

September 10, 2010

Dear Editor,

Adequately funding our local public library system is important in addressing municipal priorities. Public library services include supports for small business, career development and employment, literacy development and integration of new Canadians.

Today's public libraries are more than just books. They offer a wealth of digital information and are equipped with technology that often can be accessed from home on a 24/7 basis. Libraries provide expert service in searching out the information that local residents and businesses need.

In these tough economic times, public library utilization in many municipalities has risen as much as 70% in areas like enrolment in employment programs, computer access, DVD lending and library website visits.

Our public library requires significant municipal funding to continually update services that keep pace with the new generation of users with fundamentally different information seeking habits. Those services are indispensable and provide significant return on investment. Without them, our community is at a disadvantage in attracting knowledge workers, recovering from the current economic recession and growing a knowledge economy.

We encourage voters to elect municipal officials who will champion strategies that benefit our local public library, and in turn, the residents of our municipality.

Chair,
Friends of the _____ Library