

# Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Prepared by Janine West, Director

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Here in Côte Saint-Luc, everyone, from the elected officials to our friendly staff, from newcomers to longtime neighbours, we all contribute to making this City the wonderful community that it is. Since it first opened in 1966, the Library has continued to be a place for the community to gather and grow.

Every new year allows us to look back and reflect on how far we've come. Under Director Janine West's stewardship, the Library is constantly striving to meet and surpass the needs of our residents.

The Library does not only house books, it sends them out through the Home Library Service and, since 2019, through "pop-up libraries" at senior residences. The Library does not only provide access to public computers, it now also loans out Kobo e-readers and provides free one-on-one tech assistance to help bridge the digital divide. The Library does not only provide access to government tax forms in April, it now provides moderate income individuals with a free tax clinic where they can get timely help with their returns.

From traditional book talks and storytimes to cultural programming featuring world-class music and art, and innovative programs such as cooking challenges and escape rooms for teens, there is nothing you won't find at our library.

With unmatched opening hours, it's always a good time to pay it a visit, whether to sit by the fireplace and read a newspaper or share your love of reading with your children in the redesigned reading nook.

Every year is a new opportunity to ask ourselves: what does our community need? How can we do better? How can we help those who are most in need? And every year, the Côte Saint-Luc Library rises to the challenge, responding to the needs of the residents of our beautiful city.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Brownstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mitchell Brownstein**  
**Mayor**







## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Reflecting on 2019, I feel enormous pride for what the Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library has accomplished in the past year. 2019 will be remembered as an important year for further aligning the library around our core values of access, inclusion, service excellence, and for championing the library and the tremendous value it brings to residents.

In the past, we've often let numbers define our value. While we have a lot to be proud of in our statistics, we also know that our impact on our community extends well beyond the books checked in or out. This value can be found in our daily interactions where we can see and hear about the difference we make in people's lives.

As in the previous year, much of 2019 was dedicated to reaching out, building and solidifying relationships with our neighbouring schools, seniors' residences and community organizations. New programs, such as the Volunteer Tax Clinic, were born from these new partnerships we created. We also sent more librarians out into the community than ever before bringing their passion and expertise to those in need.

Diversity and inclusion has long been one of our core values and this year we expressed our commitment in a variety of ways. A sensory storytime which meets the needs of children who are on the spectrum was developed. Another event, one of our most memorable in 2019, was the tribute to Gérard Étienne, an exceptional humanitarian who lived in Côte Saint-Luc for many years and who fought for

tolerance and inclusion. The CreateSpace grew by leaps and bounds welcoming people of all ages to make and create using high tech or no tech tools. Finally, an existing space was transformed into a modern collaborative space, giving people a place to work in groups, so necessary in a connected world.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated staff and loyal library users. Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to bring you the best, not only by developing and offering new and innovative library services and programs, but in delivering the brand of customer service that keeps you, our loyal public, coming back time and time again.

Our library would not be the library it is today without the undying support of our mayor, Mitchell Brownstein and the members of Council, in particular the portfolio councillor for the library, David Tordjman, as well as our City Manager, Tanya Abramovitch.

I hear from people across the City about how important the library is to them, their family, their friends, and their future. We are proud to be able to share some of the highlights of 2019 with you and we encourage you to learn more about what your library has to offer by visiting [www.csllibrary.org](http://www.csllibrary.org) or by dropping in to say hello.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine West". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Janine West**  
Library Director

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## OUR MISSION

The Library's mission is to meet our community's social, educational, creative and cultural needs through innovative services, resources and programming in a warm and welcoming place.

## OUR VISION

We will build a vibrant and thriving community that fosters social connections and which inspires everyone to create, discover and learn.

# 2019 | YEAR IN REVIEW

## Top Ten Checked Out Titles



**9,728**

Active Cardholders



**1,927**  
New Cards  
This Year



**435,137**

Library Visits in  
Person and Online

**316,002**

Physical Items Checked  
Out

**29,383**

Digital Items Checked  
Out

**14,728**

People Attended a  
Program or Event

**623**  
Programs or  
Events  
Given

**63,652**

Patron  
Questions  
Answered

**1,557**

Visits to the  
CreateSpace



**1,035**

People follow  
us on Facebook

**1,169**

People Receive Booklists by Email



**20,968**

Public Computer Bookings



**6,748**

Patrons Using Electronic Resources



## BROADENING OUR SERVICES

### Memory Kits

Memory kits can be used by dementia sufferers and their caregivers as a means to improve or maintain cognitive functioning, as a way to inspire conversation, storytelling, and recall, and as a meaningful way to spend time together through shared activities. Each kit is centered on a theme and contains crossword puzzles, coloured pencils, images, and other items that stimulate the senses. In January, the Library completed 5 memory kits on the following themes: baseball, the beach, classic cinema, dogs, and gardening. The Library will be piloting the project with the Senior Drop-in Centre. They will also be available for circulation.



Memory kits

### Kobo Lending

In December, the library launched an eReader lending service to patrons. Two Kobo eReaders can now be borrowed and taken home for a period of three weeks. As technology is ever changing it can sometimes be difficult to keep up, let alone afford new devices as new models appear on the market. With this new service the library is hoping to fill a void, as well as provide access to eBooks that members of the community may be missing out on.

### Spring Break Activities

The Library has gotten requests over the years from parents to offer more programming for private schools during their February break, and we responded to their need by featuring a movie and a craft activity. The Library also offered many passive activities, from board games to LEGO challenges to colouring for older kids and teens.

### One-to-One Tech Help

In September, the Library launched a new tech service, providing patrons with one-on-one appointments, in-person or over-the-phone, assisting them with their technology devices (email, internet, apps, etc.) or helping them access our digital collections (OverDrive, PretNumerique, Hoopla, RB Digital etc.). This service was developed as a response to the ever-increasing demand of technology-related questions received and answered at the reference desk, as well as the need to allocate a longer amount of time for assisting patrons with their technology needs.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

## A PLACE FOR TEENS

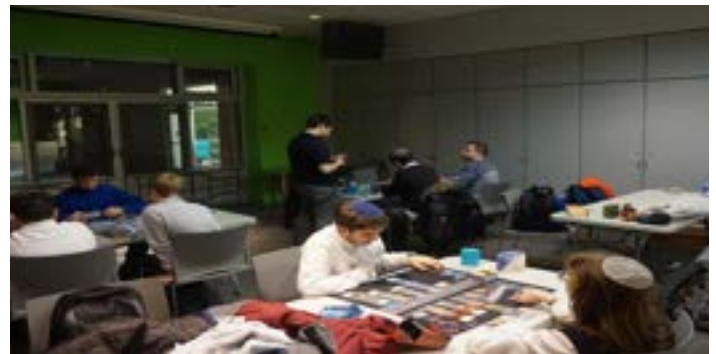
2019 saw a big jump in teen participation and engagement. Cultivating a place in the library that teens can own, whether through a dedicated space or through engagement, sends a strong signal that they are welcome and valued. In Côte Saint-Luc, teens represent 10% of the population and the Library is one of the only places that can provide them with a gathering space and a meaningful tie to the community.

### Teen Night After Hours

In our effort to reach out to teenagers, the library hosted its very first Teen Night After Hours. The event was held on Friday, October 25 after the library had closed. Teens had the chance to socialize and meet each other and the teen lounge was transformed into a cozy theatre. Participants expressed that they had enjoyed the movie and were excited for the next teen night, which will be more social, with board games and snacks.



Teen Night After Hours



Magic: The Gathering

### Magic: the Gathering

Magic: The Gathering continued to be a fun community hub for teens due to the commitment of one dedicated volunteer. Teens gathered weekly to play this fantasy inspired card game.

### Ultimate Food Challenge

This collaborative program between the Library and the Recreation Department continued building on the success of 2018. Teens of varying skill and experience levels came together each month (with the exception of summer) to prepare new and inspiring dishes. Helping teens develop life skills, social skills and teamwork, and introducing them to different cuisines are some of the perks of this fun program.

### Trapped in the Library

In April, the Library hosted this annual escape room challenge for teens—*Trapped in the Library*. Escape rooms use game-based learning to encourage teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership development skills in teenagers. Solving codes and ciphers requires mathematical and logical reasoning and reinforces information literacy. In January, the popular tween version was offered for 8 to 12 year olds.

## Youth Advisory Group

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) was created to give both a voice to youth in the community and to increase civic engagement and leadership skills in young people. The YAG had its first meeting in January, 2019 and has more than 15 active members. Teens learned about a myriad of civic topics, from budgeting and public funds, to decision-making with

Council, to how to volunteer for EMS and how to get involved with the Dramatic Society. Along with attending meetings, they also volunteered their time in a variety of ways. Through the YAG, teens are learning that they have a voice and are valued members of the community.

**“ I feel I my opinions matter and that I have a voice in the library. ”**

—Teen patron

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

The Library takes a community-led approach to providing programs and services to residents. We are always eager to collaborate with local organizations and to support members of the community, especially those who are most vulnerable, such as low-income individuals, seniors, and children. The following represents our most impactful collaborations.

### Senior Health Information Fair

In October, the Library, in conjunction with the local CSSS, organized a Seniors' Health Information Fair. Residents were informed about the different health and social services available through the CLSC and the best ways to access them. Nine non-profit community organizations participated with their staff on hand at information tables handing out pamphlets and answering questions.

### Volunteer Tax Clinic

This spring the Library offered a free volunteer-based tax clinic for Côte Saint-Luc residents with modest incomes. The Library partnered with the NDG Tax Clinic, along with the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenue Quebec. With the help of 11 volunteers, the Library held a total of 9 tax clinics from March 18 to April 30 helping 74 residents and

completing 148 returns. The Library was proud to help a broad spectrum of the most vulnerable residents of Côte Saint-Luc and provide them with a valuable service.



Volunteer tax clinic

# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

## Ask a Nurse/Ask a Nutritionist

The Library's partnership with the Benny Farm CLSC began in June, resulting in regular visits from health professionals presenting and answering questions on a variety of health-related topics from parents of children 0 – 3 years old. Topics included nutrition, general health, safety, CPR information, and developmental milestones. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, both from participants and from the CLSC nurses themselves. The consultations for parents and caregivers are nestled in between *Hippity Hop* and *Toddler Time* and are free and open to all. In 2020, the Library will add *Ask a Child Development Specialist* to the roster.

## Model Airplane Expo

The Model Airplane Expo held in March provided an opportunity for families to come and explore aeronautics. The Library collaborated with the Model Aeronautics Association of Canada, who set up multiple interactive and educational kiosks. There were demonstrations on how to make model airplanes. Children also had the opportunity to fly drones and play with flight simulators. This is a fun collaboration which draws on expertise outside of the library and encourages curiosity in children for science and technology.



Model airplane expo

## Bug Hotel

To encourage interaction with the natural world and to educate people on the importance of insects, the Zoo Ecomuseum generously donated a Bug Hotel to the library. The honeycomb structure was built with recycled wood and offers pollinators shelter and a safe place to lay their eggs and hibernate. Solitary bees, butterflies, and ladybugs are some of the insects who populate the hotel. The Library supported the installation with two learning activities, one where children filled the bug hotel with pine cones, rolled up newspapers, and other reusable materials; the other where they constructed their own bug hotel. The hotel is housed in the beautiful Ashkelon Gardens.

## School Visits

In 2019, the Library organized 25 school visits, which took place either at the schools or at the Library. A total of 517 students participated in these visits and 17 school visits took place at the Library, a huge increase from previous years. These visits were a great opportunity to showcase what the Kids Library has to offer. Students who had never been to the Library before were excited to discover the Lego wall, the reading nook with the new beanbags, the fish tank, the computers, and the books. In addition, students from John Grant High School continued to visit on





## HIGHLIGHTS 2019

a monthly basis. École de la Mosaïque came to the library with its Classes d'accueil, a visit that helped strengthen and support the school-library bond while encouraging literacy and love of reading in young children. This community-building activity was for the whole family so that newcomers could

find out about all the resources on offer at their public library. When students discover and experience the library through an interactive school visit they find not only a welcoming space that aims to support their educational needs, but one that fosters their social, creative and cultural connections as well.



Bug hotel

## COMMITTED TO LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning takes place throughout life enhancing one's understanding of the world around us, providing one with more and better opportunities, and improving our quality of life. Here are some of the ways in which the Library helped keep our residents informed and their minds healthy and active in 2019.

Reading material in all of its formats continues to be a standard bearer of learning about the world amongst our library users. In addition, informative and interesting lectures covering the areas of literature, science, politics, music and art were offered on a reg-

ular basis. In particular, Dr. Joe Schwarcz brought chemistry to life, while Hershey Dwoskin and Marvin Hershorn kept residents up-to-date with current affairs and politics. The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts was back to present the Museum's current exhibits and Music Librarian Farah Mohammed continued to delight patrons with her popular *Passion for Music* lectures. Finally, workshops that offered our users a chance to improve their language or computer skills or prepare for the Canadian citizenship exam underscored our commitment to fulfilling our mission.

## A CENTRE FOR ART AND CULTURE



Myriam Rousseau exhibit

### Art Gallery Exhibit: Myriam Rousseau

One of the artistic highlights of the year was the Myriam Rousseau exhibit which took place from the end of November to the end of February. Animals in Motion was the subject of this latest series. As a former dancer turned yoga teacher, Rousseau is continuously inspired by the strength, grace, and fragility of the body. Painted in movement, the essence of these beautiful animals is captured on canvas. In February, the artist introduced and explained her exhibit and artistic process to a group of fourth graders from JPPS. The activity brought art to life for these young students and added value to the exhibit.

### Geordie Theatre: Little Witch

On a Sunday in March, Geordie Productions presented to an audience of enraptured children *Little Witch*, a heartwarming fable about making life's big choices. The three actors' performances relied heavily on the children's imagination rather than on set design. After the performance, the audience had the opportunity to ask the cast questions. Live theatre for children fosters language skills, helps develop their attention span and imagination, and gives them an important dose of culture.

### Fiorè

In May, the Library hosted a live concert of classical music in partnership with The Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Entitled *Fiorè*, the concert centred on a unique collection of early cello music from the little-known Italian composer Angelo Maria Fiorè and featuring one of Canada's most noted exponents of the Baroque cello, Elinor Frey. Praised for her virtuosic and expressive voice, Andréanne Brisson-Paquin shone as the soprano soloist of the ensemble.

### Thierry Mugler: Couturissime

In June, the Library offered a talk on the 2019 exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts highlighting the fashion genius of Thierry Mulgler. A docent from the Museum presented an overview of the exhibit and gave some key insights about the fashion designer and perfumer, providing a fascinating introduction to this must-see event.

### Community Art Celebration

In July, the Library held its 5th Community Art Celebration, highlighting the wonderful artwork of



David Chandler's work at the Community Art Celebration



# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

Community Art Space artists from the previous year. A total of eight artists participated, displaying three pieces of art each. For the second consecutive year, this was a juried event consisting of a panel of five jurors. David Chandler, the artist behind a series of architectural photographs, was announced by Mayor Brownstein during the event.

## Concerts in the Park

In July, the Library presented **Rock 'n' Roll with Vintage Wine**. Due to severe weather conditions, the concert was moved indoors into the Harold Greenspon Auditorium. No matter, a good time was had by all!

In August, a large crowd attended an evening concert in Ashkelon Gardens featuring the music of Mozart performed by the **Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra**. Joseph Milo directed this enchanting classical concert.

## Shakespeare in the Park: Measure For Measure

Following last year's *Romeo and Juliet*, this year's play, performed in July, was a dark comedy which might easily have been ripped from today's headlines. The play explored the timeless themes of power, corruption, morality, and justice. It focused particu-



Rock 'n' Roll with Vintage Wine

larly on the hypocrisy of those in authority, portraying a powerful man threatening a woman, confident that he will not face any consequences because of his social standing and reputation. Although written around 1604, the play may be one of the most relevant plays ever written about sexual harassment and abuse against women.

## Montreal's Street Art Gallery

In September, Archie Fineberg, author of *Montreal's Street Art Gallery: The Best of the City's Graffiti and Wall-Art* shared his insights and passion for this unique and vibrant artistic practice which has been gaining in popularity and redefining the urban landscape.



Montreal's Street Art Gallery

## HIGHLIGHTS 2019

### Landscapes of Silence

In October, Public Library Week's flagship event was *Landscapes of Silence*, presented by the Montreal Intercultural Storytelling Festival. This one-woman show by Argentinian-born Marta Singh told the powerful and moving story about growing up and living in Argentina during the brutal dictatorship in the 1970s, when silence meant survival. This highly personal and heartbreaking performance was also performed at Ottawa's National Arts Centre to rave reviews.

### Cat's Meow Concert

On October 24, the Library organized the annual Cat Committee's fundraising concert featuring *Broadway's Greatest Hits* performed by the Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra. Proceeds from

this very successful event went to support the Côte Saint-Luc Cat Committee's Trap, Neuter and Release (Adopt) Program.

### Robbery of the Heart

November marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht. In commemoration of the event, the Library featured the documentary *Robbery of the Heart*, which follows a Holocaust survivor from Connecticut as he returns to his home town of Wetter, Germany, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

## THE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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In 2019, the Library launched a number of new services to help our library users with their technological needs.

### BrainHQ

The Library subscribed to its newest digital resource in May. BrainHQ is an online tool that exercises the brain. Just like physical fitness plays an important role in a person's long-term health, so too does brain fitness. Built by a team of top neuroscientists, BrainHQ includes exercises that have been proven to make real and lasting improvements in brain function including attention, brain speed and memory. This is a great addition to the library's digital collection which can help seniors keep healthy and active.

### Bibliomags

In November, the Library subscribed to another digital resource, Bibliomags, an online magazine service which contains over 5,000 magazines in English, French and other languages. Among its many popular English titles are *Cosmopolitan*, *Forbes*, *Car and Driver*, *O*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Readers Digest*. French titles include *Vero*, *Elle Québec*, *Les Affaires* and *L'Actualité*. Bibliomags will replace Zinio, which only offers a small selection of magazines.

**“ I am so proud to call  
this library my library! ”**

—Adult patron



## FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING FOR ALL



Furry Paws Reading Club

The Library continues to fulfil one of its primary missions of fostering a love of reading for all. With a cradle to grave approach, the Library offers early literacy programs for the very young, author visits for all ages, book discussion groups, as well as inspiring book talking events given by librarian staff. The library's high quality collections support this mission by providing access to reading material that will satisfy every taste. These are some of the highlights from 2019.

### Summer Reading Club

The TD Summer Reading Club (for children ages birth-17) encouraged both reading over the summer via a revamped reading log, but also kept the fun participation aspect with a passport for each of the library's summer activities. This year, 237 children signed up for the Club.

Two new challenges were introduced this year: the Summer Reading Club activity passport included favourite/least favourite book sections. In addition, the Library held a collective challenge: to reach 1,000 books as a community. By the end of the summer, the children had surpassed that goal, reading over 1,500 books. Children and teens who read the most pages were awarded prizes at the closing party, but in the spirit of encouraging all readers, each child or teen got a small prize after reading five books. This year, teens were encouraged to join and, as a result, 34 teens participated.

### Furry Paws Reading Club

Furry Paws continued to be popular in 2019 with sessions throughout the year. Certified therapy dogs

Brandy and Astra, as well as their volunteer handler, Harriet from Blue Ribbon Therapy Dogs, were back to support literacy in children. Reading out loud can make children nervous and that negative association can inhibit a child's ability to learn. Therapy dogs are non-judgemental and provide children with an opportunity to practice reading in a safe and calm environment.

### Canada Reads Côte Saint-Luc Edition

In March, the Library presented the Côte Saint-Luc edition of the 2019 CBC Canada Reads debate where five librarians each defended a book from the year's shortlist. Audience members were invited to vote on which book best responded to the year's theme "One Book to Open Your Eyes." This year's winner was *Chance Alone* by Max Eisen.

### You've Gotta Read This!

In June, the Library hosted the second edition of You've Gotta Read This!, featuring four librarians sharing their picks of what might be the great summer read of 2019. Each presented between three and four books and book lovers were treated to a selection of works that were varied enough that they would appeal to many different reading tastes.



You've Gotta Read This!

## HIGHLIGHTS 2019

### Storytime in the Park: Ashkelon Gardens

In July, a large group of children and their families turned out for a Storytime in the Park that took place in the Ashkelon Gardens behind the library. The families came from many backgrounds, so while librarians read books in their written languages, they also talked about them and asked questions in both French and English to ensure all the children could actively participate with the stories. It was a great opportunity for participants to delight in the gardens, which offer a large space for children to run around in and discover the natural world.



Storytime in the Park

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity and inclusion have long been values dear to libraries, which are fiercely open to all and frequently referred to as “the great equalizer”. Côte Saint-Luc is proud to support its many residents of different backgrounds and abilities and provide services to all.

### Rainbow Storytime

In 2019, the Library continued to offer the very popular Rainbow Storytime program. While building literacy skills, this program also aims to celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and acceptance, curb bullying, dispel stereotypes, intolerance, and ignorance, and encourage empathy and self-expression in a safe and positive environment.

### Sensory Storytime

Sensory Storytime was launched in October. This program is adapted to the needs of children who are on the autism spectrum or who have a hard time sitting still. To best meet the needs of this group, the storytime was held in a dedicated room, with a smaller registration cap, and with more interactive elements to keep the kids stimulated. The children who attended used a felt board to re-tell the story of *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel, hopped around on floor pillows, sang songs, and used clay to create figures to take home.

### Welcome

In order to recognize the many different cultures living in our City, a *Welcome* word cloud was imprinted on the interior area of the main desk. It features a sampling of some of the most spoken languages in Côte Saint-Luc. Patrons have expressed their delight at seeing their spoken tongue and said that the library has always been and continues to be a welcoming space.



Welcome sign



## VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In 2019, the Library had a total of 124 volunteers who contributed 2,275 hours. Whether they were delivering books to library members who cannot get to the library, teens looking to accumulate community service hours, or Library Ambassadors advocating for and promoting the library, volunteers perform a necessary and valued service. The following represents a fraction of the work they do.

### Library Book Sale

On April 13 and 14, the Library held the first of its semi-annual book sales. The sale was a success, raising a total of \$2,458. The second sale took place on September 14 and 15 and raised \$2,489. In all, the dedicated group of volunteers donated a total of 222 hours for the two sales. The money raised went to fund some of the equipment in the CreateSpace.



Award-winning teen volunteer Natalia Ayodele

### Home Library Service

The library currently has 208 patrons enrolled in the Home Library Service. Eight regular volunteers perform six library pick-ups per week. In 2019, the library delivered 6,174 items to those members who were less mobile, for a total of 2,093 individual home deliveries.

### Youth Volunteers

The youth volunteering program has seen a lot of growth and change in 2019, with the inauguration of Youth Advisory Group and Homework Help programs. With increased options, all of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) members have elected to get involved with the Youth Advisory Group (YAG), so the TAG meetings have been dissolved in favour of YAG meetings. The Library has also expanded opportunities for younger volunteers to get involved to meet a growing demand by younger teens to meet school volunteer requirements. This has brought much more diversity to the volunteering pool and allowed younger teens a more natural transition into the volunteering programs which require more responsibility.

### Volunteer Award Winner

Long-time teen volunteer Natalia Ayodele won the City's 2019 Royal Canadian Legion Brigadier Award. Natalia has helped 8 children as a Reading Buddy and was one of the first teens to join the Homework Help program. She also participated in the Youth Advisory Group. Natalia is a gifted mentor and a caring person expressing an interest not only in helping children succeed with their reading, social, and study skills, but also acting as a voice for senior residents at the Youth Advisory Group meetings.

## COME CELEBRATE WITH US

### Words And Music: A Tribute To Gérard Étienne

On May 2, the City celebrated the social, humanitarian and artistic contributions of Gérard Étienne, an exceptional man who lived in Côte Saint-Luc for many years.

The tribute began with a plaque unveiling to honour the memory of this Haitian-born writer, academic and human rights defender. This event took place in the public green space across from 6615 Baily Road along the route Mr. Étienne often took on Shabbat and holidays to get to Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem.

Following the unveiling, a variety of tributes and readings took place in the Harold Greenspon Auditorium, including a reading by a special guest, Philippe Régnoix. The moving tribute ended with a jazz concert featuring a fusion of Jewish and jazz performed exquisitely and led by Jacques Schwarz-Bart, a saxophonist and composer based in Boston.



A Tribute to Gérard Étienne



Snowman and hot cocoa

### Snowman and Hot Cocoa

February 18 was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for celebrating winter. The snow was not sticky enough to make snowmen, but participants were ecstatic about playing outdoors in Ashkelon Gardens. This program offered children the chance to socialize and play, giving them a positive and different experience with the library. After some outdoor physical activity, the children got to warm up inside with some hot cocoa and mini marshmallows. To inspire creativity as well free play, children had the option to do a craft, to solve puzzles and mazes, or to play board games.

### Chocolate Egg Hunt And Find The Afikoman

Last year's chocolate egg hunt was so popular that it was held again this year in April, with the addition of a Passover-themed Find the Afikoman activity and chocolate-covered matzah. At least 50 children and families came to celebrate and the Kids Library was bustling with excited energy. The Library began getting inquiries about the hunt several weeks beforehand and many parents and grandparents with young children, as well as elementary school students on their own, came to participate on the day. Volunteers



Chocolate Egg Hunt and Find the Afikoman



# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

were on hand to help hide the eggs, and older children who had finished helped as well. A great holiday event which engaged children of all ages!

## Harry Potter's Birthday Party

The community's excitement for Harry Potter has not diminished since the very successful Harry Potter Birthday Party in July of 2018. This year, approximately 160 people from ages 2 – 22 came to celebrate Harry Potter's birthday and participate in the library's five Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry classes. Classes began with great theatrics and fanfare, with children being sorted into their respective houses by the Sorting Hat, and then continued with button making, wand construction, potion making and tarot. The program culminated with engaging rounds of Hogwarts' school game, Quidditch, in the Ashkelon Gardens.



Harry Potter's Birthday Party

## Summer Reading Club Closing Party

At the end of August, the Library hosted the TD Summer Reading Club Closing Party. 72 children and their families came take part in the celebration, which took place indoors and outside. The program began with games, face-painting, and a photo booth. Volunteers served a pizza dinner for all participants, followed by prizes and TCBY. The weeknight dinner format was very successful, and many parents ex-

pressed appreciation that all of the food was kosher. To give each child who attended and participated a positive experience, everyone got a gift at the closing party, which included a loot bag, a personalized certificate of achievement, and a donated book of their choosing.

One of the things that made the party especially wonderful was the participation of eight teen volunteers, who put in countless hours of crafting, decorating, and helping throughout the evening.

## Halloween Party

Over 150 children and their families came to the library to celebrate Halloween. Most children and some adults came decked out in costume, and were greeted by trick-or-treating at each service point, a spookily-decorated children's library with the lights out, Halloween music, pumpkin decorating, spooky storytime, and a scavenger hunt. Many adults expressed how grateful they were to have something to do on the very rainy Halloween evening and the event got plenty of exposure, thanks to CTV featuring it as an alternative to trick-or-treating.



Halloween Party

## LEARNING IS FUN AT THE LIBRARY

In 2019, the Library continued its commitment to incorporate a STEAM orientation into the design of its youth-oriented library programming. These are some of the highlights.

### The Science Behind the Magic

Despite the January cold, 24 children between the ages of 6 and 12 came out to hear professors and students from the McGill Chemistry Outreach Group present this STEAM program. The workshop introduced young scientists to basic chemical concepts through fun and entertaining demonstrations and hands-on activities. The educational workshop not only supports the school experience, but enriches it promoting discovery-based learning and sparking creativity in children.

### Sugar Shack

In March, the library's multipurpose room was transformed into a Sugar Shack. Québécois folklore music played in the background as the children had the opportunity to taste an array of pure organic maple products including maple gelato and taffy, maple sugar chunks, maple spread, and maple sugar drops. This program helped children learn about nature and food science and encouraged them to find out more about how a certain food is made. It also fostered an appreciation for local products and culture.



Sugar Shack

### Make your own Snowglobe

18 children and their parents came to the library in December to learn how to make snowglobes using readily available materials such as mason jars, plastic figurines, and glitter. By simply adding glycerin, available at pharmacies and health food stores, they created a snowglobe. Not only did it make a lovely crafty holiday gift, this STEAM activity taught children about density and what makes objects float.

### Saving Endangered Animals

On a Sunday in May, a large group of enthusiastic children attended a presentation offered by the McGill Redpath Museum on the topic of endangered species in Canada. Participants learned about whales, narwhals, otters, and caribou. This educational session was followed by a craft activity during which participants used recycled materials to create their very own otter.



Saving Endangered Animals

### Baking Basics

On a Sunday in March, the Library featured its first edition of Baking Basics for children ages 7-12. The bakers paired up to make a healthy and tasty Bomba Rosa, a snack which not only is a great source of fibre and energy, but in which healthy natural substitutes are used for refined sugar. This program promoted food literacy, developing reading and comprehension skills as children were required to read and understand lists of ingredients as well as instructions in recipes. Mathematical skills were sharpened as they needed to measure the ingredients.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2019



Baking Basics



## Chess Club

In September, the Library launched a weekly Chess Club, a new after-school program open to all ages. To kick off the program, an instructor from the Chess 'n Math Association gave one hour-long workshop for beginners. Playing chess increases children's creativity and problem-solving skills, improving memory and concentration. Participants with more experience helped beginners adding to the collaborative nature of the club. This drop-in program is an opportunity for participants to meet new people and develop a sense of community.

## CreateSpace

The Library's CreateSpace grew by leaps and bounds in 2019 attracting a total of 1,557 participants. The Jewellery Club continued to thrive, holding weekly meetings. In addition, the club organized two jewellery sales, giving back a percentage of the sales to further support the space. Sewing was one of the most popular activities and, due to the demand, a second machine was purchased. Painting, 3D printing, electronics and robotics are also popular. Thanks to donations, annual and regular book sales, the CreateSpace is totally self-funded.



CreateSpace

## REACHING OUT

The Library continues to reach out beyond its four walls, meeting our library patrons where they are. Creating relationships within the community is one of our core values and 2019 was a landmark year.

### Seniors' Residences Visits

Seniors' Coordinator Katie Bezaire held the first *Bibliothèque pop-up de Côte Saint-Luc* • Côte Saint-Luc Pop-Up Library at the Waldorf in October. The mini-library was set up in the Waldorf's café area, displaying a wide variety of library material from the audiovisual department, as well as fiction and non-fiction books (Large type and regular and in both French and English). This initial pop-up circulated 8 items, created 3 new memberships, and renewed one lapsed one. Katie returned in November and December and circulated over 75 additional items.

### Summer Camp Visits

The youth and children's librarians reached 209 children outside of the Library, visiting 14 of the City's summer camp groups, and welcoming one group to the library. These visits not only reinforce bonds between the two city departments, but they provide added value for campers, and allow children who don't yet use the library to learn about what the Kids Library has to offer. The majority of the programming focused on highlighting fun stories, like the very goofy kid favourite, *The Book with No Pictures* by B.J. Novak. After storytelling, the librarians introduced the TD Summer Reading Club. Summer camp visits provided the perfect opportunity to get children excited about joining the TD Summer Reading Club, which helps prevent summer learning loss, reinforces literacy skills, and helps children discover reading for pleasure.

### Travelling Tales

The Library continued to visit daycares in Côte Saint-Luc, visiting six daycares per month as part of the Travelling Tales outreach program. Three of these are larger daycare centres, and the three others are home daycares. Two daycares take advantage of book selection and delivery, provided by the Children's Librarian, Ariane Smoley. The positive partnerships with the daycares strengthen the library's



Travelling Tales

community ties. Educators often take pictures of the Travelling Tales visits and share them with the parents in order to promote the library. It is especially heart-warming to see children from the daycares come to the library on the weekend with their parents further contributing to their love of reading.

### St. Patrick's Square

In April, the Library visited St. Patrick's Square and gave an introductory workshop on Facebook. Participants not only learned about the basics of using Facebook, but a lively discussion on privacy issues ensued. Librarians returned in September to introduce participants to the library's newest digital resource, BrainHQ. The residents truly appreciated having the Library as part of their lives, particularly those who are less mobile.

### MusicTime for Seniors

MusicTime for Seniors is a new program developed and given by Music Librarian, Farah Mohammed. This program takes place once a week at the Senior Drop-In Centre in the Aquatic and Community Centre. The purpose of this program was to introduce music as a means to elicit memories and commonly shared experiences. A specific theme was chosen for each



# HIGHLIGHTS 2019

session and comprised describing and playing different kinds of music, singing songs, showing pictures, reading poetry, and having lively discussion. These kinds of activities encourage participants to talk of their memories and reminisce past experiences. This was a highly impactful program in 2019 and the library's participation was greatly appreciated.

## Poetry Workshops

The Library continued its support of the Senior Drop-In Centre with the inclusion of a Poetry Workshop. Shared reading has been found to improve listening skills as well as short- and long-term memory. These visits have been an excellent means of introducing poetry to older adults with cognitive impairments in

varying degrees as a form of mental stimulation, as well as being an excellent opportunity for the Library to reach residents outside the confines of the library building, and strengthen the library's relationship with the Cummings Centre.

Our Seniors' Coordinator, Katie Bezaire, used two different models for the two groups: in the first group, poetry was introduced thematically, with group discussions forming the basis for poetry created using the participants' words, and has resulted in a booklet of poetry to be presented to the Drop-In participants in January 2020. The second group was interested in the poetry itself, and so the workshop evolved into more theoretic discussions about the works and authors presented.

## NEW SPACES



Collaborative space

### Collaborative Space

A new glass partition was installed in March in the area behind the reference desk. This new area was repurposed in response to the need for more areas in the library that would facilitate conversation and group work. In December, new furniture was added which further facilitated interaction and engagement.

### Storytime Area Redesigned

The Storytime area has been redesigned to make better use of the space. Bean bag chairs have been added to encourage parents and children to cozy up

and read together. A large mural depicting an open book and the wonders contained within it has been added to the wall. The wall was painted a brighter shade of white, making the space more welcoming and warm. Underneath it all a bright red carpet defines the space.

### Piano Practice

Given that the auditorium is often in use, a new space near the basement entrance to the library was created for the piano so that patrons could have an increased number of opportunities to practice. Having the piano housed in this new *Piano Nook*, ensures better availability and access to the instrument.



(left to right) Storytime area, piano practice

## LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

| REVENUES                   |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Province of Quebec         | \$59,800.00           |
| Donations                  | \$3,164.25            |
| Auditorium Rentals         | \$4,562.53            |
| Book Sale                  | \$4,947.00            |
| Fees, Fines, Miscellaneous | \$93,518.99           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$165,992.77</b>   |
| expenditures               |                       |
| Staffing                   | \$2,120,548.77        |
| Collections                | \$319,840.40          |
| Programs and Events        | \$34,010.01           |
| Furnishings and Equipment  | \$22,615.43           |
| Supplies and Services      | \$81,487.04           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$2,578,501.25</b> |
| CAPITAL PROJECTS           |                       |
|                            | <b>\$39,694.00</b>    |

## LIBRARY STAFF



Library staff, along with Mayor Mitchell Brownstein, taken in photo after the December edition of *Muffins with the Mayor*.