



2021-2022 BUDGET

OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

LIBRARY SERVICES

Introduction

The Township of Oro-Medonte contracts for library service from the following three area library boards on fixed cost service agreement:

- Barrie Public Library
- Coldwater Library
- Midland Public Library

As a result of these contracts, the residents of the Township of Oro-Medonte are provided with free library service at any of the three libraries.

In 2016, the Township re-established a contract with the Orillia Public Library which would provide free membership to residents of the Township on annual fee per membership. Staff are currently working with the Orillia Library Board to reinstate a fixed contract consistent with other library service contracts.

The Library Services Act requires a Municipality to provide Library services that are free of charge to its residents.

Library Statistics (Oro-Medonte Residents):

Library	Cost 2020	Increase	Cost 2021	Increase	Cost 2022	Projected future cost of contract	2019 Stats	Trend (2018-2019)	2020 Cost per Member (2019 stats)
Midland	\$5,515.00	2%	\$5,625.00	2%	\$5,738.00	2%	261	Increase of 3.5%	\$21.55
Coldwater	\$18,699.00	0.00%	\$18,699.00	0.00%	\$18,699.00	2%	420	Increase 6%	\$44,52
Barrie	\$188,662.00	2.5%	\$193,322.00	3.50%	\$200,152.00	5%	1439 Active Members	Decrease of 6.8%	\$134.00
Orillia	Cost per member \$44.13 2020 projected YE = \$75,356 \$32,356 Y/E projection and 43,000 to library reserve.		\$75,000 Proposing reinstatement of a fixed contract to be negotiated	8%	\$81,000	To be negotiated	1595	Increase of 5.4% from 2018	\$47.00

Benchmarking Library Operating Expenses (2019 FIR statistics):

Municipality	Population	2019 Library Operating Expenses (\$)	2019 Cost per resident
Gravenhurst	12,311	\$ 899,774	\$ 73.09
New Tecumseth	34,242	\$ 2,128,859	\$ 62.17
Wasaga Beach	20,675	\$ 832,978	\$ 40.29
Ramara	9,488	\$ 453,785	\$ 47.83
Midland	16,894	\$ 1,580,146	\$ 93.53
Scugog Twp	17,382	\$ 907,759	\$ 52.22
Oro-Medonte	21,036	\$ 279,174	\$ 13.27

Environmental Scan:

- Township residents accessing Library services in Orillia are pleased and express gratitude to have these services re-instated. Residents have enthusiastically taken out memberships and are engaging in Library programming. To address the disparity in contracts between Barrie and Orillia, staff are proposing the establishment of a Library services reserve fund and are negotiating a long term agreement with the Orillia Public Library.
- Technological advancements are transforming traditional media. In 2010, the University of Texas opened the world's first bookless library. Canadian Universities have followed suit with the majority of journals and periodicals available online in electronic format. In 2013, San Antonio, Texas opened the first bookless public library, gaining global attention and interest. To put things into perspective, the cost of a high quality e-reader is approximately \$80. While this is clearly the way of the future, it is unreasonable to assume this will fill the current need for traditional libraries as demographics and the availability of internet present barriers. With the high cost of traditional "bricks and mortar" libraries and municipal funding pressures it is likely that there will be a continued movement towards more partnerships and electronic options for service provision. This may also lead to greater options for satellite locations remote access to services once reserved within the walls of a library.
- *Electronic Options* – The use of digital online resources continues to increase. For example, the Barrie Public Library has seen a 25% year over year increase in use since 2016. Accordingly, digital collections and investments in technology continue to grow. These resources are valuable to Oro-Medonte residents due to the ease of access to the collection without having to visit a branch. Many of the services are subscription and utilization based, which are a significant variable cost driver for libraries. For example, a library may be charged an amount as high as \$2-\$3 for the download of a new movie. Accordingly, the digital resources available through the larger libraries such as Barrie and Orillia are significantly greater than Midland and Coldwater given their scale and resources.
- As Municipalities continue to face financial challenges, there will be continued pressure to reduce costs and/or increase revenues. While doing things differently i.e. electronic services will result in improvements with both efficiency and effectiveness,

there will be continued risk and uncertainty surrounding the fees associated with contacted/non-resident fees in surrounding communities.

- Following the Provincial Regional Government Review in 2019, the County of Simcoe is currently conducting a comprehensive structure and administrative review for efficiencies and coordination of Library Services across the County and its member Municipal partners.
- Technology and Statistics – Libraries continue to optimize their technology for efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, more sophisticated software is being implemented to provide better data on usage patterns and user preferences.
- Libraries continue to evolve their programming to remain relevant to community needs and have taken on more literacy, educational, recreational and cultural programming. This trend is expected to continue as the Province continue to focus on the establishment of community hubs.

