

New Library CEO

By Stew Slater

STAFF REPORTER

A new CEO will begin her role at the St. Marys Public Library on Monday, May 30. Yunmi Hwang, a native of Ontario, has been managing a large regional library branch in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Located in the wide, rural expanses of the Prairie province's southwest, the library "had a lot of outreach programs. And that's exactly what we're trying to start here," explained St. Marys Library Board chair Clive Slade, who served on the standing Personnel committee that conducted two rounds of interviews before selecting Hwang from an initial field of 35 applicants.

Slade says possible additions to St. Marys Library service include a drop-off box at the Pyramid Centre, programs at the Friendship Centre, and expanded interaction with schools and service clubs in the Township of Perth South.

The Library has been without a CEO for approximately a year. A search was launched in 2010 but was aborted when the Personnel committee determined no suitable candidate could be found. Slade says the process was further delayed by the transition to a newly-elected Town Council.

Town CAO Rob Brindley served as Acting CEO during the year. He stresses that Library staff did an admirable job, including implementing some aspects of a Strategic Plan that had been approved not long before the previous CEO departed.

"I'm excited, though, because it has been challenging to move forward on a lot of the aspects of the Strategic Plan," Brindley commented.

Slade agreed. He says Library staff expressed a desire that the new CEO possess a high level of training in library management — not just human resources management. And Hwang, who has earned a Master's degree in Library Sciences, meets that requirement.

To move forward on some key aspects of the Strategic Plan, the Library Board chair explained, "the person has to have that library knowledge background. And she has it."