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Excitement Growing For New Boyne Library Plans

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Published: Tuesday, 14 November 2017 05:48

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Wins Bridgman is the architect working on design plans for an expanded and renovated Boyne Library in Carman

Design plans are taking shape for an expanded and renovated Boyne Library in Carman.

Wins Bridgman of Bridgman Collaborative Architecture is taking the lead on developing the blueprints. He explained there are three aspects to the project that he's keying in on.

The first is an accessible main entrance for everyone.

The second priority is the creation of space big enough to house more books, one-and-a-half times more than the current amount at the library.

And finally, Bridgman said the plan is to create added space, noting there isn't a lot of places for people to come together in the current facility.

"One of the ways that you can look at that is to say, 'Where do you currently read a book to a child?', 'Where do you have a book club discussion?', 'Where do you sit by yourself and use the WiFi and use all of the resources available to us in a

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library?!"

He added that creating a sense of community has been the common theme throughout the design process.

"A library is a community place that represents the history of a community, the resources of the whole world and the current community - those things that people want to do together."

And so, Bridgman said his team tried to create elements of community in each room at the library.

"So, it's a matter of recognizing what the community is, how and where people like to engage together and try to incorporate all of the needs of the library...with the needs of the community," he explained.

Bridgman added that another priority in coming up with the design plans was to have the existing historical building remain a landmark against a new, one-storey addition.

"The key to it for us was to look at the tower and...the large evergreen tree and to feel as though the new building was wrapping around it, protecting and almost embracing the historic building."

He explained that this consideration even played into the type of materials selected for the exterior of the addition.

Bridgman added the intention is to also keep the existing historical building a landmark against a new, one-storey addition.

Meantime, members of the Boyne Regional Library Expansion and Renovation Committee held their second annual Bail Me Out Fund Raiser on Wednesday. This is where local dignitaries were locked in a makeshift jail cell and weren't released from prison until they reached a certain fundraising goal.

Spokesperson Dale Owen said preliminary numbers indicate that the event raised another \$16,000 for the project.

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