

Bruce County Public Library

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from Board Chair

This year has been one of the most challenging in the history of the Bruce County Public Library. As our world has struggled to contend with the tragic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Library Service has had to adapt its services to meet the needs of a community in the grips of a public health emergency. Our efforts to meet this challenge have driven innovation within the library service and have helped in the broader effort to keep our community safe and strong.

When the pandemic made it difficult for long term care residents to connect with their loved ones, Bruce County Library staff stepped up. By leveraging technology, staff were able to help long term care residents to make connections over FaceTime and Skype. Staff also lead an effort to provide iPads for long term care residents, enabling them to access to library services like eBooks and eAudiobooks.

As world events forced rapid changes to the ways in which we learn, play, and connect with each other, our libraries increased their engagement online, providing services in new formats. This year, library staff have provided many successful online programs, curbside service and technical assistance to our patrons. We have also enhanced our digital collections by adding Kanopy and Niche Academy and by expanding our collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks.

The mission of our County's library system is to provide all the information, knowledge and entertainment resources you need to achieve your goals, foster your interests, and realize your dreams. The year 2020 has demonstrated that the true strength of the Bruce County Public Library is the determination of our staff to fulfill that mission, even in the most trying circumstances.

Although we hope for better years to come, the Board and I look forward to seeing a continuation of the caring and innovative spirit that has dominated our libraries in 2020.

Sincerely,

Luke Charbonneau

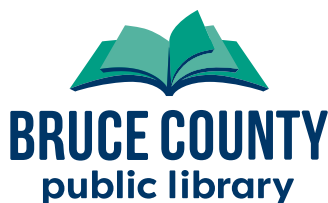
Chair, Bruce County Public Library



By the Numbers - 2020

22,307

Library Cardholders



Administration: 519.832.6935
library.brucecounty.on.ca

223,430
Items Borrowed

103,898

eBooks & eAudiobooks
circulated



8,916

people attended

292

online programs

5,788

youtube.com/brucecountypubliclibrary views

54,820

FREE WiFi sessions



5,227

followers on social media



149,354

visits to library.brucecounty.on.ca

Supporting Our Communities Through the Pandemic

We enhanced our digital services with virtual reference, web chat, caring calls, and 24/7 wifi outside of our branches.



We distributed over 3000 Take Home Activity Kits, which provided a unique free DIY project each month for children and teens/adults.



We teamed up with community crafters & the Canada Sews Grey Bruce chapter and distributed over 1000 free handmade face masks to our communities.



Our Curbside Pickup service provided a safe method to borrow materials from our 17 branches.



With funding from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and the Society of Engineering Professionals we purchased 3D printers and created PPE "ear-savers" for use by County of Bruce paramedics.

Message from the Director

Bruce County Public Library (BCPL) always strives to support our communities by providing relevant services to all ages. No time was this more evident than in 2020 as staff worked to meet the needs of residents throughout the pandemic. Library staff responded with positivity, perseverance, and professionalism with each change we undertook. Patrons frequently shared with staff how the library was helping them through these uncertain times, illustrating the continued value and relevance of public libraries.

BCPL leaned on our culture of innovation to engage even more with technology. For the first time, staff created online programming, developing outstanding live story times, online trivia, Digital Escape Rooms, and introducing a monthly “Library Talks” program featuring other community groups and leaders. Language-learning programs and book clubs transitioned online, providing needed social connection while we had to stay apart.

Bruce County Public Library is here for our communities, and we invite you to join us. Get a free library card and discover all that your local library has to offer.

Sincerely,

Brooke McLean

Director,
Library Services



Chesley Friends of the Library
Lion's Head Friends of the Library
Port Elgin Friends of the Library
Tobermory Friends of the Library
Wiarton Friends of the Library

To our volunteers:

Bruce County Public Library extends our thanks to our many volunteers for generously donating their time and skills and helping us create a vibrant library community.

Board Members

Mayor Robert Buckle
Municipality of South Bruce

Mayor Luke Charbonneau
Town of Saugeen Shores - Chair

Mayor Steve Hammell
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Mayor (Warden) Mitch Twolan
Township of Huron-Kinloss

Mike Moszynski, Ripley

Patricia Symon, Wiarton

Catherine Dickison, Brockton

Library membership is FREE!
Register online or at your local branch.
getacard.brucecounty.on.ca

