

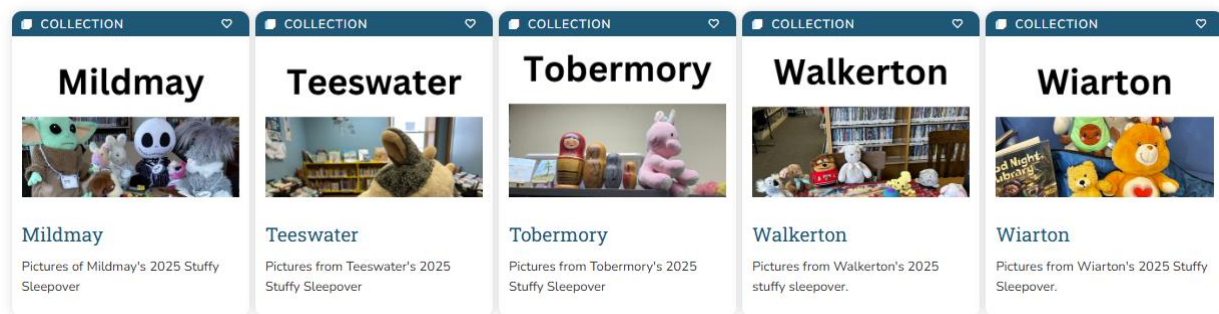
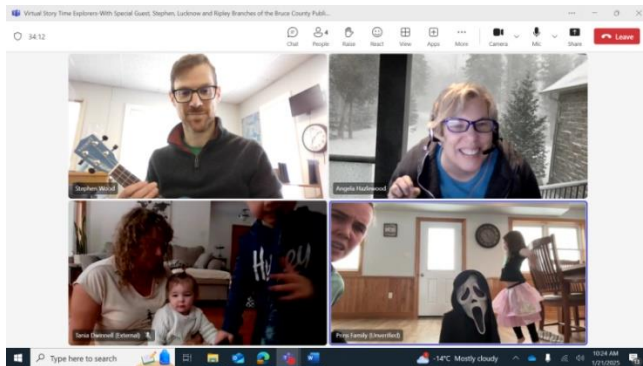
Director's Report February 2025

1. Operational Highlights

Family Literacy Day

Every year, Bruce County Public Library celebrates Family Literacy Day with engaging programming to encourage literacy activities with families. This year, the Great Stuffly Sleepover was offered in branches. Children and their caregivers attended a literacy program before leaving their stuffed animal overnight at the library, where they got up to some mischief! Photos have been uploaded to Biblioboard to share with families and the broader community.

Some of our Family Literacy Story Time events with EarlyON shifted to virtual when winter weather proved challenging.



Website

On January 21, BCPL launched a new website. Created by Mugo, the new website offers online program registration, improved navigation, and eye-catching graphics. The updated site streamlines staff management and integrates book lists from Bibliocommons, further highlighting our collections.

Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO

Potential future enhancements include reservation systems for meeting rooms and Book Club Kits. Staff continue to work with Mugo to ensure these modules will meet our needs. Many thanks to Communications Coordinator Lindsay Moffatt and Assistant Director Joanna Aegard for their outstanding work on this project.

Transparent Language

A new language-learning software has been added to BCPL's digital library resources. Transparent Language offers over 110 languages including English as a Second Language and American Sign Language. It also includes 11 Indigenous Languages spoken in Canada. Children can work through KidSpeak courses in Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Transparent Language replaces Mango Languages in our digital offerings.

Winter Closures

Winter weather in December and January resulted in multiple branch closures, impacting services and circulation. Our live chat service experienced a significant increase in use, growing from 13 chats in January 2024 to 64 in January 2025. BCPL's digital library is always available 24/7 for cardholders to access alternative information resources, and we maintain a series of recorded programs on YouTube.

Cricuts

Cricuts, the electronic cutting machines we have for patron use, are increasing in popularity. These units are used for crafting and DIY projects and are capable of cutting intricate patterns from vinyl, cardstock, and iron-on material. In addition to being used in adult and teen programming, the Cricuts are available to patrons to use during branch hours. BCPL has five Cricuts that rotate between branches. Thanks to donations, permanent Cricuts have been purchased for the Southampton, Wiarton and Paisley Branches. A new donation for the Lion's Head and Tobermory Branches will be used to purchase Cricuts for them.



2. Facilities

Wiarton Branch

South Bruce Peninsula installed a new alarm system at the Wiarton Branch.

Walkerton Branch

Brockton replaced the flooring on the lower level in December.

3. Administration

Tobermory Friends of the Library

The Annual Report of the Tobermory Friends of the Library is attached for information. In 2024, they generously contributed to adult programming, author visits, and special summer events from Wild Ontario and Scales Nature Reserve. The group also provided three new benches for outdoor seating at the branch. Staff are very grateful for their ongoing support and dedication.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force released the report “Reducing Poverty Through Volunteers: the impact of CVITP in Grey Bruce.” The report includes a case study of the contributions of the Bruce County Public Library. It is attached for information.

2025 OLA Super Conference

Several library Staff and Board members attended the 2025 OLA Super Conference at the end of January. Supervisors Stephen Wood and Lori Ledingham represented BCPL well during their presentation on “Growing Strong Community Connections with a Seed Library.” Approximately 50 enthusiastic librarians attended their presentation and asked several questions.

Staff were inspired by presentations on Intellectual Freedom, reflecting on the core value of providing access to information and its importance in a democratic and engaged society. Technology and Artificial Intelligence sessions also provided learning opportunities. The Ontario Library Service’s session on the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit generated interest. Director McLean was involved in the development of this tool, which is intended to help measure and convey the value of public libraries. Staff have added this to the workplan for 2025. BCPL staff appreciate the opportunity to attend Super Conference with the support of the Library Board.



Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO



Administrators of Rural-Urban Public Libraries of Ontario (ARUPLO)

As Chair of ARUPLO, the Library Director attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference to staff a tradeshow booth with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. Information on the proposal for an Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL) was shared with attendees and is attached for information. As ARUPLO Chair, the Director also participated in a panel discussion about protecting staff from unreasonable behaviour in the workplace.

Departmental Development Days

Bruce County's Corporate Services and Human Services departments hosted their staff development days at the Kincardine Branch. Supervisor Michaela Posthumus introduced them to digital library resources that support staff and personal development, such as LinkedIn Learning, as well as previewing some of the unique nontraditional items we have to offer. The teams took part in a "Stranger Things" themed Escape Room (complete with Christmas lights and 80s jams), made a craft using the Cricut machine, and had the chance to try out our Button Maker.

Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven Long Term Care Homes enjoyed borrowing the Library's Escape Rooms to provide staff with an entertaining activity during the holiday season.

4. Branch Profiles

Branch Profiles are updated annually to provide an overview of each branch location including staffing, facilities, collections, and demographics. The ARUPLO Guidelines are noted to identify areas for improvement as well as to note those areas where BCPL meets the standard. The 2024 Branch Profiles are attached for information.

5. Strategic Plan

The Q4 Strategic Action Plan Update for 2024 is attached. Notably, Bruce County Public Library staff achieved all of the identified goals in 2024.

6. Business Plan Update

The Q4 Business Plan Update for 2024 is attached. All projects were completed on time and on budget. I'm also pleased to report that the number of active cardholders has increased.