

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: February 20, 2025

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: February 11, 2025

SUBJECT: CEO Update – February 20, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

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

- Ontario Library Association SuperConference was held in Toronto January 29-Feb 1st with 32 OPL staff attending over the course of 3 days.
- Iroquois Ridge Community Center is currently undergoing renovations which will have varying impacts on the Iroquois Ridge branch over the course of the project, including a potential 1–2-day closure in mid-March related to the replacement of heat pumps within the branch.
- Construction for a region of Halton senior's housing development has started next to Woodside and is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.
- Congratulations to Shannon Piccoli, Manager, Program Development and Emma Primeau, Manager, Customer Experience (White Oaks/Woodside) who graduated from the PLLeaders program at a reception held during the Superconference.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Building Bridges – OLA SuperConference 2025

The 2025 Ontario Library Association SuperConference was held at the Toronto Metro Convention Center from January 29- Feb 1st.

This year's theme was Building Bridges. Through this theme we focus on not only building bridges, we also focus on bridging gaps. We commit to strengthening the fundamental goal of libraries as welcoming places for all. We commit to upholding our core values while dynamically responding to the changing needs of our communities. We commit to facilitating connections so that knowledge-sharing can take place.

OPL had 32 staff attend which included members of the DEI employee resource group participating in a panel along with Brampton Public Library entitled: From Vision to Action: The Role of IDEA Councils and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) in Driving Change.

PLLeaders Program

Congratulations to Shannon Piccoli, Manager, Program Development and Emma Primeau, Manager, Customer Experience (White Oaks/Woodside) who graduated from the PLLeaders program at a reception held during the Superconference.

The PLLeaders program is designed to prepare and support the next generation of public library leaders in the 21st Century, PLLeaders (formerly Public Library Leadership Fellows Program) brings together compelling case studies, foundational leadership principles, the sharing and mentorship of exemplary leaders, recent research, and the close collaboration of a national cohort of peers. This partnership of the iSchool at the University of Toronto and the Canadian Urban Libraries, offered successfully since 2012, is all about the future of Canada's public libraries and the changing communities they serve. Graduates are awarded the Certificate in Public Library Leadership by the University of Toronto.

The 15-month program is designed to engage seasoned library managers who have the desire and potential for the highest levels of leadership in public libraries. It exposes them to themes, experiences, and relationships to augment their preparedness. The Program combines frank and confidential sessions) with senior library executives, an instructional program with key learning outcomes, individual mentorship, and group work with peer leaders from across the country.

Construction next to Woodside

Construction has started at 1258 Rebecca St. which is next to Woodside branch. The Region of Halton development includes 14 semi-detached one-bedroom bungalows for seniors with supportive housing for homeless seniors with mobility challenges.

OPL is working with the Halton Region and the Town's Parks and Open Space department to try and minimize impact to Woodside throughout the construction phase which is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.

Renovations underway at Iroquois Ridge Community Center

The Iroquois Ridge Community Centre building is undergoing needed upgrades to its physical plant, including HVAC updates, new tiling, new customer service desk and extensive work done on the pool. Library operations are being impacted by four new heat pumps within the library, and tiling done outside of the branch main entrance.

To -date, the heat pumps in the program room and storage room have been replaced with little impact to workflow or customers. There are two heat pumps left to replace, and these will bring disruptions to service given their placement within the branch this will include 1-2 closure during the week of March 17th as jack hammering will be necessary to access the heat pump over the public washrooms located in the branch.

Access to the main library entrance may be blocked during demolition and installation of tiles in the IRCC hallway in April. OPL will working with IRCC to allow customers to access the library either via the Eastridge room or through the back staff doors of the branch. Communication to the public will be provided once more details for the tiling are finalized.

Prepared and submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO