

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: May 16, 2024

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: May 7, 2024

SUBJECT: CEO Update – May 16, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

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

- Submissions for potential architectural firms are being review for the New Central Library Project.
- Cognitive Care kits launched May 2, 2024
- On April 25, OPL hosted the Grand Battle on the Battle of the Books school competition.
- Friends of the Oakville Public Library will host their Spring Book Sale at Central Branch from May 23-25.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

New Central Library Update

The RFP for Detailed Design of the New Central Library closed with 13 submissions. The submissions were reviewed by a cross-functional team with representatives from both OPL and Facilities Services. The submissions were narrowed down and the top candidates will participate in interviews/presentations the week of May 20th. It expected that the successful firm will be onboarded in mid June.

Cognitive Care Kits

On May 2, the OPL introduced a new resource to support community members living with dementia and their caregivers—Cognitive Care Kits. Available for

borrowing, these kits are tailored to cater to early, mid, and late-stage dementia care. Each kit includes games, puzzles, and sensory aids designed to promote cognitive function and facilitate social interaction. Acclaim Health played a pivotal role in developing these kits for the OPL community. The kits are housed out of our Woodside Branch, but are holdable kits, and therefore available for pickup at all locations.

Battle of the Books Returns

After a multi-year hiatus due to COVID, Battle of the Books returned to Halton Region Public Libraries. Central Branch was buzzing with excitement on April 25, as it hosted the Grand Battle in this year's Battle of the Books. This competition brought together approximately 50 participants, from four different Oakville schools. The event also drew a lively crowd of parents and siblings, who came to support and cheer on the competitors.

This year's Battle of the Books saw spirited contests across two age groups. In the Junior category, St. Teresa of Calcutta emerged victorious, showcasing impressive literary knowledge and teamwork. The Senior category was dominated by St. Mary's, who clinched the title with their deep understanding and enthusiastic participation.

The Battle of the Books is a testament to the strength of literary engagement among young readers in our community and provides a platform for students to celebrate their love of reading in a fun and competitive environment. Congratulations to all the participants and winners of this year's Grand Battle!

Spring Friends of the Library (FOL) Book Sale

Mark your calendars for the return of the Friends of the Library Booksale set for May 23-25 at Central Branch. The FOL, a dedicated group of volunteers, organizes this event to support the enhancement of library programs and services. Shoppers will have the opportunity to browse thousands of gently used books, music, and DVDs, all available at a fraction of retail prices. The proceeds from the sale help OPL expand its services, programs, and spaces.

Sale hours are as follows:

- Thursday, May 23: 10 am – 7 pm
- Friday, May 24: 10 am – 4 pm
- Saturday, May 25: 10 am – 4 pm
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For more details about the Friends of the Library and the upcoming book sale, please visit opl.ca/friends.

Probus Club of Old Oakville

On May 1st, OPL CEO, Tara Wong presented to the Probus Club of Old Oakville. Her presentation entitled “**Adapting Roles: Libraries in Transition: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Opportunities**”. The presentation highlighted the successes of 2023, following by a discussion on Intellectual freedom, funding challenges, meeting the diverse and changing needs of the community. The presentation ended with a review of the key projects underway for 2024 (Expanded Book Bike program, New Sixteen Mile branch, New Central Branch project, Newspaper Digitization project).

Probus Club members then proceeded to ask several questions around the following topics:

- Library as literary repositories,
- Physical vs digital collections,
- Creation Zone technologies.

Prepared and Submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO