



Library Chair Marian McLeod, Dr. Bob Burge of OTF, and MPP Steve Clark addressed a small crowd recently at the ribbon cutting ceremonies officially showing off the newly renovated and improved Gananoque Public Library.



Library Chair Marian McLeod proudly shows off the plaque awarded to the Gananoque Public Library for its accomplishments through use of an \$80 thousand Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. L-r, Gananoque Mayor Erika Demchuk, MPP Steve Clark, McLeod, OTF Grant Review Team Member Dr. Bob Burge, and Library CEO Deirdre Crichton.



It's official with the cutting of a ribbon, the newly renovated Gananoque Public Library is up and running and happy to share. L-r, Debbie Willis, Gananoque Mayor Erika Demchuk, MPP Steve Clark, Library CEO Deirdre Crichton, Board Chair Marian McLeod, OTF Grant Review Team Member Dr. Bob Burge, and Elsa Kanarens.

Gananoque Public Library celebrates new look

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For Postmedia Network

Recently, a small crowd gathered at the Gananoque Public Library for an opportunity to attend an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of the accessibility upgrades and renovations to the building.

Library volunteers and members of the board were joined by dignitaries MPP Steve Clark and Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team member, Robert Burge, as everyone got a chance to see what a small town library can do with \$80,000 in grant money.

"We all know that communities in Eastern Ontario have great needs, great things and projects and visions that they have that they want to have accomplished," Clark said. "I can't think of a better facility than our library to receive some of those Ontario Trillium Foundation funds because libraries, as most of you know, are invaluable resources in our community. They are places that since municipalities began in our province, have really been the cornerstones of where community start. If you look, in almost

every single community one of the first public facilities that began was the library."

The library put the grant money toward major improvements to the existing facility.

Included in these were the purchase of new shelves and circulation desk, as well as new public access computers stations and an accessible micro-film reader printer.

A prominent public space, the Library is used for a wide variety of programs and workshops enjoyed by the entire community.

"I am pleased that I can be here today to see the results of your \$80 thousand capital grant, which has revitalized this community," said Bob Burge, volunteer for the Ontario Trillium Foundation. "By creating more efficient use of the space, the library will continue to provide compelling educational and cultural experiences. As some of you may know, the Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the government of Ontario and each year, using the funds we receive from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, we award nearly a thousand grants to non-profit groups across Ontario. When we award a grant,

we want to know what kind of work and what kind of long term impact or legacy those funds will have. Because of the OTF, we're focused on helping organizations build healthier and more vibrant communities."

"The Board of Gananoque Public Library is very pleased to have received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation," said Marian McLeod, chair of the Gananoque Public Library Board. "The many resources of our Library are now more accessible to members of our community. Additionally, the Library's ability to respond to the needs of our community has been greatly enhanced; for example, the accessible bookshelves can be moved safely to create spaces for activities such as workshops or meetings."

On hand for the ribbon cutting and announcements were Gananoque Mayor Erika Demchuk, members of the Library Board and members of the public.

"The new space is beautiful," said Clark. "I would happily hold a meeting here, knowing the space is appropriate and could be adapted to my needs at any time. This is definitely a job well done."