

Outreach program touches community

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One program at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library has been having an impact for those in the community who can't get out and about during the pandemic.

Lyla Sleno, a patron of the Library's Outreach Program, recently sent a letter to the library expressing her gratitude.

"Hello. I am 94 years old and have been in self-isolation now for 163 days," says Sleno in the letter. She mentions her gratitude for her children who are there to help her out with picking up medication and groceries.

Then she goes on to thank her travelling librarian, who has helped her escape the four walls she has to stay in.

"I am an avid reader and the books [she] brings me, take me to another world and I travel back in time. This is the way I am able to cope with this bad situation and remain happy, healthy and strong," says Sleno.

Leah Sanderson of the Drayton Valley Library, says the Outreach Program has been helping people who can't make it to the library for years. She says the patrons they help include seniors and some people who are homebound due to medical issues.

"A lot of people aren't aware about [the program]," says Sanderson. She says those who are part of the program have access to any material in the library in the same terms as those who can come to the library.

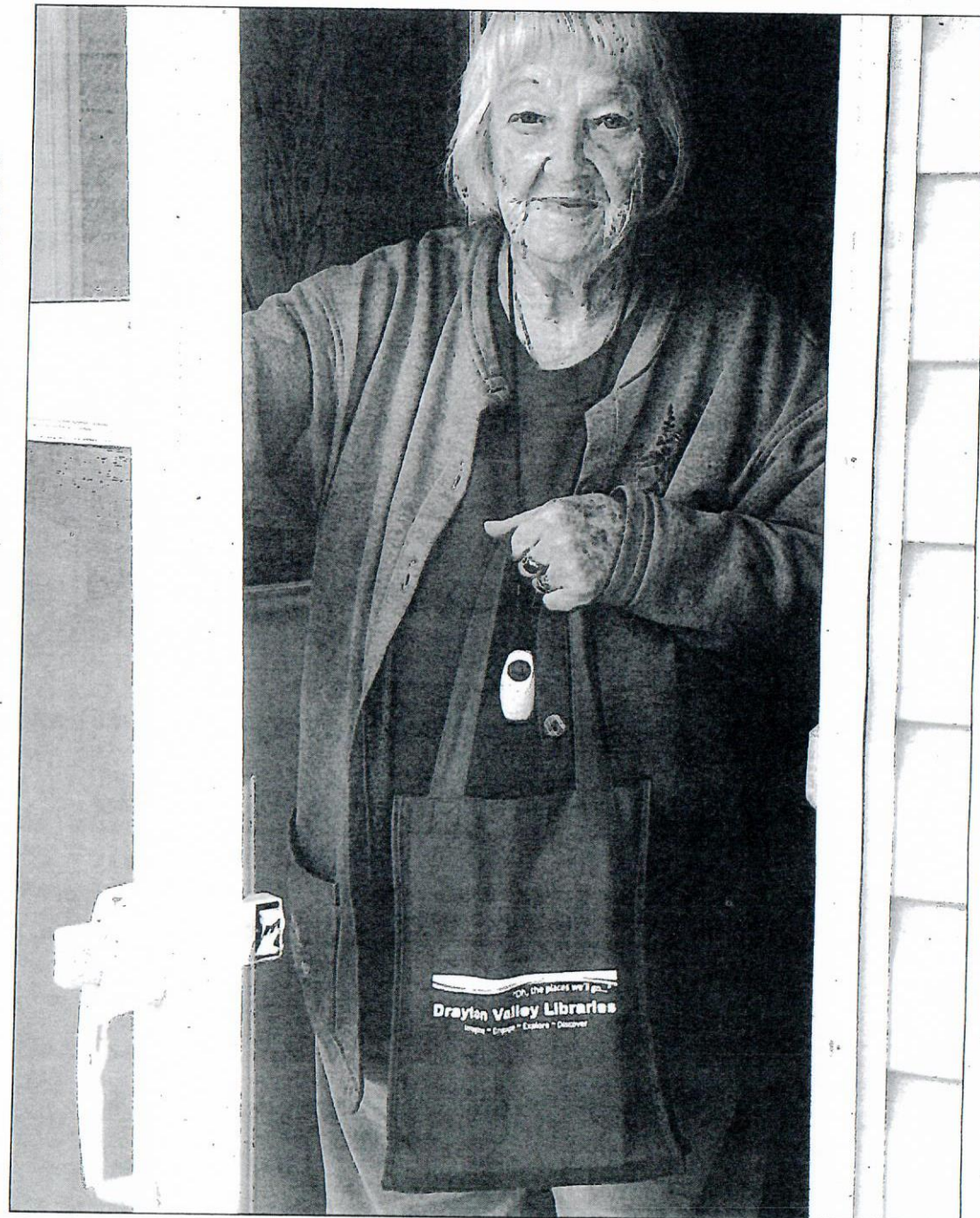
Sanderson says they usually go out every three weeks and meet with the patrons. "We would discuss books and get to know them," she says.

Before Covid it was an in-person service and Sanderson says there have had to be some minor adjustments due to the restrictions. However, the recipients are still enjoying books from the library.

"The recipients love it. They just love it because they can't get out to the library and they love to read," she says.

Sanderson says one patron who is visually impaired has gone through twenty audiobooks. She said these audiobooks are offered through Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) which can be played on their DAISY readers.

Also on offer are books in large print or regular print, DVDs, music CDS and other media. Sanderson says they can order any book through their library network, just like they would for someone who can come into the library and request one. Recipients are also allowed to renew the books, just like other library users.



Local resident Lyla Sleno says the library's outreach program has helped her to remain happy, healthy and strong.