

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



KIM GRAFTON

Chair, Meaford Public Library Board



Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of the Meaford Public Library (MPL). As Chair of the MPL Board I am pleased to present this retrospective snapshot of the significant role our Library provides as a welcoming dynamic “community hub”.

The Meaford Public Library had an outstanding year in 2024. Thanks go out to the members of the MPL Board, Library CEO, Lynne Fascinato, who was appointed as full time Library CEO June 2024, and our dedicated staff. It is due to their leadership, inspiration and innovation that we are able to sustain a welcoming and inspirational destination for knowledge and learning that fosters valuable partnerships, promotes equity and diversity as we engage with our community.

2024 welcomed financial support from the Friends of Meaford Library (FOML), many individual donors, the Municipality of Meaford Council and the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and the Ontario Library Service (OLS).

We welcomed partnerships from the Municipality of Meaford, and local cultural and economic stakeholders, who helped contribute to a diverse and interesting mix of programming that included Bots for Tots, weekly story time, school visits, teen lounges, Grand Pals to our Elder Law Series.

In April, we partnered with the Municipality of Meaford staff responsible for Corporate Well-Being Plan to host a very successful Volunteer Recruitment Fair.

In May, MPL Council Representative Harley Greenfield and Acting Library CEO Lynne Fascinato, participated in the Municipality's National Accessibility Week Video, which highlighted accessibility features throughout the Municipality, showcasing our beautiful, completely accessible Library.

From September to November 2024 we partnered with the Municipality of Meaford and launched the Grand Pals Program. Designated Library staff welcomed seniors and youth for a three- month integrated program. There was laughter, joy and a fun exchange of stories and knowledge.

In October, Library Staff and Board members hosted a signature author event at the Meaford Hall featuring the Marc Garneau, Canada's first astronaut in space. What an honor to meet Marc, a remarkable man and pioneer of Canada's Space Program. This event was sponsored by the Friends of Meaford Library.

The Board wishes to recognize the support of the "Friends" for their commitment and investment in the library. FOML were an integral part of enriching our programming and services by purchasing three book carts, a device charging station, Chromebooks, a Switch console and games, and more! The children and youth library benefitted from a \$10,000.00 anonymous grant, funded through FOML that was used for high quality programming and items.

The Rotary Club of Meaford and FOML continued their sponsorship of the loanable highspeed WiFi Hotspots, the number one loaned item in the library in 2024.

We are proud of our amazing Team at the MPL and grateful to all our partners as they enable us to continue to engage and connect with our dynamic community as we look forward to 2025 and our next chapter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Grafton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair, Meaford Public Library Board

VISION AND MISSION

VISION

Your welcoming and inspirational destination for knowledge and learning.

MISSION

Bringing service excellence to meet the needs of a dynamic community through universal access to innovative and vibrant spaces and experiences.

HIGH LEVEL NUMBERS

Revenues

Room Rental	\$766.00
Program Revenues	\$1,619.00
Inter Library Loan Postage Rebate	\$2,700.00
Special Events	\$5,843.00
Fees and Charges	\$7,992.00
Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)	\$23,935.00
Donations (including FOML & private individuals)	\$24,718.00
Total	\$67,573.00

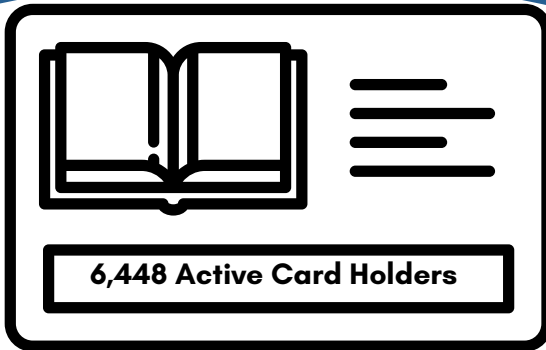


HIGH LEVEL NUMBERS

Expenses

Association Fees and Memberships	\$1,067.00
Magazine Subscriptions	\$1,260.00
Postage/Courier (OLS supported)	\$2,123.00
Copying/Office Supplies	\$2,152.00
Events (FOML supported)	\$3,058.00
Advertising/Promotion (FOML supported)	\$3,465.00
Conferences and Training	\$6,301.00
Other Expenses (FOML supported)	\$7,588.00
Programming (FOML supported)	\$16,097.00
E-Resources like Libby, Hoopla, Biblio+	\$16,134.00
Books and Collections (Capital Expense)	\$38,084.00
Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Contract	\$152,474.00
Information Technology	\$161,125.00
Facility Maintenance (includes New Library Debt)	\$219,748.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$482,574.00
Total	\$1,113,250.00

Meaford Public Library 2024 by the Numbers



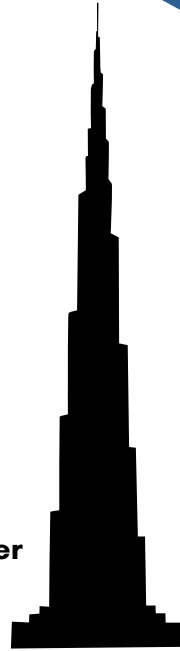
31,932
Items
in our
Collection

*If stacked it would be just short of the CN Tower

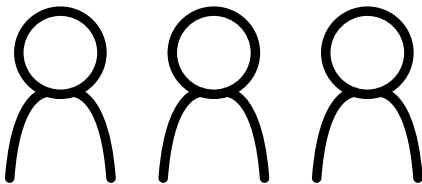
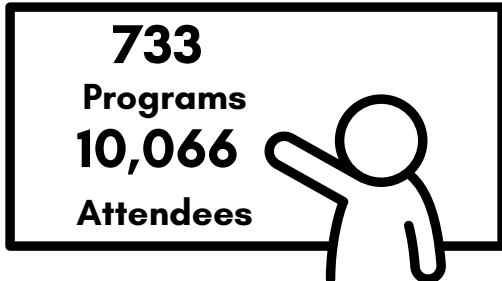


73,269
Items
Checked
Out

*If stacked it would be taller than the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world)

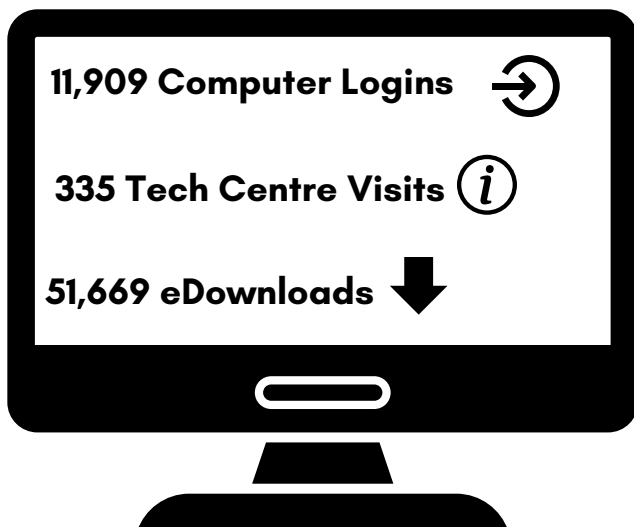
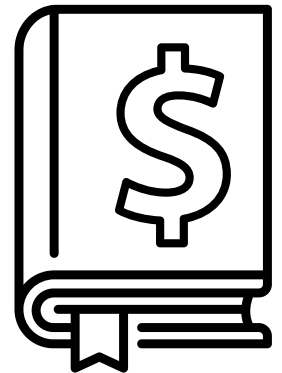


77,170
TOTAL
VISITORS

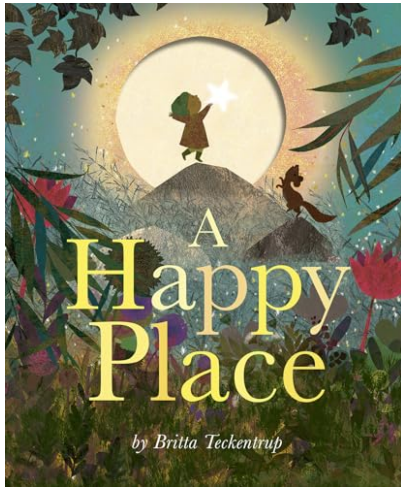


**Library Members
Saved**

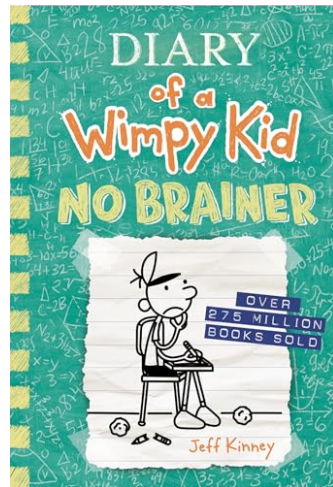
\$1,573,877.90



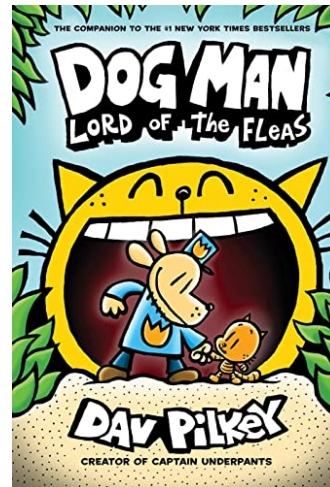
MOST CIRCULATED ITEMS OF 2024



Picture Book



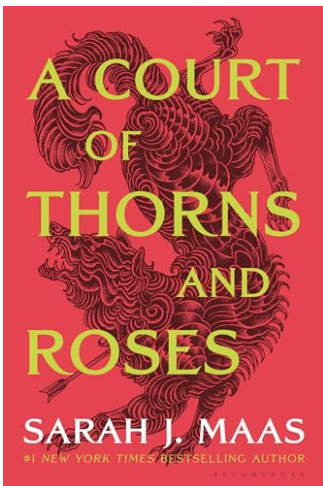
Junior Fiction



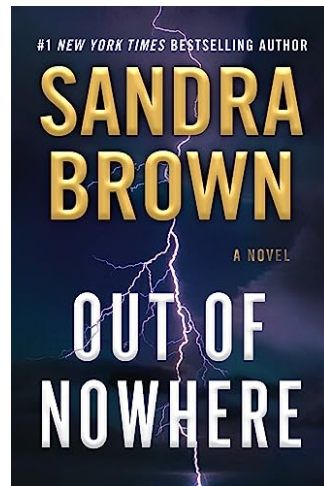
Junior
Graphic Novel



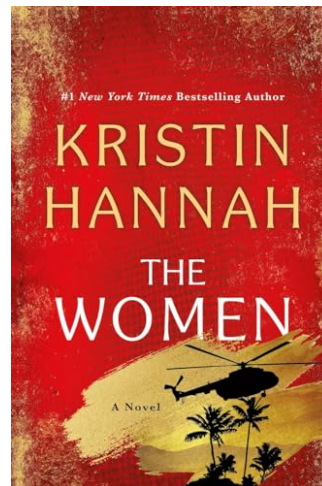
Young Adult
Graphic Novel



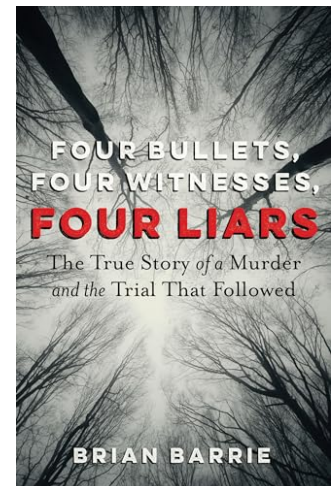
Young Adult
Fiction



Large Print



Fiction



Non-Fiction



Junior Movie



Young Adult Movie



Movie

Who Makes Up Our Membership?

Meaford Public Library Active Membership

Year	Municipality of Meaford Members	Blue Mountains Members	Grey Highlands Members	Non-Resident Members	Total
2022	4483	425	128	442	5478
2023	4801	519	146	568	6034
2024	5002	600	169	677	6448

Meaford Public Library Engagement

Meaford Public Library Strategic Plan 2022+ Three Pillars of Service - Engagement, Innovation, and Collaboration Highlights from 2024:

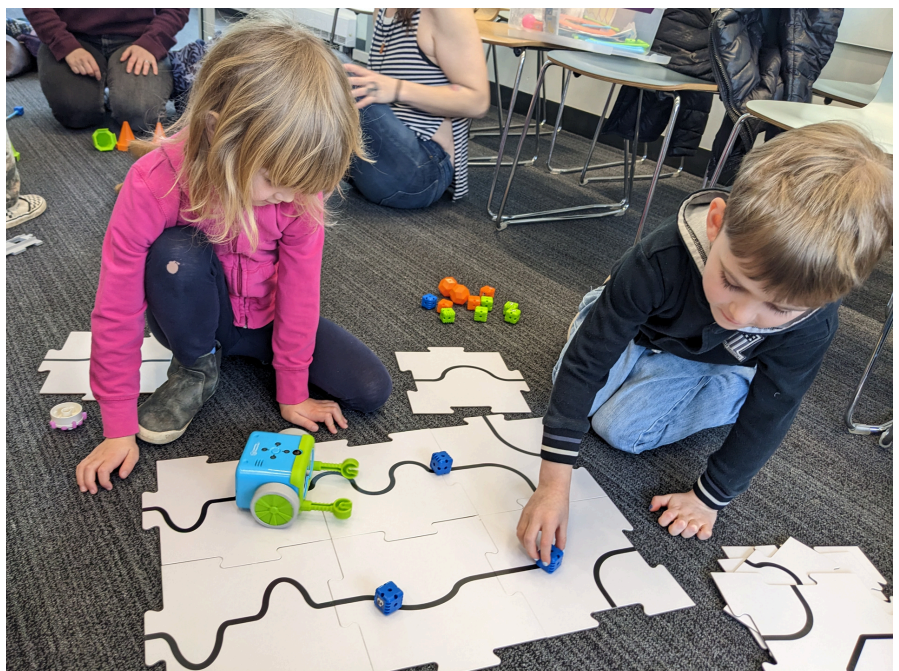
- Embraced Diversity and Inclusion - Rainbow Book Club started in 2024 and a family PRIDE craft in June.
- Ensure Library is Safe - Staff training day with focus on emergency procedures.
- Staff Training - Attendance at Ontario Library Association Annual Conference; new inter library loan training; RA in a Day and Digital Odyssey Conferences attendance.
- Targeted Outreach - Meaford Farmers' Market Georgian Bay FanCon, Meaford Pet Expo Pop-Up Library.
- Educational programs:
 - 33 class visits from local school for a total of 685 students,
 - 145 patrons enjoyed the TD Summer Reading Club,
 - 100 participants enjoyed Qigong and meditation weekly programs,
 - 132 patrons participated in the Walk Around the World Community Movement Challenge.



Meaford Public Library

Innovation

- Purchased Device Charging Station.
- Added e-Resource Biblio+ movie streaming service.
- Provided tech help through Tech Centre and Adult Learning Centre to a total of 487 people.
- Purchased coding toys for junior department for use in Bots for Tots STEM programs.
- Replaced 2 Chromebooks for patron use.
- Purchased Skedda room booking software.
- Continued sponsorship of WiFi Routers by the Rotary Club of Meaford and FOML.
- Daily posting on Library social media accounts including weekly “New Book Thursdays” videos.



Meaford Public Library Collaboration



- Collaborated with the Municipality for a Volunteer Recruitment Fair, GrandPals in the Library Program, Views of Meaford Photo Contest.
- Collaborated with Meaford Culture Foundation for an International Women's Day Luncheon for 65 individuals, sponsored by Friends of Meaford Library.
- Partnered with CRA for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) for 145 individuals.
- Provided proctoring services for exam takers.
- Partnered with Service Canada, Life Directions, YMCA of Owen Sound, Brightshores Health Services to promote well being, employment, government services to patrons.
- Grey County Master Gardeners for Gardener-in-Residence series.
- Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic for an Elder Law series of sessions.
- Partnered with Christmas on the Bay to offer theme-related programming including a Santa and a separate Silent Santa visit.
- Partnered with many local businesses such as Happy Paws Canine Solutions, Canadian Pet Connection for canine related seminars.
- Partnered with United Way Grey Bruce for a drop-in tax Q&A.

The logo for the Meaford Public Library Board. It features a blue rounded rectangular frame with a stylized handle on the left and right sides. Inside the frame, the words "MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY" are written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "Board" is written in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font.

MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY Board

Kim Grafton – Chair

Lloyd Mohr – Vice Chair

Frank Emptage – Trustee

Elgin Pecjak – Trustee

Marnie Wraith – Trustee

Councillor Brandon Forder – Council Representative

Councillor Harley Greenfield – Council Representative

The logo for the Meaford Public Library Staff. It features a blue rounded rectangular frame with a stylized handle on the left and right sides. Inside the frame, the words "MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY" are written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "Staff" is written in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font.

MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY Staff

Lynne Fascinato – Library CEO

Lori Pierce – Children & Youth Coordinator

Amy Solecki – Community Outreach Coordinator

Ashley Trusler – Library Assistant, Circulation

Shauntel Highfield – Library Assistant, Technical Services

Rosemary Palmer – Library Assistant

Samantha McIntosh – Library Assistant

Kim Blakeney – Public Services Clerk

Library Assistant – Seasonal Summer Student

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

CEO, Meaford Public Library, Lynne Fascinato



As I reflect on the last year at The Meaford Public Library, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey our Library Board, Team, volunteers, and patrons have shared. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Municipality of Meaford Council and staff for their invaluable support – from maintaining our facilities and the Parkette, to assisting with the budget process and human resources needs. My thanks wouldn't be complete without recognizing the Friends of Meaford Library (FOML), who without their partnership and support, we would not have been able to provide the rich diversity in programming, educational experiences, special events, and technology items we were so fortunate to receive in 2024. Everyone has worked together to help provide our community with diverse and relevant collections as well as opportunities to help satisfy the interests of our users. My sincere thank you to our community for helping us remain an important community hub.

Thank you to our volunteers who help run Tech Centre, meditation, arts and crafts, and local heritage programs. They also shelve items, cover books, package inter library loan items, care for our plants, and more. They are indispensable in helping to keep the Library running. We are fortunate to have their dedication and support!

2024 included welcoming our new Part-Time Library Assistant to the Team who has quickly become the face of story time for our youngest library patrons. We forged more partnerships with local organizations that enabled monthly series of programs in addition to local authors who shared their books, helping to enrich us with their love of literacy. Our five meeting rooms were busy providing free space for essential community partners, including technology assistance sessions, employment support services, virtual drop-in sessions with Service Canada, tax clinics, mental health walk-in clinics, and more.

It was an honour and pleasure to host the late Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut in space at our 2024 signature author event held at Meaford Hall. Before the event, Library Board Chair Kim Grafton, his publisher, and I had the privilege of spending a quiet moment with Mr. Garneau. We consider ourselves very fortunate. During his talk, attendees were treated to captivating stories from both his career and personal life.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025, we are excited to host another signature author event. We look forward to building even more community partnerships and expanding our outreach efforts to connect the Library with the people and neighborhoods we serve. The Municipality of Meaford welcomed the new CAO, Shawn Everitt, to the role and we look forward to the direction he will take our Municipality and being a part of this important journey. Technology remains at the forefront of our services, driving the need to evolve alongside our community's changing needs and interests. To support this, we will expand our 'Library of Things' collection, update our Technology Plan, and revise our Collection Development Plan.

In closing, 2024 was a fun-filled, busy year, and I want to express my thanks to the Meaford Public Library Board in appointing me Full-Time Library CEO in June. I am honoured to represent the Meaford Public Library alongside the fantastic Library Team and excited to see what the next year will bring. Thank you once again for your continued support and enthusiasm. Here's to another year of engagement, innovation, and collaboration, where your library visit can become your inspirational destination for knowledge, learning, relaxation, and fun!

We look forward to seeing you!

Lynne Fascinato

CEO, Meaford Public Library

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