Wapiti Regional Library Opens New Branch in Candle Lake

This fall, Wapiti Regional Library, in partnership with the Resort Village of Candle Lake, announced the opening of Wapiti's newest branch library in Candle Lake. The new library is located in the village's Recreation Facility, which is a shared-use facility that serves multiple community organizations. "The idea of a library at Candle Lake had been percolating for a number of years," Wapiti Regional Director Tony Murphy noted, "so when the resort village gave us the green light and provided a great space, we immediately began pulling together all the elements needed to provide library services. What makes this new library particularly exciting is that it is Wapiti's first new library in 25 years," Murphy enthused, "and Wapiti, the Resort Village of Candle Lake, and the Candle Lake community can share a great measure of pride, as this venture very much demonstrates the collective power of municipal and regional library partnerships to make our communities better.

Lindsay Baker and Tony Murphy of Wapiti Regional Library share more about the new Candle Lake Library:

How long has the plan to open a library branch in Candle Lake been in the works?

The first exploratory conversations about a Wapiti branch at Candle Lake began about six years ago. For many years, Candle Lake had what Wapiti calls a "Paperback Exchange" in the community that provided a small selection of uncatalogued material. One particularly tenacious village councillor thought the village could support a full library, and kept the questions and conversation going, until the project became a reality.

Were there many obstacles to overcome in creating this new library branch?

Once the Resort Village of Candle Lake Council firmed up their support for having a Wapiti branch library in the community, there were no serious obstacles to bringing the project to fruition; that is, until the COVID-19 pandemic came into full force. However, and as the November 2, 2021 opening of the Candle Lake Public Library shows, not even the COVID-19 pandemic could throw an insurmountable obstacle into the path of this new community library. Wapiti Regional Library and the Resort Village of Candle Lake remained focused throughout on their partnership to bring Wapiti's first new branch library in 25 years to the community of Candle Lake.

How many library workers are employed at the new branch?

There are currently two employees for the Candle Lake Public Library, a Branch Librarian and a Substitute Branch Librarian. Not to be forgotten, however, is the Candle Lake Public Library Board, a volunteer Library Board made up of passionate, dedicated community members who have helped Wapiti and the Resort Village in shepherding this project to its opening day on November 2, and who will continue to guide the library going forward.

Who is the Librarian?

The Candle Lake Public Library Branch Librarian is Heather Needham.

How large is the collection at the branch?

The Candle Lake Public Library opened with a collection of around 1100 items, which includes Children's materials, Juvenile, YA, Graphic Novels, Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, Large Print, Multi-Media including DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks.

Are there any titles/topics that are of specific interest at this branch?

Other than Candle Lake local history that was earmarked by the local library board early on for the new library's collection, the Candle Lake Library reflects Wapiti's usual practice of building collections that try to find the broadest interest in the community. Our collections work hard to provide "something for everyone," and if an

item isn't found locally, the patron has the entire region, and indeed the entire province via SILS at their disposal for finding what they are looking for.

Will the new Candle Lake Library be offering any programming over the winter months?

Currently, programming at Wapiti libraries remains impacted by COVID-19 health and safety restrictions. However, all Wapiti programming is advertised on the Wapiti website, and locally on social media and community newsletters.

How large an area does this new library serve?

The Candle Lake Public Library primarily serves the Resort Village of Candle Lake and the surrounding environs of the RM of Paddockwood. However, because of Candle Lake's attraction as a popular Resort Village and Saskatchewan summer vacation destination, the Candle Lake Public Library will also serve a very large expanded summer population as well.

Other points of interest about the new library:

There is a computer available to the public during the branch's open hours. The Candle Lake Public Library is located upstairs in the Candle Lake Community Hall (elevator access available). The library's hours of operation and contact information are available on the Wapiti Regional Library website: go to www.wapitilibrary.ca

The Candle Lake Public Library opened Tuesday, November 2, 2021.
The library's hours are: Tuesdays: 11 – 5; Wednesdays: 4 – 7; Thursdays: 9 – 12; Saturdays: 9 - 12 The library is located upstairs in the Recreation Facility, with access from the west door (next to the Health Clinic).

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Thanks to Lindsay Baker, Tony Murphy and *The Wapiti Regional Library Newsletter*, October 2021 issue for this information.