

Annual Report

2024

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Library Board, I'm pleased to share Bruce County Public Library's Annual Report for 2024. The report highlights the impactful work of staff at BCPL, and their efforts to provide outstanding service to meet community needs.

In 2024, we celebrated the relocation of the Paisley Branch to an accessible, bright space in the Paisley Community Centre. Providing welcoming, inclusive spaces for everyone is an important part of our vision for all library branches.

To support this goal, staff completed specialized training and all 17 library branches, as well as the Bookmobile, were designated Dementia-Friendly Community Supporters. People living with dementia and their care partners are welcomed, included, and supported at our locations.

We are also proud to offer Community Volunteer Income Tax clinics for low-income households. Volunteers filed 480 tax returns, resulting in over \$1.6 million in benefits and refunds. We are grateful for the dedicated work of these volunteers.

Our library branches are community hubs focused on connection and collaboration, evidenced by the nearly 28,000 people who attended library programs. I encourage you to visit your local library and discover the wide range of services and resources available. From 3D-Printers to binoculars, fishing rods to ukuleles, you're sure to find something unexpected!

Mark Goetz
Board Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bruce County Public Library continues to focus on its strategic priorities of being a Trusted Community Connector, Digital Community Facilitator, and Community Sharing Place. 2024 marked another year of innovation and engagement at BCPL. Our Bookmobile had its first anniversary of providing services to people throughout Bruce County, welcoming 5,300 people and circulating 7,000 items. Thank you to all who donated, visited, and helped make this service a success.

BCPL also became fine-free! This important step ensures that everyone has access to library resources and supports our commitment to creating welcoming and inclusive spaces.

Library programs connect us with our communities, and we offer a diverse range of activities for all ages. Senior Story Times, technology help, recipe swaps and spice making, and Indigenous beading demonstrations are only a few of the adult programs held in 2024. Our children's Summer Reading Club grew even more popular this year, surpassing past registration numbers and fostering a love of reading in young patrons.

We remain dedicated to providing spaces and resources for everyone, building a future of innovative ways to read, connect, learn, and discover.

Brooke McLean
Library Director



COMMUNITY

2024 saw BCPL go Fine Free! Joining over 200 Libraries across Canada we are providing barrier-free access to information, resources, and programs for all community members.

We strengthened our community connections by attending outreach events across Bruce County. Events included the Kincardine Multicultural Festival, The Truth and Reconciliation event in Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigiing with the Bookmobile, and the Port Elgin Pumpkinfest. We also joined many local parades, Touch a Truck events, and summer and fall festivals, bringing Library services to our communities. Library Director, Brooke McLean and Board Chair, Mark Goetz happily attended events, demonstrating a commitment to community engagement.

Staff at all 17 Branches, and the Bookmobile received designation as Dementia-Friendly Community Supporters, to ensure those living with dementia, and their care partners are supported and welcome at BCPL.

Another major highlight of the year was the grand opening of the new Paisley Branch in July, that coincided with the Paisley 150th celebrations. Now located on the second floor of the Paisley Community Centre, this updated and bright space provides renewed access to resources and programming.



PROGRAMMING

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) had a positive impact on the community. With 480 tax returns filed, the program brought in a total of \$1.6 million in refunded funds. We also had a record-breaking Summer Reading Club that kicked off at the Walkerton Branch with a space-themed event. By the end of the summer, we had 826 kids registered and a total of 330,069 minutes read, our most ever!

This summer, we launched our new inflatable movie screen for outdoor movie showings! The outdoor movies were part of our contributions to the Wiarton Homecoming and Paisley's 150th Anniversary, allowing us to promote our services and strengthen our connection with the community. The Cargill and Lion's Head branches also hosted outdoor movie events, attracting over 140 attendees of all ages.



COLLECTIONS

Our collections continued to grow in 2024, expanding both our digital and hands-on resources. In May, we welcomed six sets of walking poles, generously donated by Grey-Bruce Public Health, to support active lifestyles in Bruce County. In October, we excitedly launched Biblioboard Library, a suite of resources that encourages local writers and readers to create, share, and discover unique digital content.

Additionally, we upgraded and refreshed our tech kits with new iRobots, providing more opportunities for STEAM exploration. These additions help us offer unique and diverse materials to meet our patrons' changing needs.



Thank You

Library Board

Board Chair, Mayor Mark Goetz, Municipality of South Bruce
Mayor (Warden) Chris Peabody, Municipality of Brockton
Mayor Don Murray, Municipality of Huron-Kinloss
Mayor Jay Kirkland, Township of South Bruce Peninsula
Trustee Mike Moszynski, Ripley - Vice Chair
Trustee Sheila Barker, Wiarton
Trustee Catherine Dickison, Brockton



Donors

Thank you to our donors, whose generosity allows us to enrich our library services and help serve our community.

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Private Giving Fund | Jacqueline Gardiner |
| Walkerton & District Optimist Club | Evelyn Mason |
| South Bruce Community | Barb Schuknecht |
| Liaison Committee | John Ruch |
| OECTA | Mary Joan Joyce |
| Royal Canadian Legion Branch 295 | Theresa Foy |
| Miller's Family Camp | James King |
| Friends of the Lion's Head Branch | Barbara Weissman |
| Friends of the Tobermory Branch | Laura and Rob Kerslake |
| In Memory of Florence Mackesy | Anne Marie Schenk |
| In Memory of Marilyn Hart | Brodie and Sirkka Hart |
| In memory of Bob Simmie | Bill and Catherine Dickison |
| | Shelly Norman |
| | Chris Fennema |

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.

By the Numbers



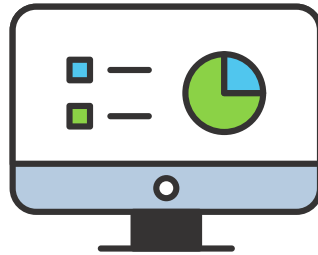
25,213
CARD HOLDERS

368,901

ITEMS BORROWED

156,985

EAUDIO AND EBOOKS



228,787

VISITORS

2,575

PROGRAMS

27,957

PROGRAM ATTENDEES

8,435

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

406,769

WEBSITE AND CATALOGUE VISITS



11,659

PUBLIC COMPUTER USES

23,036

WIFI SESSIONS

5,084

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

31 ONLINE

PROGRAMS