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## Seeking new and passionate trustees

The Hanover Public Library Board is seeking new and passionate trustees for the 2019-2022 term and is thrilled that you are thinking about being part of our committed team! To share in serving one of the most significant assets in our community is more than enough reward. Our library is a gatehouse for the full gamut of knowledge. The library expands our knowledge, introduces us to concepts, nourishes our wonder and dares our imagination. It welcomes, serves and benefits everyone.

As a trustee with the Hanover Public Library Board, you will become a well-informed advocate for our library and actively support efforts as we promote our library as a vital community hub and resource in the digital era. We are seeking new and passionate trustees to help us devise and execute our blueprint for the future. Attached in this package is a copy of our 2017 Annual Report, a succinct summary from the Ontario Library Association called "Choosing an Effective Public Library Board" and details on the process of applying to be a trustee.

*"After spending 4 years on the Hanover Public Library board I am now familiar with all that our library has to offer to the Town of Hanover. It promotes programmes for children, youth, adults and seniors. I already participated in the book sale and the card classes, but now I help with the Canadian Tire Plant sale and I attend many of the guest speaker sessions that are held at the Hanover Civic Centre. Strangers who walk in off the street can inquire about tourist information and they can sit down and use a computer if they need to do so as well. Our library is open to all."*

### Nuts and bolts of being a trustee

As a trustee, you will serve a four-year term. Every year there are 10 monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6 pm and lasting for about 2 hours. At the beginning of the term, there is an election for Chair. Every trustee nominates to sit on usually 2 of the 4 Board committees: Finance, Personnel, Policy and Strategic Planning; each committee meets as needed for anything from 15 to 90 minutes per month, or may conduct its business by email. From time to time, there may also be an ad hoc committee established for a specific purpose (e.g. Art Gala fundraiser). You should set aside about 4-5 hours per month for meetings, "homework" and fundraising activities (e.g. plant sale, book sale etc). A set of policies direct our actions. Every trustee makes a personal undertaking to carry out our duties: regular attendance at Board and committee meetings, accepting the library budget, adopting and amending policies when required, strategic planning, evaluating the library's objectives and accomplishments, and obtaining acceptable funding. [www.hanover.ca/documents-library/public-library-board-minutes](http://www.hanover.ca/documents-library/public-library-board-minutes)

*"I only joined the Library Board in February 2018 to fill a casual vacancy to the end of the term this year. However, during that short period of time I have been amazed with the services that the library provides. It is a true privilege to be associated with the other trustees and library staff in our endeavours to continue the magnificent legacy that is the Hanover Public Library."*

### Partnerships and fundraising

The library staff and Board consistently work with the community to support the needs of Hanover's residents. For example, we have partnered with the Saugeen Artists Guild, Canadian Tire and the Barons hockey team. Annually, some of the Barons, clad in their jerseys, read favourite books to delighted local children. The Saugeen Artists Guild collaborated with us in 2016 for the fundraising gala

event *Art Under the Stars* where art works were purchased via a silent auction and we hope to have an even more successful event on October 13 with *Art Beneath the Autumn Sky*. Trustees, staff and volunteers pitched in on the May long weekend at Canadian Tire for its plant sale. Earning \$1 for each hanging basket sold has enabled us to buy moveable bookshelves and colourful chairs for the children's area, transforming that space into a comfortable sitting area for story time. The library also participates in the Senior Games, the Sights and Sounds Festival and had a presence recently at the Hanover Raceway. The library communicates regularly with a column in *The Post* to inform the community of activities, materials and events that the library provides.

### **Fiscally responsible**

Our library shows fiscal responsibility by applying for grants and lobbying the province to increase annual funding. Our library applies for federal grants to hire summer students to extend children's events and programming at no cost to taxpayers. With another grant, we hired in 2017 a university student to implement technological tools and processes for the staff, freeing up more time to serve users. We also seek sponsorship from service clubs and businesses to support activities or purchase equipment, enhancing services beyond our municipal funding.

*"Being a member of the HPL board has given me an opportunity to meet many business supporters who live in our community. Their generosity is impressive and appreciated. Currently, I am excited to be involved in the 2018 library art gala. It is inspiring to know that the library has many volunteers who are willing to assist us in the various jobs required to put on an event of this magnitude."*

### **Social return on investment**

A recent study carried out by our CEO using the *Valuing Northern Libraries tool kit* found the 2017 social return on investment for our library was \$800 value to the community for every hour open. That is an \$8.86 return on each tax dollar the library receives. Total annual economic benefit in 2017 was \$4,648,404. Further, the tool kit showed \$497,899 annual value in cognitive and literacy development for children and youth. These figures are impressive and clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the library as a resource that benefits our community.

### **Library Service Model and Space Needs Study**

The *Library Service Model and Space Needs Study*, a consultant's report dated December 2015 and presented to Hanover Municipal Council, canvassed, among other things, the options that should be considered in relation to providing more library space. At the time of the study, over 2,000 library items had to be stored in the Archive Section in the Hanover Civic Centre due to a lack of space. The study found that 'The space that was developed in the 1997 renovation and expansion for the library was a significant shortfall of the requirements even at that time.' The study highlighted that the library does not meet certain requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. In addition, staff have to deal with cramped space for training. As a trustee, you will be called on to advocate for an expansion of the library to address our limitations.

Link to Study: [hanoverlibrary.ca/wp-content/uploads/20151214-Hanover-Library-Report-Final-optimized.pdf](http://hanoverlibrary.ca/wp-content/uploads/20151214-Hanover-Library-Report-Final-optimized.pdf)

*"I have only lived in Hanover a short time. Being a trustee for the Hanover Public Library Board gave me the opportunity to serve my community, the library CEO and staff, and my fellow trustees. It has been an amazing experience to serve them and to learn about the people and history of this great community."*

### **Still interested in becoming a trustee?**

We certainly hope so!!

Please email our CEO, Agnes Rivers-Moore, for an application at [arm@hanover.ca](mailto:arm@hanover.ca) or speak with her on 519 364 1420 ext 1244