

Camrose Public Library Dementia Project

Midterm Update

The Camrose Public Library (CPL) Dementia Project seeks to increase engagement, decrease isolation, and provide affordable resources for people living with dementia along with their caregivers and families. Programs like Cycling without Age and materials such as caregiver support kits will give support and encouragement to people living with dementia and their caregivers. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some challenges for the project; however, the library found ways to pivot and continue to make progress by the midterm reporting period.

Midterm Milestones:

- In-library programming aimed at bringing awareness and understanding about dementia to the community has shifted to virtual and online programs. This first program is an author series with Edmonton area authors who write about dementia in different ways. The author series helps with general public engagement and interest in dementia. One author has presented so far and others will present when restrictions are lifted.
- Dementia kits (including dementia-friendly puzzles, games and books that can be read with the person living with dementia) are bundled together for patrons to sign out. Originally, they were also supposed to include books about dementia and books to support caregivers however, through feedback, caregivers said they were too busy and overwhelmed to read so these books were not included. Each kit also includes local dementia resources and caregiver support information.
- Purchased a set of Marlena Books. These dementia-friendly books support individuals with dementia to continue reading. There are also discussion guides to accompany the books. Currently the books are on backorder. These books can either be signed out by individuals, or a whole group of people can read them at one time and potentially have a book club discussion.
- Offer a Music & Memory program that pairs people with a dementia-friendly MP3 player that has pre-programmed music. These can be signed out of the library, similar to signing out a book.
- Created a monthly newsletter with local dementia resources, interesting information, links to learning opportunities, websites, and interesting articles.
- On schedule to hire an intergenerational programmer for the summer months of 2021, to offer rides on the Trishaw bicycle with the Cycling Without Age program, and to offer other dementia-related programming.
- Preparing to offer the Timeslips storytelling program for when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.
- Purchased replacement batteries for their Trishaw bicycle and will continue to offer the Cycling Without Age program in the summer months. The intergenerational programmer will be training volunteers to take people out individually.

May 3, 2021

