AGENDA

OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
21 Reeve Street, Woodstock and online
www.oxfordcounty.ca/livestream

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
4. ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
   - 4.1 May 16, 2023
5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
   - 5.1 Strategy Corp
     RE: Library Strategic Plan Update
   - 5.2 Warden Ryan, Oxford County
     RE: Drag Storytime
6. CONSIDERATION OF DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE
   - 7.1 P. Burtoft - June 9, 2023
     RE: Drag Storytime
   - 7.2 B. Burtoft - June 9, 2023
     RE: Drag Storytime
   - 7.3 ISAN - P. Marshal - June 14, 2023
     RE: Drag Storytime Ingersoll
8. REPORTS
   - 8.1 2023-13 Key Agenda Items Update (Verbal Report)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Library Board receive the Key Agenda Items Update, Report No. 2023-13 for information and discussion.

8.2 2023-14 Librarian's Report and Statistics

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive Report No. 2023-14 for information and discussion.

8.3 2023-15 2022 Library Year-End Financial Statements

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Oxford County Library Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 be accepted.

8.4 2023-16 Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request - Collections

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Library Board receive Report No. 2023-16, Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request - Collections, for approval.

8.5 2023-17 Annual Community Report 2022

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Library Board receive Report No. 2023-17, 2022 Annual Community Report Card, for information.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

11. NEW BUSINESS / ENQUIRIES / COMMENTS

11.1 Public Libraries Update

11.1.1 CBC Article: Are drag storytimes worth fighting for? These people think so.

11.1.2 The Walrus Article: Have you been to the library lately?

12. CLOSED SESSION

Regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual.

12.1 Closed session begins

12.2 Correspondence from Oxford Pride June 12, 2023

12.3 Closed session ends

13. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT

OXFORD COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

MINUTES

May 16, 2023

Member Present	Chair Julia Harris Vice-Chair Laura Langford Ellen Devlin Cynthia Lacroix Councillor Brian Petrie Katherine Grieve
Members Absent	Councillor David Mayberry
Staff Present	L.M. Williams, CEO/Chief Librarian L. Buchner, Director of Corporate Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Oxford County Library meets in regular session this sixteenth day of May, 2023, in Room 222, Oxford County Administration Building, Woodstock at 1:00 p.m. with Chair Julia Harris in the chair.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO.1

Moved By: Laura Langford
Seconded By: Ellen Devlin

Resolved that the Agenda be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

NIL

4. ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLUTION NO.2

Moved By: Brian Petrie
Seconded By: Ellen Devlin

Resolved that the Library Board Minutes of April 18, 2023 be adopted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Library Operations Policy Review

6. CONSIDERATION OF DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

NIL

7. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Email Correspondence: K. Gravefell RE: Drag Storytime

RESOLUTION NO.3

Moved By: Brian Petrie
Seconded By: Katherine Grieve

Resolved that the Email Correspondence RE: Drag Storytime be received for information and discussion.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8. REPORTS

8.1 2023-08 Key Agenda Items Update

RESOLUTION NO.4

Moved By: Laura Langford
Seconded By: Ellen Devlin

1. That the verbal update on the Key Agenda Items, be received for information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.2 2023-09 Librarian's Report and Statistics

RESOLUTION NO.5

Moved By: Cynthia Lacroix
Seconded By: Laura Langford

1. That Report No. 2023-09 entitled Librarian’s Report and Statistics, be received for information and discussion.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.3 2023-10 - 2023 Q1 Library Business Plan and Budget Update

RESOLUTION NO.6

Moved By: Cynthia Lacroix
Seconded By: Brian Petrie

1. That Report No. 2023-10 entitled Q1 Library Business Plan and Budget Update, be received for information.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.4 2023-11 Policy Review: Library Code of Conduct

RESOLUTION NO.7

Moved By: Brian Petrie
Seconded By: Laura Langford

1. That Report No. 2023-11 entitled Policy Review: Library Code of Conduct, be approved with amendments.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8.5 2023-12 Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request

RESOLUTION NO.8

Moved By: Laura Langford
Seconded By: Cynthia Lacroix

1. That the funding request outlined in Report No. 2023-12 entitled Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request, be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NIL

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NIL

11. NEW BUSINESS / ENQUIRIES / COMMENTS

11.1 Public Libraries Update

11.1.1 CBC Article: School board, municipality make moves to work together on future buildings

11.1.2 CBC Article: 70-year-old Ontario biker makes it her mission to protect people at drag queen storytimes

12. CLOSED SESSION

NIL

13. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

NIL

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Oxford County Library Board adjourns its proceedings at 3:00 p.m. until the next meeting scheduled for June 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes adopted on _____ by Resolution No. __.

_____

CHAIR

_____

SECRETARY

Subject: Fw: Our Children
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 at 10:12:43 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time
From: Peter Burtoft
To: libraryboard@ocl.net

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

As a member of the Tillsonburg Community, I feel compelled to express my very deep concerns regarding the exploitation of our children.

The aforesaid is taking place within our Library which is funded by the tax paying citizens of Oxford County.

It is the full responsibility of the "Leaders" of our Community to prevent the criminal acts brought upon our children under the guise of "Storybook time".

Our children are the most precious resource within our society and should not be subjected to the immoral activities platformed within our Library.

The scheduled "exhibition" at the Tillsonburg Library on Saturday, June 10th should be cancelled!

Why? The psychological impact of such an insane "program" will leave our children scarred for life.

Please act accordingly in order to protect our children and the future of a 'respectful society'.

Fortunately, it rests upon the shoulders of our "Leaders" who are **totally responsible** for allowing perverted people to address our innocent children.

Citizens within the province of New Brunswick are a perfect example of what resulted in criminal charges being laid upon the "Leaders".
Leaders that are *totally responsible* for allowing these "activities"

to take place.

Our children are in your hands.

respectfully submitted,
peter burtoft

June 9/'23

To the Tillsonburg Library Board Members,

It has just come to my attention of the Saturday June 10th/'23 planned "Drag" Storybook time and as a member of the Tillsonburg Library I now feel compelled to express my deep concerns regarding the exploitation of our children.

The Tillsonburg Library is funded by the tax paying citizens of Oxford County and its charter and mandate is to remain neutral in regards to the personal beliefs of our citizenry!!!

It is the full responsibility of our "leaders" to prevent criminal acts brought upon our children under the guise of "Storybook time".

Our children are the most precious resource within our society and should not be subjected to the immoral activities played within our sundi brary. This scheduled "exhibition" on Saturday 10th should be cancelled. The psychological impact of such an insane program will leave our children scarred for life.

It rests upon the shoulders of leaders such as you who are "totally responsible for allowing perverted people to address innocent children

Look at the province of New Brunswick as a perfect example of what resulted in criminal charges being laid upon the "leaders".

Our children are in your hands, so please act responsibly.

I have been a member of the Tillsonburg library since our move here, five years ago, visiting the library at a minimum of twice a week. However, your sponsoring of "Drag Storytime" sickens me and thus, am forced to return my membership card.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Bentoft.

Subject: Ingersoll Drag Storytime
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 10:23:02 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time
From: IISAN Network
To: Lisa Marie Williams, Marcus Ryan, libraryboard@ocl.net
Attachments: received_1298288250768756.jpeg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.

-The day they showed that reconcilation didn't matter and us even less!-

It was a bright Saturday morning, we happily got ourselves ready, proudly wearing our ribbon skirts. We headed out the door, our babies in their stroller, our older children running ahead waving their progressive pride flag in the air in such contentment, I needed to pause for a picture. To capture that joy!!!! You see my child identifies as two spirit and has been authentic and honest in their journey. A year ago they were in a very dark place due to bullying from schoolmates over this, so it was such a blessed moment. We are a reconnecting and decolonizing family. We have been shedding the colonial constructs of society that only dampen our spirits and for my eldest this included being part of the gender binary. As parents, our goal is for them to survive to adulthood so they can contribute to society, and they want to be Prime Minister one day so that's ALOT of responsibility!

About 5 minutes into our walk down Thames st N in Ingersoll to go attend drag storytime at the library we began to encounter hate and vulgar comments. A vehicle drove by with Canadian flags and yelled out the window how we should be ashamed of ourselves and dint belong here.
What a thing to say to a queer indigenous family!
We brushed it off, spoke about how people are only angry because they don't understand. We didn't want our children to be affected by these rude strangers.
On our walk we had stares of anger, we received honks of support. Truly it was a mixed bag the entire time.

We were walking past dollarama towards the library as we heard the whistles and the yells.
We all put on our brave faces, grabbed our walking children's hands tightly and readied ourselves for what we saw.

A crowd of HATE!!!

People began approaching us, one man put his hand on my shoulder and told me I was a pedophile and grooming my children.
We pushed on and I held back tears.

I thought once we got past the crowd it would be safe, I began to let down my guard, too soon however.

More protesters where inside with more signs and more Comments comparing us to groomers and sexual predators. I couldn't help but break down crying.

We pushed on still to try and find some sort of saftey.
However the protesters were already in the seats designated for our children, they refused to leave, even when police and library staff asked so politley and without room for question.
The tears and fear were overwhleming in that moment, I didn't know what to do. Thankfully I was offered a hug from a library staff member to help me calm. It worked!
The protesters had brought their own children and teens also. One infiltrated into the strorytime reading section after they got the older gentlemen to finally step to the side. She quickly put up her sign that read not for children and stared down the children in attendance, mouthing, "do you need to be saved?"
She also began to put her hands on our infants and made motions to try and take them out of their stroller which caused my partner to break down and no longer feel like our children were safe. Thankfully Mayor Petrie was right there and was able to provide comfort and a sense of saftey.

The protesters surrounded us, they continued to compare us to groomers, to invalidate us and make attempts at intimidation using religion and their words as their weapon.

Parents and Advovcates formed a wall of pride flags and rainbow to try and block the children from having to see the protesters and their signs, however the protesters just held their signs higher to make sure the children had to see them. Some even held Bible versus over the drag queens head to distract children from the stories.
It came down the line that [redacted] was in attendance and physically blocking children from entering using her feelings that drag is a sexual thing becuase her nephew is a drag queen. Thankfully someone stopped that pretty quickly!

Despite all the anger the protesters were emitting the pride committe stayed full of sunshine and rainbows, literally singing you are my sunshine as a distraction. We all cheerfully greated the queens as they arrived also!!!!
Everyone was so happy to see them be there! When you get to see someone be so authentically ok with themselves and embrace every part of themselves something changes in you. You start to feel like you belong too. I forgot almost at times about the protesters behind, especially during my shadow is purple and when the two spirit discussion came up!
We all chanted LOVE IS LOUDER as our own form of protest and a reminder to everyone who was there that love will win and always does!!

It was becoming apparent to everyone that the protesters of drag story time had ill intentions for any particpants and that they were filming people to out publicly when they left. Thankfully the library staff offered people to leave out the back to protect their saftey.

Part of decolonizig and understanding the truth of reconciliation is respecting and acknowledging Indigenous lifestyle and belief. This means discarding ideas and practices of biphobia, homophobia and transphobia and stepping into the ideals of honoring seven generations forward and backwards and that all are sacred and have unique gifts meant for this world.

This was not something demonstrated by any of the people who showed up to protest drag storytime.

They showed up with their signs and the law of God against a group of people who have been genocided on mass for just being themselves and called it love and protecting children.

All they did was tell our children they can't trust adults and that they don't belong here.
All they did was perpetuate mindsets that led us down paths like the IRSS, the young mothers homes in Ireland, the 60s and millenial scoops, and dare I say it. Germany in the 1940s.
How is this the message adults are giving? How is this being tolerated in any way? I'm grateful that it is being taken seriously and hope that things can be done to ensure that these mindsets do not take hold and cause it to become even more unsafe to be Indigneous and queer in Oxford County and Turtle Island.

Sincerely
The Director of ISAN- Oxford

Patricia Marshal (she/her/they/them)
Founder and Director of IISAN- Ingersoll & Area's Indigenous Solidarity and Awareness Network

"Walking together towards meaningful Truth and Reconcilation in Oxford County"

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Oxford County Library Board - Key Agenda Items 2023

Agenda items	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
Board Orientation	X	X	X	X	X							2023 Goal
2022 Year End Statistics		X										Yearly Agenda Item
Monthly Statistics		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Regular Agenda Item
Quarterly Metrics and Trends Report				Q1					Q2		Q3	Regular Agenda Item
Monthly Librarian Report	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Regular Agenda Item
2023 Business Plan and Budget Update				Q1				Q2		Q3		Regular Agenda Item
2022 Annual Community Report					X							Yearly Agenda Item
2023 Financial Audit					X							Yearly Agenda Item
Technology Plan								X*	X			2023 Goal / *Draft Plan
Service Delivery Model						X*		X				2023 Goal / *Draft Plan
2024 Business Plan								X				2024 Planning
2024 Budget Plan									X			2024 Planning
Strategic Planning						X*	X					*Draft Plan / Final Plan

Additional Agenda Items of Note will be added as anticipated.
Updated June 2023

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Oxford County Library Board - Policy Review Framework 2023 - 2026

Operational Policies	2023	2024	2025	2026	Notes
Oxford County Library Vision, Mission and Values	X				Process
Code of Conduct	X				Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Children and Teen Services Policy			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Membership and Circulation Policy			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Collection Development Policy				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Community Information Policy				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Internet and Technology Policy		X		X	Reviewed bi-annually to keep up with new technology needs
Donations, Sponsorship and Fundraising Policy		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Local History Policy			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Meeting Room / Study Room Policies		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Privacy and Access to Personal Information Policy				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Use of Library Resources During Elections Policy			X		Reviewed as part of planning for next election cycle, will be reviewed earlier should an election be called.
Programming and Outreach Policy		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Information and Readers' Advisory Policy				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Diversity and Inclusion Policy	X	X	X	X	Reviewed annually
Indigenous Awareness and Reconciliation Statement	X	X	X	X	Reviewed annually

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Oxford County Library Board - Policy Review Framework 2023 - 2026

Governance Policies	2023	2024	2025	2026	Notes
Oxford County Library Board Terms of Reference				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Advocacy	X				Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Annual Board Evaluation	X				Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Board Code of Conduct	X				Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Board Committees		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Board Duties and Responsibilities				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Board Orientation				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Board Training and Development		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
CEO Performance Appraisal		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Delegation of Authority			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Planning			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Policy Development			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Succession Planning		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Personnel Policies	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**Notes**
County General Policy Manual - Section 5 - Personnel				X	Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
County General Policy Manual - Section 7 - Health and Safety	X				Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
County General Policy Manual - Section 8 - Communications and Technology			X		Reviewed at least once per Board cycle
Accessibility Standards for Customer Service & Multi-Year Accessibly Plan (County)		X			Reviewed at least once per Board cycle

Updated April 2023

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Report No: 2023-14
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

To: **Oxford County Library Board**

From: **CEO/Chief Librarian**

Librarian's Report and Statistics

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the Board receive Report No: 2023-14 for information and discussion.**

DISCUSSION

CEO / Chief Librarian

Meetings May/June 2023

- May 23rd – Media Training with Tweedle Productions
- May 24th – w/ Sam Coughlan, former Chief Librarian
- May 26th – w/ OPP Provincial Liaison
- June 1st – w/ Strategy Corp – Stakeholder Interview
- June 2nd – ARUPLO Executive Team
- June 5th – OCL Staff Development Day
- June 7th – Ontario Library Service / Guidelines Council Auditor Training
- June 8th – Oxford County Employee Recognition Event
- June 9th – HRNOL (Human Resource Network of Ontario Libraries)
- June 9th – ARUPLO (Administrators of Rural Urban Public Libraries of Ontario)
- June 14th – w/ TVDSB and Zorra Twp – MOU
- June 16th – w/ Strategy Corp – Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Statistics – May 2023

In Attachment 2 to this report, statistics for:

- Branch Attendance
- Computer Use
- Physical Circulation
- Digital Circulation

Community Engagement

OCL Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Webpage
Library staff are working to create a dedicated webpage for diversity, equity and inclusion. The page will provide direct links to catalogue resources, feature monthly book lists, and link to external resources for issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Food Security
Tillsonburg branch staff and Outreach Services have received a grant of approximately $4000 from Maple Leaf Community Fund for the expansion of food security services. The teams at both locations will be working with Food Forward Oxford to provide recovered food and snacks for those in need. Tillsonburg will also continue to work with Cycles of Life to provide food and hygiene products.
Tillsonburg branch will be installing a refrigerator to be able to provide fresh foods to those in need, as well as a shelving unit to provide easier self-serve options for those looking for pantry items.
Ox on the run will be purchasing a small portable refrigeration unit to provide limited fresh foods at their stops.

Ox on the Run
Over the spring months the ambulance has undergone some vehicle maintenance including:

- repairs to rear doors and brakes,
- EMS lights and sirens disconnected,
- some interior work was completed.

A local company was able to fabricate a drop-down desk for circulation purposes, and remove a seat to create a better walkway for visitors. Staff had hoped for a drop-down awning to be attached to the exterior of the vehicle. Unfortunately, a suitable solution was unable to be found.

Outreach Services staff are currently working with Strategic Communications and Fleet Management on wrapping the vehicle. This work should be completed within the next few weeks. Attached to this report is a mock-up of the final design.

The Outreach Services team has been in place since May. They are currently attending special pop-up events without the new vehicle, and are preparing for the launch of Ox on the Run when the vehicle wrap is complete. The team is currently working with partner organizations such as Oxford EarlyOn to develop a summer schedule of partnered outdoor family events. A copy of the July calendar can be found as an attachment to this report.

Outreach Services was the recipient of a grant from Communities Building Youth Futures to purchase equipment for Ox on the Run including a Chromebook, iPad, Bluetooth speakers and STEM toys.

Southwestern Public Health – Partnership for Air Quality
Library staff will be working with Southwestern Public Health to offer N95 masks in library branches to be distributed to the public in the event that air quality becomes hazardous again due to wildfires. The masks will be available to anyone who identifies a need as an older adult, child, pregnant individual, individual with heart or lung disease, or individuals who need to be outdoors due to work or living conditions.

Branch and Programming

Branch Updates

Tillsonburg Library Park
In 2021 the Library received a grant from Canada Healthy Communities Initiative to update a portion of the Park behind Tillsonburg Branch for a garden and learning space. The grant deadline was extended to June 2023 after a number setbacks and challenges.
Work on the gardens portion of the park is well underway, with our anticipated deadline for purchases at the end of June. The concrete pad has been poured as of June 9th. This will be the feature program space for library events. In the coming days the pavilion and arbor will be installed to complete the construction portion of the project. Staff have already purchased accessible height planters and are working to secure soil, plants, signage and more prior to the June 30th deadline.
The Town of Tillsonburg is continuing to support the project with the installation of new playground equipment coming soon. In May Recreation and Culture hosted a "Pick a Playground" vote on their website. The two options provided are included at the end of this report as an attachment.

Programming Highlights

Summer Curiosity Club – Kicked Off June 12th
This summer's TD Summer Reading Club kicked off on June 12th. Children can participate in branches, through the library's Beanstack app or via the TD Summer Reading Club Kid's Website.

Staff at the Innerkip branch hosted a Kick off program on June 15th with over 40 participants for the hour program.

This summer will also feature a system wide Edible Book contest and will be bringing back our popular bookmark art contest.

Touch a Truck Event!
Library staff are currently working on a Touch a Truck event to launch our new Ox on the Run vehicle. The event will take place in Ingersoll on Friday, June 30th from 11AM to 2PM, and will feature other community vehicles such a fire truck, police car and the Sweet Cycle Ice Cream bike. The Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll will also be hosting a barbeque by donation for the event.

Oxford Reads
The 2023 Oxford Reads title has been chosen. Staff are currently working to secure the author for the Fall in-person Gala event. Once the author has been contracted to attend, the chosen title will be revealed to the public.

Staff News

Staff Day – June 5th
Library staff gathered at the Norwich Branch on June 5th for a staff development day. The meeting focused on providing staff with updates on system wide initiatives such as Summer Reading Club and the launch of our Ox on the Run. Staff were also given a tour of the Norwich branch and provided the opportunity to carpool for tours of two other branch locations.

Oxford County Awards for Excellence
The Library was well represented this year for annual Oxford County Awards for Excellence. From the nominated list, two OCL staff members won awards.

- Ryan van Leeuwen, Library Technician, won the Innovation Award for his work in modernizing library collections with expansion of the Book Club Set collection and modernizing collection standards and subject headings for the library's 2SLGBTQIA+ collections.
- Patrycja Baczewska, Tillsonburg Public Service Clerk, won the Customer Service Award for her commitment to excellent customer service.

Upcoming Events
Please see attachment 4 for the June and July Calendar of events.

To view our Program Calendar, go to:
https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=2048

SIGNATURES

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by:

Lisa Marie Williams
CEO/Chief Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Library Statistics May 2023
Attachment 2 – Ox on the Run
Attachment 3 – Tillsonburg Library Park Updates
Attachment 4 – June and July Calendar of Events

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Branch Attendance Statistics - May 2023

BRANCH	HOURS PER WEEK	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
BROWNSVILLE	15	2019	90	69	120	107	90	124	167	148	121	149	128	97	476	1410
		2022	19	12	37	56	55	121	160	88	74	97	123	56	179	898
	12	2023	86	86	88	86	94								440	440
	% Change 19 to 23		-4%	25%	-27%	-20%	4%								-8%	
	% Change 22 to 23		353%	617%	138%	54%	71%								146%	
BURGESSVILLE	15	2019	443	414	452	432	367	466	467	524	412	532	459	279	2,108	5247
		2022	169	180	276	348	312	349	363	419	349	313	260	259	1,285	3,597
	15	2023	376	351	397	364	299								1,787	1,787
	% Change 19 to 23		-15%	-15%	-12%	-16%	-19%								-15%	
	% Change 22 to 23		122%	95%	44%	5%	-4%								39%	
EMBRO	12	2019	197	192	211	203	214	188	346	225	233	308	168	117	1,017	2602
		2022	72	84	135	128	141	151	186	207	130	168	123	105	560	1,630
	12	2023	149	122	151	140	132								694	694
	% Change 19 to 23		-24%	-36%	-28%	-31%	-38%								-32%	
	% Change 22 to 23		107%	45%	12%	9%	-6%								24%	
HARRINGTON	12	2019	60	46	66	55	78	54	132	159	66	69	160	84	305	1029
		2022	58	70	90	96	75	127	104	148	117	104	237	102	389	1,328
	9	2023	134	120	102	132	161								649	649
	% Change 19 to 23		123%	161%	55%	140%	106%								113%	
	% Change 22 to 23		131%	71%	13%	38%	115%								67%	
INGERSOLL	60	2019	8274	6908	8698	8430	7549	7333	7714	7205	6286	6644	6548	5313	39,859	86902
		2022	979	1,824	2,767	2,578	2,544	3,586	3,788	4,120	2,910	3,126	3,986	2,465	10,692	34,673
	51.5	2023	5,370	4,574	5,817	4,378	4,270								24,409	24,409
	% Change 19 to 23		-35%	-34%	-33%	-48%	-43%								-39%	
	% Change 22 to 23		449%	151%	110%	70%	68%								128%	

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Branch Attendance Statistics - May 2023

BRANCH	HOURS PER WEEK	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
INNERKIP	12	2019	466	408	515	489	510	438	551	557	445	662	465	379	2,388	5885
		2022	198	171	290	300	286	336	324	338	274	289	349	190	1,245	3,345
	12	2023	385	343	385	412	449								1,974	1,974
	% Change 19 to 23		-17%	-16%	-25%	-16%	-12%								-17%	
	% Change 22 to 23		94%	101%	33%	37%	57%								59%	
MOUNT ELGIN	12	2019	185	156	182	170	212	160	259	198	166	171	175	144	905	2178
		2022	91	54	76	98	116	145	159	136	119	120	122	95	435	1,331
	12	2023	140	109	127	119	125								620	620
	% Change 19 to 23		-24%	-30%	-30%	-30%	-41%								-31%	
	% Change 22 to 23		54%	102%	67%	21%	8%								43%	
NORWICH	35	2019	1851	1674	1966	1687	1743	1762	2207	2137	2239	1939	2008	1431	8,921	22644
		2022	324	302	397	610	713	978	1,293	1,668	1,485	1,256	1,414	1,102	2,346	11,542
	35	2023	1,456	1,289	1,869	1,307	1,464								7,385	7,385
	% Change 19 to 23		-21%	-23%	-5%	-23%	-16%								-17%	
	% Change 22 to 23		349%	327%	371%	114%	105%								215%	
OTTERVILLE	12	2019	336	314	364	337	342	369	473	545	400	404	326	276	1,693	4486
		2022	139	131	179	214	209	290	302	370	250	240	265	208	872	2,797
	12	2023	253	300	370	284	286								1,493	1,493
	% Change 19 to 23		-25%	-4%	2%	-16%	-16%								-12%	
	% Change 22 to 23		82%	129%	107%	33%	37%								71%	
PLATTSVILLE	25	2019	660	611	797	923	860	802	1127	902	789	939	790	629	3,851	9829
		2022	294	283	485	416	552	711	734	763	584	474	602	407	2,030	6,305
	25	2023	555	585	700	700	615								3,155	3,155
	% Change 19 to 23		-16%	-4%	-12%	-24%	-28%								-18%	
	% Change 22 to 23		89%	107%	44%	68%	11%								55%	

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Branch Attendance Statistics - May 2023

BRANCH	HOURS PER WEEK	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
PRINCETON	15	2019	323	273	408	450	417	438	603	422	391	477	401	286	1,871	4889
		2022	88	113	94	172	228	240	402	212	219	245	252	164	695	2,429
	15	2023	279	220	398	273	251								1,421	1,421
	% Change 19 to 23		-14%	-19%	-2%	-39%	-40%								-24%	
	% Change 22 to 23		217%	95%	323%	59%	10%								104%	
TAVISTOCK	35	2019	1026	741	1083	940	1014	927	1300	1226	879	1079	918	757	4,804	11890
		2022	302	317	426	525	560	585	756	908	564	696	723	478	2,130	6840
	35	2023	679	629	937	665	699								3,609	3609
	% Change 19 to 23		-34%	-15%	-13%	-29%	-31%								-25%	
	% Change 22 to 23		125%	98%	120%	27%	25%								69%	
THAMESFORD	35	2019	882	717	913	902	993	750	1202	1246	814	1147	1041	787	4,407	11394
		2022	178	229	319	431	455	500	737	930	541	588	753	526	1,612	6,187
	35	2023	672	593	796	713	908								3,682	3,682
	% Change 19 to 23		-24%	-17%	-13%	-21%	-9%								-16%	
	% Change 22 to 23		278%	159%	150%	65%	100%								128%	
TILLSONBURG	59	2019	7866	6408	9328	8104	7759	7329	8650	8037	7227	10209	7430	5991	39,465	94338
		2022	2,323	2,725	3,736	3,686	3,373	4,022	4,571	5,258	3,980	4,328	4,664	3,378	15,843	46,044
	54	2023	4,934	4,480	6,702	5,383	5,642								27,141	27,141
	% Change 19 to 23		-37%	-30%	-28%	-34%	-27%								-31%	
	% Change 22 to 23		112%	64%	79%	46%	67%								71%	
TOTALS	366	2019	22,659	18,931	25,103	23,229	22,148	21,140	25,198	23,531	20,468	24,729	21,017	16,570	112,070	264,723
		2022	5,234	6,495	9,307	9,658	9,619	12,141	13,879	15,565	11,596	12,044	13,788	9,535	40,313	128,861
	335	2023	15,468	13,801	18,839	14,956	15,395								78,459	78,459
TOTAL Change 2019 to 2023			-31.7%	-27.1%	-25.0%	-35.6%	-30.5%								-30.0%	
TOTAL Change 2022 to 2023			195.5%	112.5%	102.4%	54.9%	60.0%								94.6%	

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Computer Use - May 2023

BRANCH		YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
BROWNSVILLE	Computers	2022	0	1	0	0	0	12	16	9	5	8	14	0	1	65
		2023	10	1	11	7	14								43	43
	Wireless	2022	12	7	10	19	25	20	59	63	47	39	29	58	73	388
		2023	24	17	18	17	21								97	97
	Totals 2022		12	8	10	19	25	32	75	72	52	47	43	58	74	453
	Totals 2023		34	18	29	24	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	140
	% Change		183%	125%	190%	26%	40%									
BURGESSVILLE	Computers	2022	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	13	11	1	2	0	2	33
		2023	0	1	2	10	3								16	16
	Wireless	2022	38	14	19	30	42	44	32	31	34	18	14	12	143	328
		2023	13	25	25	21	30								114	114
	Totals 2022		38	14	19	30	44	47	33	44	45	19	16	12	145	361
	Totals 2023		13	26	27	31	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	130
	% Change		-66%	86%	42%	3%	-25%									
EMBRO	Computers	2022	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	1	1	2	0	1	2	14
		2023	1	1	0	0	0								2	2
	Wireless	2022	53	49	61	120	72	71	285	45	69	75	95	32	355	1,027
		2023	30	31	49	39	68								217	217
	Totals 2022		53	49	61	120	74	74	289	46	70	77	95	33	357	1,041
	Totals 2023		31	32	49	39	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	219	219
	% Change		-42%	-35%	-20%	-68%	-8%									
HARRINGTON	Computers	2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		2023	0	0	0	2	0								2	2
	Wireless	2022	7	12	10	14	6	6	6	7	17	17	23	11	49	136
		2023	10	18	8	12	10								58	58
	Totals 2022		7	12	10	14	6	6	6	8	17	17	23	11	49	137
	Totals 2023		10	18	8	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60
	% Change		43%	50%	-20%	0%	67%									
INGERSOLL	Computers	2022	33	180	224	207	169	220	251	226	227	231	255	238	813	2,461
		2023	272	222	332	332	318								1,476	1,476
	Wireless	2022	53	54	135	103	102	110	146	137	121	87	103	59	447	1,210
		2023	66	87	155	117	138								563	563
	Totals 2022		86	234	359	310	271	330	397	363	348	318	358	297	1,260	3,671
	Totals 2023		338	309	487	449	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,039	2,039
	% Change		293%	32%	36%	45%	68%									

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Computer Use - May 2023

BRANCH		YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
INNERKIP	Computers	2022	0	3	11	11	16	30	12	12	8	27	16	6	41	152
		2023	17	8	12	8	0								45	45
	Wireless	2022	37	32	19	22	56	41	68	21	8	23	30	31	166	388
		2023	10	11	22	14	54								111	111
	Totals 2022		37	35	30	33	72	71	80	33	16	50	46	37	207	540
	Totals 2023		27	19	34	22	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156	156
	% Change		-27%	-46%	13%	-33%	-25%									
MOUNT ELGIN	Computers	2022	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	6
		2023	0	0	0	2	3								5	5
	Wireless	2022	11	0	33	45	81	85	36	22	40	53	48	53	170	507
		2023	34	28	46	18	54								180	180
	Totals 2022		11	0	34	46	81	85	38	22	40	53	50	53	172	513
	Totals 2023		34	28	46	20	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	185
	% Change		209%	2800%	35%	-57%	-30%									
NORWICH	Computers	2022	0	0	3	32	42	31	34	183	214	142	210	136	77	1,027
		2023	158	138	215	130	176								817	817
	Wireless	2022	345	267	277	363	191	213	237	265	217	233	240	194	1,443	3,042
		2023	190	159	232	238	274								1,093	1,093
	Totals 2022		345	267	280	395	233	244	271	448	431	375	450	330	1,520	4,069
	Totals 2023		348	297	447	368	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,910	1,910
	% Change		1%	11%	60%	-7%	93%									
OTTERVILLE	Computers	2022	0	6	10	6	9	6	12	19	15	10	11	9	31	113
		2023	15	10	14	13	7								59	59
	Wireless	2022	14	2	11	11	14	27	72	41	32	24	17	18	52	283
		2023	27	12	28	7	6								80	80
	Totals 2022		14	8	21	17	23	33	84	60	47	34	28	27	83	396
	Totals 2023		42	22	42	20	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	139
	% Change		200%	175%	100%	18%	-43%									
PLATTSVILLE	Computers	2022	1	9	15	10	10	4	13	4	3	7	6	7	45	89
		2023	13	15	15	13	9								65	65
	Wireless	2022	38	75	114	147	123	126	6	13	41	54	149	173	497	1,059
		2023	220	223	251	260	354								1,308	1,308
	Totals 2022		39	84	129	157	133	130	19	17	44	61	155	180	542	1,148
	Totals 2023		233	238	266	273	363	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,373	1,373
	% Change		497%	183%	106%	74%	173%									

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Computer Use - May 2023

BRANCH		YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
PRINCETON	Computers	2022	0	2	0	13	7	17	16	10	7	9	7	3	22	91
		2023	9	14	10	7	13								53	53
	Wireless	2022	14	1	2	13	17	21	16	13	15	12	10	10	47	144
		2023	8	15	23	22	40								108	108
	Totals 2022		14	3	2	26	24	38	32	23	22	21	17	13	69	235
	Totals 2023		17	29	33	29	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	161	161
	% Change		21%	867%	1550%	12%	121%									
TAVISTOCK	Computers	2022	0	1	5	5	8	5	8	16	21	13	16	9	19	107
		2023	16	21	25	15	20								97	97
	Wireless	2022	84	8	13	11	24	31	24	22	25	27	22	31	140	322
		2023	14	16	20	32	20								102	102
	Totals 2022		84	9	18	16	32	36	32	38	46	40	38	40	159	429
	Totals 2023		30	37	45	47	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	199	199
	% Change		-64%	311%	150%	194%	25%									
THAMESFORD	Computers	2022	1	7	11	10	14	14	11	17	15	19	17	18	43	154
		2023	13	17	18	26	24								98	98
	Wireless	2022	37	16	14	26	24	71	107	40	56	63	73	56	117	583
		2023	47	92	65	57	59								320	320
	Totals 2022		38	23	25	36	38	85	118	57	71	82	90	74	160	737
	Totals 2023		60	109	83	83	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	418	418
	% Change		58%	374%	232%	131%	118%									
TILLSONBURG	Computers	2022	150	251	267	327	350	321	417	496	408	419	390	249	1,345	4,045
		2023	331	338	476	372	447								1,964	1,964
	Wireless	2022	338	126	652	1,010	863	913	1,143	1,087	895	707	900	550	2,989	9,184
		2023	770	676	1,156	352	357								3,311	3,311
	Totals 2022		488	377	919	1,337	1,213	1,234	1,560	1,583	1,303	1,126	1,290	799	4,334	13,229
	Totals 2023		1,101	1,014	1,632	724	804	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,275	5,275
	% Change		126%	169%	78%	-46%	-34%									
TOTAL COMPUTER USAGE		2022	1,266	1,123	1,917	2,556	2,269	2,445	3,034	2,814	2,552	2,320	2,699	1,964	9,131	26,959
		2023	2,318	2,196	3,228	2,143	2,519								12,404	12,404
% Change 2022 to 2023			83.1%	95.5%	68.4%	-16.2%	11.0%								35.8%	

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Physical Circulation - May 2023

BRANCH	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
BROWNSVILLE	2019	197	156	326	240	189	235	252	254	199	258	240	195	1108	2,741
	2022	234	123	161	288	296	340	388	255	234	177	315	190	1,102	3,001
	2023	257	123	196	186	202								964	
% Change 2019 to 2023		30%	-21%	-40%	-23%	7%								-13%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		10%	0%	22%	-35%	-32%								-13%	
BURGESSVILLE	2019	1,805	1,504	1,715	1,685	1,482	1,454	1,731	1,759	1,666	1,755	1,657	1,030	8,191	19,243
	2022	2,070	1,658	2,665	2,746	2,101	2,212	2,551	3,105	2,484	2,213	2,068	1,585	11,240	27,458
	2023	2,176	1,958	2,185	1,918	1,626								9,863	
% Change 2019 to 2023		21%	30%	27%	14%	10%								20%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		5%	18%	-18%	-30%	-23%								-12%	
EMBRO	2019	664	566	605	623	611	577	614	640	510	628	542	470	3,069	7,050
	2022	575	591	761	750	673	733	793	887	676	733	723	690	3,350	8,585
	2023	710	707	760	650	730								3,557	
% Change 2019 to 2023		7%	25%	26%	4%	19%								16%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		23%	20%	0%	-13%	8%								6%	
HARRINGTON	2019	204	119	241	145	172	214	383	247	197	182	257	286	881	2,647
	2022	419	492	733	650	645	594	697	683	651	729	674	709	2,939	7,676
	2023	648	571	584	588	689								3,080	
% Change 2019 to 2023		218%	380%	142%	306%	301%								250%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		55%	16%	-20%	-10%	7%								5%	
INGERSOLL	2019	10,247	8,563	10,320	8,815	8,713	8,591	12,338	11,258	9,006	9,265	8,936	7,910	46,658	113,962
	2022	6,167	6,963	9,840	8,982	8,262	9,227	11,559	12,616	9,370	9,109	9,557	7,748	40,214	109,400
	2023	10,191	8,887	10,956	10,355	10,394								50,783	
% Change 2019 to 2023		-1%	4%	6%	17%	19%								9%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		65%	28%	11%	15%	26%								26%	
INNERKIP	2019	1,632	1,269	1,600	1,699	1,443	1,613	1,649	1,576	1,222	1,618	1,407	1,165	7,643	17,893
	2022	1,164	1,293	1,804	1,546	1,485	1,206	1,392	1,477	1,310	1,210	1,306	966	7,292	16,159
	2023	1,420	1,227	1,356	1,350	1,455								6,808	
% Change 2019 to 2023		-13%	-3%	-15%	-21%	1%								-11%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		22%	-5%	-25%	-13%	-2%								-7%	

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Physical Circulation - May 2023

BRANCH	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
MOUNT ELGIN	2019	654	642	801	770	927	698	864	887	759	691	718	612	3,794	9,023
	2022	785	873	768	839	676	823	815	929	823	721	820	398	3,941	9,270
	2023	806	628	902	655	809								3,800	
% Change 2019 to 2023		23%	-2%	13%	-15%	-13%								0%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		3%	-28%	17%	-22%	20%								-4%	
NORWICH	2019	5,380	4,657	4,906	4,179	4,387	4,508	5,649	5,421	4,237	4,970	5,132	4,023	23,509	57,449
	2022	3,418	2,812	2,924	3,719	4,057	4,382	6,034	6,594	4,984	5,130	4,713	3,842	16,930	52,609
	2023	5,262	3,993	5,053	3,814	3,593								21,715	
% Change 2019 to 2023		-2%	-14%	3%	-9%	-18%								-8%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		54%	42%	73%	3%	-11%								28%	
OTTERVILLE	2019	955	973	890	981	805	1,241	1,535	1,430	1,176	1,170	1,160	847	4,604	13,163
	2022	1,097	957	1,730	1,468	1,233	1,593	1,898	1,957	1,339	1,149	1,139	1,403	6,485	16,963
	2023	1,280	1,436	1,453	1,355	1,302								6,826	
% Change 2019 to 2023		34%	48%	63%	38%	62%								48%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		17%	50%	-16%	-8%	6%								5%	
PLATTSVILLE	2019	1,293	1,164	1,210	1,498	1,366	1,213	1,555	1,399	1,266	1,381	1,260	991	6,531	15,596
	2022	1,466	1,392	2,028	1,978	1,910	1,952	2,562	2,718	1,987	1,981	1,967	1,562	8,774	23,503
	2023	2,049	1,914	2,114	1,877	1,863								9,817	
% Change 2019 to 2023		58%	64%	75%	25%	36%								50%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		40%	38%	4%	-5%	-2%								12%	
PRINCETON	2019	623	686	746	802	760	667	898	791	637	606	508	488	3,617	8,212
	2022	742	872	1,125	1,204	1,034	886	926	1,107	1,134	1,040	1,182	1,219	4,977	12,471
	2023	1,205	1,121	1,434	1,336	1,270								6,366	
% Change 2019 to 2023		93%	63%	92%	67%	67%								76%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		62%	29%	27%	11%	23%								28%	
TAVISTOCK	2019	1,517	1,339	1,689	1,768	1,686	1,794	2,390	2,395	1,750	1,833	1,679	1,243	7,999	21,083
	2022	1,654	1,720	2,189	2,364	2,382	2,104	2,522	2,958	2,327	2,371	2,376	1,764	10,309	26,731
	2023	2,570	2,152	3,010	2,335	2,145								12,212	
% Change 2019 to 2023		69%	61%	78%	32%	27%								53%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		55%	25%	38%	-1%	-10%								18%	

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Physical Circulation - May 2023

BRANCH	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTAL
THAMESFORD	2019	1,393	1,190	1,363	1,278	1,159	1,146	1,551	1,498	1,239	1,511	1,622	957	6,383	15,907
	2022	963	1,257	1,540	1,646	1,706	1,705	2,296	2,527	2,199	1,869	1,802	1,734	7,112	21,244
	2023	1,980	1,587	1,779	1,850	1,820								9,016	
% Change 2019 to 2023		42%	33%	31%	45%	57%								41%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		106%	26%	16%	12%	7%								27%	
TILLSONBURG	2019	9,678	8,280	9,222	8,478	8,068	7,931	10,393	9,503	7,474	8,248	7,717	6,891	43,726	101,883
	2022	6,263	6,371	7,713	7,836	7,143	7,188	8,147	8,836	7,094	7,578	7,201	6,262	35,326	87,632
	2023	7,588	6,830	8,236	7,236	6,518								36,408	
% Change 2019 to 2023		-22%	-18%	-11%	-15%	-19%								-17%	
% Change 2022 to 2023		21%	7%	7%	-8%	-9%								3%	
TOTALS:	2019	36,242	31,108	35,634	32,961	31,768	31,882	41,802	39,058	31,338	34,116	32,835	27,108	167,713	405,852
	2022	27,017	27,374	35,981	36,016	33,603	34,945	42,580	46,649	36,612	36,010	35,843	30,072	159,991	422,702
	2023	38,142	33,134	40,018	35,505	34,416								181,215	
Change 2019 to 2023		**5.2%**	**6.5%**	**12.3%**	**7.7%**	**8.3%**								**8.1%**	
Change 2022 to 2023		**41%**	**21%**	**11%**	**-1%**	**2%**								**13%**	

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Digital Circulation - May 2023

	YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD	TOTALS
Digital TV & Movies	**2022**	726	644	669	636	561	575	655	641	513	619	766	817	**3,236**	**7,822**
	2023	792	706	673	655	643								**3,469**	**3,469**
% Change - Digital TV & Movies		**9%**	**10%**	**1%**	**3%**	**15%**								**7%**	
Digital Magazines and Newspapers	**2022**	2,253	1,325	1,448	1,369	1,692	1,477	1,662	1,627	1,822	2,239	3,051	3,080	**8,087**	**23,045**
	2023	3,587	2,650	3,663	3,306	2,744								**15,950**	**15,950**
% Change - Digital Magazines & Newspapers		**59%**	**100%**	**153%**	**141%**	**62%**								**97%**	
Tumble Books	**2022**	248	143	162	145	117	138	39	40	10	38	100	57	**815**	**1,237**
	2023	92	66	73	79	62								**372**	**372**
% Change - Tumble Books		**-63%**	**-54%**	**-55%**	**-46%**	**-47%**								**-54%**	
Digital Music	**2022**	1,564	1,724	2,837	1,596	2,291	2,430	1,239	1,460	1,605	1,236	1,498	1,965	**10,012**	**21,445**
	2023	2,769	2,346	1,418	1,455	1,389								**9,377**	**9,377**
% Change - Digital Music		**77%**	**36%**	**-50%**	**-9%**	**-39%**								**-6%**	
Digital Audiobooks	**2022**	6,176	5,522	6,153	3,385	3,430	3,424	3,571	3,842	3,536	3,523	3,652	3,565	**24,666**	**49,779**
	2023	3,973	3,646	4,133	4,001	4,221								**19,974**	**19,974**
% Change - Digital Audiobooks		**-36%**	**-34%**	**-33%**	**18%**	**23%**								**-19%**	
Digital ebooks	**2022**	6,996	6,315	6,686	6,500	6,464	6,258	6,683	6,827	5,893	6,317	6,055	6,137	**32,961**	**77,131**
	2023	6,885	6,489	6,865	6,489	6,437								**33,165**	**33,165**
% Change - eBooks		**-2%**	**3%**	**3%**	**0%**	**0%**								**1%**	
TOTAL Digital Circulation	**2022**	17,963	15,673	17,955	13,631	14,555	14,302	13,849	14,437	13,379	13,972	15,122	15,621	**79,777**	**180,459**
	2023	18,098	15,903	16,825	15,985	15,496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**82,307**	**82,307**
% Change - Digital Circulation		**1%**	**1%**	**-6%**	**17%**	**6%**								**3%**	

Definitions:

Digital Movies include the following: Hoopla Movies, Hoopla TV, Hoopla Binge Passes, Kanopy

Digital Magazines and Newspapers include the following: Overdrive Magazines, Zinio (Jan 2021 to April 2021), Press Reader

Digital Music includes the following: Freegal, Hoopla Music

Digital Audiobooks includes the following: Hoopla Audiobooks, Overdrive Audiobooks, Axis 360 Audiobooks

Digtal eBooks includes the following: Freading, Hoopla Comics, Hoopla eBooks, Overdrive eBooks, Axis 360 eBooks

Ox on the Run - Final Design Mock-Up

OX ON THE RUN
JULY 2023

OX on the RUN
Mobile Library Unit

Oxford County Library
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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4 Hickson Park 10am-12pm Thamesford South Lions Park 1:30-3:30pm	5 Brownsville Hall 10am-12pm Victoria Park Ingersoll 1:30-3:30pm	6 Drumbo Park 10am-12pm Memorial Park Embro 1:30-3:30pm	7 Norwich Nostalgia Days	8 Brownsville Library -The Reptile Store* 10am-1pm
9	10	11 Princeton Library 10am-12pm Mount Elgin Library 1:30-3:30pm	12 Ducky Dennis Park Burgessville 1-3pm	13 Optimist Park Tavistock 10am-12pm Harrington Ball Diamond 1:30-3:30pm	14 Otterville Mill 10am-12pm	15
16	17	18 Plattsville Arena Park 10am-12pm Hickson Park 1:30-3:30pm	19 Brownsville Hall 10am-12pm Memorial Park Tillsonburg 1:30-3:30pm	20 Drumbo Park 10am-12pm Harold Bishop Park, Norwich 1:30-3:30pm	21 Memorial Park Embro 10am-12pm	22 Brownsville Family Fun Day
23	24	25 Innerkip Library 10am-12pm Hilltop Park Mount Elgin 1:30-3:30pm	26 Princeton Library 1-3pm Car Cruz, Innerkip Community Centre 4-7pm	27 Harrington Ball Diamond 10am-12pm	28 Otterville Mill 10am-12pm	29 Berry Days at Berrylicious Fruit Farm
30	31					

*The Reptile Store show requires registration.
Visit the Program Calendar at www.ocl.net

Tillsonburg Library Park – Grant Project

Installation of concrete pad, pavilion and arbor

Arbor

Pavilion and concrete pad

Town of Tillsonburg - Pick a Playground - Library Park

Option A

Option A - Ground View

Option A - Aerial View

Option B

Option B - Ground View

Option B - Aerial View

Oxford County Library

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NOR - Read With Me Brownsville Coffee and Connect Drop-in 10:00 am - 11:00 am TIL - Sip n' Stitch 1:00pm THA - Community Employment Services 1:30pm - 4:00pm NOR - Squad Zone 3:45-4:45	2 NOR - Tales for Tots 9:30-10:30 am Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots 10:00am - 11:30am ING - Friday Films for Adults 2:00 PM NOR - SMART Exercise Class 2:30-3:30	3 Ukulele Jam for Beginners 10:00-11:00am PRI Kids Movie - Finding Nemo! 10am - 12pm ING - Robots on the Run! 2:00 PM
4	5 ING - Library Tech Help 2:00 PM	6 PLA- Community Employment Services 9:00am-11:30am Oxford EarlyON @ The Otterville Library 9:30 am - 11:00 am NOR - Yarn & Yack 12:30-2:30 BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime 3:00 pm-5:00 pm BRO- Lego Challenge Drop-in 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Tiny Seeds Nature Club 4pm-5pm INN Book Club 6:15	7 NOR - Read With Me ING - Shake, Rattle, & Read 9:30am Plattsville Storytime 9:30am - 10:30am TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read 9:30am Tales for Tots 10am - 11am Thamesford - Tales for Tots 10:30am - 11:00am ING - Library Tech Help 11:00 am Community Employment Services - Princeton 1-3:30pm INN Father's Day Craft 2-5pm Otterville Library Learning Lab 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm PLA- Adult Movie Night: 80 for Brady 7pm until 9pm	8 NOR - Read With Me TIL - Sip n' Stitch 1:00pm THA - Community Employment Services 1:30pm - 4:00pm NOR - Squad Zone 3:45-4:45 ING - Cookbook Club 6:00 pm	9 NOR - Tales for Tots 9:30-10:30 am Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots 10:00am - 11:30am ING - Friday Films for Adults 2:00 PM NOR - SMART Exercise Class 2:30-3:30 TIL Family Movie Friday: Raya and The Last Dragon 6:00pm	10 PRI Kids Craft - Father's Day Hand Print Fish! 9:00-12:00 Drag Storytime 11:00am OTT-Book Sale 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm ING - Robots on the Run! 2:00 PM Drag Storytime 2:00pm

11	12 **Summer Curiosity Club Registration Begins** **9:00 am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM** **Tillsonburg Maker Mondays** **6:00pm**	13 **PLA- Community Employment Services** **9:00am-11:30am** **NOR - Yarn & Yack** **12:30-2:30** **TIL Tech Discovery Workshop: "Stream Movies for Free with Your Library Card"** **1:00pm** **BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime** **3:00 pm-5:00 pm** **BRO- Lego Challenge Drop-in** **4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**	14 **NOR - Read With Me** **PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library** **9:30-11am** **ING - Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **Plattsville Storytime** **9:30am - 10:30am** **TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **Tales for Tots** **10am - 11am** **Thamesford - Tales for Tots** **10:30am - 11:00am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **11:00 am** **Community Employment Services - Princeton** **1-3:30pm** **NOR - Fireside Book Club** **1:00-2:00** **THA - Learn to Play Mahjong** **1:00PM - 3:00PM** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30** **Otterville Library Learning Lab** **4:30 pm - 5:30 pm** **NOR - Spanish Circle** **5:00 - 6:00**	15 **NOR - Read With Me** **TIL - Sip n' Stitch** **1:00pm** **THA - Community Employment Services** **1:30pm - 4:00pm** **INN Cloth Bag Decorating** **3:30-4:30** **NOR - Squad Zone** **3:45-4:45**	16 **NOR - Tales for Tots** **9:30-10:30 am** **Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots** **10:00am - 11:30am** **ING - Friday Films for Adults** **2:00 PM** **BUR- Lego Fridays** **2:00-5:00 pm** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30** **ING-Donuts with "Dad"** **5:30pm**	17 **PRI Summer Movie - Ticket to Paradise** **10:00-1:00** **BRO-Button Making** **11:00 am - 12:00 pm** **ING - Robots on the Run!** **2:00 PM** **OTT-Button Making** **3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
18	19 **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM**	20 **PLA- Community Employment Services** **9:00am-11:30am** **NOR - Yarn & Yack** **12:30-2:30** **TIL Monthly Films for Adults: Ticket to Paradise (2022)** **1:00pm** **Thamesford - The Write Stuff Writing Club** **2pm-4-pm** **BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime** **3:00 pm-5:00 pm** **BRO- Lego Challenge Drop-in** **4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**	21 **NOR - Read With Me** **PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library** **9:30-11am** **ING - Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **Plattsville Storytime** **9:30am - 10:30am** **TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **Tales for Tots** **10am - 11am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **11:00 am** **Community Employment Services - Princeton** **1-3:30pm** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30**	22 **NOR - Read With Me** **TIL Homeschool Hub** **9:30am** **TIL - Sip n' Stitch** **1:00pm** **THA - Community Employment Services** **1:30pm - 4:00pm** **NOR - Squad Zone** **3:45-4:45** **ING - Crafty Night Out- Concrete Stepping Stones** **6:00 pm**	23 **NOR - Tales for Tots** **9:30-10:30 am** **Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots** **10:00am - 11:30am** **ING - Friday Films for Adults** **2:00 PM** **BUR- Lego Fridays** **2:00-5:00 pm** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30**	24 **Ukulele Jam for beginners** **9:35-11:00am** **NOR - Summer Reading Launch** **10:30-11:30** **TAV - Adult Crafternoon: Book Planter** **12pm - 1pm** **ING - Robots on the Run!** **2:00 PM**

25	26 **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM**	27 **PLA- Community Employment Services** **9:00am-11:30am** **NOR - Yarn & Yack** **12:30-2:30** **TIL - Art in the Park: Watercolour Painted Pinwheels** **1:00pm** **BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime** **3:00 pm-5:00 pm** **Brownsville Library Book Club** **5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**	28 **NOR - Read With Me** **PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library** **9:30-11am** **Plattsville Storytime** **9:30am - 10:30am** **TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **11:00 am** **ING - Lunch & Listen - Adult Story Time** **12:00pm** **Community Employment Services - Princeton** **1-3:30pm** **NOR - Tech Help** **1:00-2:00** **THA - Learn to Play Mahjong** **1:00 - 3:00pm** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30** **Thamesford - Book Club** **3:00 pm - 4:00pm** **NOR - Writer's Circle** **5:00 - 6:30** **Otterville Library Book Club** **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**	29 **NOR - Read With Me** **TIL - Sip n' Stitch** **1:00pm** **THA - Community Employment Services** **1:30pm - 4:00pm** **INN Bouncy Balls** **3:30** **NOR - Squad Zone** **3:45-4:45** **NOR - Norwich Book Club** **5:30 - 6:30**	30 **NOR - Tales for Tots** **9:30-10:30 am** **TIL-Books Ahoy! Magic Show with Captain Corbin** **10:00am** **ING-Summer Curiosity Club Launch Party** **10am** **Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots** **10:00am - 11:30am** **ING - Friday Films for Adults** **2:00 PM** **BUR- Lego Fridays** **2:00-5:00 pm** **NOR - SMART Exercise Class** **2:30-3:30**	

June 2023

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Oxford County Library

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ING - Robots on the Run! 2:00 PM
2	3 ING - Library Tech Help 2:00 PM	4 PLA- Community Employment Services 9:00am-11:30am BRO-Summer Reading Club Fun! 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime 3:00 pm-5:00 pm	5 PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library 9:30-11am TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read 9:30am PRI Hobby Farm Animal Visit 11:00am - 1:00pm ING - Library Tech Help 11:00 am Community Employment Services - Princeton 1-3:30pm OTT-Summer Reading Club Fun! 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	6 BRO-Coffee and Connect Drop-in 10:00 am - 11:00 am THA - Community Employment Services 1:30pm - 4:00pm	7 Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots 10:00am - 11:30am BUR- Lego Fridays 2:00-5:00 pm TIL - Stuffie Sleepover Evening Storytime 6:00pm	8 BUR- Recycle Flower Craft 10-11 am PRI - Summer Movies! 10:00am - 12:00pm INN Mini Excavation with Ontario Museum of Archaeology 10:30 AM BRO: The Reptile Store 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ING - Robots on the Run! 2:00 PM OTT-Special Presentation from The Reptile Store 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
9	10 ING - Library Tech Help 2:00 PM	11 PLA- Community Employment Services 9:00am-11:30am BRO-Summer Reading Club Fun! 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime 3:00 pm-5:00 pm BUR- Painting Tuesday on canvas 4:30-5:30pm	12 PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library 9:30-11am TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read 9:30am ING - Library Tech Help 11:00 am Community Employment Services - Princeton 1-3:30pm OTT-Summer Reading Club Fun! 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	13 THA - Community Employment Services 1:30pm - 4:00pm INN Colour Changing Playdough 3:30	14 Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots 10:00am - 11:30am HAR-Make a Pinch Pot 11am-12pm BUR- Lego Fridays 2:00-5:00 pm TIL Family Movie Friday: The Bad Guys 6:00pm	15 PRI - Summer Crafts! 9:00am - 12:00pm BUR- Skunk Haven Program 10-11 am TIL Computer Programming 101 1:00pm ING - Robots on the Run! 2:00 PM

16	17 **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM**	18 **PLA- Community Employment Services** **9:00am-11:30am** **TIL Monthly Films for Adults: A Man Called Otto (2023)** **1:00pm** **Thamesford - The Write Stuff Writing Club** **2pm-4-pm** **BRO-Summer Reading Club Fun!** **3:00 pm - 4:00 pm** **BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime** **3:00 pm-5:00 pm**	19 **PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library** **9:30-11am** **TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **11:00 am** **Community Employment Services - Princeton** **1-3:30pm** **PRI Museum of Archaeology Mini Excavation** **1:00 - 2:00pm** **OTT-Kids Paint Night** **4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**	20 **THA - Community Employment Services** **1:30pm - 4:00pm**	21 **Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots** **10:00am - 11:30am** **BUR- Lego Fridays** **2:00-5:00 pm**	22 **Tie Dye Socks** **10-11 am** **BRO-Skunk Haven** **11:00 am - 12:00 pm** **ING - Robots on the Run!** **2:00 PM**
23	24 **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM**	25 **PLA- Community Employment Services** **9:00am-11:30am** **BRO-Summer Reading Club Fun!** **3:00 pm - 4:00 pm** **BUR- Drop inPlay-doh Playtime** **3:00 pm-5:00 pm**	26 **PRI - Oxford EarlyON @ The Princeton Library** **9:30-11am** **TIL- Shake, Rattle, & Read** **9:30am** **ING - Library Tech Help** **11:00 am** **ING - Lunch & Listen - Adult Story Time** **12:00pm** **Community Employment Services - Princeton** **1-3:30pm** **OTT-Summer Reading Club Fun!** **3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**	27 **TIL Homeschool Hub** **9:30am** **THA - Community Employment Services** **1:30pm - 4:00pm**	28 **Thamesford - Knits 'n' Knots** **10:00am - 11:30am** **BUR- Lego Fridays** **2:00-5:00 pm**	29 **TIL - Kids Pottery Session Ages 5-8 with MOA** **10:00am** **INN Harry Potter Wands** **10:30 AM** **TIL - Kids Pottery Session Ages 9-13 with MOA** **12:00pm** **ING - Robots on the Run!** **2:00 PM**
30	31 **ING - Library Tech Help** **2:00 PM**					

July 2023

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Report No: 2023-15
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

To: **Oxford County Library Board**

From: **Director of Corporate Services**

2022 Oxford County Library Financial Statements

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the Oxford County Library Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 be accepted.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Long Term Financial Sustainability Plan sustainability measures for 2018 to 2022
- 2022 year end budget surplus is $301,315

Implementation Points

Staff will post the Financial Statements on the County's website for public information.

Financial Impact

The 2022 year end budget surplus of $301,315 ($335,326 – 2021) was allocated to the library general reserve as approved under the County's Reserve Policy No. 6.20.

This report is prepared based on the audited 2022 Oxford County Consolidated Financial Statements.

Communications

The County of Oxford 2022 Consolidated Financial Statements contains Note 15 that refers to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture public library operating grant and pay equity funding in the amounts of $135,675 and $3,229 respectively, which are consolidated in the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus. This note to the County's Consolidated Financial Statements satisfies the Ministry's annual public library funding reporting requirements.

Report No: 2023-15
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

WORKS WELL TOGETHER	*WELL CONNECTED*	*SHAPES THE FUTURE*	*INFORMS & ENGAGES*	*PERFORMS & DELIVERS*	*POSITIVE IMPACT*
			4.ii.	5.ii.	

DISCUSSION

Background

As a regional municipality established under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Treasurer is required to prepare consolidated financial statements of the County of Oxford that reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and changes in investment in tangible capital assets of the County and enterprises accountable to the County and which are owned or controlled by the County. The consolidated financial statements of the County have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("CPA Canada"). The 2022 consolidated financial statements of the County of Oxford have been audited by Scrimgeour & Company, Chartered Accountants, as appointed by County Council in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Attachment 1 to this report is the Oxford County Library Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, as consolidated in the County of Oxford Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022.

This marks the fourth year for including a note in the Library's financial statements to address the unpredictability of the ongoing pandemic's impact on library services and its financial position, which states as follows:

> "In 2020, a coronavirus outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization which prompted the Government of Ontario to declare a state of emergency on March 17, 2020. As a result of these declarations, significant economic and social impacts have been and continue to be experienced world-wide. As the full extent of impacts from the ongoing pandemic are yet to be determined, estimates contained in these statements, including those based on actuarial assumptions, are subject to change."

Comments

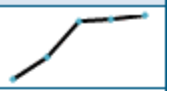
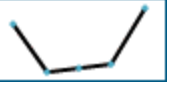
In September 2011, County Council adopted a Long Term Financial Sustainability Plan that sets out sustainability measures based on "Indicators of Government Financial Condition", defined and approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board. They include a core set of indicators for assessing financial condition of the government entity based on financial statements prepared on the full accrual basis of accounting. Financial condition is measured in terms of ability to meet obligations in respect of service commitments and financial commitments, using elements of sustainability, flexibility and vulnerability and provides an overall assessment of the municipality's financial condition.

Performance regarding 2022 achievements with respect to projects and advancement of the County's strategic plan will form part of the 2022 Annual Report which will be available later this month. Prior to the end of the current Board's term in 2022, the Board will release a Board Legacy report that documents significant achievements and milestones met during their term.

Additionally, Library staff are preparing a 2022 report card of key system performance indicators that, once received by the Board, will be posted on the library website and circulated at all branch locations.

Sustainability measures the degree to which a government can maintain its existing service and financial commitment. Table 1 provides a list of sustainability measures based on the County's 2018 - 2022 financial statements.

Table 1 – Sustainability Indicators

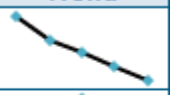
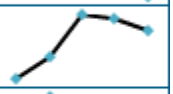
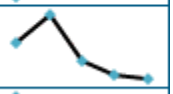
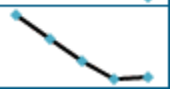
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend
Financial assets to liabilities	1.03	1.51	2.36	2.42	2.51	
Total cash and temporary investments to operating expenses	0.09	0.17	0.22	0.13	0.12	
Net working capital to operating expenses	0.17	0.27	0.48	0.45	0.41	
Net debt to total operating revenue	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.02	
Accumulated surplus to taxable assessment	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	
Net debt to taxable assessment	0.00005	0.00003	0.00002	0.00001	0.00001	
Total debt per household	$21	$16	$11	$6	$3	
Current ratio[1]	1.82	2.43	3.38	2.91	2.72	
Taxation rates coverage[2]	0.92	0.95	1.04	0.95	0.92	
Interest coverage[3]	0.85	20.01	43.65	23.97	5.62	
Sustainability ratio[4]	1.19	0.47	0.51	0.58	1.46	

Notes:

[1] current assets/current liabilities - ability to meet short term debt obligations
[2] total tax revenue/total expenses - ability to cover its costs through tax revenue
[3] earnings before interest/borrowing costs - ability to pay interest on outstanding debt
[4] capital expenditures/amortization - net increase or decrease in the asset base

Flexibility Indicators measure the degree to which a municipality can change its debt or tax burden to meet its existing service and financial commitments. Table 2 presents flexibility indicators based on the County's 2018 - 2022 financial statements.

Table 2 – Flexibility Indicators

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend
Debt charges to total revenues	0.006	0.004	0.003	0.002	0.001	
Total reserves to operating expenses	0.16	0.26	0.46	0.44	0.39	
Total revenue to taxable assessment	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	
Net book value of capital assets to cost of capital assets	0.5309	0.5084	0.4852	0.4690	0.4698	

Vulnerability indicators measure the degree to which a government is dependent on sources of funding from outside its control or influence or the extent to which it is exposed to risks that could impair its existing ability to meet service and financial obligations. Table 3 exhibits a vulnerability indicator based on the County's 2018 - 2022 financial statements.

Table 3 – Vulnerability Indicators

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend
Government transfers to total revenues	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	

Budget Surplus

The Financial Statements include a Statement of Financial Position which identifies the assets, liabilities and accumulated surplus as of December 31, 2022. Note 3 to the Financial Statements provides a breakdown of the components of the accumulated surplus which includes invested in tangible capital assets, the Library surplus (budget to actual) discretionary reserves and special purpose reserves.

The budget surplus at December 31, 2022 totaled $301,315 ($335,326– 2021). The Library's 2023 budget included a contribution from the General Library Reserve of $280,456 order to minimize the levy increase as our community continues to recover from the financial impacts of the pandemic. This approach reduced the 2023 levy by 6.9% while maintaining healthy reserve balances, including the Library Facilities Reserve with a sufficient balance to fund capital needs over the 10 year period.

The 2022 Library budget operating surplus is explained in Table 4.

Table 4 – Operating Budget Surplus

Description		2022
Revenues	Recoveries from copying, lost items and higher interest rates	$17,100
Salaries and benefits	Staff vacancies	272,200
Operating and program expenses	Building rent and cultural programs	29,400
Other	Other expenses/revenues	(17,385)
Library Levy Budget Surplus		**$301,315**

Safe Restart Agreement funding of $5,898 has been applied against library COVID-19 related expenses in 2022.

Conclusions

The five year financial indicator comparatives as illustrated in this report suggest that the Library is well positioned in the short and mid- term to meet its service levels and financial obligations.

Overall the 2022 Oxford County Library Financial Statements, consolidated with the County of Oxford's 2022 audited financial statements, are supported by an unqualified Auditor's Report dated June 14, 2023.

SIGNATURES

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

Lynn S. Buchner, CPA, CGA
Director of Corporate Services

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Lisa Marie Williams
CEO/Chief Librarian

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – Oxford County Library Board Financial Statements – December 31, 2022

Oxford County Library Board Financial Statements
December 31, 2022

Oxford County Library Board
Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2022 (comparative balances as at December 31, 2021)

	2022	2021
Financial assets		
Cash	$524,403	$526,788
Accounts receivable	15,752	19,921
Due from the County of Oxford	2,330,226	2,345,492
	2,870,381	2,892,201
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	348,526	370,567
Deferred revenue (Note 1)	709,438	628,407
Net long term liabilities (Note 2)	83,500	193,979
	1,141,464	1,192,953
Net financial assets	**1,728,917**	**1,699,248**
Non financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 1)	4,497,337	4,381,583
Capital work in progress	-	191,680
Inventory	6,540	11,611
	4,503,877	4,584,874
Accumulated surplus (Note 3)	**$6,232,794**	**$6,284,122**

The summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this financial statement.

Oxford County Library Board

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

For the year ended December 31, 2022 (comparative figures for year ended December 31, 2021)

	Budget 2022 (Note 4)	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
Revenues			
Property taxes	$4,061,003	$4,061,003	$3,994,008
User fees and charges	37,115	33,839	21,721
Government transfer -Safe Federal Restart	5,000	5,898	11,872
Government transfer -Provincial	138,904	138,904	138,904
Government transfer -Other	-	5,541	615
Investment income	-	18,017	7,459
Development charges	180,285	187,450	212,461
Donations	-	8,267	25,065
	4,422,307	4,458,919	4,412,105
Expenses			
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,710,039	2,437,878	2,257,729
Materials and supplies	425,985	459,882	448,525
Contracted services	21,000	35,986	57,400
Interfunctional transfers	1,104,209	1,086,947	992,327
Interest on long term debt	4,541	4,541	9,740
Amortization	431,548	412,723	422,646
	4,697,322	4,437,957	4,188,367
Excess revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) before other	**(275,015)**	**20,962**	**223,738**
Other expenses			
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	(72,290)	(5,301)
Excess revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	**(275,015)**	**(51,328)**	**218,437**
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	6,284,122	6,284,122	6,065,685
Accumulated surplus, end of year	**$6,009,107**	**$6,232,794**	**$6,284,122**

The summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this financial statement.

Oxford County Library Board

Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets (Liabilities)

For the year ended December 31, 2022 (comparative figures for year ended December 31, 2021)

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
Excess revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	$(275,015)	$(51,328)	$218,437
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(404,000)	(600,767)	(244,418)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	431,548	412,723	422,646
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	-	72,290	5,301
Decrease (increase) in inventory	-	5,071	(7,459)
Decrease (increase) in capital work in progress	-	191,680	(191,680)
Increase (decrease) in net financial assets	(247,467)	29,669	202,827
Net financial assets, beginning of year	1,699,248	1,699,248	1,496,421
Net financial assets, end of year	**$1,451,781**	**$1,728,917**	**$1,699,248**

The summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this financial statement.

Oxford County Library Board
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended December 31, 2022 (comparative figures for year ended December 31, 2021)

	2022	2021
Operating activities		
Excess revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	$(51,328)	$218,437
Non-cash changes to operations		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	412,723	422,646
Loss on disposal of capital assets	72,290	5,301
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Accounts receivable	4,169	(7,881)
Due from Oxford County	15,266	(607,657)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(22,041)	191,283
Deferred revenue	81,031	34,556
Inventory	5,071	(7,459)
Net change in cash from operating	517,181	249,226
Capital activities		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(600,767)	(244,418)
Decrease (increase) in capital work in progress	191,680	(191,680)
Net change in cash from capital	(409,087)	(436,098)
Financing activities		
Long term debt principal repayments	(110,479)	(137,458)
Net change in cash from financing	(110,479)	(137,458)
(Decrease) in cash	**(2,385)**	**(324,330)**
Cash, beginning of year	526,788	851,118
Cash, end of year	**$524,403**	**$526,788**

The summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statement are an integral part of this financial statement.

Oxford County Library Board
Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
December 31, 2022

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Oxford County Library Board are the representation of management in accordance with accounting policies as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board "PSAB" of the Chartered Professional Accountants "CPA" Canada requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to acquisition or construction of the tangible capital asset including transportation costs, installation costs, design and engineering fees, legal fees, and site preparation costs. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the time of the donation, with a corresponding amount recorded as revenue. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the tangible capital asset commencing once the asset is available for productive use as follows:

Land Improvements	30 to 40 years
Buildings	35 years
Furnishings and fixtures	10 years
Library books	7 years
Machinery and equipment	10 years

Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for use.

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at their fair value at the date of receipt.

Government Transfer

Government transfers from the province or federal government are recognized in the financial statements in the period in which events giving rise to the transfers occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amount can be made.

Oxford County Library Board
Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
December 31, 2022

Deferred Revenue

In accordance with PSAB requirements, obligatory reserve funds are reported as a component of deferred revenue. Development charge collections have been segregated, as required by the Development Charges Act, to finance a portion of the cost of growth-related capital projects. Revenue recognition occurs when the library has incurred the expenditure for which the development charges were collected.

Revenues received for specific purposes which are externally restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement and are not available for general library purposes are accounted for as deferred revenue. The revenue is recognized in the year in which it is used for the specified purpose.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Taxation revenues are recognized when the tax is authorized and the taxable event has occurred.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, determines the change in net financial liabilities for the year.

Oxford County Library Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2022

1. Deferred Revenue

The deferred revenue balance is comprised of the following:

	2022	2021
Development charges	$ 497,245	$ 446,189
Donations	212,193	182,218
	$ 709,438	**$ 628,407**

2. Net Long Term Liabilities

(a) The balance of long term liabilities reported on the Statement of Financial Position is made up of the following:

	2022	2021
Total long term liabilities incurred on behalf of the Oxford County Library at a rate of interest of 3.22% (2021 - 3.22% to 4.65%) with maturity date of September 2023	**$ 83,500**	**$ 193,979**

(b) Of the net long term liabilities reported in (a) of this note, the minimum principal repayments required are estimated as follows:

2023	$ 83,500
	$ 83,500

(c) The net interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2022 was $4,541 (2021 - $9,740).

3. Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surplus consists of individual fund surpluses and reserves as follows:

	2022	2021
Surpluses		
Operating fund	$ 88,406	$ 56,202
Invested in tangible capital assets	4,413,837	4,379,284
	4,502,243	4,435,486
Reserves		
Library	1,730,551	1,848,636
	$ 6,232,794	**$ 6,284,122**

4. Budget

The Financial Plan (Budget) By-Law adopted by Council on January 12, 2022 was prepared on a modified accrual basis consistent with the requirements of Section 289 of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001. The 2022 actuals are reported on a full accrual basis which includes; amortization of, gains and losses on disposal of and certain revenues related to, capital assets, but excludes debt repayment, capital asset costs and transfers of accumulated surplus. This is consistent with the Public Sector Accounting Standard. As a result, the budget figures presented in the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus represent the Financial Plan adopted by Council on January 12, 2022 with adjustments as follows:

	2022
Financial Plan (Budget) By-Law surplus for the year	$ -
Add:	
Tangible capital assets	404,000
Debt principal repayment	110,479
Less:	
Amortization	431,548
Transfers from accumulated surplus	353,946
	$ (271,015)

5. Significant Event

In 2020, a coronavirus outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization which prompted the Government of Ontario to declare a state of emergency on March 17, 2020. As a result of these declarations, significant economic and social impacts have been and continue to be experienced world-wide. As the full extent of impacts from the ongoing pandemic are yet to be determined, estimates contained in these statements, including those based on actuarial assumptions, are subject to change.

Oxford County Library Board
Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets
As at December 31, 2022

Schedule 1

	Cost Dec 31, 2021	Additions	Disposals	Cost Dec 31, 2022	Accumulated Amortization Dec 31, 2021	Amortization	Disposals	Accumulated Amortization Dec 31, 2022	Net Book Value Dec 31, 2022
General									
Land improvements	508,601	18,047	6,700	519,948	198,251	14,750	2,660	210,341	**309,607**
Buildings	5,139,521	366,358	114,631	5,391,248	1,987,362	151,937	46,381	2,092,918	**3,298,330**
Furniture and fixtures	2,187,711	-	-	2,187,711	2,086,448	32,334	-	2,118,782	**68,929**
Machinery and equipment	42,177	16,489	-	58,666	11,618	4,592	-	16,210	**42,456**
Library books	1,463,779	199,873	248,823	1,414,829	676,527	209,110	248,823	636,814	**778,015**
Total Tangible Capital Assets	**$9,341,789**	**$600,767**	**$370,154**	**$9,572,402**	**$4,960,206**	**$412,723**	**$297,864**	**$5,075,065**	**$4,497,337**

Oxford County Library
connect. discover. share. become.

Report No: 2023-16
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

To: **Oxford County Library Board**

From: **CEO/Chief Librarian**

Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request - Collections

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the Library Board receive Report No. 2023-16, Caffyn Bequest Expenditure Request - Collections, for approval.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Library staff seek Board approval of the expenditure of funds from the Peg Caffyn Bequest for collection improvements.

Implementation Points

Upon approval, library staff will work to put planned spends in place for additions to the library's Big Book staff collection and to create new multilingual children's collections.

Financial Impact

The funds required to complete the proposed collection improvements amounts to $4,375 as set out in the following table.

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
Big Book staff Collection	375
Children's Multilingual Collection	4,000
TOTAL	**$4,375**

The requested funds are available in the deferred donation revenue account which has a projected balance of $58,562 remaining after the approved expenditures for the Tillsonburg Branch children's space improvements. Approval of these projects would result in a remaining balance of $54,187 available for future investments.

Report No: 2023-16
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

Communications

Publicly recognizing the impacts that a donor's generosity makes is good stewardship practice. As such, library staff will affix a donation plaque label to the inside of each title purchased to formally recognize the use of the Caffyn Bequest.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

WORKS WELL TOGETHER	***WELL CONNECTED***	***SHAPES THE FUTURE***	***INFORMS & ENGAGES***	***PERFORMS & DELIVERS***	***POSITIVE IMPACT***
1.ii.					

DISCUSSION

Background

In 2019 Oxford County Library was the recipient of a bequest in the amount of $75,562.28 from the Estate of Margaret (Peg) Caffyn. At its May 2019 meeting, the Board authorized the placement of those funds in a deferred revenue account, to be used at a future date to enhance library services, with preference to be given to projects targeting vulnerable and at-risk children and teens.

In May 2023, library staff requested the use of $9,500 from the deferred revenue account to be used toward improvements and a mural in the Tillsonburg Branch children's area.

Comments

Library staff are requesting use of funds from the Caffyn Bequest to fund two collection projects that benefit children and families in Oxford County.

The first is an expansion of the library's Big Books programming collection. While these items do not circulate to the public, they are used in large scale and/or outdoor children's storytimes to make the book illustrations easily enjoyed by larger groups. Big Books are generally 45cm (18 inches) on the longest edge. These books are easy for program staff to handle, while providing large scale illustrations for the audience to enjoy. Library staff have requested 12 new titles be added to the collection. Each title costs between $25 and $40 dollars due to the large nature of the book, for an anticipated total of approximately $375.

The second request is for the creation of a new multilingual children's book collection. At this time, staff are proposing the addition of children's materials in three languages – Punjab, Arabic and Ukrainian. These languages have been most requested by library customers over the last

year. Looking at 2021 census data, Punjab is the current largest language spoken in homes other than an official language. While Arabic and Ukrainian are not high on the list in the 2021 census, staff have reported a number of families requesting books on these languages.

The library's intention is to work with our partner organizations on the Local Immigration Partnership committee to determine potential other languages we should be looking to support in the future.

Multilingual items run at a cost of approximately $40 per item, including the book and all costs associated with making the item findable within the library catalogue. This would allow the library to provide approximately 100 items total or about 33 items for each language.

Conclusions

The expenditure of approximately $4,375 from the Peg Caffyn Bequest would result in enhanced collection resources for those families attending library events and for families looking to share stories in the languages being used in their homes.

SIGNATURE

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by:

Lisa Marie Williams
CEO/Chief Librarian

Oxford County Library
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Report No: 2023-17
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

To: **Oxford County Library Board**

From: **CEO/Chief Librarian**

2022 Annual Community Report Card

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the Library Board receive Report No. 2023-17, 2022 Annual Community Report Card, for information.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Library staff have compiled year-end statistics to create the 2022 Annual Community Report Card.
- The Community Report Card will be used as an advocacy, marketing and communication tool.
- Library staff may use the statistics found within this Report Card to create a short video version to be used for further marketing.

Implementation Points

The 2022 Annual Community Report Card is produced by staff each year to highlight the library's achievements in the previous year. The 2022 Community Report Card will be available online and in limited print formats for the public and library stakeholders.

Library staff will also work to create Municipal specific data that will be able to be presented to Area Municipalities to further communicate the library's role in each community.

Financial Impact

The 2022 Community Report Card was created and will be produced in-house. Limited copies of the report will be printed using budgeted resources already approved by the current year's operating budget.

Library staff are also exploring the potential to create a short video version of the report. Any costs associated with such a video will also use budgeted resources already approved by the current year's operating budget.

Report No: 2023-17
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

Communications

The 2022 Annual Community Report Card will be made available on the OCL website, with print copies made available as needed. Should a short video version be created, said video will be made available on the library's digital channels and website.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

WORKS WELL TOGETHER	***WELL CONNECTED***	***SHAPES THE FUTURE***	***INFORMS & ENGAGES***	***PERFORMS & DELIVERS***	***POSITIVE IMPACT***
				5.ii.	

DISCUSSION

Background

The Annual Community Report Card has been created each year since 2015. Libraries, like many non-profits and community agencies, use annual reports as communications and advocacy tools.

Comments

The production of an Annual Community Report Card allows the library to better demonstrate key performance indicators within the framework of the library's vision statement / tag line.

The 2022 report will highlight nearly a full year of more regular library services after the end of pandemic restrictions.

Conclusions

Staff welcome Board comments or suggestions for the 2022 Annual Community Report Card or any questions related to the information as presented.

Report No: 2023-17
CORPORATE SERVICES
Board Date: June 20, 2023

SIGNATURE

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

Lisa Marie Williams
CEO/Chief Librarian

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – 2022 Annual Community Report Card

2022
Oxford County Library
Re-*Connecting*

CONNECT

17,691
active users

128,946
curb side and in-branch visits
(+81%)

2,079
items delivered through home deliveries
(+732%)

DISCOVER

422,702
Physical materials borrowed
(+57%)

126,910
eBooks & eAudiobooks downloaded

29,267
Digital TV & movies downloaded
(+584%)

77,131
Digital magazines & newspapers downloaded
(+413%)

13,493
Craft & Connect kits distributed
(+124%)

130
attended the Ingersoll Makerspace Day opening

1,420
people participated in **virtual Thursday Night Trivia**

55
Ox on the Run community stops at parks, splashpads and special events between June and August

SHARE

23,846
participants attended
242
programs across 14 branches

102
participants attended two **Drag Story Times**

353
Teen Book Boxes distributed

380 Summer Reading Club registrations and **220** active readers on **Beanstack**

4,176 badges earned and **180,884** minutes read

BECOME

143
participants of **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** and **21 children celebrated reaching the 1,000 books milestone**

18 organizations created 19 video-recorded presentations for **Oxford Local History Day** with over 1,300 cumulative views.

2,136
learning sessions on **Universal Class** and
474
craft courses taken on **Creative Bug**

250
day-use park passes borrowed

214
items borrowed from our **Kitchen Lending Library**

Oxford County Library
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HYUNDAI

London

Are drag queen storytimes worth fighting for? These people think so

This month, drag storytimes will be happening in places like Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Kitchener

James Chaarani · CBC News · Posted: Jun 07, 2023 6:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: June 7

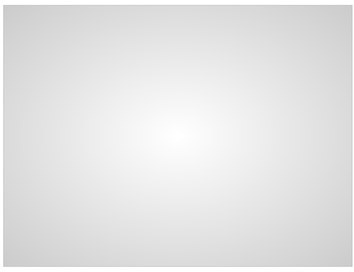
Adam Davies, the co-chair of the Anti-Oppression Rainbow Research Lab at the University of Guelph, said drag storytimes aren't just for queer youth. (James Chaarani / CBC)

As pushback and protests continue over drag storytimes across Southwestern Ontario, advocates say making those experiences available is a way to teach understanding and accepting differences.

Adam Davies, the co-chair of the Anti-Oppression Rainbow Research Lab at the University of Guelph — who is also a registered early childhood educator — believes drag queen storytimes are something worth fighting for.

"It is of the most – the utmost importance – to fight for drag and drag storytime because of how it really is showing children, young people, families what we could be as a future society in terms of reimagining and transforming gender," Davies told CBC News.

"And these spaces are so important because we know that children start bullying and policing each other's gender at a very young age, and those behaviours are often learned from parents and family figures."



Drag queens Von Panico, left, and Miss Lita, right, pose with supporters at the Middlesex County Library during a drag story time, which was met with protest in May. (Submitted by Patricia Ginn)

June is Pride month across Canada with local events happening in places like London, Oxford County and Waterloo Region. As part of some of these celebrations, there will be drag storytimes across the regions, but many of the events in the past have been met with protests by anti-drag activists.

"If you think about the children in that audience who are able to engage with drag and ask questions about gender, it is creating opportunity to reimagine gender for the future and also hopefully show children and young people that gender can be transformative. It can be outside of the binary," Davies said.

"I think one of the reasons why it's so under attack is because people want to restrict our imaginaries around gender. People want to maintain the same ideas of gender that we've had over the last 400 years in Western society."

- QUEERIES Drag storytime pioneers Fay & Fluffy are not backing down

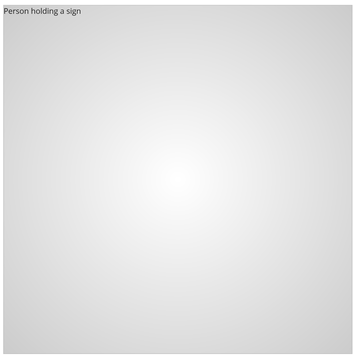
Lack of affirmation

Davies said storytimes aren't just for queer youth, and believes there can be consequences for young people not having the sort of affirmation that they might find at these events.

"The consequences, I think, are incredibly severe because by seeing someone embody gender in a way that is self affirming, that allows permission for a child or youth to say, 'Hey, I can do that too,'" Davies said.

- 70-year-old Ontario biker makes it her mission to protect people at drag queen storytimes

"So if they don't have any role models in their life or people that they can turn to, or representation on TV and media, then it almost creates the idea that they should be ashamed of who they are in their desire. And so the desire to be yourself and to express your gender in a way outside of our societal norms becomes something to be kept within."



A protester at a drag storytime at the Middlesex County Library in May. (Submitted by Patricia Ginn)

'Hate can't win'

Wortley Pride in London's Wortley Village is hosting a drag storytime of their own on Saturday.

They put on a similar storytime last year with no incidents, but this year, Kathy Bell-Copeland, Wortley Pride founder, said they've had pushback.

"People going so far as, they don't have a problem with drag rights," Bell-Copeland said. "They just don't like it when we implicate children or involve children into drag storytime.

- Drag storytimes have become a target of hate. Why some families love them anyway

"I don't understand why, simply because drag performers are people at the utmost of their core that are doing what they feel is right for the community. They're reading stories about self-love, about acceptance, about being who you are to an audience of children who are there attending drag storytime with their parents and legal guardians."

Despite the pushback, Bell-Copeland said they're still continuing with the storytime because "hate can't win."

"To be who you are, to be your authentic self, is so crucial starting at any age."

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Have You Been to the Library Lately?

Libraries now survival about pleading patrons. Now they have to deal with mental health episodes, the homelessness crisis, and random violence

BY NICHOLAS JAMES HUNTER
CONTRIBUTOR-IN-CHIEF, GLOBE

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The unheated Library Association Super Conference is the largest annual gathering of bookish public servants in the country. The days long event at the Sheraton Hotel Toronto Convention Centre is both an industry trade show and the facto meeting space for all of Canada's librarians—a place to catch up on the latest technological changes, network with distant colleagues, and hear stock of the state of the libraries.

Rahma Hashi, a social worker with a bright smile and a huge head of hair, began her presentation by asking the audience to imagine a typical day at the library: morning at their doors, many fourth-location libraries have begun to house social workers. Hashi was one of Toronto Public Library's first. Part of her role, she explained, was to support librarians who were dealing with difficult calls. "You should always be a welcoming space for everyone but the end result of getting service to people who are homeless should be handled by the professionals.

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The reality is somewhat different. In Toronto, over the past few months, explained, there were about 11,000 people experiencing homelessness, according to the city's shelter system. Many of them, unable to find anywhere else to go, have spent warm days during the day, she said. Some libraries have seen open their urban social services, and most shelters in Toronto had been full anyway, so library workers were dealing with the consequences. Hashi told the librarians that she was there to support them. "Sometimes people come to the library and they're not doing anything wrong, they're not breaking any rules, they're not causing disturbances, they're not causing any disruptions, but they're just sitting at their desks, they're just there for a bed for tonight?" so call Central Intake, and they're in 100 percent capacity."

Vidya Telaja, a twenty-four-year veteran of Edmonton Public Library, described how she too had received many frantic requests to help someone who was in crisis at the main library branch. "People rely on the work too, because it's the last truly public space, and I'm sure everybody in this room knows," she said.

It's an evocative phrase—"the last public space." It's one I heard over and over while reporting this story, often invoked as a kind of badge of honour. For the library CEOs and librarians I spoke to, the phrase represents a point of pride. It succinctly emphasizes the importance of their institutions: like the "salt of the earth" or "good samaritans" or "the last Galapagos tortoises," the last public space" sounds like something we should probably want to preserve, if we can.

As a description of the role of the library, the phrase is also a remarkable illustration of how far the institution has come. Libraries were once places to access books. They are now places to access everything? The last place to access anything? At the social level, the last public space" is a phrase that speaks to the fact that, in the conversation in room 2020 that afternoon was the sound of librarians who were struggling with the reality that, despite their best efforts, an institution organized around lending out books/videos might not be up for the job.

Every library branch in every city has its own specific issues, but in conversations with workers across the country, the broad strokes of the problem are clear. Librarians say they're seeing more people with more complex needs than ever before. Homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and violence are increasingly, in the aboutplus, or frustrating mixture, public library issues. Toronto Public Library's CEO in 2021. In Edmonton, where librarians say the city's shelter system is overwhelmed, workers have been dealing with a surge in violent incidents. In Vancouver, where workers were on strike for nearly two months over wages and safety issues, a lack of wage growth. In a letter to library trustees, they argued that "management has refused even to receive important proposals—including to address the challenges of violence and mental health impacts." Library workers across the country report being pulled in all kinds of directions, and they're not sure how much longer they can do that mainly from not having the necessary resources to help the people who come to them, day after day. They talk about picking up the phone to call for help and realizing that nobody's coming.

When the floor opened for questions that afternoon in Toronto, hands shot up. A guy Sandra Hale wanted to know how many social workers Edmonton had hired. "Winnipeg just added its third, and they just aren't enough hours in the day for the number of calls they get," she said. "I'm just wondering what the ratio is for you guys?" Edmonton has a new mental-health crisis response team, Hale explained, but more social workers are necessary. Another librarian, Sonja Boon, asked if Hashi's team would have the same their profiles as the social workers. Hashi explained that "management has refused even to receive important proposals—including to address the challenges of violence and mental health impacts." Library workers across the country report being pulled in all kinds of directions, and they're not sure how much longer they can do that mainly from not having the necessary resources to help the people who come to them, day after day. They talk about picking up the phone to call for help and realizing that nobody's coming.

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"What is the next step?" asked a woman from Vancouver Public Library. It was the question that seemed to be on everyone's mind. Hale, the social worker, went thing. "At what point do library workers, managers, directors speak directly to governments?"

The speakers maximized urgent answers about each person among their feet to make change within their own realm, but the truth was there were no good answers. The problem was too big, too complex, too deep. The day's most compelling moment of conversation came. But in the months since, that conversation has continued—in discussions between library CEOs, in meetings between leaders, and in their boardrooms. Librarians are asking: What is the role of the library in the 21st century? Must go from here? Because it's clear that being "the last public space" isn't a privilege. It's a sign that something has gone terribly wrong.

Librarians are a remarkably collegial group, quick to praise one another. And they have good reason to be proud of their institutions. Over the last 20 years, Canada's Edmonton Central Library and Edmonton's innovative social programs, Vancouver's community work on the Downtown Eastside and the herculean feat of the Toronto Public Library system, which has 100 locations and 11 million visitors, with nearly 2.3 million cardholders and about 10.6 million items in the collection. "One that we all admire incredibly, not only for the building but for their innovation, is Calgary Public," said Mary Cheeseman, CEO of Kitchener Public Library.

Calgary is a surprising source as the frontier. It's one of the largest systems in North America, with 21 percent of Calgarians carrying a library card. The Central Library, which opened in 2018, is an architectural wonder: a six-level atrium ring as the Calgary Stampede, filled with sunlight and a dizzying array of activities. It's a lofty, playwright of loftier atrium that does the thing that architecture, cathedrals, and other great buildings are supposed to do: create awe and uplift—the feeling that you're in a place that matters. Calgary Public Library CEO Bill Ptacek is the responsible for putting Calgary on the New York Times list of "52 Places to Go in 2019 and was included in Time magazine's 100 "World's Greatest Places" that same year.

I visited early one morning in February, a mild chinook wind blowing in over the mountains and the building's copywriter windows glowing warmly against the electric blue dawn. At 8 a.m., an hour before opening, a small crowd had already gathered at the doors. Ptacek, who is 60 and has been CEO since 2012, had intended to verbalize a corner of the city that had long been neglected. But the Salvation Army is next door, with other drop-ins and social services clustered in the area. Many of the people using the space were struggling—sometimes with drug use, mental illness, or both.

There is a room at Bearrow in the basements below the opening of a big public building, a bucket-carried of anticipation before the action. Inside, workers trickled in, and the room filled with conversation and laughter. The Calgary Public Library, which opened in 2018, is an architectural wonder: a six-level atrium ring as the Calgary Stampede, filled with sunlight and a dizzying array of activities. It's a lofty, playwright of loftier atrium that does the thing that architecture, cathedrals, and other great buildings are supposed to do: create awe and uplift—the feeling that you're in a place that matters. Calgary Public Library CEO Bill Ptacek is the responsible for putting Calgary on the New York Times list of "52 Places to Go in 2019 and was included in Time magazine's 100 "World's Greatest Places" that same year.

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In the middle of this fundamentalism, Jan Arnold began to engage. Libraries have always been a welcoming space for the entire community. Alexander Calhoun, Calgary's first librarian, used the space and the institution to educate and socialized "newcomers" and the unemployed into the building during the Depression. But the opioid crisis has devastated communities, killing more than 30,000 people between 2016 and 2022, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada. And for the past several years, Calgary has been in the grip of a particularly severe epidemic. It ranks consistently unemployed in their death record. According to Data from the Institute for Health Information, from 2020 to 2021, Canadians washed a median of 26 days in hospital after a fall, the longest stay recorded in the country. Many networks have suffered cutbacks and disintegrated, the Toronto Star found it was one of the only places left with an open door.

Today, when Heidbrink describes the role of the library, it's as "a place for community connections and a place for people to come together to dissent by." It's where people go to fill in online applications for government services and to receive an interpretation forms in duplicate. It's a shared office for students and workers stuck in overcrowded homes. It's a warm place to go when it's minus 30 outside. It's a cool place to go when no one's 'M' hustled during its security or forced to buy something.

If books remain the library's heart, they no longer its primary focus. In 2011, Calgary trimmed its collection by about 15 percent and removed all Dewey Decimals of texts from its shelves, according to The Calgary Herald, following a trend of libraries "managing down" their print collections. Many of those books are still available for lender, stored off site in a warehouse somewhere, but Calgary's branches are increasingly dedicated to the "library of things"—a place to borrow tools, play video programming, sewing, and hanging out that are now at the core of their mandate.

When people tell the story of this transformation, from book repository to social services hub, it's usually as an uncomplicated triumph. A meme "Dan looks" in libraries in the New York Times has a typical capable format: "In a land safety were shriveled, the library staff magically expanded from underfunded to stay in a to turn to an elephant hangar. The modern library began its citizens warm, safe, healthy, entertained, educated, hydrated and, above all, connected."

That story, while heartwarming, obscures the reality of what has happened. No librarian I spoke to wanted to be in the business of being a social worker, and many felt as underburdened as the public library. If the library has managed to expand its protective umbrella, it has done so after a series of difficult decisions. And that expansion has come with costs.

after an altercation at Millennium Library. Four teenagers between the ages of fourteen and sixteen were charged with his death. The library closed for about two weeks as administrators tried to figure out how to respond. When it fully reopened, a walk-through metal detector had been installed, and police officers were stationed at the door.

Over the months I spent writing this story, I drifted from library to library. I set up my laptop in Saddletowne in Calgary as groups of gangly teenagers crunched themselves into tiny nooks in the kids' area because, as the librarian told me, "teens like to be tucked away." I went to my local Toronto branch and let my six-year-old forage for as many books about cheetahs as he could find. I used the free Libby app to borrow a digital copy of *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean and the free Hoopla app to stream the first thirty minutes of *The Public*, a well-intentioned but very boring Emilio Estevez movie about a group of homeless people taking over a Cincinnati library. I walked into the soaring atrium of the Toronto Reference Library, probably my favourite building in the city, and was hit with the feeling, so rare in modern life, of being in a beautiful, thoughtful place created and maintained for my benefit—a place that wanted nothing from me other than to make my life marginally better. A public place.

Today, library leaders are recognizing that these public places may have reached the limits of their capacity. According to Pilar Martinez, the CEO of Edmonton Public Library and the chair of the safety and security working group that the Canadian Urban Libraries Council assembled this January, it was time to put some "guardrails" on what libraries ought to be doing with their resources.

There had been talk about a library branch providing clothing to patrons, for example. It was a serious community need, after all, and a place where the library could conceivably step in. But was that their role? And while the three social workers they'd hired in Edmonton had made a huge impact, Martinez said, "that's just not an area that we're going to grow and provide library resources and funding to add additional social workers." Librarians like Martinez were drawing a line. There was the sense, she said, that the Band-Aid solutions they had been trying to provide may even have been obscuring the severity of the problems from governments. It was time to demand help from people outside the building.

"I think what happened is, for a long time, libraries swung in one direction, which is 'We don't do anything but books,'" says Amanda French, the manager of social development at Toronto Public Library. "And then they swung wildly in another direction, which is 'We do everything. We do everything.'" Now she sees libraries swinging back to a more sustainable equilibrium.

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That approach, however, requires governments to ease that burden. As libraries have taken on more responsibility, they haven't seen a simultaneous increase in funding. If a public library wants to hire another social worker, does that mean they need to wait for a librarian to leave? Putting cops at the door in Winnipeg rather than hiring more support staff may make sense considering the police's budget is about $327 million, ten times higher than the library system's allocated funds, and this year's police budget increase was about ten times higher too.

Fixing libraries means more funding to bring up staffing levels to give workers the support they need. But it also means doing things that are much more difficult: building more social housing, hiring more social workers, investing in mental health workers, schools, community centres, and everything else needed to address problems before they reach the library's doors. Libraries have proven themselves to be incredibly adaptative, contorting themselves into various shapes to serve the needs of their communities. That's another favourite librarian saying: "A good library reflects its community." But that goes both ways. A troubled community is reflected in its libraries. And if the social problems of twenty-first-century life continue to grow with little restraint, they will inevitably find their way into the city's last public places.

In *Palaces for the People*, Eric Klinenberg's insightful 2018 book about the importance of "social infrastructure," he writes: "Everyday life in libraries is a democratic experiment." There are few other institutions that take as their constituency *everyone*. Democracy, of course, is messy. None of that work is magical. It's grinding, difficult, always compromised. But watching a library function—doing the mundane, day-to-day work of accommodating an entire city within its walls—is also remarkable.

That February morning in Calgary, when the doors opened, visitors scattered to every corner of the building. Prince, a twenty-five-year-old international student from Ghana, set up his laptop on the third floor to study, as he does most days. A sixty-seven-year-old retired carpenter browsed the shelves, finally selecting a copy of Anne Applebaum's *Twilight of Democracy*, before heading downstairs to the cafe to meet a friend. Jeff, a fifty-five-year-old in a big black hoodie, who was staying at the drop-in centre nearby, went straight to the laptop collection on the fourth floor and checked out a Chromebook to look for a landscaping job in the spring.

Sneha, meanwhile, sat at a little wooden table in the children's area with her four-year-old son, Joshya, who was contentedly filling a large sheet of butcher paper with intricate crayon drawings. That morning, they'd come down from their home in the northeast with her husband, who was working at the Salvation Army next door, and now they were spending the day here—reading picture books, choosing DVDs and CDs to take home, using the climbing structure built in the kids' area.

Sneha said that this was Joshya's first time at Central Library, but they were regulars at their home branch. It was the perfect place to bring a kid too young for school, a spot to find playmates. Sneha had been a dentist in India but was still finding her footing here, and through the library, she was taking a free online course in medical office administration that, she hoped, would help lead to work. They'd arrived only a few months before. Everything was still new, and life in a big foreign city could be difficult. But Sneha and her family were doing okay. They had found their way to the library.

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