

?We have to bring the Library to people? ? New measures from New Tec Library

By Robert Belardi

In this temporary period of quarantine and social distancing, we find ourselves searching for ways to occupy our minds.

Movies, television shows and video games might seem to do the trick, but for how long?

The New Tecumseth Public Library is currently working on ways to provide their services to the community digitally ? even if you have not signed up for a library card.

?For patrons who do not have a card right now, we have set up for a way for them to sign up for a temporary card,? says Graeme Peters, Interim CEO of the New Tecumseth Public Library. ?They can go to our website, fill in a form and then we will get them a library card number and pin number so they can start accessing those online resources.?

Through a device, tablet or a computer, there will be plenty of options to choose from. The library offers e-books, online magazines, e-audio books and databases for anyone with a membership.

The library is also reaching out to the community over social media. Posts on Facebook and Twitter from Children's Programmer Kathy have been appreciated over the course of these past few weeks.

Kathy has been singing songs for young children to watch from the comfort of their own homes.

?Just really creating some content for people to relate to, and possibly cope with this crisis with it to a certain extent. People can't physically come into the library, so we have to bring the library to people in a way that is accessible during this time,? Peters said.

Peters explains that a lot of people have been reaching out to ask questions. He believes that connecting with the community and being there for the people is one of the main missions of the Library.

As the return date of all public libraries in Ontario remains unknown, Peters is working on other ways to take advantage of this time.

He says he would like to train all of the staff internally to become even better experts on all the databases that are provided so they can assist callers and future customers with ease.

He wants to explore new technology to purchase for the libraries as well. Peters is also searching for ways to expand what is offered through social media and through the library's website.

Through this time, the New Tecumseth Library is not the only location to assist its readers.

Peters says the non-profit organization; Internet Archive has released 1.4 million digitized library books for free. The website categorizes all the genres that you are interested in, so you can find the book you desire in no time.

Peters can be reached by his email at gpeters@ntpl.ca.

For further information regarding library cards you can reach Peters directly, or browse the New Tecumseth Library website for more information.

Other staff can be contacted via email as well.