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NEWS

HALTON HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDS 3D PRINTER

BRYAN MYERS
bmyers@metroland.com



Bryan Myers/Torstar

Danielle Dawe, adult service library technician, with the Halton Hills Public Library's new 3D printer.

The library is adding a new dimension this summer, allowing patrons to create in the third dimension using a brand new three-dimensional printer.

"A lot of people are interested," said Danielle Dawe, adult services librarian at the Halton Hills Public Library in Georgetown. "There is a sustainable element to it."

Already on display are a number of projects the printer is capable of including phone stands, fidget spinners, and a Game of Thrones-themed chess set.

Patrons interested in printing their own three-dimensional models are required to complete a one-hour certification session held on Saturdays at the library. So far, Dawe said, the course has been well-attended.

Learning to use the printer is half the battle, designing three-dimensional models may take more effort, but resources like Thingiverse provide templates for projects

compatible with the printer's software.

The printer itself, a Cubicon Single Plus, cost about \$5,000 to purchase and prints a biodegradable plastic.

"It's a long-release, but the ultimate goal is a sustainable filament," Dawe said.

Like regular two-dimensional printing, the library charges a cost-recovering fee for materials, starting at \$2 to initiate a project and 50 cents for every 15 minutes a project is printing. The printer lays down about 500 millimetres per second.

The printer is located in the Creativity Centre and certification courses can be reserved online with a library card.

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