



Library Board Report

To: Newmarket Public Library Board

From: Tracy Munusami, C.E.O.

Date: November 20, 2024

RE: The Lendery at Newmarket Library

Overview

The Library Board requested information about the Lendery at the October 16, 2024, Board meeting.

Recommendation

That the Board receive the report for information.

Background

The Lendery, a unique collection at the Newmarket Library, launched in 2020 in partnership with York Region. Its primary goal is to reduce waste by encouraging the sharing of useful items typically needed only occasionally, such as tools, sports equipment, board games, and small kitchen appliances. Since its inception, The Lendery has expanded through partnerships, including collaborations with NewmarketCycles, which provides community access to bicycles, and RONA+, which has donated valuable tools to the collection.

Overview of the Lendery Collection

The Lendery collection currently comprises two hundred and eighty items, covering a wide range of practical, educational, and recreational needs. Items include useful household tools, technology, educational resources, and toys to provide entertainment. Unique items in the collection include a HappyLight for seasonal wellness, an air compressor, and a pickleball set, which appeal to diverse interests within the community.

It is mainly community-driven, with items either donated by residents or purchased by the library based on community needs and requests. This approach ensures that the Lendery remains relevant and responsive to community interests. Library staff enthusiastically curate displays to highlight popular and seasonal items. The collection is prominently featured in two cabinets with glass doors at the front of the library, on the main floor. Staff have also relocated the ever-expanding collection of board games to shelving units by the washrooms on the main

floor, allowing more items to be displayed. Staff identified storage space for the remaining items, keeping the Lendery organized and appealing to customers. Additionally, photos of all items in The Lendery collection are posted on the library's website, making it easy for customers to browse the collection online, plan their loans, and place holds.

Popular and Least Popular Items

The Lendery collection reflects a range of interests, as shown by the circulation data for 2024 (January 1 - November 11). The following items had the highest and lowest circulations, providing insights into what resonates with the community and areas for potential adjustment.

Top Circulating Items

- Newmarket-Opoly - 55 circulations
- Ontario Parks 2024 Commercial Vehicle Permit - 48 circulations
- Guess Who - 42 circulations
- Lego Mindstorms Education EV3 - 35 circulations
- Codenames - 34 circulations
- Sorry! Sliders - 33 circulations
- Battleship - 32 circulations
- DeWalt (184 mm) Circular Saw - 32 circulations
- HappyLight Alba (light therapy lamp) - 31 circulations
- Oster Belgian Waffle Maker - 31 circulations

These top items reveal a demand for family-friendly games, seasonal equipment, and specialty tools, underscoring Lendery's role in supporting varied recreational and practical needs.

Lowest Circulating Items

- Large Adult Helmets
- CH Hanson Chalk Reel (chalk line maker)
- Protection Glasses
- Hex Key Set
- Child's Helmet
- Bicycle Floor Pump Without Gauge
- All Sport Ball Maintenance Kit
- MLBA Deluxe Four-Piece Throw Down Rubber Baseball Set
- Items stored at Newmarket Cycles - Rock Lock Bicycle Lock, 12" Run Bike, Giant XTC Lite Youth Bicycle, Trail-A-Bike Kids Add-on

Several low-circulating items, particularly cycling-related, are stored at the NewmarketCycles location. This location operates seasonally, open only from May to November and two days per week, which may contribute to the low circulation of these items. Future considerations may include assessing community interest in these items.

Community Impact

The Lendery's impact extends beyond waste reduction by promoting a circular economy and offering access to items that might otherwise be financially inaccessible for some. The collection empowers community members to try new experiences and meet essential needs affordably. Customer feedback highlights the meaningful ways in which these items have supported residents:

- **VictorReader Digital Talking Book Player:** One family borrowed this device for their grandmother, who had been diagnosed with vision loss. Staff introduced them to this resource and to CELA (the Centre for Equitable Library Access), providing options that made a difference for their aging family member.
- **Waffle Maker:** A mother borrowed the waffle maker to make homemade waffles with her son without purchasing a machine that would only be used periodically.
- **Puzzles:** A customer visiting her parents, who have dementia, found the Lendery's puzzle selection excellent for engaging them in a positive and stimulating activity.
- **KitchenAid Mixer:** One patron was excited to access a KitchenAid mixer for holiday baking, a seasonal activity that became more affordable and accessible through The Lendery.
- **Games:** Grandparents borrowed several games to enjoy with their grandkids during a visit. They appreciated the variety available and the ease of borrowing and returning items at their convenience.

These stories illustrate the Lendery's role in enriching lives, fostering family connections, and supporting sustainable living. The collection continues to enhance the well-being of Newmarket residents, embodying the library's commitment to meeting the needs of the community.

Final Remarks

The Lendery continues to be a community-driven collection at Newmarket Public Library, providing residents convenient access to useful, engaging, and often cost-prohibitive items. From practical tools to family games and educational resources, The Lendery has enriched lives, fostered family connections, and supported sustainable practices in the community.

Looking ahead, library staff will evaluate items with low circulation to optimize available space, allowing for better alignment with community needs. This may involve purchasing or seeking donations of high-interest items based on community feedback, ensuring the collection remains relevant and valuable. By adapting to the community's evolving needs, The Lendery will continue strengthening its role as a resourceful and sustainable service, meeting Newmarket's unique needs for years to come.