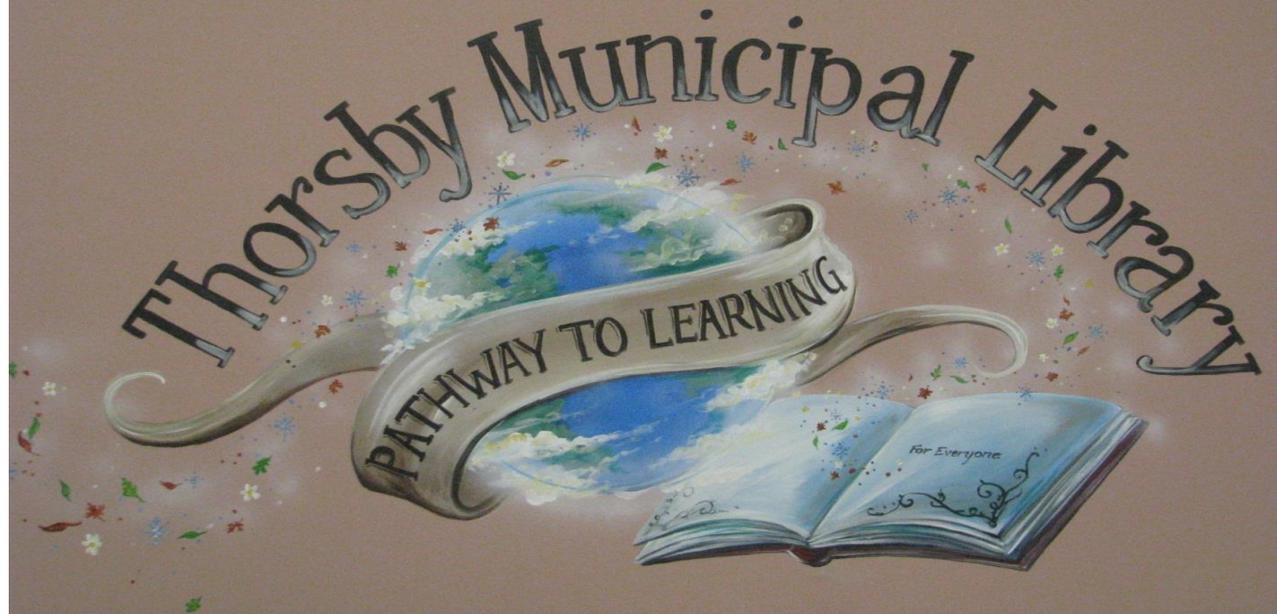


Thorsby Municipal Library

Plan of Service 2017-2022

Approved by the Town of Thorsby Municipal Library Board April 19, 2017





Library: History & Present

The Thorsby Municipal Library was founded through the hard work of dedicated community members who believed a library would benefit Thorsby and area residents. The Thorsby Library was originally run by a group of women from the United Church and consisted of books gathered from personal and family collections. In 1970 the Library joined the Yellowhead Regional Library and moved to an old school to share space with the Thorsby Kindergarten and the Action Center. By 1978 the library had grown to have 170 members and a collection of 5,000 books. The Library moved to the Arctic Spas Recreational Complex in 1984 and continues to serve the community from this location.

In 2016 the Library was open an average of 30 hours each week, employed 6 part-time staff, housed a collection of 9,900 materials, ran 68 programs was visited 10,450 times by community members, and had 632 members.

Over the last 50 years the Thorsby Municipal Library has continuously worked to meet the diverse and changing literacy and cultural needs of the community. Thanks to the dedicated work of staff, volunteers and board members, the Library has a strong presence in the community and continues to offer programs, resources and service to all ages.

The Thorsby Municipal Library used Sandra Nelson's *Strategic Planning for Results* process to identify the needs of the community and resulting library service priority responses for its strategic plan. Under this process efforts were made to engage a spectrum of residents, including those who use or do not use library service, to ensure that the Thorsby Municipal Library's 2017-2022 Plan of Service adequately represented the community needs as a whole. A Community Planning Committee (CPC) was formed consisting of 6 members who met for an evening of strategic thinking which included; describing what an ideal Town of Thorsby would look like, identifying current strengths and weaknesses of Thorsby as well as potential opportunities or threats that are unique to this community, and identifying which community needs fit best with the range of library service responses. A community survey was also created and gathered more than 140 responses.

The Town of Thorsby Municipal Library Board then met and used the data and community needs identified by the CPC and the community survey responses to prioritize the library's role in the community over the next years.

The following were identified by the Library Board as the priority library service responses that would best meet the community needs through the next plan of service period:

1. Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services
2. Make Career Choices: Job and Career Development
3. Stimulate Imagination: Accessing Programs and Materials for Pleasure

The Thorsby Municipal Library would like to thank all the participating CPC members, those who answered the Community Survey, the Town of Thorsby Municipal Library Board, the Thorsby Municipal Library staff, the community of Thorsby and surrounding area, and Yellowhead Regional Library for their participation and support through this planning process.



Plan of Service Process & Acknowledgements



Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services

Residents will have a central source for information about the wide variety of programs and services offered by community organizations. The Library will also work collaboratively with other agencies to better serve residents.

Objectives

The Library will make monthly updates to electronic and physical community resources (e.g. announcement board, community webpage, Facebook).

The Library will partner with at least five different community organizations to offer programs or services.

The Library will increase its presence in the community by attending at least two community events (e.g. school presentations, community awareness, local agency meeting) each year.

Activities

Staff will establish relationships with other community agencies and learn about the services they offer.

Staff will utilize an in-library announcement board and assist Town employees in maintaining a community resources webpage which community organizations can use to increase awareness of services, promote events, and seek volunteers.

The Library will partner with local groups and organizations to offer unique programming like guest speaker events and community information sessions.

Promote Library services and programs to community through many avenues including; social media, print media, events held at Library, community presentations, etc.

Make Career Choices: Job and Career Development



Adults and teens will have the skills and resources they need to identify career opportunities that suit their individual strengths and interests.

Objectives

The Library will host at least one event each year that focuses on career development and post-secondary education opportunities.

Increase library's collection of materials that focus on career development (e.g. resume writing, interviewing, study guides) by 15%.

The number of people attending career related programs and events will increase by 10% over the next 5 years.

Activities

Partner with Thorsby Schools to organize or promote a career development day.

Acquire and display materials from Alberta educational institutions (e.g. programs calendars, promotional materials, information packages).

Staff will be trained to assist patrons with a variety of career-related tasks, such as job searching and resume writing.



Stimulate Imagination: Accessing Programs and Materials for Pleasure

Residents will find materials and programs that stimulate their imaginations and increase their leisure activities.

Objectives

Increase Young Adult collection by 25%.

The library will offer at least four adult programs and two teen programs each year.

Attendance at programs will increase by 5% each year until 2022.

Activities

Prioritize development of the young adult collections. Staff will use a variety of collection development tools to ensure the collection is up-to-date with popular materials.

Implement a patron recommendation system where patrons can suggest books, movies and other materials for purchase.

Offer a variety of programs that satisfy diverse community needs and interests, such as gaming tournaments for youth, guest speakers, and technology classes for seniors.

Partner with local community and school groups that focus on the arts; use library space to display art created by these groups.



Thorsby Municipal Library Mission Statement:

- Maintain an organized collection of books and materials to enhance the educational, cultural, and recreational reading skills of the community.
- Serve the community as a reliable source of information.
- Co-operate, assist, and support all clubs, groups, and organizations in their endeavors to provide educational, cultural, and recreational programs for the community.
- Provide an interesting and varied list of programs for the children, to get them interested in coming to the library, and remaining as patrons to become avid readers and strong supporters.
- Provide computer and internet services to all residents.

Thorsby Municipal Library

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