost or damaged material at the earliest possible opportunity.

The charge for materials that are not returned, are lost or are damaged is based on the full replacement cost including the cost to acquire, catalogue and process the item.

Replacement or donated copies in lieu of payment are not accepted.

2.1~~34~~ Refunds for Lost Materials

~~Refunds for lost materials that have been paid for is limited to The time limit for refunds for payment of lost materials is~~ three (3) months from the date of payment. Members must produce their receipt to receive the refund.

3. OTHER SERVICES

3.1 Copying of Material

Aurora Public Library adheres to the laws of Canada governing the copying of all materials. The Library retains a copying license for public libraries through Access Canada, a non-profit organization formed and run by Canada's leading associations of creators and publishers. The Library operates within the terms and conditions of this license and makes every effort to ensure staff and customers do likewise.

Use of photocopiers to reproduce all or a substantial part of work protected by copyright is governed by the Canadian Copyright Act. Copying of a work or a substantial part of a work protected by a copyright requires the permission of the copyright owner. No parts of some work, such as music, can be copied without permission. However it is not an infringement of copyright to "deal fairly" with some works for the purpose of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary. The responsibility of determining whether permission is required, and then obtaining permission, is that of the person making the copy and not the Library. Staff will neither participate in nor condone infringements of copyright. The Copyright Act is

available ~~in the Library at Information Services~~ should further information be required.

3.2 Printing

Printing is available from photocopiers and laser printers (Schedule 5.4). 3D printing is also available. ~~Please ask staff for assistance.~~

~~3.3 Proctoring~~

~~Proctoring services are available to residents of Aurora who are registered members of the Library with due notice to staff during regular library hours of service. Residents from other municipalities seeking this service from Aurora Public Library will be charged \$30.00 inclusive of HST (Schedule 5.8).~~

~~3.4 Program registration~~

~~Program fees may be levied on a cost-recovery basis, to cover the cost of external resource people and materials.~~

~~Refunds to program registration fees are subject to an administration fee of \$5.00 (no refund if program cost is less than \$5.00).~~

Commented [MAG2]: We have separate policies for Proctoring and for Programming

4. SCHEDULES

4.1 Borrowing Privileges and Restrictions

4.1.1 Blu-ray/DVD

- Children (0-13) may borrow Blu-ray/DVDs and Video Games from the Juvenile collections only.
- Restricted Blu-ray/DVDs are available to persons 18 and over.

4.1.2 Electronic Equipment

- Available to borrowers ~~18~~6 years of age and older.

4.1.3 Suspension

When the account:

- ~~has more than \$20.00 in fines or charges, which includes lost material or both unpaid fines on returned materials and fines accruing on items not yet returned, or~~
- has more than 10 items that are overdue;
- has been referred to a collection agency.

4.1.4 Limits

Schedule of Maximum Number of Items per Account

Material Type	Max per account
Total combined items checked out at one time	100
Book Club Kits	2
Bestseller Express Movies	3
Video Games	5

4.1.5 Holds, Loan Periods and Renewals

~~Schedule of Hold Permissions, Loan Periods and Renewals~~

Material Type	Holds	Loan Period	Renewals
Audiobook	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Bestseller Express (Books)	No	7 days	0 renewals
Bestseller Express (Movies)	No	23 days	0 renewals
Blu-Ray & DVD	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Book	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Book Club Kit	Yes	42 days	0 renewals
CD	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Digital Equipment	No	Return 30 minutes before closing	0 renewals
DVD	Yes	7 days	5 renewals
eContent	Determined by licensing agreement	Determined by licensing agreement	Determined by licensing agreement
High Demand Fast track books material	Yes	14 days	0 renewals
Magazines	No	21 days	5 renewals
Nature Backpacks	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Pedometers	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Reference Material	No	In-Library use only	N/A
Video Games	Yes	21 days	5 renewals

Watt Readers	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
--------------	-----	---------	------------

4.2 Fines

Schedule of Fines per Day and Maximum Fines per Item

Material Type	Fine Amount Per Day Per Item	Maximum Per Item Each Loan Period *
Adult books & magazines	\$0.25	\$3.00
Adult and Young Adult A/V	\$0.25	\$3.00
Young Adult books & magazines	\$0.05	\$1.00
Juvenile A/V	\$0.05	\$1.00
Juvenile books & magazines	no fines	no fines

A/V includes DVDs, BluRay, music CDs, audiobooks, and video games

*Note that each renewal is considered another loan period

4.3 Electronic Equipment Fines

\$1.00 per hour overdue

4.4 Use of a Collection Agency

\$20.00 plus HST for accounts owing

Commented [MAG3]: Moved to 5.7

5. CHARGES

5.1 Non-Resident Membership

\$~~86~~0.00 per person for 12 months or \$20 per person for 3 months

5.2 Replacement Card

\$3.00 for replacement card

5.3 Lost Item/Digital Equipment

Invoiced price plus HST, if applicable

5.3.1 Refund

Limit of three (3) months for refund on lost materials, once returned.
~~Full refund of invoiced price, but not overdue fines.~~

5.4 Damaged Materials

Invoiced price plus HST, if applicable

5.5 Photocopying and Printing

Black and white - \$0.15 + HST

Black and white (11" x 17") - \$0.30 + HST

Colour - \$0.50 + HST

3D Printing - \$1.00 + cost recovery per-minute charge + HST

5.6 NSF Cheque

\$40.00

5.7 Use of a Collection Agency

\$20.00 plus HST for accounts owing

5.7 Proctoring

~~Proctoring services are offered free to Aurora residents; otherwise a \$30.00 (including HST) fee is charged.~~

Related Policies

- ~~1. Proctoring Policy~~

Approved Date: June 24, 2019	Motion #: 19.05.66
Effective Date: August 1, 2019	
Date of Last Revision: June 24, 2019 June 20, 2018	



AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMBERSHIP AND BORROWING POLICY

1. PURPOSE & SCOPE

This policy applies to all users of Aurora Public Library.

The Library's Membership and Borrowing Policy will:

- Provide a mechanism for ensuring the equitable access and fair use of collections and services;
- Establish rules and regulations that are consistent with the principles of financial accountability and the Library's responsibility to its stakeholders;
- Be administered in a manner that considers the individual accessibility needs of all members and respects the principles of dignity, equal opportunity and integration.

2. LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

2.1 General

Membership is free to all who live, work, attend school or own property in Aurora or any York Region municipality (as per YRPLP Agreement).

Children 13 years of age and under require the permission of a parent/guardian to become members.

A member's library account expires every two (2) years. Business, Student and Non-Resident memberships expire every year. To renew their account, a member must provide address and photo identification to verify their account information. All outstanding fees must be paid in full before the member's library account can be renewed.

A registered member can only have one Aurora Public Library account. A second account may be issued for educator use and for children of divorced/separated parents; a separate account for use with each caregiver.

The replacement fee for a lost library card is \$3.00.

2.2 Non-Residents

There is an annual membership fee of \$80.00 per person for those who do not live, work, attend school or own property in York Region. A three-month (3) membership will cost \$20.00 per person.

Non-resident library cards may have service restrictions around the use of eResources. The Library will provide as much access as is allowed within the limits imposed by license and service agreements.

2.3 Registration

In order to register as a member of Aurora Public Library, a phone number is required and personal identity and address must be verified by the Library.

Signing a library card implies acceptance of and adherence to all the rules and regulations of the Library. The signatory is responsible (or the parent/guardian if the cardholder is under 18 years of age) for all fees and damage or loss of materials.

Current identification providing name, address and photo must be presented:

Adult (18+ years of age)

- Driver's Licence
- Ontario Photo ID card
- Current Pay stub or Direct Deposit PDF
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Ontario Motor Vehicle Permit
- Mortgage, rental or lease agreement

Youth (14 – 17 years of age)

- Driver's Licence
- Ontario Photo ID card
- Bill (ex. cell phone)
- Report card with address
- Pay stub or Direct Deposit PDF
- Bank statement

Children (Birth – 13 years of age)

- Parent's identification and proof of address
- Date of birth of child (birth certificate, passport, etc.)

2.3a Customers in Temporary Housing

Customers in temporary housing who are unable to provide a permanent address may borrow two (2) print materials at a time, and access eResources. They must renew their account every three (3) months. A letter from the shelter on letterhead is required to confirm residency.

2.3b Educator Account

Educators who qualify for free membership may open a second account to keep their professional borrowing separate from their personal borrowing. The named individual is still personally responsible for all borrowing and the same fees apply to both accounts. To qualify, educators must have a personal membership account in good standing, plus produce any of the following forms of ID:

- Pay stub, direct deposit, T4 from school, daycare, etc.
- Employment letter on school, daycare letterhead
- School security pass with photo ID
- Registered homeschool papers with Ontario Ministry of Education

2.4 Borrowing Privileges

A valid library account via library card, barcode in library app, or sufficient ID is required in order to borrow any material.

Members are responsible for all materials issued on their account. Notify the library immediately if a card is suspected lost or stolen.

Changes in personal information such as address, telephone number or email address should be reported immediately.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the selection, usage and safe return of Library materials borrowed by their children under 18 years of age.

2.5 Loan Period

A standard loan period of three (3) weeks exists for materials borrowed except for those materials for which special loan periods have been established (Schedule 4.1.5).

2.6 Loan Limits

The Library reserves the right to limit the number of bestseller, popular or seasonal materials borrowed, or categories in which there are limited holdings (Schedule 4.1.4).

The total number of items that can be borrowed on a single library account at any one time is 100.

2.7 Renewals

All items may be renewed five (5) times except for:

- Items with holds
- Bestseller and Express titles
- High demand materials
- Seasonal Material

- Book Club Kits
- Another library's materials (ILLO) unless authorized by the lending library

Renewals can be requested in person, by telephone, through the library website at aurorapl.ca, or using the APL app.

2.8 Holds

Most library materials may be reserved in person, by telephone, through the library website at aurorapl.ca, or using the APL app.

The maximum number of holds at one time is 30.

When picking up holds, the customer must bring the card on which the hold was placed.

2.9 Returns

Customers are responsible for ensuring all material is returned, by the due date, to Aurora Public Library.

2.10 Overdue Notification

Members will be notified when material is seven (7) days overdue and two (2) more times thereafter. When material is 31 days overdue, members will be billed for material not returned.

Delinquent accounts may be forwarded to a collection agency. An additional \$20.00 +HST service charge is levied for each overdue account referred to the collection agency.

2.11 Suspension of Borrowing Privileges

All privileges will be suspended when members have overdue materials in excess of \$20.00 or ten (10) late items. Privileges will be reinstated when the charges are paid and/or materials are returned.

All fees owed to the Library must be paid in full before a library account may be renewed.

2.12 Lost and Damaged Material

Members shall report lost or damaged material at the earliest possible opportunity.

The charge for materials that are not returned, are lost or are damaged is based on the full replacement cost including the cost to acquire, catalogue and process the item.

Replacement or donated copies in lieu of payment are not accepted.

2.13 Refunds for Lost Materials

Refunds for lost materials that have been paid for is limited to three (3) months from the date of payment. Members must produce their receipt to receive the refund.

3. OTHER SERVICES

3.1 Copying of Material

Aurora Public Library adheres to the laws of Canada governing the copying of all materials. The Library retains a copying license for public libraries through Access Canada, a non-profit organization formed and run by Canada's leading associations of creators and publishers. The Library operates within the terms and conditions of this license and makes every effort to ensure staff and customers do likewise.

Use of photocopiers to reproduce all or a substantial part of work protected by copyright is governed by the Canadian Copyright Act. Copying of a work or a substantial part of a work protected by a copyright requires the permission of the copyright owner. No parts of some work, such as music, can be copied without permission. However it is not an infringement of copyright to "deal fairly" with some works for the purpose of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary. The responsibility of determining whether permission is required, and then obtaining permission, is that of the person making the copy and not the Library. Staff will neither participate in nor condone infringements of copyright. The Copyright Act is available in the Library should further information be required.

3.2 Printing

Printing is available from photocopiers and laser printers (Schedule 5.4). 3D printing is also available.

4. SCHEDULES

4.1 Borrowing Privileges and Restrictions

4.1.1 Blu-ray/DVD

- Children (0-13) may borrow Blu-ray/DVDs and Video Games from the Juvenile collections only;
- Restricted Blu-ray/DVDs are available to persons 18 and over.

4.1.2 Electronic Equipment

- Available to borrowers 18 years of age and older.

4.1.3 Suspension

When the account:

- has more than \$20.00 in charges, which includes lost material or has more than 10 items that are overdue;
- has been referred to a collection agency.

4.1.4 Limits

Schedule of Maximum Number of Items per Account

Material Type	Max per account
Total combined items checked out at one time	100
Book Club Kits	2
Bestseller Express Movies	3
Video Games	5

4.1.5

Holds, Loan Periods and Renewals

Material Type	Holds	Loan Period	Renewals
Audiobook	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Bestseller Express (Books)	No	7 days	0 renewals
Bestseller Express (Movies)	No	7 days	0 renewals
Blu-Ray & DVD	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Book	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Book Club Kit	Yes	42 days	0 renewals
CD	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Digital Equipment	No	Return 30 minutes before closing	0 renewals
		days	

eContent	Determined by licensing agreement	Determined by licensing agreement	Determined by licensing agreement
High Demand material	Yes	14 days	0 renewals
Magazines	No	21 days	5 renewals
Backpacks	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Pedometers	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Reference Material	No	In-Library use only	N/A
Video Games	Yes	21 days	5 renewals
Watt Readers	Yes	21 days	5 renewals

5. CHARGES

5.1 Non-Resident Membership

\$80.00 per person for 12 months or \$20 per person for 3 months

5.2 Replacement Card

\$3.00 for replacement card

5.3 Lost Item/Digital Equipment

Invoiced price plus HST, if applicable

5.3.1 Refund

Limit of three (3) months for refund on lost materials, once returned.

5.4 Damaged Materials

Invoiced price plus HST, if applicable

5.5 Photocopying and Printing

Black and white - \$0.15 + HST

Black and white (11" x 17") - \$0.30 + HST

Colour - \$0.50 + HST

3D Printing - \$1.00 + cost recovery per-minute charge + HST

5.6 NSF Cheque

\$40.00

5.7 Use of a Collection Agency

\$20.00 plus HST for accounts owing.

Approved Date:	Motion #:
Effective Date	
Date of Last Revision:	June 24, 2019

Libraries Can Unite a Lonely, Divided Nation

The time has come for a “Great Reknitting” across America. The country’s most egalitarian institutions — its public libraries — are a crucial place to start.



A palace for the people. *Photographer: Drew Angerer/Getty Images North America*

By Richard Florida and Brooks Rainwater

October 26, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. EDT

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic shifts to more of an endemic, it continues to eat away at the connective fibers that bind our society together. As with so many things, Covid accelerated an existing trend:

America was in the throes of a crisis of loneliness well before the pandemic struck. Today nearly 40 million Americans live alone, representing almost 30% of all US households – up from 9% in 1950. The rise of remote work, the shift away from cities to more far-flung exurbs, and many other trends have combined to worsen America’s loneliness epidemic. The effects are visible in everything from the rise in substance abuse and mental health challenges to the surge in crime and disorder in cities across the country.

To recover from this epidemic of isolation, America needs to reknit its frayed social fabric. Many institutions can play a role in this “Great Reknitting,” from schools and churches to businesses and voluntary associations. But there’s one institution that has long bolstered communities in an open and democratic way: America’s libraries. As the industrialist and great patron of public libraries Andrew Carnegie famously put it more than a century ago, “A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” His words ring true today.

More from

**Bloomberg
Citylab**

A Deep Dive Into an Undervalued Urban Marvel

NY Times Staffers Become News With First Walkout in Four Decades

Denver Migrants Coordinated Their Travel Through Social Media

Georgia’s Changing Demographics Turn GOP Stronghold More Democratic

Libraries are so much more than storehouses for books. They are crucial pieces of social infrastructure. When we talk about infrastructure, we typically mean the built structures and utilities – like roads, bridges, subways and sewer systems – that underpin our communities. Social infrastructure, as the sociologist Eric Klinenberg defines it, is the kind of infrastructure that facilitates human connections, interaction and civic engagement – places like parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, museums – and, of course, libraries.

Libraries have an important role to play in reknitting the human connections that are being lost to remote work. The share of people who work primarily from home has risen from roughly 6% in 2019 to 18% in 2021, according to recent data from the US Census’ American Community Survey. Stanford University economist Nicholas Bloom and his colleagues estimate that roughly 20% of workdays will be done remotely in the future. But surveys by Adam Ozimek, a leading analyst of remote work, have found that nearly a quarter of those who work from home actually spend part of their working time

outside their home offices in coworking spaces, coffee shops, the homes of friends or colleagues, and, yes, libraries.

More than this, libraries provide services and connective fiber to a wide range of people of across genders, races, ages and income levels, housed and unhoused alike. One can sit quietly in a corner and read a book or a magazine, but libraries offer so much more – the chance to interact with someone from outside your social bubble, take in a controversial exhibit that makes you think, or join a public meeting. What other institution can offer storytime for children, entrepreneurial services and financial literacy for adults, programs ranging from author talks to musical acts, and a place to work remotely or get on a Zoom call with people from across the world?

Perhaps even more significant is the role libraries play in spurring human creativity and lifelong learning. We know this personally. One of us, Brooks Rainwater, grew up in a small beach town in Florida where cities and the wider world seemed far away. But knowledge of what was going on in the world was right there at the Satellite Beach Public Library, and he devoured it. Richard Florida's most influential learning experiences occurred not in classrooms but in libraries. As a young child in elementary school in North Arlington, New Jersey, he read through the school library's modest collection before moving onto the public library. Every Saturday, his father would drive him to the Newark Public Library, where he would spend hours perusing the stacks, igniting his curiosity about cities and urbanism.

Cities are changing fast. Keep up with the CityLab Daily newsletter. Cities are changing fast. Keep up with the CityLab Daily newsletter. Cities are changing fast. Keep up with the CityLab Daily newsletter.

The best way to follow issues you care about The best way to follow issues you care about The best way to follow issues you care about

Enter your email

Please enter a valid email address

☐ Bloomberg may send me offers and promotions.

By submitting my information, I agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Libraries today are being designed and redesigned with these connective functions in mind. Take the case of Washington DC's newly renovated Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. For decades, the modernist masterpiece designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in 1972 was essentially a beautiful shell, with an aging and unwelcoming interior designed simply to house books. Since the renovations led by DC Library Executive Director Richard Reyes-Gavilan and designed by Mecanoo and OTJ Architects

were completed, its newly built cafe, high-ceilinged reading room, makerspace , auditorium, amazing rooftop space, and meeting rooms large and small have been drawing countless people in.

Helsinki's Central Library is yet another example. This forward-leaning space, which shares a courtyard with the Finnish Parliament House, was “built to serve as a kind of citizenship factory,” as CityLab's David Dudley has put it. Helsinki residents can enjoy the public space outside or take advantage of the myriad services on offer on its ground floor. Tommi Laitio, the former executive director of Helsinki's department of culture and leisure and currently a Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation fellow at Johns Hopkins University, told an interviewer from Bloomberg Cities Network that his primary focus was to listen to residents – especially those whose voices were rarely heard – and understand how public spaces like libraries could better serve them.

As Albert Einstein is reported to have said, “The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.” Those words ring ever truer today.

– *Richard Florida is University Professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and School of Cities. Brooks Rainwater is president and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council.*

The Aurora Museum & Archives is... *Guiding the Way!*

Founded in 1909, just one year after Lord Baden-Powell's original Scouting For Boys publication, the Girl Guides have been teaching life and survival skills to young women for over a century. This "Official Knife" of the "Canadian Girl Guides" (86.72.12) is the simplest form of a knife that was popular in civilian and military use from the early 1900s. This mid-20th century example would be hung off a Guide's leather belt, opposite a cylindrical survival whistle. The Marlin Spike, although vicious looking, was used to loosen knots, and spoke to their motto: Be Prepared!



Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

As a parent, I never censored what my daughter was reading or watching. I assumed she would grasp what she was ready to understand and hoped that she would ask questions if she needed background or explanations. I also made sure I was up-to-date with what she was reading or viewing, as these became the best conversation-starters around challenging topics.

The spark for conversation can come through books, but also through music, film, and art. Opening the door to critical thinking through the arts and media literacy provides children with the tools that will help them navigate the world and grow a sense of empowerment so that they can be part of a movement for societal change.

Currently on exhibit at Aurora Public Library (first floor, display cabinet) are three paneled canvases representing one joint image painted by children at the StArt Academy (Newmarket). The idea came about when two local Ukrainian refugees created a collaborative artwork and wanted to share it with others. This initiative gave birth to the opportunity to engage other children in painting these pieces together and create an even richer meaning.

Alexandra Reznik (artist/educator at StArt Academy) explained "When you immerse yourself in such a collaborative artwork you feel enriched and as if you are making a difference in a situation as difficult and heartbreaking as of the people of Ukraine right now. Even if that indifference is just living inside of you or you were able to touch another being with your own indifference. This event was not only fun but also educational for all of us. There is something extremely powerful in the energy of people of all backgrounds uniting as one to collaborate on something together."

I invite library visitors to view this exhibit with their children, to enjoy the beautiful artifacts generously provided by members of our Ukrainian community, and to read the background text about the cultural symbols depicted in the artwork.

While many of us would like to protect children from the harsh realities of the real world, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of teaching and supporting critical thinking about social, economic, environmental, and political issues. Children have more access than ever to the stories that fuel social media. Safe spaces, like schools and libraries, can give them the tools to question and become informed and active citizens.



This past week, I was proud to mark and celebrate my first year in elected office with my family, supporters, and my staff. It has been an honour to serve our community and to be your voice in Ottawa.

I have enjoyed meeting with so many people in our great riding and attending numerous events. I am constantly impressed by the dedication and service of so many individuals and groups in Aurora and Richmond Hill. Thanks to all of you who help to make our communities a better place to live.

On November 3, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Canada's Minister of Finance presented the 2022 Fall Economic Statement in the House of Commons. This plan continues building an economy that works for all Canadians. Amid economic uncertainty around the world, our government will continue to be there for Canadians, putting Canadians and their needs first, as well as ensuring that support is provided to those who need it most.

As part of our plan, we introduced legislation to provide a Canada Dental Benefit to children under 12 starting this year. Direct payments totaling up to \$1,300 per child over the next two years will be available. This is the first stage of the government's plan to deliver dental coverage for families with income under \$90,000.

Another measure to help address the affordability challenges facing Canadians is the top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit. This plan will deliver \$500 to 1.8 million Canadian renters who are struggling with the growing cost of housing. Those Canadians who receive a GST tax credit will have also received an additional payment to help with rising prices.



LEAH'S LETTER

Leah Taylor Roy, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

In addition, we are already putting more money back in the pockets of Canadians by: Enhancing the Canada Workers Benefit to support workers this year, with a couple receiving up to \$2,400 more this year, and single workers receiving up to \$1,200 more; Cutting regulated childcare fees in half on average for families in Canada by the end of this year; Increasing by 10% the Old Age Security (OAS) pension for seniors 75 years and older, starting in July 2022, providing more than \$800 in new support; Providing more support for students by doubling the Canada Student Grant amount until July 2023 and by waiving interest on Canada Student Loans permanently. An average student loan borrower will save \$410 yearly due to their loan being interest-free.

We will be there to help Canadians through the slowdown to come, we can do that because while we are compassionate, we are also responsible. I am proud that Canada has the lowest debt and the lowest deficit-to GDP ratio in the G7. Moody's reaffirmed our AAA rating with a stable outlook – we are one of only three countries with a Triple A rating.

In October, Canada gained another 119,000 full-time jobs

and there are now 513,000 more Canadians working today than before COVID first hit. Our economy has reached 102.6 per cent of the size it was before the pandemic. So far this year, our economic growth has been the strongest in the G7.

Our government plans to make smart investments to seize the opportunities of the green transition with major tax credits for clean technology and clean hydrogen, the launch of the new Canada Growth Fund, and with other important steps to grow our economy and create good jobs. We know these represent only a down payment on the work that lies ahead—to respond to the *Inflation Reduction Act*, and to ensure that Canada remains globally competitive and can lead the way in the global net-zero transition.

I hope the next few weeks will be a time of joy and preparation for the upcoming holiday season! I am personally looking forward to the Santa Under the Stars Parade in Aurora on Saturday November 26, 2022. I will be there with my team, and I look forward to seeing you there! Let's all support our local merchants this holiday season by shopping local.

Serving my constituents is what is most important to me as your Member of Parliament. If you would like to connect with me or require assistance, please send an email: leah.taylorroy@parl.gc.ca, or call Tel: 905-773-8358. The constituency office is located at Suite 202 - 12820 Yonge St, Richmond Hill ON, L4E 4H1. To keep up to date on my work as your MP or to learn about upcoming events, visit leahtaylorroymp.ca or follow me on social media. But of course, I look forward most to seeing you in person.

Stories from the municipal campaign trail

There is nothing in a campaign that beats door-to-door canvassing. It is where the action is. It is that time when the candidates and their emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

One can also gain a better understanding of the candidate by watching them deal with rejection, tough questions, voter anger or the occasional embarrassing situation.

One personal canvas story comes to mind.

A long number of years ago, I was alone on a nice Saturday morning canvassing on behalf of a candidate in Mississauga. I had just left one house and came out between two cars onto the next property when I saw it, or should I say, we saw each other. The German Sheppard was not very big – about six feet tall and seven hundred pounds!

The problem was that I was scared and the dog knew it. I turned away and ran down the driveway. Neither Ben Johnson nor Donovan Bailey would have caught me. Amazingly, the dog was well trained and he stopped at the end of his master's property.

The homeowner was in his white housecoat looking at me from his front window having a great laugh. He



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

then gave me a special hand gesture signifying, I guess, good will to all.

I, being the good canvasser that I was, placed a notation on the canvass form: "person at household really interested in policy, please send the candidate to discuss!"

Some anecdotes from the recent municipal campaign trail.

From a canvasser on behalf of one of the mayoralty candidates:

"I found myself to be in quite a good rhythm while going down the street, however when I knocked on one door, expecting to wait, the door swung wide open immediately, the resident blurted out "I love candidate "X"", he grabbed a flyer from my hands, bowed and said thank you. I was standing at the next doorstep in less than 10 seconds, with a smile on my face. "

From a first-time counsel candidate: "Everything is pretty much the same on the campaign trail, except of course, for

'Sign, Sign, everywhere a Sign', to quote the song. Between wind, vandalism and by-laws it's nearly a fulltime job to keep up with them."

One candidate has a novel approach to increasing voter turnout:

"I have been doing a silent survey on the number of pet owners, especially dog owners, and I feel that the dog population is well over 32% and quite vocal! This is equal to and if not over the last elections actual voter population turnout. So, my theory is that if we offered a real special dog owner treat incentive on election night, so as to try get them out, we'd probably top all expectations as to voter turnout overall in this election."

Obviously from one non-incumbent Council candidate:

"One guy said, 'All politicians are gangsters.' My wife said that her husband (me) wasn't a gangster because he wasn't a politician, yet."

From the same candidate: "To the question, why should I vote for him, my wife once said, 'If I can give him 30 years of marriage, you should be able to give him 4 years.'"

It is nice to see that we have our

Continued on page 14

What I've been reading:

The Case of the Murderous
Dr. Cream by *Dean Jobb*
Animal Person:
Stories by Alexander MacLeod
Her First Palestinian
by *Saeed Teebi*
Finding Edward
by *Sheila Murray*

Reccia Mandelcorn is the Manager, Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. The opinions expressed in this column reflect her personal thoughts about the engagement of community with their public library.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should indoor mask mandates be reinstated this fall and winter?

Yes No

www.theauroran.com

Previous Poll Results

Should combatting speeding be a top priority for the incoming Council?

RESULTS TO DATE	November 15, 2022	YES	NO
		55%	45%

Ukrainian refugees use art to raise awareness of conflict, culture



BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As he made his case for his illegal war, among the many claims of Vladimir Putin was that Ukraine had no culture of its own; but as the conflict rages on, new York Region residents who fled the country in the midst of Russia’s invasion are using art to underscore the country’s rich heritage and the true cost of war.

The resulting pieces are now on display through the end of this week on the main floor of the Aurora Public Library.

Comprising of three canvases, they represent one joint image created by Ukrainian refugees who have settled in Richmond Hill, along with the students at Newmarket’s StArt Academy.

The initial images were created by Anna Gutta-Ustymenko and daughter Veronika, a student at Rick Hansen Public School, who were among the first to leave Kyiv at

the outset of the war, forced to leave many family members behind.

“It’s been a big challenge for us,” says Anna, who initially found refuge in Poland before being invited by her brother to join them in Canada. “Every day is a challenge because every day we’re worried about Ukraine, about relatives, about my husband, and sometimes when we have find a connection with them it’s very hard because every day the news is not easy and what will be we don’t know. We know the words from Putin, but we hope, we pray, and from the start of summer, we started volunteering.

“We cooked Ukrainian dishes every weekend and sold the dishes and one time we collected \$9,000 - \$11,000 dollars. We not only pray but we do many things and we thought maybe the children might like painting like this project to show the people our traditions, let people know who we are, and remind people about Ukraine.”

Once the idea began to come together, Anna reached out to StArt Academy’s Alexandra Reznik.

“After they came with their artwork to the Welcome Centre in Richmond Hill, the

more they were talking about this idea, the more it was becoming richer in meaning,” says Alexandra. “Her daughter started to attend my studio in the summertime and we just thought this would be a place where we can all kind of collaborate and engage more people. It started with Veronika and then she shared it with the Richmond Hill Community Centre and with Anna we kept building on this idea. We wanted the painting to be done by everyone because so many people were interested in this opportunity and we had to create another artwork just to accommodate all the interested people.

“I empathize with all of these people and this is why I am connected to the culture. I was also born there so I have a lot of reasons to feel this way. When I talk to people in general, the majority of the people are completely clueless about it. It is hell everywhere, and it is true, and it is important to talk about all these little hells that are happening. It’s all about bringing out the truth. This is about awareness, a reminder that there are people in this community who are affected by this and here are just some things to know about the Ukrainian Culture the Russian Federation is trying to erase.”

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Snowball Hearth & Home (since 1983)

No Power, No Problem

Engineered to circulate air through natural convection, the Valor Smart Fire is a highly efficient Fireplace without a fan – providing reliable heat, even during a power failure. Burn Clean Engineered Green

WOOD • GAS • FIREPLACES • STOVES

1324 Wellington St. W., King City • 905-727-2392



Move-in Promotion Now!

Your perfect winter staycation awaits!

Leave the winter boredoms behind and enjoy the change of scenery.

At Richmond Hill Retirement Residence

- Full calendar of social & recreation activities
- Three freshly prepared meals daily
- Weekly housekeeping & laundry
- À la carte care services available
- And much more

RICHMOND HILL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH 

Call (905) 770-4704 to book an in-person tour!

70 Bernard Ave, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0W7. Visit us online at [VerveSeniorLiving.com](https://www.VerveSeniorLiving.com)