

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perth South Council Addressing Provision of Library Services

May 24, 2024

Perth South, Ontario – The Municipal Council of the Township of Perth South is committed to providing library service to residents. A strong library system facilitates equity of access to information and ensures that everyone can explore knowledge, literature, and resources.

“Perth South residents have been able to access library services in Kirkton, St. Marys and Stratford for more than fifteen years. Council felt a review was required based on St. Marys’ submission for 2024. We apologize for the disruption this review has caused.” said Perth South Mayor Jim Aitcheson.

Budget proposals submitted for 2024 showed a significant difference in cost, as follows:

St. Mary’s Public Library	\$297.45 per user
Stratford Public Library	\$227.40 per user
Huron County Library	\$225.32 per user

“Despite suggestions that the Township has not paid its ‘fair share’ for library services, the Council has always, without negotiation, paid the fees proposed by each library system. The significant difference in the cost of St. Marys’ proposal led to the current review,” said Mayor Aitcheson.

Perth South Council accepted the Stratford Public Library proposal, but Stratford declined to renew its contract unless a contract with St. Marys was also renewed. Council did not consider this change in approach to be appropriate.

Stratford Public Library has agreed to make available to Perth South ratepayers non-resident library cards. This allows Perth South residents to access the library’s physical and limited online collections, including Gale Courses. The \$120 cost of the cards will be reimbursed but starting May 27, 2024, the cost will be invoiced directly to Perth South so residents will not be out of pocket.

St. Marys Public Library has declined to make non-resident cards available to Perth South residents.

Perth South residents can obtain a full service Huron County Library card from any branch. Hours for the Kirkton Branch are as follows:

- Monday: CLOSED
- Tuesday: 10 am - 2 pm
- Wednesday: 3 pm - 7 pm
- Thursday: 10 am - 2 pm
- Friday: CLOSED
- Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm

The Huron County Library has an expansive online collection of current ebooks and resources available to Perth South residents which can be viewed at www.huroncountylibrary.ca/online-resources/

“We are confident that we will be able to ensure access to high quality library services to Perth South residents and we ask ratepayers to be patient as we work through this transition,” said Mayor Aitcheson.

For further information, please contact:

Mayor Jim Aitcheson 519.393.5298 Fred Tranquilli, CAO 519.271.0619 x. 231