



September 2020

## **New Horizons for Seniors Program COVID Seniors Connected**



Essa Public Library has received a *New Horizons for Seniors Program* grant from the federal government in the amount of \$24,798.00.

This grant is designed to reduce social isolation generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and will be active until March 31, 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for many in our community, and perhaps seniors were the most strongly affected by the requirement to practice Social (physical) Distancing. Those who live alone may have felt a great degree of isolation these last few months.

Funds from this grant seek to alleviate some of this isolation and re-connect seniors with community, activity, friends, and their local library. The project, designed by Glenda Newbatt, Manager of Library Services, will embrace a combination of hands-on-projects shared virtually – such as creating an individual succulent garden, or participating in a virtual “paint night” - in which the instructor will gather seniors together to share an afternoon of creative learning.

To support connectivity, seniors may request that library staff deliver project materials to their residence. The COVID Seniors Connected Grant will also finance the acquisition of some iPads to lend to seniors, and some Hub internet plans. Library staff will also facilitate any training to use these tools effectively.

We want our seniors to feel safe, supported – and very much connected to their community.

Essa Public Library Board Chair, Derek McKeever, and Essa Public Library CEO, Laura Wark, extend thanks to the federal government, EPL staff for ongoing innovative service, the Essa Public Library Board for visioning a library system that strives to serve Essa Township to the best of its ability, and Essa Council for their support and interest in making Essa Township a great place to live and work.