

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: June 20, 2024

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: June 11, 2024

SUBJECT: CEO Update – June 20, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- OPL and the Town of Oakville are currently negotiating with the top RFP proponent for the New Central branch project and an official announcement will be issued once complete.
- Newspaper Digitization Project has currently paused while OPL works out a number of legal questions.
- Halton District School Board is introducing a staffing change that will have an impact on White Oaks branch.
- Summer Reading Club launches on June 22, 2024 with a theme of "Out of this World"
- In partnership with the Oakville Community Foundation, OPL is hosting the Debwewin: Truth Project's Exhibit at 4 branches in recognition and celebration of Indigenous Heritage month (June).

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

New Central Library Update

Following the review of the 13 submissions to the RFP for Detailed Design of the New Central Library, OPL and Facilities Services staff interviewed the top 3 ranking submissions. All 3 proponents offered excellent reputations and demonstrated

extensive experience but one offered a clear vision for the project and a deep understanding and commitment to community consultation.

The Town of Oakville is currently negotiating with the top proponent and an official announcement will be issued once complete.

Sixteen Mile Construction Project

Construction on the new facility continues with visible changes happening every day. With the construction now in full swing, OPL is concentrating on working to solidify the furniture, collections and shelving for the branch as well as working through the staff requirements as part of the 2025 operating budget process.

Newspaper Digitization Project

The RFP for the Newspaper Digitization Project is complete but has been placed on hold while OPL works with the Town of Oakville's legal department to understand some legal concerns that have come forward through OPL's conversations with TorStar. More information will come to the board at the July board meeting.

Halton District School Board (HDSB) Staffing Changes

Halton District School Board provided OPL notice that they are planning to reduce the hours of their library staff at a number of school libraries including White Oaks Secondary School. The reduction will have a staffing impact on our White Oaks branch staff due to the fully integrated service model OPL and HDSB introduced in 2018. On June 14th, OPL CEO, Tara Wong and BPL CEO, Lita Barrie are meeting with Superintendent Aiman Flahat to discuss the impacts for both library systems and potential mitigations that could be applied.

Summer Reading

The Summer Reading Club is Canada's biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests, and all abilities. It's developed each year by the Toronto Public Library & supported by TD Bank with over 2000 public libraries delivering the program every year. The Summer Reading Club is designed to **inspire kids to explore the fun of reading** their way and specifically targeted at reducing the "Summer Slide".

This year's club runs from June 22 to August 31st and has the theme of "Out of this World"

Teens and adults are also invited to participate by logging their reading through the Beanstack app. Participants who complete the Beanstack BINGO challenge can enter a draw to win prizes.

Debwewin: Truth Project's Exhibit

In partnership with the Oakville Community Foundation, OPL is hosting the Debwewin: Truth Project's Exhibit at 4 branches over the course of June in recognition and celebration of Indigenous Heritage month.

The immersive exhibit features the history and culture of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation presented through community knowledge, archival documents, videos, and interactive components, which offer a better understanding of past and present Treaty relationships in what is now Oakville.

The exhibit will be at the following OPL Branches:

Central Branch until June 8th
Glen Abbey Branch from June 9th – 15th
Woodside Branch from June 16th - 19th
Iroquois Ridge Branch from June 22nd - 28th

Prepared and Submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO