



Bibliothèque de
Beaumont Library

Plan of Service 2021

Approved March 8, 2021 by the City of Beaumont Library Board

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History of the Library

When J. E. Lapointe School and Beaumont Regional Activity Centre were built in 1977, the Town of Beaumont and the School Board decided to share library facilities. The Library opened in 1978 with a donated collection of approximately 4,100 books.

In 1981, the Library Board decided to change the status from a Community Library to a Municipal Library, which allowed the Board to apply for an annual grant from the Provincial Government and made them an autonomous body.

By 1986, the Friends of the Library was formed to raise funds to support the Library Board's mission and vision.

Membership had grown from an initial 61 Family Memberships to 1,190 and the collection to approximately 20,000 items. In 1991, the Library moved to the newly renovated 4,300 sq. ft. space that was the old Town Office. The larger library allowed for an increased focus on children's programming.

As the town continued to grow, more space was needed. Once again, the Board, the Staff, and the Friends of the Library, in co-operation with Town Council, worked diligently to plan, build and fundraise for the new Library. The 8,000-sq. ft. Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library opened on February 17, 2004. The grand opening ceremony was marked by the distinguished presence of the Lt.-Governor Lois Hole, who summed up the history of Beaumont's public library when she said, "the best way to build a better world for our children is to fight for our public libraries."

With this facility, the people of Beaumont have experienced 21st Century library services. In January 2009, a full-time Program Coordinator was hired which has led to exceptional children's programming. In January 2011, the first Library Director holding a Master's degree in Library Science was hired to usher in a new period of development and excellence.

In 2021, the Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library begins design work for a library expansion of approximately 7500sq ft, nearly doubling the size of the current library. With Beaumont being the fastest growing community in the Edmonton CMA, the Library must once again answer the call of its vision to be a universally accessible hub providing leadership and innovation to promote literacy and culture in the community.



The Library Today

The Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library provides a welcoming space for those who want to connect to information and enjoy lifelong learning through participation in programming and the use of library resources. The Library works to accommodate the growth and diversity of the community while honouring its French heritage.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library's dedication to our mission and vision allowed us to offer much-needed services, as indicated by our 2020 Annual Report:

| Access | Collection | Programs |
|---|---|---|
| <p>11,094 Despite multiple closures, community members visited the library in-person over 11,000 times in 2020</p> | <p>26,881 The number of items in the physical collection; including 612 periodicals, 1,924 DVDs, 447 CDs, and 420 Audiobooks.</p> | <p>695 The number of library programs offered in 2020, with 408 offered online and 287 in-person.</p> |
| <p>2,232 The number of public computer sessions logged in 2020. There were also 6,066 public wi-fi sessions.</p> | <p>78,273 The number of items that circulated in 2020. There were also 28,879 items borrowed and 7,863 lent through interlibrary loan.</p> | <p>23,917 The number of attendees and viewers for our virtual and in-person library programs in 2020.</p> |
| <p>2,489 The number of community members who used their Library Card in 2020</p> | <p>21,029 The number of e-resources borrowed in 2020, a 25% increase from 2019.</p> | <p>2,329 In 2020, the Library began hosting virtual programs on our social media platforms, which have 2,329 followers an increase of 16% over 2019.</p> |



Determining Service Priorities for the Future

Following the recommendation of Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch, the Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library utilizes Sandra Nelson's Strategic Planning for Results process to identify the service needs and build a vibrant and community-informed strategic plan. In 2020, the Beaumont Library's 2017-2020 Plan of Service concluded, and the Library was faced with the need to create a new Plan of Service during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic created significant barriers to public engagement and uncertainty regarding the possibilities for library service in the coming years. The City of Beaumont Library Board opted to create a 1-year plan of service focused on supporting the community through another year of pandemic uncertainty.

This 1-year plan of service included a needs assessment based on demographic data, anecdotal community feedback and program evaluation feedback from the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020). We retained Plan of Service Goals from the 2017-2020 Plan of Service that remained relevant.



Strategic Goals

STRATEGIC GOAL #1: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEAUMONTERS TO ENHANCE DIGITAL LITERACY IN THEIR LIVES.

OBJECTIVE The Library will remove barriers to digital access for Beaumonters.

ACTIVITY The Library will partner with FCSS Beaumont to lend Chromebook and internet hotspot kits to Beaumonters who do not have computer or internet access.

OBJECTIVE The Library will provide access to creative making technologies.

ACTIVITY The Library will launch a makerspace with digital conversion technology, creative software, and vinyl cutting and transfer equipment.

STRATEGIC GOAL #2: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

OBJECTIVE The Library will increase outreach programming.

ACTIVITY The Library will launch a Library Bike to offer outreach programming and mobile borrowing.

OBJECTIVE The Library will offer responsive, adaptable online programming.

ACTIVITY The Library will respond to shifting COVID-19 restrictions by maintaining a suite of online programming that responds to community demand and needs.

STRATEGIC GOAL #3: CREATE A LIBRARY THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

OBJECTIVE The Library will plan for an expansion to meet current community need.

ACTIVITY The Library will complete design work for a 7,500 sq. ft. expansion of the current library space and present drawings to City council.



STRATEGIC GOAL #4: EVALUATE THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS

OBJECTIVE The Library will ensure all library resources and services are aligned with our vision, mission, and strategic goals.

ACTIVITY The Library will contract an external consultant to conduct an organizational review and begin to implement approved changes.



Acknowledgments

2020 was an unpredictable, change-filled year. The library responded with flexibility and innovation. We have no doubt that 2021 will continue to require adaptability and new approaches and we are ready to meet new challenges and respond to evolving community need. The Library will continue to provide the community with all that is best in library programming and resources and will maintain its presence as the hub of culture, arts, literacy, and digital exploration in the community.

The Library Board is grateful to all our partners.



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