

# Library Board's five year plan of service presented to Town Council

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At their May 12 regular meeting, Drayton Valley Town Council heard a presentation by Municipal Library

Director Douglas Whistance-Smith regarding the Library Board's Five Year Plan of Service from 2021 to 2025.

Whistance-Smith stated that the average age of residents in Drayton Valley is 35 years, but it's the children in the community who are suffering the most throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

With the Library Board's decision to close the Rotary Children's library and move the materials into the Municipal Library, Whistance-Smith stated to Council, "It's a very, very pinched space."

He went on to say that when the library reopens in the future, it's a priority to make sure the facility is addressing the needs that the

Board sees.

"Early literacy is vital," said Whistance-Smith. "We know we are being accessed by people who



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are marginalized."

He added his view of what a library is - both exclusive and inclusive, and should be about fun

and freedom.

Priorities defined in the Plan of Service provide a realistic response to the identified community needs: A Place to Connect; Physical Social Space; Welcoming Faces; Inclusive Access to Services; Satisfy Curiosity: Resources for Learning and Leisure; and Culture of Community: Programs for Living and Lifestyle.

Whistance-Smith also reported the library will be holding a summer reading program outside on the front lawn with tents set up in case of rain.

During the question period following the presentation, Whistance-Smith was asked about electronic materials and whether there was a budget for them. He replied there was a budget for the materials because the electronics can only be used 24. Last year's budget for them was \$3,000 but will go up for this year.