



PRESS RELEASE

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STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY GARDEN RENEWAL

Stratford and District Horticultural Society (SDHS) volunteers have collaborated with the Stratford Public Library to maintain a garden in front of the Library since the 1960's. This garden is one of many throughout the City of Stratford which are maintained by the Society's volunteers.

The existing Library Garden, which was last refurbished in the late 1990's, was designed to be viewed by passers-by from the sidewalk or the street.

The renewal project includes a redesign, replant, and restore of Stratford Public Library's main garden, creating an inviting interactive space for library activities and the enjoyment of all Stratford residents and visitors.

"Beautifying Stratford through care of public gardens supports SDHS's vision: 'Gardening for Life'. Our volunteers are excited about renewing the Library Garden, incorporating recent understanding about gardening for nature by the use of native and pollinator plants, and creating a space that can accommodate people's activities in a natural setting." says Maureen Cocksedge, President of the SDHS.

Kloms Landscaping Inc. and the Library Garden Renewal Committee prepared the design, which will feature three seating areas and five garden beds. The space will be used as: a demonstration and teaching garden; a venue for library activities; and a garden space for the use and enjoyment of all Stratford residents and visitors. The renewed garden will incorporate heritage features, including the rock commemorating Central School and heritage plants such as 1812 roses, "Believe in Tomorrow" iris, and "City of Stratford" iris.

Funding and support of the project is a collaboration between SDHS, the Stratford Public Library Foundation, Stratford Perth Community Foundation, and the City of Stratford.

"We look forward to seeing the Society's vision realized in the revitalization of these gardens into a welcoming space to read, to connect, to learn, or to rest and relax in the beauty," says Heidi Culliton, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. "Several funds managed by our Foundation co-funded this project. In our grant-making we are proud to facilitate these important connections."

The Garden Renewal project is supported by grants from the CULLITON Fund, the Judy Reibling Legacy Fund, the Mansbridge Environment Fund, the Smart & Caring Community Fund and The Reading Fund, all held within Stratford Perth Community Foundation.

“The Library is thrilled with this partnership, and the opportunity to create more usable space for the public at the Library. Green spaces are so vital to a strong and healthy community and we thank all our partners for their initiative, vision, and support in developing enhanced service and spaces at the Library in such a beautiful way.” says Julia Merritt, CEO of Stratford Public Library.

Planning and design for the project is underway. Construction on the site is scheduled to begin fall 2021, and continue in spring 2022.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact:

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