



Board Update



South Mountain Friends celebrate 20th anniversary

The Friends of the South Mountain Library celebrated their 20th anniversary this year. To commemorate the occasion and thank the Friends for their numerous contributions to the Library, a plaque of appreciation was presented to the group at June's Library board meeting. The plaque will hang in the South Mountain Branch.

For the past 20 years, the Friends of the South Mountain Library have been strong advocates for library services in their community. The group formed due to a potential closure of the South Mountain Branch and raised an astounding \$108,000 for the building the library resides in today. Since its opening, the Friends raised an additional \$20,000, outfitting the Branch with numerous improvements such as a kitchen, projector, and area rugs.

Due to diminishing fundraising needs, the Friends voluntarily revoked their CRA charitable status and donated their remaining funds. The Library purchased a TV and gaming set-up and a coffee/tea station with the funds for patrons to enjoy.

The Friends added that they will continue to work closely with library staff so the facility remains the heart of their South Mountain community.

SDG Library goes fines-free

In a move to provide more equitable and accessible service, SDG Library has eliminated overdue library fines as of June 25, 2024 and forgiven all existing fines.

SDG Library joins over 100 libraries across Ontario alone in transitioning to a fine-free system. Library fines can be a significant expense to those with low or no income and are shown to cause people to stop using the library.

Anyone with existing fines will have the amount removed from their account. In 2022, SDG Library removed late fines from its children's material.

"The decision from our Board means more people across SDG Counties will have access to reading and educational materials, with no fines restricting their ability to read, watch, or listen to the items in our collection," said Rebecca Luck, director of library services. "A big thank you goes out to staff and the Board for their vision of a fines-free library system."

An exception to the fines-free movement is interlibrary loan materials, which are materials borrowed from other libraries in Ontario. Fees for lost and damaged items will also remain in effect.

Although the change means no late fines will be accrued, the Library asks that items be returned on time so that others may enjoy them as well.

Reminders by email and/or phone will continue to be sent to borrowers.

MAY-KER MONTH: Programs engage SDG

To introduce SDG Counties residents to the technology available for public use at the Finch MakerLab, the MakerLab hosted creative programs throughout May. Over four weeks, patrons designed tote-bags, crafted mugs, and more. All 80 potential slots were full, with a 94% attendance rate. Compared to April, May saw a 54% increase in bookings and visits.



Annual Report distributed

SDG Library's Annual Report is now available to be read online! As of July 6, the Annual Report will be accessible at all branches. The 8-page document highlights the successes of the Library in 2023, including a 20% increase in cardholders and a 24% increase in circulation.

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2024 at Maxville Branch