



September 24, 2024

Town of Grand Valley
5 Main Street North
Grand Valley, ON
L9W 5S6

Dear Mayor Soloman & Councillors:

As the Town of Grand Valley continues to grow, so too does the demand for publicly accessible space, including the Library and the vital resources and programming it provides to our community. For the last year, members of the Building Committee of the Grand Valley Public Library (GVPL) Board have been visiting and researching various libraries across Southern Ontario, ensuring we can plan and are prepared for this exciting growth.

The GVPL as it exists today was built in 1987 and has a footprint of 4,356 square feet. When it opened, the population of Grand Valley was less than 2,000 residents.

In 2019, Shann Leighton, the Library's Chief Executive Officer at the time, conducted an initial detailed needs assessment for the Library. The population of the Town at that time had grown to 2,726 and the demands on collections, programming and library space continued to grow as well.

Just three years later, the Town population had increased to 3,851 – nearly doubling the original population the library was built to serve in 1987 – and continued to operate within its same physical footprint of 4,356 sq. ft.

Unsurprisingly, as we look ahead to the anticipated growth, it's estimated that Grand Valley will be home to more than 16,500 residents by 2051.

In addition to the rapidly growing population of Grand Valley, the Library also serves both the neighbouring Townships of Amaranth and East Garafraxa. The

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estimated population growth within these municipalities is over 600 residents by 2051, bringing the total population the GVPL will serve to 22,500.

As Committee research began into various libraries and configurations for a population of this size, it was clear that the Library in its current location size and condition will be unable to adequately accommodate its demands. As such, the Building Committee developed a report for the Town of Grand Valley for review and consideration as you too, plan for the services and infrastructure to support this population growth.

This report (enclosed), titled GVPL Functional Program, outlines the findings, lessons learned and recommendations for size, use of space, amenities and features that our growing population deserves in its local Library.

I, alongside the Building Committee, would welcome the opportunity to present and discuss these findings further, to ensure that as you're concurrently planning for Grand Valley's growing and bright future, that the expansion needs of the Library – and the vital services and experiences it provides within our community – are considered.

The following excerpt is from the Aruplo Guidelines for Rural/Urban Public Library Systems, 4th edition. June 2023:

"The public Library has a role in bridging social capital. As a shared and accessible public space, the library can bring together diverse people, facilitate civic engagement, and help create a stronger community."

With a shared belief in this concept, and a deep commitment for being a safe, inclusive and inspiring place for all, we are excited by the opportunities that this population growth presents for our Library, and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the GVPL Functional Program, and in advance for your review and consideration of its contents.

Sincerely,



Joanne Stevenson
Chief Executive Officer, Grand Valley Public Library
Secretary/Treasurer, Grand Valley Public Library Board