

Talking Points for Supporting Library Budget

Our budget his year includes:

Money added to the book budget
Funding the compensation review to bring our salaries in line with Township staff
Additional programming hours for children's literacy programming, STEM programming

Quick Facts:

- Our portion of the current 2024 budget increase represents 2.44% of the total budget. What does this mean to the taxpayer? **Answer:** Our portion of the budget increase represents an \$11 increase for every \$100K of assessment. For a home that is valued at \$400,000, our request represents less than the cost of one hardcover book, 1/3 of the cost of a family pass to the museum's in Ottawa, the cost of an art program, 1/10 of the cost of borrowing one of our crafting kits, food dehydrators, birding kit, pickleball equipment, etc. (coming soon!)
- Our increase this year is \$110,377 and represents a 73% increase to our existing budget. While 73% may seem high, it is deceiving as we have a relatively small budget compared to the whole Township. (in fact, this small budget has always limited our ability to be funded appropriately as the % increase always gets highlighted and focused on).
- For every \$1 invested in the Library we produce \$5.45 worth of impact in the community and this figure is conservative.

Why Support the Library:

- The Library serves all community members regardless of age, socioeconomic status, gender, etc. In order to provide a vast range of collections, programs and services that Lanark Highlands needs and deserves, the Library needs to advocate for an adequate budget.
- The Library's budget has lagged behind for two decades. For as long as possible the library spared services and collections at the expense of salaries. Eventually all budget lines needed to be cut. We need to correct this situation.
- The library is a service based organization and we rely on our employees to provide exemplary service to the community. In order to build a strong team, we need to be able to attract and retain staff.
- A recent salary review has revealed that there is a significant gap between our wages and those we have been compared to at the Township level. This situation needs to be corrected.
- To offset any household financial strain (tax increases or otherwise) we encourage all community members to access our free collections, programs and services. In order for us to help everyone else, we need support.

Contact Information for Councillors

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If you are interested in supporting the Library (and we hope you are), please send your thoughts to your Council rep and if possible to the Reeve and Deputy Reeve as well (or you can send to all!).