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3D Printers Arrive at GPPL

For immediate release

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The Grande Prairie Public Library has introduced a new 3D printing service. Both an Ultimaker S5 and a Flashforge Creative 3 have been purchased and will be made available to Library patrons who would like to submit a 3D file for printing.

"We're really excited to be able to offer 3D printing at GPPL," says Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian. "There are so many uses, including tools and equipment, succulent planters, and Dungeons & Dragons models. We're looking forward to seeing what our patrons come up with."

Costs will be calculated by the size and complexity of the print job. "Once we receive a print file at 3d@gppl.ca, the amount of material needed will be calculated," says Anderson. "When the materials have been paid for, it will be placed in our print queue. We anticipate 3 to 4 weeks for the print job to be completed." Files are printed in a single filament colour and can then be painted with acrylic paint.

Library patrons can utilize websites that offer 3D files such as Thingiverse, MyMiniFactory, or Pinshape or build their own files with Tinkercad or Blender. "When we re-open, our Creative Computers will be available for people looking to create their own 3D modelling," says Anderson.

The 3D printers and Creative Computers were purchased with funds from the Janssen Legacy Fund. In 2016, local resident Willie Janssen made a substantial bequest to the Library with the request that the funds be used to fund technology for children and teens. "Thanks to Mr. Janssen, this technology will be available to users of all ages," says Anderson.

For more information about GPPL's 3D printers, visit gppl.ca/3D

About the Grande Prairie Public Library

The Grande Prairie Public Library serves the City of Grande Prairie (one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, pop. 69,088), the County of Grande Prairie and the Municipal District of Greenview. In 2020, 309,007 items were borrowed and 106,393 people visited GPPL, located in the Montrose Cultural Centre. For more information, call 780-532-3580 or visit us online at gppl.ca.