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'Thriving hub of creativity': Newmarket Public Library relaunches Maker Hub

Frank Maccarone, the father of a four-year-old and six-year-old, was thrilled to see how libraries have evolved since he was a youngster.



By **Lisa Queen** Newmarket Era

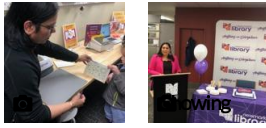
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Lisa Queen Metroland

The Newmarket Public Library Maker Hub has evolved over the last decade to become a thriving hub of creativity and innovation, CEO Tracy Munusami said.



When the Maker Hub at the Newmarket Public Library started a decade ago, it consisted of a lone 3D printer.

On March 14, kids and parents crowded into the newly created space on the first floor of the library for the relaunch of the hub.

It includes three 3D printers, a Cricut machine, a button maker, a knitting machine, a heat press, melty beads and more accessible workstations.

Four-year-old Loulou Maccarone was getting help from library worker Shambhavi Shenoy with putting the finishing touches on her pencil case, which she will take to her class at Clearmeadow Public School.

The design was made on the Cricut machine and then adhered to the case with the heat press.

Loulou's older brother, six-year-old Finn, was enamoured with creations from a 3D printer on the other side of the room.

Their dad, Frank Maccarone, is impressed with the hub.

"It makes me think of a modernized library," he said.

"When I would come to the library when I was a kid, it was books and the odd VHS tape and stuff like that, and now they're sort of evolving with the times with the focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) initiatives and I think it's great."

Library CEO Tracy Munusami is pleased to see the strides the hub has made from its humble beginnings.

"Little did we know that a thriving hub of creativity and innovation would emerge from this modest start," she said.

"Our dedicated library staff seized the opportunity presented by that 3D printer and began crafting engaging educational programs to teach the community. Fast forward to today, and we are proud to expand our Maker Hub footprint to meet the community's requests. It's a testament to the power of learning and making together."

The hub's success would not have been possible without the collaboration and support of NewMarket and York Region District School Board teachers, Munusami said.

"Today, our Maker Hub offers much more than we could have imagined in those early days. We aim to make creative learning accessible to everyone. Our Maker Hub is a place designed for curiosity and discovery, for learning and making memories," she said.

"Whether you're interested in crafting your own unique T-shirts or delving into the fascinating world of 3D modelling, there's an opportunity for everyone, regardless of skill set. It's a space that transcends boundaries and welcomes individuals of all ages and backgrounds."



Lisa Queen has been a reporter for more than 30 years. The Carleton University journalism graduate has spent the majority of her career covering issues affecting communities in York Region. She was also a news reporter in Toronto for eight years. The proud mom of a grown daughter and a goldendoodle now covers Newmarket, as well as some breaking news and regional issues.

