



# Director's Report

## November 2024

### 1. Operational Highlights

#### Bookmobile Update

On October 21, the Bookmobile marked its one-year anniversary of providing services to residents throughout Bruce County. At the end of its first year, the Bookmobile welcomed 5,300 people, circulated 7,000 items, attended 34 programs and driven 35,000 km.

The Bookmobile attends several seniors' apartments, retirement homes, and long-term care settings as part of its regular schedule, including:

- Bradley H. Davis Senior Apartments, Tobermory
- Tiverton Park Manor, Tiverton
- Trillium Court, Kincardine
- Elgin Lodge, Port Elgin
- Valley View Terrace, Formosa
- Revera Pinecrest Manor, Lucknow
- Gateway Haven, Warton
- Brucelea Haven, Walkerton
- Hampton Court Retirement Lodge, Southampton

Some seniors attend the Bookmobile at the Penetangore Hub in Kincardine and the Andy Cormack Apartments in Paisley. Additionally, the Warton Nursery School is located in Gateway Haven. Warton Branch staff attended biweekly during the summer to bring stories and songs for residents and children.

Regular senior programs are offered at Pinecrest Manor, and Tech Help was offered at Elgin Lodge by the Bookmobile Outreach Student for the summer months. Warton Home and Community Support Services, a senior's group located in Gateway Haven, will also begin receiving regular visits along with Gateway residents and the Warton Nursery School.

Residents are avid users of our collection and staff find their time devoted to circulating books, DVDs and other materials. As staff have limited time on-site, it is challenging to offer additional programming within the current schedule. Programming options may also be limited by the scheduling needs of residence staff. Library staff continue to look for opportunities to offer outreach programs to seniors' homes where possible.

## Staff Development Day

On October 28, staff across BCPL came together for a day of training. Board Chair Mark Goetz and Deputy CAO Sean Morphy brought greetings and distributed service awards to staff. This year, the focus was on sharing the outcomes of the Program Review, including the new Programming Toolkit. EarlyON staff shared important information on child development and early literacy, while Sandra Hong from the Alzheimer Society Grey-Bruce provided situational training on dementia-friendly customer service. We appreciate the Board’s support setting aside one day every year for system-wide training.

The following staff members were acknowledged for their years of service:

### 1 year

Adrienne James  
Jennifer Jordan  
Tracey Knapp  
Lindsay Moffatt  
Fatemeh Nadimi  
Robert Ritchie  
Tracey Urquhart

### 5 years

Andrew Brown  
Michael Englehardt  
Brandy Patterson

### 15 years

Maryanne McMillan

### 20 years

Eva Cenitagoya

### 10 years

Carley Park  
Darren Pries

We also celebrated the educational achievement of Andrew Brown who completed his Library and Information Technology diploma, and Allicia Allcorn who completed her Excel Certificate from the Ontario Library Service.

## Read Local

As part of Ontario Public Library Week, the Kincardine Branch hosted BCPL’s annual Read Local event. Eight authors had their works available for purchase and enjoyed engaging with attendees and each other. Interviews were recorded with each author and will be shared on YouTube and Biblioboard.

Of note is that Clerk Elizabeth Davaze recently had her children’s picture book, *The Weedflower*, published by Owlkids Books.



## Biblioboard

As part of BCPL's Strategic Plan goal to provide digital publishing tools, Biblioboard launched on October 1. This platform will allow us to engage with the local creative community. There are three unique items associated with Biblioboard:

1. **Pressbooks:** a digital self-publishing tool that allows writers to create professional quality, print-ready and eBook files to distribute commercially or share through the library with the Indie Author Project.
2. **Indie Author Project:** eBooks are shared with other Provincial libraries that subscribe to Biblioboard through Indie Author Ontario. The best Indie Author titles are chosen for Indie Author Select and shared throughout Canada and the United States. Titles are always available with no holds or checkouts.
3. **Creator:** a multi-media tool for digital content. Custom submission pages are created to crowdsource content from the community. Collections can include music, art, and stories.

Staff utilized the Creator platform to feature recipes shared during the Culture Days recipe swap and Spice it Up! programs. We will explore opportunities to partner with organizations to create relevant community collections.

## 2. Personnel

### Retirement

After 33 years, Clerk Mary Jane Monahan retired from the Warton Branch on November 7. Board Member Sheila Barker attended to wish her well, as did several library patrons. We appreciate Mary Jane's dedicated service to BCPL.



Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO



### **3. Facilities**

#### **Kincardine Branch**

Renovations to make the public washrooms accessible at the Kincardine Branch were completed in October. The spacious, gender-neutral washrooms ensure accessibility for all visitors.

### **4. Administration**

#### **Lease agreement**

A new lease agreement has been signed for the Warton and Sauble Beach Branches. The updated lease agreement aligns with the lease terms at other BCPL branches.

#### **2025 Meeting Schedule**

The 2025 Library Board Meeting Schedule is attached.

### **5. Strategic Plan**

The Q3 Strategic Plan update is attached.

### **6. Business Plan**

The Q3 Business Plan update is attached.

### **7. Financial Update**

Library revenues are forecasting a \$20,000 surplus mainly related to government funding and printing charges. Maintenance and supplies are estimating a \$12,000 deficit. Programs, periodicals, and public internet are forecasting an \$11,000 deficit. A variety of lines are forecasting small surpluses. A small deficit is anticipated for Salaries and Benefits, which will be offset by a transfer from reserves as previously approved by the Library Board.