Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Photo credit: Haliburton Echo

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Bessie Sullivan
CEO, County Librarian

Erin Kernohan-Berning
Branch Services Librarian

50 Years Haliburton County Public Library
Connection, Collaboration, Community

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Introduction

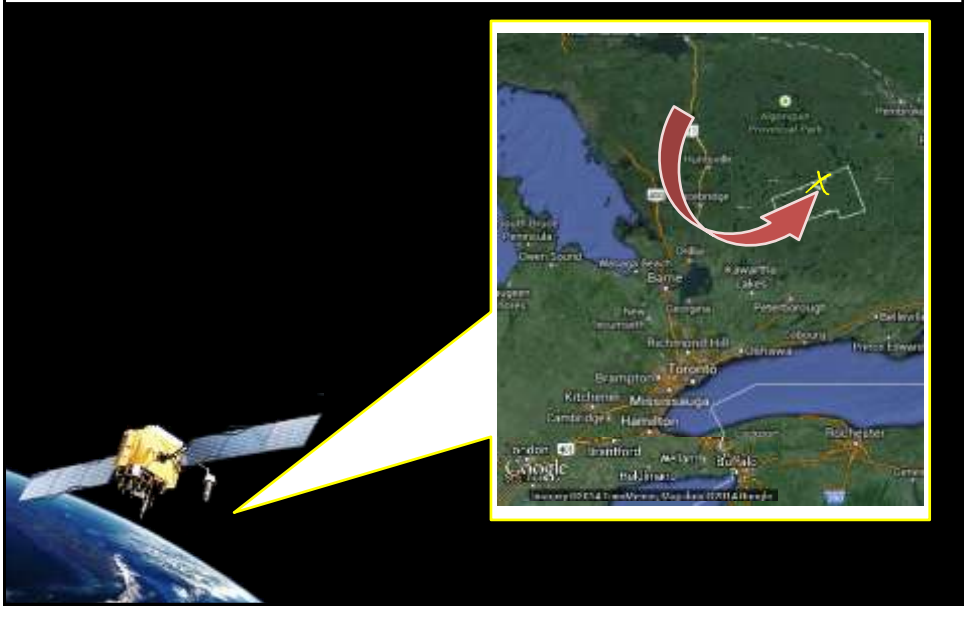
- What we had
- What we should have
- What we have now

Rationale for the new branch

Critical Elements for success

- Political appetite
- Availability of funding
- Partnership opportunities
- Community buy-in

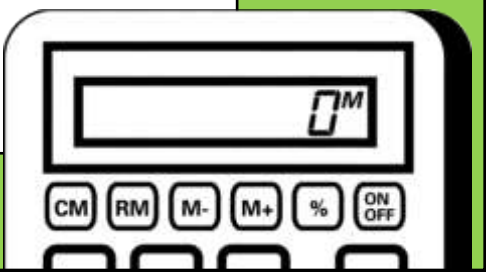
Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.



Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

- About 230 km NE of Toronto
- 1,493 year-round households (19.6% of Haliburton County)
- 3,249 year-round residents
- 4,374 private dwellings including seasonal
- Average housing price $156,620 (Range: sub $100,000 to plus $700,000)
- Median income $38,491 per household (Average $47,161)



Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we had

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we had

757 square feet

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we had

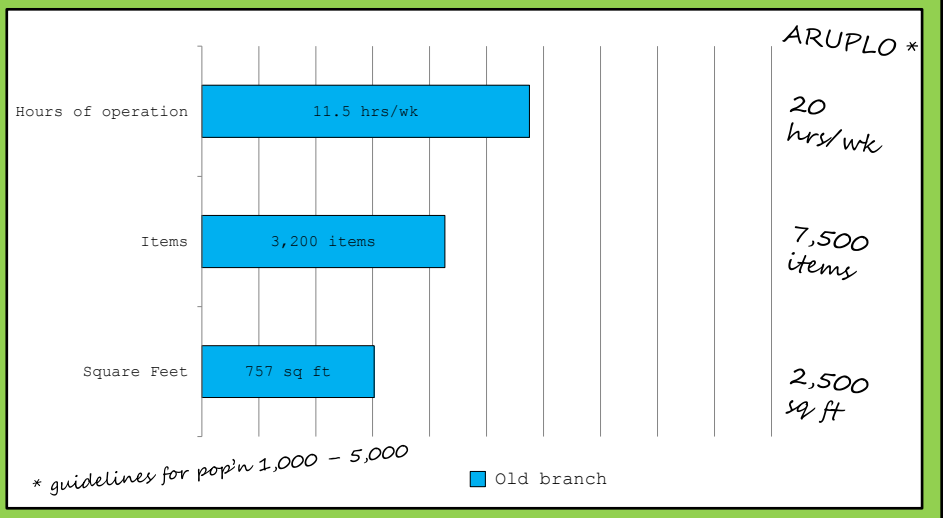
3,200 items

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we had

11.5 hours of operation

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.



Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Recognition of need for a new branch in Wilberforce came in 2003 with a SOLS Needs Assessment:

"[The Wilberforce branch is a] stand-alone building that was not designed for library services. The building is inaccessible, dark, and cramped."

The new branch started construction in 2013, opening in 2014.

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

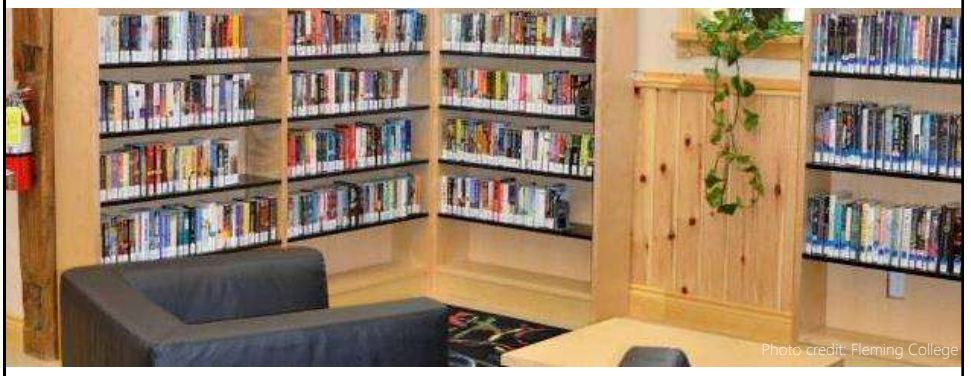
What we have

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we have

2,200 square feet

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.



What we have

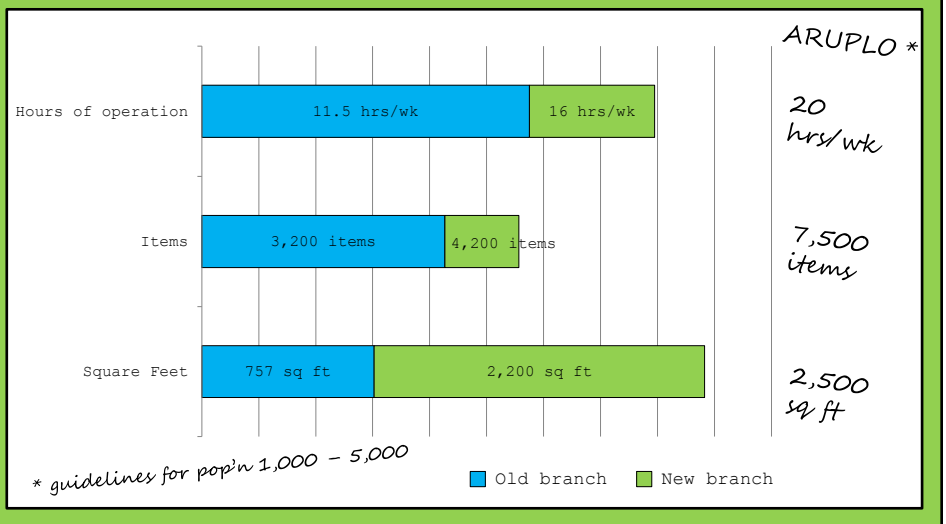
4,200 items

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

What we have

16 hours of operation

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.



Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Between *needing* a new branch and *getting* a new branch a number of stars needed to align:

- Political appetite
- Availability of funding
- Partnership opportunities
- Community buy-in

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Political appetite

- A major catalyst for the commitment to the new branch were requirements under the Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- A combination of inaccessibility and disrepair meant the building would be slated for closure within years.
- This meant that council was faced with the prospect of not having a library branch in Wilberforce.

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

"When fire trucks wear out you replace them. When libraries wear out you replace them." *Joan Barton, Councillor*

"Libraries are not a waste, they are a treasure."
Steve Kauffeldt, Councillor

"The library is an integral part of our community."
Suzanne Partridge, Deputy Reeve

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Availability of funding

- Grants:
  - Ontario Trillium Foundations
  - Haliburton County Development Corporation
- Community groups:
  - Friends of HCPL
  - Minden Rotary Club
- Land was already owned by the municipality and sitting vacant.
- Partnership with Fleming College made building costs very economical.

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Partnership opportunities

Fleming College – Sustainable Building Design and Construction Program

- 20 week Ontario College Certificate (equivalent to 1 year).
- Student time split 30% classroom 70% job site.
- Committed community partner and exciting project able to meet curriculum requirements.
- Build a structure that exemplifies leading edge sustainable building practices.

Fleming College

Photo credit: Fleming College

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Community buy-in

Library Launchers

- Grassroots fundraising group for enhancements.
- Activities included:
  - Rummage sales, sale of pens and buttons, donation jars…

"Libraries are not luxuries, they are necessities"
Patricia Russell, Wilberforce

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Tape the Branch Supervisor to the wall…

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Dessert theatre…

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Dessert theatre…

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Dessert theatre…

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Help Move Wilberforce branch

- Borrowed from a similar campaign in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.
- Patrons were encouraged to check out a bag of books from the old branch and keep them until the new branch opened.
- Patrons returned books to new branch, and all fines were waived for 2 months after opening.

Approximately 50% increase in circulation during the campaign.

Photo credit: Haliburton Echo

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

- Environmental High Skills Major class turned a two week job into a two hour job.

Photo credit: Haliburton Echo

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

Local businesses

- It is likely that every cardboard box in the village found its way to the library.
- Grocery stores gave generously to support our HHSS students with snacks and goodies.
- Businesses carried community surveys to determine the new branch hours.
- Promotion of events, new hours, Grand Opening all supported by businesses and organizations.

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

"When relationships are built, the most unlikely people say 'yes'."

Fay Wilkinson, Haliburton

- Continuously forge and maintain relationships within the community – everyone is a potential community partner:
  - Municipality, educational institutions, businesses, community members, patrons.
- The new branch building is designed with expansion in mind, leaving the door open to more community space and partnership opportunities.
- Already the new branch is having a positive impact on the community in terms of infrastructure.

Session 401L: *"It takes a village to raise a library."* Building a community centred rural library.

The old branch building has new life feeding another need in the community.

"We did it together. It does take a community to build a library. You guys are a part of it, you guys own it. Enjoy."

Dave Burton, Reeve of Highlands East

Library Survey

The purpose of this survey is to acquire input regarding potential new hours and programming at the new Wilberforce Library

Do you currently use the Wilberforce Library? (Circle One)

Yes No

What dates and times are you most likely to visit the library? (Please check all that apply)

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10am-12pm					
12pm – 2pm					
2pm – 4pm					
4pm – 6pm					
6pm – 8pm					

Would you be interested in participating in any programming at the library? (Circle One)

Yes No

What type of programming might you attend? (Please circle all that apply)

Basic Computer Use Introduction to Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pintrest, etc.)

Gardening Crafts

Book Club Local History

Other _____ Other_____

What is your age category? (Circle one)

Youth (0-12) Young Adult (13-25) Adult (25-65) Senior (65+)

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. Your input is very important to us!