

Director's Report April 2024

1. Operational Highlights

March Break

Our library branches were enthusiastic hubs of discovery, play, and learning during March Break's "Just Beach" themed programs. Once again, staff excelled at providing enriching experiences for families. Special guest The Little Mermaid took 53 children and their caregivers on a journey under the sea in Kincardine. At the Walkerton, Mildmay, and Teeswater Branches, 74 young scientists explored with the Scientists in the School program. A special thank you to the Municipality of South Bruce allowing the use of the Teeswater Town Hall for Scott Dietrich's Magic Show. His magical tricks enthralled 49 excited children and adults.

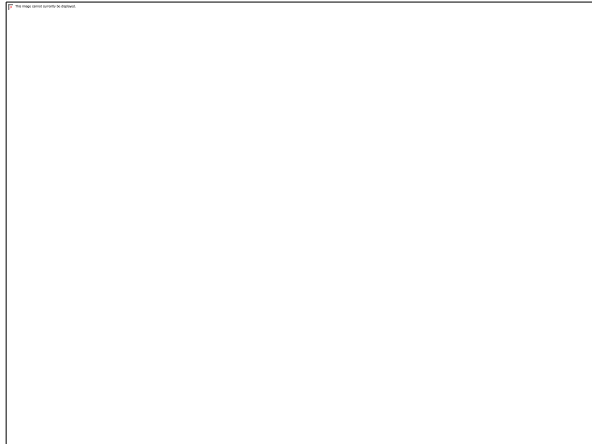
Our staff-led programs had similar success. In Lucknow, 19 children attended three programs while Lion's Head saw 36 youngsters out for four programs. Mildmay reached capacity when 18 kids and 9 adults came out to experience a Beach Ball Bonanza!

A great deal of fun was had by all, and the impact of providing quality programming is significant. 100% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they learned more about BCPL's vast number of services and resources by attending a March Break program. Program participants indicated what they liked most about the programs was the engaging and interactive activities, and several noted how well the staff led the programs.



Solar Eclipse

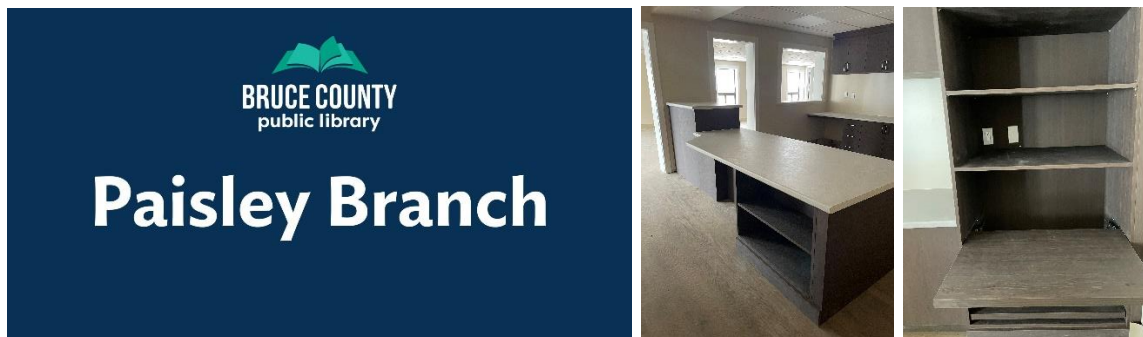
Over 1,000 pairs of solar eclipse glasses were distributed throughout Bruce County to help residents safely enjoy the celestial spectacle! While this made for a busy few days, library staff took the opportunity to register new patrons, convert online cards to full-access, and renew expired cards. On April 2, the first day that solar eclipse glasses were available, 78 new library patrons were registered.



2. Facilities

Paisley Branch

The circulation desk has been installed and is a significant enhancement, providing expanded work and storage space for library staff. Shelving and furnishings have been finalized and are anticipated to arrive in May. Work on the elevator continues, and a safety walkthrough has been scheduled with Arran-Elderslie staff. Exterior signage has been approved and installation arrangements are in place.





3. Administration

Friends of the Library

Bruce County Public Library appreciates the significant volunteer efforts of the Tobermory and Lion's Head Friends of the Library. Their fundraising directly supports library programming and initiatives. In 2023, the Tobermory Friends made a second significant contribution to the Bookmobile, supported numerous library programs for adults and children, and paid for transportation for schoolchildren to attend Truth and Reconciliation event with Priscilla Yellowhead Tobey at the Tobermory Branch.

The Lion's Head Friends have successfully focused their efforts on raising money for new furnishings and fixtures when the branch eventually relocates. This dedicated group provided storybooks to children following the Santa Claus parade, giving them the gift of reading. Their annual book sale is well-supported by the community and raises thousands of dollars every year.

These are only a few of their valued contributions. Each Friends group has provided a full account of their activities in 2023, attached.

2023 Annual Report

The Annual Report highlights BCPL's achievements during the previous year, with the Bookmobile being the most significant. Library staff are energized by the impact the Bookmobile is having in our communities. Other initiatives such as seed libraries, our most successful Summer Reading Club ever, and Valentines for Seniors combined to make 2023 a notably successful year. The Annual Report is attached for information.

4. Strategic Plan

The Q1 Strategic Action Plan Update is attached for information.

5. Business Plan Update

The Q1 Business Plan Update is attached for information.

6. Financial Update

The Q1 Financial Update will be reported at the May 2024 Board Meeting.