

# Weston Public Library

Annual Library Service Plan Review  
FY 2020-2021



Fiscal year 2020-2021 represented the final year of a 3-year plan outlining activities for our library. This year continued the pandemic roller coaster that was FY 2019-2020. Plans were often changed or scrapped completely at the last minute. We had the opportunity to hone our ability to handle change.



# Our Goals for 2020-2021

- To enhance life for adults in our rural community through library programs and services
- To promote literacy and a love of reading for all ages
- To create a robust environment for digital inclusion in the community

What community needs did our goals meet?

# The need for adults to find educational and social opportunities, and to assist them with quality of life issues.

## Adult programs 2020-2021...

We recruited a new Library Board member, who joined the ranks of our other loyal members



Social media posts kept patrons up to date on new library materials



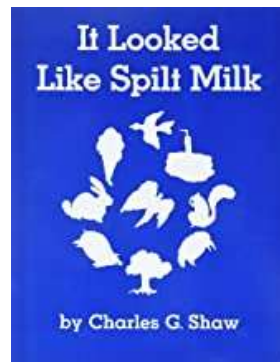
Helping community members access library materials and services during the pandemic included home delivery

The need for citizens of all ages to recognize that reading is a huge aspect of our culture and a key life skill that benefits everyone



**“Novel Readers”** met monthly, 15 years and going strong!

**Story walk** was short-lived...  
ours disappeared.  
We will try again!



**Summer Reading** was fun this year!  
Total attendance for Art in the Park was 131!



# To create a robust environment for digital inclusion in the community

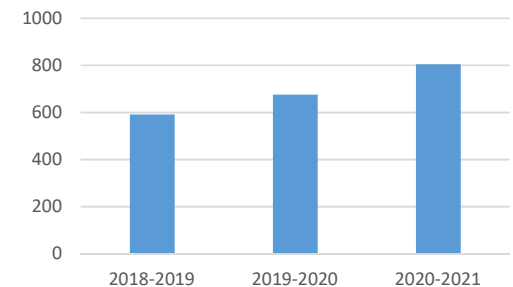
With limited access to the library building at certain times due to Covid restrictions, people made good use of the wifi. It reaches the parking spots in front of the library. A number of people use the wifi in the privacy of their vehicles.



City of Weston granted franchise licenses to three broadband providers, thus providing options to residents for the first time.

Digital downloads of audiobooks and e-books via Library2Go continues to increase.

Library2Go Circulation Weston Public Library

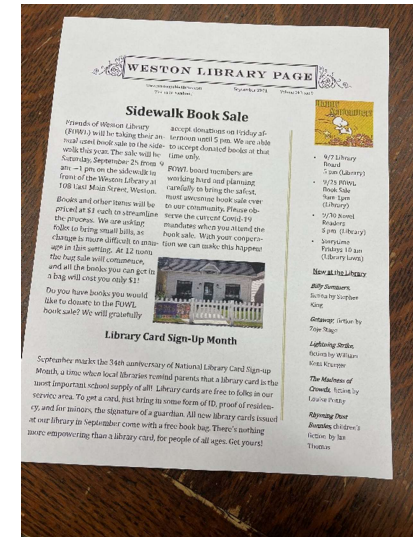


What goals did we  
accomplish in FY 2020-2021?



# Priority: Adult Programs

- Offered 12 monthly Novel Readers book group sessions, in a variety of venues which included outdoors, in a large church fellowship hall, and eventually in the library
- Provided “fence” delivery of library materials during Covid-19 shutdown, continuing when the library reopened when requested
- Published and distributed monthly “Library Page” newsletter, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year
- Delivered library materials to the homebound
- Published regular Facebook posts promoting new materials and services



# Priority: Youth programs

- Patched together a total of 12 kids' programs, in spite of pandemic complications, with 521 attending
- Conducted in person preschool storytime sessions when weather permitted outdoors
- Provided materials to support home school



## More Youth Programs...

- Arranged for kids to see Santa and provided a photo op through the big window at City Hall, with librarian handing out treats and books from the sidewalk
- Held Summer Reading Program, presenting in-person Art in the Park, virtual programs, and take-home kits
- Collaborated with Athena Public Library to create themed book bags for all Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> graders



## Priority: Technology



- Provided free public access to internet or wifi, 24/7... essential during library and school closures
- Provided free access to digital content in the library and remotely
- Promoted subscription databases to the public, i.e. Gale databases and Library2Go
- Provided one on one computer help to patrons
- Provided assistance with access to *Weston Leader* and Weston Public Library Historic photo collection, now available online

## Library Policies Updated and Revised

During fiscal year 2020-2021 the Weston Public Library Policy document was reviewed section by section in Library Board meetings. Changes were made, and elements were added. When the Library Board was satisfied with the document, it was submitted to the City Council for approval.





# Challenges in meeting the year's goals:

Mostly due to the pandemic...

- Limited patron access during opening stages
- Extra decontamination and cleaning tasks
- Cancelled programs and changed venues for safety
- Public access to computers was limited
- No in person training opportunities for staff
- “Everybody Reads” did not happen due to limits on in-person events
- After school programs did not happen, except for a few outdoor events and take-home kits
- Trying to keep pandemic politics out of the library
- Working to provide library service in a time of divisiveness and frustration

# How did we create access for everyone?

- We have a robust broadband internet service which allows users to access the Library's wifi from the street, sidewalk, lawn and inside the building. This service is available 24/7.
- We are committed to continuing curbside delivery for any patron who requests this service. To date this has been helpful for library users avoiding indoor spaces, and folks with limited mobility. A few people have asked for their library materials to be delivered to their vehicle during inclement weather.
- We deliver library materials to the homebound.
- We have evening hours two days per week to accommodate different schedules.
- We have digitized our historic photo collection and Weston Leader newspaper collection. Both are available for remote access from our website.

Library and Community Partners Included...



## Friends of Weston Library

Friends of Weston Library (FOWL) was established as a 501 (c) (3) in January 2000. In late summer 2020, FOWL planned for their used book sale, which was to be reinvented as a sidewalk sale. The sale was cancelled at the last hour, due to hazardous air quality caused by forest fires.

During the past year, FOWL has tracked and managed all memorial donations to the library. These donations were used to purchase special collections, finance upgrades to the library facility, and pay for programming.

These hard working FOWL Board members are a great source of support, inspiration and advice. What would we do without them?



## City of Weston

Weston City Council and City of Weston staff members continue to be champions of library service in our community.

The City of Weston has historically provided generous financial support to its library. For FY 2020-2021 the City contributed about 30% of the Weston Library budget.

The Library is a recognized department of the City. Public Works maintains the library grounds, and in FY 2020-2021 an underground sprinkler system was installed.



## UCSLD

- ✓ *Tax distribution*
- ✓ *Courier services*
- ✓ *Take-Off Program*
- ✓ *Training opportunities*
- ✓ *Sage membership*
- ✓ *Library2Go membership*
- ✓ *Technical support*
- ✓ *CS Jackson Grant admin*
- ✓ **MORAL SUPPORT!**





## Athena-Weston Schools

We arranged a successful collaboration between the Athena and Weston Public Libraries and our school district, aimed at getting books into the hands of all kids. Using Ready to Read funds, book bags containing give-away books were delivered to 280 students in the spring of 2021.



## Our UCSLD Library Partners

We do a pretty good job of supporting each other in good times and not so good. Help is just a phone call away when the shared library catalog isn't responding the way it should, if we need advice on equipment replacement, or just could use a few more "green bags."



# How did we increase awareness of UCSLD support?

- We reminded City and Library officials of the benefits of membership
- We informed new library card holders of the greater network they can access
- We submitted events to the UCSLD calendar
- We applied the UCSLD logo where appropriate



## How can the UCSLD continue to support district libraries?

- By continuing to provide a platform for communication between staff members (Zoom)
- By providing local training opportunities and staff inservice
- By continuing to provide cataloging and technical support
- By continuing to provide funding for the Sage system and databases
- By advocating for library service in our communities, i.e. attending city council meetings or budget proceedings when applicable
- By providing equitably distributed funding to all District libraries