

Annual Report 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



On behalf of the Library Board, I'm pleased to share the annual report of the Bruce County Public Library. 2023 was a year of impactful moments at BCPL. Perhaps our biggest accomplishment was bringing a mobile library to residents throughout Bruce County. The new Bookmobile improves service equity and offers greater access to literature and information resources by visiting underserved residents throughout Bruce County.

Our Summer Reading Club had the highest participation ever. Supported by dedicated staff, 20% more children read 30% more minutes, improving literacy and igniting the joy of reading. Teens continued to enjoy our Teen Book Boxes, a unique program that offers a book to keep, a book to return, and themed snacks and activities. Adults participated in choosing the Evergreen award-winner and discovered upcoming titles with our Bruce Best Bets online videos.

In 2023, over 25,000 people attended 2,080 in-person programs. Special moments included live animal presentations with the Raptor Conservancy and Scales Nature Reserve, a visit from the Little Mermaid, and Valentines for Seniors which saw over 700 notes of kindness delivered to long-term care homes throughout Bruce County. During these challenging economic times, BCPL resources and programming remain free of charge ensuring that everyone can participate.

Read on to discover the many ways Bruce County Public Library supports our communities, sparks discovery, and builds connections.

Mark Goetz
Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2023 was a milestone year for Bruce County Public Library as we launched our Bookmobile to bring library services to residents throughout Bruce County. Visiting long term care residents, school children, parents and toddlers, our 18th library branch is building community beyond the walls of our traditional libraries.

Every day at BCPL is unique and offers new opportunities for connecting to programs, technology, and people. We embraced your return to our branches as we collectively emerged from the challenges of a global pandemic, with more than 212,000 visits across 17 branches. The warm welcome from staff never changes whether you are a regular patron or visiting for the first time.

BCPL remains a beacon of learning, sharing, and opportunity for everyone. Each day sparks discovery with our variety of programs and resources for all ages. Our new Seed Libraries and children's gardening programs promote learning about plants, growing food, and harvesting seeds. Book club discussions build social connections over shared reading, and early literacy programs like Story Time introduce our youngest library users to the joy of language and stories.

There truly is something for everyone at BCPL. Enjoy this look back at 2023 and join us for more inspirational moments in 2024.

Brooke Mclean
Library Director



COMMUNITY

In 2023 our community initiatives thrived, with the CVITP program aiding 259 individuals with income tax assistance, over 700 Valentines delivered to seniors, and a meaningful partnership with the Saugeen First Nation, raising awareness for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls through the donation of 20 handmade ribbon skirts. Our two holiday initiatives, Food for Fines and Tree of Warmth collected a total of 673 items.



COLLECTIONS

We had a fantastic year with growing our collections. Thanks to the generous donation from NWMO, we added 35 lendable LaunchPads to our catalogue, enhancing digital resources for our patrons. Additionally, the launch of our Seed Libraries proved to be a resounding success, with 600 seed packages being picked up by community members.



PROGRAMMING

We hit new highs when our Summer Reading Club shattered records with 549 participants logging 280,000 minutes of reading. Staff seamlessly integrated technology and art with the introduction of five Cricut machines that helped enrich our Adult and Teen programming at all of our Branches. We celebrated local talent with various author events, including our Read Local program, where authors interacted with patrons and even recorded an interview series that can be found on our YouTube channel.



"... has worked so hard on his reading this summer! And has truly loved the Beanstack program, recording his minutes and titles! He is a struggling reader so this program has really boosted his confidence this summer."

Thank You Library Board

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Bookmobile

The biggest achievement of 2023 rolled into the HQ office in Port Elgin in October! The long-awaited Bookmobile started its routes around Bruce County on October 10. Route locations were carefully chosen to ensure maximum outreach to neighbourhoods with limited access to traditional Library services.

When selecting stops, remote communities, senior isolation and mobility, and financial barriers were taken into consideration. Shortly after this momentous occasion, BCPL threw an unforgettable launch party with 150 people in attendance. There was no shortage of entertainment with Library activities featuring their 3D printers and Cricut machines, snacks and refreshments, special guest visits from The Little Mermaid, and local folk musician Panzerotti. The event kicked off with speeches from those involved in making the Bookmobile a reality, followed by a ribbon cutting that helped set the tone for a joyful event.



By the Numbers

379,786

Items Borrowed

118,332

eAudio and eBooks



22,744

Card Holders

2,080

Programs

25,477

Program Attendees

212,663

Visitors



362,267

Website and
Catalogue Visits

7,576

Social Media
Followers

25,844

Wifi Sessions

10,345

Public Computer Uses

27 Online Programs

6,497

Online Attendance

