



# Library Board Report

**To:** Members of the Bruce County Library Board

**From:** Kristina Akerman

**Date:** September 5, 2024

**Re:** Wiarthon Branch Update

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## Staff Recommendation:

The Wiarthon Branch Update is for information.

## Background:

The Wiarthon branch is located in a beautiful accessible spot that offers visitors views of Georgian Bay. In the summer months our proximity to Bluewater Park and the Bruce Trail brings in visitors looking to use our facilities to refresh, enjoy the variety of resources we offer from a place to work to stories to share with their children, and help them with their informational requests. Throughout the year we register both resident and non-resident members, often those who live nearby in Georgian Bluffs. However, in the summer we see a steep rise in non-resident patrons utilizing the opportunity to obtain a library card so that they may access in our physical and online collections. The library often takes on the role as a vacation work location and tourist information hotspot as the Town visitor center is now located further south in Hepworth. We have also become the go to spot for people to print their Amazon and Temu return labels.

The Wiarthon branch has had a busy summer that allowed us to connect with a variety of demographics. We connected with children at story time, the summer reading club program, outreach to the Kids Den Day Camp and Wiarthon Nursery School. We also offered three different performances: Scales Nature Reserve, Tim Jeffries Dinosaur Presentation, and the musical duo Panzerotti and Sunshine. We connected with teenagers through the teen book boxes offered at the beginning of summer. For adults we provided engaging book club opportunities, including a virtual book talk with an Evergreen award nominee Lisa Brideau, as well as hosted an author event for Brian Barrie who has written a popular true crime story with local roots. These programs were very well received, so much so that next year I will look to host some of our performers in a larger space to accommodate more people.

This year the Wiarthon branch had the exciting opportunity to showcase our Seed Library at the Seedy Saturday event hosted by the Wiarthon & District Agricultural Society in April. This

event helped to highlight our Seed Library to the community and between then and now has resulted in our best year for both seed borrowing, 227 packets by 65 patrons, and donations, 248 by 11 patrons or organizations, for the Wiarnton branch. The library was also successful in creating a partnership with the Wiarnton & District Agricultural Society's Fall Fair to include two new categories this year, one for adults and one for youth, to enter plants they have grown with seeds from the BCPL Seed Library. This partnership will help to highlight this resource to the broader community, promote sustainable gardening, and provide the opportunity to celebrate the yields of this program.

The Wiarnton branch is utilizing the program survey data to help us plan to better meet the needs of community. We are grateful for the local organizations that help support promoting our resources and partnering with us for programming, the artists who help to make our library a welcoming space, and the patrons who utilize our branch to foster their imagination and achieve their goals.

**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

None.

**Link to Strategic Plan:**

None.