

A new chapter for a great library

EDITORIAL
KITCHENER

Public libraries have been, are, and probably always will be, important community resources. They are places where the residents of a community can go at little personal cost and take home a basket full of educational information, entertainment or both. What else offers better value for the price than a library card?

Libraries, like every institution, are changing. The invention of computers and the creation of the internet, however, don't seem to have stopped people from visiting their library on a regular basis. Indeed, libraries now offer computer services.

With libraries offering so much, no one should be surprised that the Kitchener Public Library decided a few years ago to expand, and no one should be surprised that the library's campaign to raise money has gone well.

"We are ahead of where we had hoped to be at this point so we are quite happy with the progress," Sonia Lewis, the library's chief executive officer, said. Of the \$40-million total price, the library hopes to raise \$500,000 through public donations. It has already raised almost half that amount, \$224,000.

The library has received significant contributions from the Hallman Foundation and Christie Digital. Many of the donors have been individuals as opposed to companies.

All the donors can take pride in contributing to what promises to be a wonderful expansion. The library will have an additional 25,000 square feet of space and an underground parking garage. The current building will also be renovated.

Lewis, the head librarian, appears to have approached the fundraising task rather modestly. She acknowledged that this type of fundraising is a new endeavour for the library. It may be, but the residents of Kitchener and elsewhere in the region have great respect for the Kitchener Public Library. They want the expansion to be a great new chapter in library's story.