



Director's Report

December 2023

1. Operational Highlights

PA Day Programming

All branches offer PA Day programming for school-aged children. These programs provide supervised and engaging learning activities. In November, the Stickerpalooza PA Day Program saw 90 children trade, create, and share stickers with their friends.

Mr Oh Magician

Special guest Mr. Oh! helped to celebrate the re-opening of Queen Street in Kincardine by providing a free magic show to families. Offering free programming ensures that anyone can attend and reflects the Library's commitment to inclusion. Mr. Oh also brought his crowd-pleasing antics to the Walkerton Branch and inspired children to borrow magic books, supporting learning new interests and skills.

Launchpads

Thanks to a generous donation from the NWMO, Launchpads have been added to the Library's collection. These tablets are pre-loaded with a variety of early-learning games, videos, and stories to help build early learning, literacy, and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). The tablets are designed for various levels such as pre-emerging, early emerging, and developing. Each tablet complements the others at that level providing children with a variety of ways to acquire new skills.

Tree of Warmth

This year, all library branches offered a "Tree of Warmth" in support of Bruce County's Dorrell Young Christmas Program. Donors could drop off articles of warm clothing that were then delivered to the Human Services department for distribution. This program ensures that children and teenagers throughout Bruce County receive a gift during the holiday season. Our participation reflects BCPL's commitment to inclusion and building welcoming spaces. BCPL collected over 200 items.

Read Local

Author events are an important part of programming at BCPL. They promote engagement with literature and reinforce the library as a resource for discovering new and emerging talent while promoting a love of reading.

On November 4, eight local authors gathered at the Port Elgin Branch to connect with readers and each other, and to promote their books. This come-and-go event was well received by patrons and participants found the opportunity to network with each other helpful. Assistant

Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO

Bookmobile Supervisor Michael Englehardt interviewed each author for BCPL's YouTube channel, providing another avenue to promote the works of local authors.

The Local Author collection launched in June 2022 and now has 120 titles available.



2. Personnel

Long-time clerk Nancy Wilkes has announced her retirement from BCPL. Nancy has provided service for 24 years in various branches, most recently working out of the Tara Branch.

3. Facilities

Lucknow Branch

The Lucknow Branch was closed from November 21 - 28 after the furnace broke. Huron-Kinloss installed a new furnace and regular operations resumed November 29.

Port Elgin Branch

The lights on the second floor were retrofitted and are now working again, improving visibility and safety in the branch.

Tobermory Branch

A new circulation desk was installed at the Tobermory Branch, improving ergonomics and workspace for staff and providing additional storage space.

Paisley Branch

Renovations to the Paisley Community Centre have begun and staff continue to liaise with the municipality regarding space planning. BCPL launched a community needs survey to identify preferred hours, services, and programming. The information provided will inform staff planning for the Paisley Branch.

4. Administration

Battery Recycling

Battery collection is now available at all BCPL branches, providing a safe solution to recycling batteries and keeping them out of landfills. This initiative supports BCPL's strategic plan by demonstrating our commitment to the environment and offering innovative services to our communities. Raw Materials Company notes that 100% of each battery is recovered and reused, and no materials enter the landfill.

Cultural Action Plan

The Director, Library Services, has assumed responsibility for Bruce County's Cultural Action Plan (CAP). A rich cultural environment contributes to the overall quality of life in a community, enhancing well-being, creativity, and a sense of belonging. Culture is essential to a vibrant community and directly connects to the role of a public library.

The CAP has 80 objectives built around the following strategic areas:

1. Build cultural capacities.
2. Develop and maintain cultural assets.
3. Improve cultural communication.
4. Implement coordinated cultural planning.
5. Foster engagement with Indigenous communities.

In 2024, work will focus on the Short Term - Year 2 and 3 priorities. These goals are compiled chronologically in Appendix A, attached.

BlueCloud Mobile App

The mobile app is no longer operational. BCPL's online catalogue is mobile-friendly and patrons can access it on any device to place holds, renew items, or check their account. Alternatives to the app will be considered as part of the Library's website revision in 2024.

Donations

The Warton Rotary presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Alyssa Magilsen, Bookmobile Assistant Supervisor, for the Bookmobile.



Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO



2024 Meeting Schedule

The 2024 Library Board Meeting schedule is attached.