

2017 Annual Review

2017 was a year of change, adjustments, improvements and some losses at the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library.

January

Jaye Bannon began her first full year as Interim CEO to cover during Sue Winfield's leave of absence. Members sitting on the Library Board at the beginning of the year were Dean Graff (Chair/Council rep), Pat Anderson (Vice chair), Bob Mullin (Council rep), Don Burr, Miranda DeJong, Shari Elson-O'Garr and Ashley Reid. We received written notice from Don Burr on January 6th that he was unable to remain on the Library Board due to health issues. We hired former student assistant Emilee Lawson on a temporary/casual basis to assist with the major task of continuing to barcode all library items in preparation for the new circulation software (Jasi) we were hoping to launch as soon as possible. Peggy Faulkner, former Stirling-Rawdon Public Library Librarian passed away on Dec 31, 2016. Her daughter Sue Carew informed the Library that memorial donations were requested to go to the Stirling Library in memory of her mother.

Regular programming and services resumed after the holiday break including the long running Read-With-Me Story Time, Stirling Library Book Club, Stirling Library Art Club, and Books-to-Go. We were also fortunate to display stunning art work by students at St. Theresa Secondary School featuring work by Bronwen Parr in the lobby display cabinet.

February

The data exports for all of the library's holdings were finally completed in February bringing us one step closer to using the long awaited Jasi Circulation system.

We had local comedian Timmy Boyle host an anniversary show at the library to celebrate his ten years in Comedy. A good turnout of guests attended and all proceeds that were collected by donation were given by Timmy to an orphanage in Uganda. Artist R.P.Gray of Marmora displayed his artwork in the Gallery through February and March.

Some building maintenance was performed in February including the replacement of a blower motor on the outdoor furnace by Marino's Heating. Oosterhof Electric/Avert Fire also performed an annual safety inspection where it was found that the extinguishers passed inspection, however, there was a deficiency in the sprinkler system and the battery pack for the emergency lights failed. A new battery was installed by Public Works and quotes were requested for the sprinkler system repairs.

Interim CEO Jaye Bannon presented the 2017 budget to Council on February 21, 2017.

March

March was a very busy month at the Library. Jaye Bannon was one of two community representatives who judged approximately 20 student speeches at Stirling Public School on March 1st. The Quinte Christian Homeschoolers held their first 'Project Fair' in the meeting room, leaving it open for patrons and members of the community to browse the displayed projects and allowing the students to answer questions or offer information about their research. The Women's Institute records were delivered to the Community Archives of Belleville & Hastings County located at the Belleville Public Library to keep them housed in a more suitable, climate controlled environment that is accessible to everyone.

The Library switched over to the Jasi circulation system during the month and the transition was smooth and problem free.

March Break programs were very well attended as in previous years. The children of the community had an opportunity to participate in Yoga, hosted by Creekside Yoga in Stirling; a terrarium project hosted by Dr. Judi Krzyzanowski of the Stirling Horticultural Society; Lego Club providing the kids with fun team-building activities and a Teddy Bear Picnic.

Work that was noted to be addressed by the Stirling Fire Prevention officer to meet Fire Code regulations was started, including drywalling in the back original stairwell.

April

We were fortunate to have a committed group of patrons come forward in April to express their interest in forming a 'Friends of the Stirling Library Group'. The group of six women introduced themselves to the Library Board during the April 2017 Library Board Meeting and explained their eagerness to help support the library through fundraising efforts, and to activate for the library in the community and promote awareness regarding the services and programs that are offered here. Also in April, we received a very generous donation in the amount of \$1000 from patron Kristina Schwartz to be put towards the planned Mural Project that was offered by local artist Andre Jolicoeur. The Stirling Book Club, which was started by the late Peggy Faulkner over 20 years ago, presented a beautiful painting by member Arlene Polluck in memory of Peggy along with a commemorative plaque. The Book Club also made a monetary donation to be used to purchase Canadian and Children's Literature.

Haley Letch joined our staff as a Temporary Part Time Desk Assistant on April 19th. Haley is a graduate of the Library Technician course at Durham College and is also employed part time at the Cobourg Public Library.

Local author Alex McNaught presented his book, A Place Called Wallbridge to a full room of guests on April 12. Alex's presentation included slideshow of photographs included in his book and a brief history of the town of Wallbridge spanning from the late 1700's to present. Also in April, a community planner with Hastings County Community and Human Services joined the parents attending the Read-With-Me program for a focus group discussion regarding the possibility of establishing an Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres in our county.

With the Capacity Fund grant we received this year, purchases of a Dell desktop computer, a Samsung monitor, access to Overdrive for the 2017 year, access to Ancestry for the 2017 year, a Wifi router and a small collection of young adult books were made. Computer technician Ed Pallo made some improvements and installed updates on our public computers, installed Jasi on our new desktop computer and installed the new router.

May

In May we received word that the Council of the Municipality of Centre Hastings had made the decision to terminate the service agreement with the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library and subsequently discontinue their \$2500 annual donation.

Quotes were received by NRG Alternatives to change all the lighting in the Library to LED in the hopes of substantially reducing energy costs while taking advantage of the expected grant incentive of over \$3000.

Aside from our regularly scheduled programming, we held a Self Defense class led by Rob Scott of R.A.D. Kickboxing in Stirling. We had a good turnout of people who were eager to learn effective hands-on strategies and ways to reduce risks.

June

Todd Hoselton of European Painters presented a very generous offer to provide his professional services to prepping and painting the Children's Department in preparation for Andre's murals with the Library covering the cost of the paint. Board Chair Dean Graff responded by offering to make a personal donation to the Library towards the paint purchase.

Also in June, patron and local musician James Reid presented the Library Board with a proposal to establish a Musical Instrument Lending Library (M.I.L.L) within the Stirling Library serving residents of municipalities in the southern part of Hastings County. A subcommittee for the M.I.L.L was formed with members including Bob Mullin, Ashley Reid, Jaye Bannon and James Reid.

Assistant Librarian Theresa Brennan and Jaye Bannon met with Bev Heuvig, Co-ordinator of the Good Baby Box that runs in the same manner as the very successful Good Food Box program through

Community Development Council of Quinte. The Stirling Library was added to their list of depots and a public information night was offered on June 27th.

The active Friends of the Stirling Library opened a Community Account at the Stirling BMO. They were also successful in receiving a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Food for Learning Foundation to implement a breakfast program which they named 'Brain Food for Kids' through the summer months. Jaye Bannon was invited to serve as a moderator at the annual Battle of the Books competition at the Stirling Public School on June 14th.

Pat Anderson attended the Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony at Stirling Public School on June 26th and presented the Stirling Library award to a chosen graduate.

July/August

The Summer Program ran through the months of July and August with several children participating in a variety of activities through the weeks. Fair craft projects were created every Wednesday morning and submitted to the Fair Homecraft Division for judging during the annual Stirling Fair. A Home Alone Course, a Babysitting Course and a CPR/First Aid course were all held in July and August, led by instructors from Be Prepared. Kids met every Thursday afternoon to participate in Pokemon battles and card trading. The Brain Food for Kids program initiated by the Friends of the Stirling Library ran every Wednesday and Saturday mornings and received a very positive response from the community. On July 22 we had a full house of children and families gathered in the upper room of the Stirling Theatre to enjoy a wonderful magic show by 'Cool Magic Show' of Brighton.

The Sprinkler system was repaired by Stan Kring of Kring's Fire Systems through Oosterhof Electrical on August 23rd with corroded pipes and joints and failed pressure gauge being replaced. A belt was replaced on the outdoor furnace on August 31st after Martino's completed their biannual inspection. On August 10th, the library participated in the Active Community Expo at the Stirling Arena to display some of the services that the library has to offer.

The M.I.L.L. subcommittee met on August 25th along with Assistant Librarian Theresa Brennan to discuss the next steps in establishing the Musical Instrument Lending Library.

September

We started September off with a Community Scavenger Hunt that was organized by the Friends of the Stirling Library on September 9th. We had approximately 70 people participate door prize winners went home with a great Family Movie Night/Pizza Party basket sponsored by Jim's Special Pizza and Pro One Stop. Fifty coupons for a free ice cream cone donated by The Scoop were also given away. We had tremendous feedback and hope to make it an annual event.

KB Electrical replaced all the lighting in the library to LED magnetic strips at the beginning of September in hopes to save a substantial amount of money on energy costs.

Local Comedian Timmy Boyle generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds from "The Circuit" comedy show on September 25th to the Library to be put towards the cost of purchasing a movie license. We started a new series of "Cook & Tell" events at the library in September with our first one being "Pie Bake-Off and Recipe Swap" we had several patrons participate who brought in their favourite pie and recipe to share with others.

There have been some significant changes in our Art Gallery over the course of the year; we received notice from our Art Gallery volunteers Lisa Nicholas who had been volunteering in the Gallery for seven years and Karin Boyle who had been volunteering for four, that they had both decided to give up their volunteer positions as of November 2017. We had three new volunteers come forward to express their interest in overseeing the Stirling Library Art Gallery and Esther Noel, Sarah Lanovaz and Yvonne Harrington met in September to start planning and discussing some of their ideas for the gallery. Their first item on the agenda was to give the Gallery a fresh coat of paint with a warmer colour on the walls to give the Gallery a more formal atmosphere and to help display the artwork more vividly.

We were saddened to learn that Lois Hunting, a long time patron of ours passed away in September. Many of her neighborhood friends made monetary donations to the Library in her memory. Her husband Allan relocated to Quebec to be closer to his family and the staff at the Library are going to miss both of them.

October

October was Library month and our annual fund drive. Many of our patrons offered monetary donations which totalled \$1020.00 and as always, we were extremely grateful for their support. To celebrate Library Month, Haley organized a Trivia Challenge on our facebook page and also within the library. Many of the questions were based on Stirling's history and the library's history. We received great response with a lot of people participating.

Haley began a series of Adult Craft Nights beginning with rustic barn board signs in October.

Approximately 20 people attended and were very eager to sign up for future workshops.

The Children's Department was patched, sanded and painted over the course of a week by Todd Hoselton of European Painters in preparation for the murals that Andre Jolicoeur will be adding in December. Also, Andre's father-in-law, a retired taxidermist, offered to bring "Morris" our Moose in the Children's Department back to his shop to be cleaned up and repaired. He was returned a week later looking much better as I'm sure it was the first time since 1920 he was attended to.

The Stirling Legion Branch 228 made a very generous donation to the Stirling M.I.L.L. in the amount of \$1000 to help with the costs that will be required to register as a non-profit organization and to receive charitable status.

November

The Library was quite busy throughout the month of November. Jaye Bannon attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies on Saturday Nov 11th and laid a wreath on behalf of the Stirling Library. Jaye also attended Tweed Public Library's re-accreditation audit on Friday Nov 17 to observe the process that was carried out by Peggy Malcolm from SOLS. Peggy and Jaye discussed the reaccreditation afterwards and decided that a six month extension should be requested for the Stirling Library's reaccreditation in order to complete a few key components.

The Art Gallery Volunteers gave the gallery a much needed paint job on Nov 18th, including a fresh coat on the window sills. The new colour created a much warmer atmosphere and allowed the artwork to stand out nicely on the walls.

Also on November 18th, the Millpond Chorus hosted 'A Night on Broadway' at St. John's Anglican Church. The proceeds from the evening's performance in the amount of \$1380.00 were donated to the M.I.L.L. and James Reid was in attendance to accept the presented monies on behalf of the M.I.L.L.

Children's Knitting classes began on November 18th led by patron and local shop owner, Shirley Campbell. Every Saturday morning for four weeks Shirley taught a handful of young girls the basic stitches and each child finished, or nearly finished a scarf by the end of the series.

The Library held its 11th annual 'Mittens for Kittens' mitten drive from Nov 1-Dec 8. We received over 250 mittens, hats, and scarves which were brought to the Community Cupboard to be distributed once again in the Christmas Sharing baskets. We are always so impressed with our communities generosity.

Dec

On Friday December 1 at 6:15 staff volunteered their time to open the library for the duration of the Christmas parade rather than entering a float. Public washroom facilities were made available and although limited, warm viewing areas at the front of the library were offered to those who wished to come in from the cold. Hot chocolate, tea and coffee were available on the main level. We received positive feedback and will likely continue to offer this on an annual basis.

The Art Gallery volunteers decided to host an Opening Gala Reception for each new artist that is displayed in the Gallery to allow patrons and members of the community an opportunity to meet the featured artist. Their first reception was held on Sunday December 3 for Sandra Lee Randle which was

very well attended. We continue to value and appreciate the help of past and present volunteers who take great pride in the Stirling Library Art Gallery and are so generous with their time.

On Dec 12, a dozen patrons took part in our first Christmas Baking Exchange where a variety of cakes, cookies, squares and recipes were shared amongst the participants to bring home. The feedback was positive and another Candy Exchange was planned for Valentine's Day.

On Dec 15th, Jaye attended Centre Hastings High School to take part in the 'Local Library Fair' that the staff in the Learning Commons organized for the students. A table was set up alongside other local libraries from Madoc, Marmora, and Tweed to display and promote the services that are offered to the students from our Municipality who attend CHSS. It was a wonderful way to connect with neighboring libraries, promote the Stirling Library and have a chance to get to know staff and students at CHSS.

We were absolutely thrilled to end the year by hosting a Grand Reveal party on December 19th to present the long awaited mural that Andre Jolicoeur and Fine Line Design had been working so hard on for the last year. We had a wonderful turnout of children, parents, board members and patrons who were eager to see the long awaited completed project.

Ongoing Programs

Read-with-Me: Our parent and toddler story time group have seen lower numbers this year but still a consistent attendance. Social time, free play, circle time with songs and stories, crafts and snacks are enjoyed every Wednesday morning.

Genealogy: We continue to receive the support and assistance from volunteers John Docherty and Phil Martin in our Local History Department every Wednesday evening from 6:00-8:00. These gentlemen are eager to help our patrons and members of the community start their genealogy research or provide tips and suggestions when searches come to a roadblock. Ancestry, the online resource that we subscribe to allows many of our guests to find many answers to their genealogy inquires.

Memory Café: On the third Wednesday of each month the Hastings-Prince Edward Alzheimer Society hosts a Memory Café here at the library. The social program involves persons with dementia, their families and others from the general public who are interested in learning about dementia.

Art Club: Andre Jolicoeur continues to offer a very popular Art Club program every Thursday night from 6-7pm. He usually has 8-12 kids of varying ages participate and a different theme is explored each month.

Pokemon: On Wednesday afternoons an informal Pokemon hour is enjoyed by 6-8 boys and girls. Games/Battles are played and cards are traded.

StirlingLibrary Book Club: Our Stirling Library book club meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 here in the library. Members each discuss a book that they have read that month with the others while also giving everyone a chance to socialize and enjoy each other's company.

Good Baby Box: The Good Baby Box and Good Food Box continue to be ordered by the first Friday of the month and delivered on the third Wednesday.

Adult Craft Nights: Adult craft nights have been well attended with one being held each month. Craft items have been donated by patrons and donations towards future craft nights have been offered.

Books 2 Go: Books are delivered to anyone who has a difficult time reaching the library. Currently we deliver to a couple of private residences as well as to patrons living at The Towers and The Stirling Manor.

Class Vistis/Daycare: Classes and daycares are always welcome and encouraged to plan visits to the library whether to explore freely or by arranging a themed storytime/craft with our Children's Librarian.

Proctored Exams: We have a number of students who utilize our library throughout the year to have their exams proctored.

Total Stats for 2017

Total Internet: 3604

E-books: 2994

ILL: 2119

Circulation: 25507

Staff (as of Dec 31,2017)

Sue Winfield: CEO (on leave since Sept 2016)

Jaye Bannon Interim: CEO/Children's Librarian

Theresa Brennan: Assistant Librarian

Sophie Noel: Student Assistant

Pearl Stone: Casual Relief

Haley Letch: Temporary Assistant

Volunteers (as of Dec 31,2017)

Jackie McFee: Shelving

John Docherty: Genealogy

Phil Martin: Genealogy

Sarah Lanovaz: Art Gallery/Friends of the Library

Esther Noel: Art Gallery /Friends of the Library

Yvonne Harrington: Art Gallery

Claire Bussell: Friends of the Library

Nancy Wren: Friends of the Library

Marilyn McCallister-Litte: Friends of the Library

Library Board (as of Dec 31,2017)

Dean Graff: Board Chair/Council Rep

Pat Anderson: Vice Chair

Bob Mullin: Council Rep

Ashley Reid

Deb Kooistra

Shari Elson-O'Garr

Miranda deJong