



Director's Report December 2024

1. Operational Highlights

Seed Libraries

In 2024, usage of the seed libraries saw a significant increase. A total of 376 people took 970 seed packages, and 34 individuals harvested and returned seeds to the library. This compares to 251 borrowers and 29 donors in 2023. Bruce County Public Library (BCPL) also received nearly 1,000 packages of donated seeds, ensuring that the seed libraries will continue to thrive and be available for the community in 2025.

BCPL collaborated with the Walkerton and Wiarton Agricultural Societies to promote the seed libraries as part of their community fall fairs. Fair organizers introduced prize categories for plants grown from the seeds offered by the library. Staff plan to expand on this success in 2025.

Supervisors Stephen Wood and Lori Ledingham will present a session called “Growing Strong Community Connections with a Seed Library” at the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference in 2025. Their presentation shares how BCPL has successfully leveraged seed libraries to increase biodiversity, promote sustainable food systems, and create opportunities for community engagement and education.

Write @ Your Library

This year's writing contest featured 98 writers from across Grey and Bruce County. Bruce County youth submitted 56 pieces, a significant increase from the 11 submitted in 2023.

Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading children's program kicked off on November's PA Day with in-branch programming and activities. Running until April, this recreational reading program encourages children to read from nominated Canadian stories and vote for their favourite. Library staff continue to build connections with local schools to facilitate participation, and we look forward to another successful reading program.

Wills and Power of Attorney

Angela Yenssen from the Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic provided a presentation on Wills and Power of Attorney to 23 participants at the Walkerton Branch. Attendees appreciated the relevant information and support received.



Family Literacy Day

Bruce County Public Library celebrates Family Literacy Day every January. In 2025, several library branches will offer a Stuffy Sleepover. Children will attend Story Time with their stuffed animal, then leave their friend overnight for some library antics. Photos of the event will be shared on Biblioboard Creator.

BCPL also partners with EarlyON to offer literacy-based programs in recognition of Family Literacy Day.

Patty vs. Patty

In acknowledgement of Black History Month, Sunday, February 2 at 2pm, the Port Elgin Branch will host the documentary Patty vs. Patty. The film recounts the “patty wars” of 1985, when Toronto restaurants that serviced Jamaican patties had to fight the federal government to call their product a “patty” on the grounds that consumers might confuse them with hamburger patties.

BCPL is pleased to have Lesley Birchard from the CBC moderating a discussion with director Chris Strikes following the film viewing. Mr. Strikes will be attending virtually. Attendees will enjoy Jamaican patties from a local eatery.

Patty vs. Patty won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Short Documentary in 2023 and was nominated for the Best Short Film at the 2022 Directors Guild of Canada Awards.

2. Facilities

Mildmay Branch

The Municipality of South Bruce installed accessible door openers for the washrooms at the Mildmay Branch and Teeswater Branches. This improvement helps to create a welcoming space by ensuring that everyone can access the entire facility.



Walkerton Branch

Brockton plans to replace flooring on the lower level of the Walkerton Branch from December 27-31. The elevator will remain available to the library floor, however, there will be no access to the accessible washrooms on the lower level.

Chesley Branch

New public computers and computer tables were installed at the Chesley Branch, including an adjustable-height workstation. The branch also has a new lendable laptop for in-branch use. The branch has also received new lounge seating and staff report that patrons have shared many positive comments about the refreshed space.

Kincardine Branch

The Municipality is installing LED lighting at the Kincardine Branch. To date, new lights have been installed in the main areas of the branch.

3. Administration

Paisley Legion Branch 295 Donation

The Paisley Branch received a generous \$2,000 donation from Paisley Branch 295, Royal Canadian Legion. The donation was made possible with funds from the annual Paisley Open Golf tournament. BCPL thanks Paul and Susan Parker and Jeff and Bonnie Tanner for organizing this event and Paisley Branch 295 for approving the donation.

4. Strategic Plan

The 2025 Strategic Action Plan is attached for information.