



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Jodie Mandarino, Manager of Community Engagement

DATE: March 10, 2023

MEMO NO.: LIB-2023-001

SUBJECT: Tales on the Trails StoryWalk: Credit Valley Conservation Partnership

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of the memorandum is to inform Council about the Tales on the Trails StoryWalk project, a new initiative between the Halton Hills Public Library, Credit Valley Conservation, and the Orangeville Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. A StoryWalk® is an inventive way for people of all ages to enjoy reading and movement. Pages from a picture book are displayed along a path so that people can read along as they walk. These can be done inside or outdoors.

In 2019, the Halton Hills Public Library (HHPL) began offering StoryWalks throughout the community as a way of promoting healthy active living, community engagement and literacy. StoryWalks have been offered in the library, at community parks, as part of local events, and in the windows of Georgetown and Acton BIA businesses. Since 2019, HHPL further developed its StoryWalk collection to include French language and bilingual formats and titles that support our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, equity, diversity, and inclusion. StoryWalks were offered outdoors throughout the Halton Hills community in partnership with the Town's Recreation and Parks department.

Through various grants and initiatives, HHPL has secured the rights for many diverse book titles such as *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, a story about pollution and freshwater conservation from an Indigenous Activist's perspective, and *We*

Move Together by Kelly Fritsch and Anne McGuire, a story about accessibility and disability advocacy. The graphic novel *If Go Missing* by Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni Shingoose, which addresses the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, was also made into a StoryWalk for an older audience. These titles have contributed to the library's efforts to engage the Halton Hills community in discourse surrounding social and cultural needs.

COMMENTS:

In 2022, the Halton Hills Public Library partnered with the Orangeville Public Library (OPL) and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to develop Tales on the Trails, an installation of permanent StoryWalk pedestals that display a rotation of picture book titles focused on environmental literacy. Permanent display pedestals will be installed in the Island Lake Conservation and Terra Cotta Conservation areas. Both OPL and HHPL will be assisting CVC in the selection of picture book titles and the procurement of copyright permissions.

Once installed, the Tales on the Trails StoryWalk project will be offered year-round at the conservation areas. The chosen pedestals will be a permanent addition to the conservation environment. Strict standards have been followed when selecting the materials used to ensure minimal environmental impact.

The first Tales on the Trails StoryWalk will be piloted during the Maple Syrup Festivals at both conservation areas throughout March and feature *Tapping for Sap* by Carolyn J. Morris. Piloting the project will allow CVC staff to identify the ideal locations for the pedestals before they are permanently installed. The Tales on the Trails project is scheduled to officially launch in June 2023. Passes for the Credit Valley Conservation areas are available to borrow through HHPL with a library card.

CONCLUSION:

The Tales on the Trails StoryWalk project promotes community development and environmental literacy through a partnership between the Halton Hills Public Library, Credit Valley Conservation and Orangeville Public Library. This collaboration offers a unique multi-literacy experience in a non-traditional setting and showcases the library's commitment to engaging the Halton Hills community and supporting environmental education.

Reviewed and approved by,

Beverley King, Acting Chief Librarian and CEO

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer