

2023 **ANNUAL REPORT**



OUR MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Our Mission

The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity and empowers lifelong learning.

Our Vision

Explore Today. Navigate Tomorrow.

Our Values

Community innovation | Equitable access | Client-centred service | Cooperation
Respect | Service team excellence | Intellectual freedom

2022-2026 LIBRARY BOARD

Fred Gladding, **Chair**
Marilyn Sewell, **Vice-Chair**
Kelly Bernstein, **CEO, Secretary/Treasurer**
David Bailey
Kari Raymer Bishop
Paula Chorpitta

Nathan Etherington
Mike Gatopoulos
Amanda Henderson
Steve Howes
Jennifer Kyle
Linda Tripp (2022-2023)

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF GROWTH

How wonderful it is to have an annual report to share with our community that celebrates the continuing growth of our library service. Growth is not something that we take for granted; it takes hard work.

Meeting the needs of a changing and growing County of Brant requires a dedicated and insightful staff. Finding new ways to engage, support, and inspire patrons is their specialty. The best part is, Brant residents have responded. The data shared in this report confirms that our libraries are making a difference for so many. Thank you to the community for placing your trust in us.

We look forward to seeing you at any one of our branches in the year ahead, or perhaps you will use the library online. Remember our library slogan, "A visit will get you thinking."

- Fred Gladding, Library Board Chair



2023 BY THE NUMBERS



94,060
visited our branches

1,387,349
visited us online

That's a 38% increase from 2022!



1,812
new library
memberships

A 9% increase from 2022, and 18% increase compared to pre-pandemic levels



26,556
people attended
library events

A 15% increase from 2022



3,440
online classes
attended & completed

Digital research databases were used 13,212 times!



320,319
materials borrowed
from our collections

A 24% increase from 2022



3,421
books delivered by
volunteers through the
Visiting Books service

A 30% increase from 2022



397,342
interactions on
social media **in addition to...**



1,343
newsletter subscribers
A 34% increase from 2022



65,619
YouTube video
views!

289.4
hours watched

791%
increase in YouTube subscribers compared
to 2022!

"Thank you, County of Brant Public Library! I just want to say what an important, vital service the public library provides to our community and how grateful I am to have it!"

-Gail, Facebook comment

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

We're proud to be a space where meaningful connections are made. In 2023, we brought **2,006** events & classes to the community.

From author talks to tech workshops to community outreach events, library programs created opportunities for neighbours to meet, learn, and share ideas.

A VISIT GETS YOU THINKING

Digitally Savvy: tech workshops and virtual reality for older adults.

Author events: we welcomed Gil Adamson (One Book One Brant) and Suzanne Craig-Whytock (Writer-In-Residence).

Health, wellness, & cooking: Qigong, nature walks, pasta-making, and take-home craft kits for adults.

Sustainability: Upcycling, gardening, and seed saving workshops.



"So great to see our community library providing these experiences. Thank you!!"

-GROWE Outdoor School, Facebook comment



INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

With James L. Turk, Canadian scholar and Director of the Centre for Free Expression.

ARTS & CULTURE

Cultural Storytelling: we celebrated *Ontario Culture Days* with Rubyyy Jones, Ian Reid, Suzanne Craig-Whytock, Aleria McKay, & Paul Riemens.

Indigenous history: we welcomed Knowledge Keeper, Jordan Jamieson.

Brant FanFest: the Library's first ever comics and cosplay festival featuring Richard Comely (creator of Captain Canuck) and Walter Durajlija (owner of Big B Comics).

melodia: a Spanish guitar performance by Tim Beattie.



INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING AND DISCOVERY



2145
reading prizes
earned

SUMMER LITERACY PROGRAMS

In July and August, our Read It summer tutors held **368** reading sessions for elementary school students.

The TD Summer Reading Club saw **508** reading club members log **617,443** minutes of reading – that's a **41%** increase from 2022!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, our children's staff created and ran **952** events & classes for **11,763** kids, teens, & families!

Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten: Staff helped children prepare for their first year of school through activities, music, and independent play.

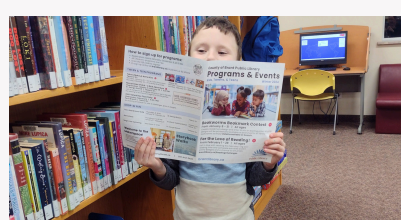
STEM learning: Staff taught science literacy and ran building, robotics, and coding classes.

Sweet Treats from Around the World: Weekly intergenerational cooking classes saw families gather for cultural cooking classes with local chefs.

Butterfly release: four butterflies were raised at the Paris Branch and released in a nearby park.



School visits: Staff led **397** school visits and brought the library to **9438** students!



SPOTLIGHT: NEW MAKERSPACE

"We are SO GLAD you're here!"
-Kari

"Oh the posters I could print!!"
-NeverthelessCommunity

"I am happy to see that the County of Brant Library system has such a diverse array of equipment for use...Thank you, Jeremy for enlightening us!!"
-Malcolm

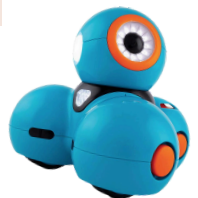
"Ohhh the digital embroidery machine, this would be great for small businesses, not-for-profits etc."
-Pamela



A MAKER HUB FOR CREATORS

In December 2023, we introduced a barrier-free Makerspace to a growing community of creators in Brant County.

CONNECT TO TECH



In 2023, **1,593** gadgets were borrowed from the Gear & Gadgets Collection!

TOP 5 GADGETS BORROWED

- Woodburning kits
- VHS-to-DVD Converter
- iPads
- Stargazing Backpack
- Radon detectors

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



8,832

Wi-Fi usage



4,232

Computer usage



215

iPads & Launchpads
borrowed



ABOUT THE LIBRARY

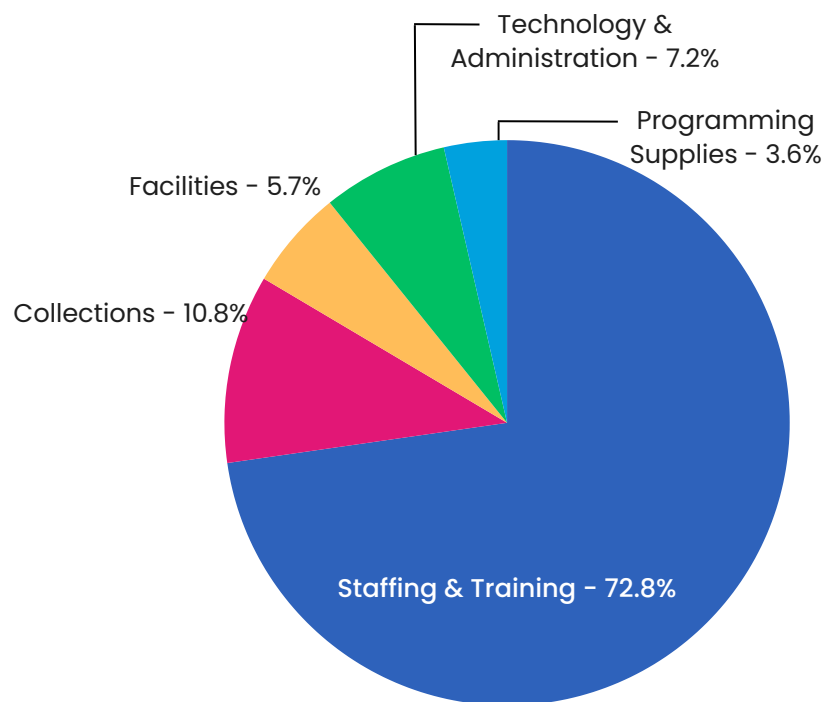
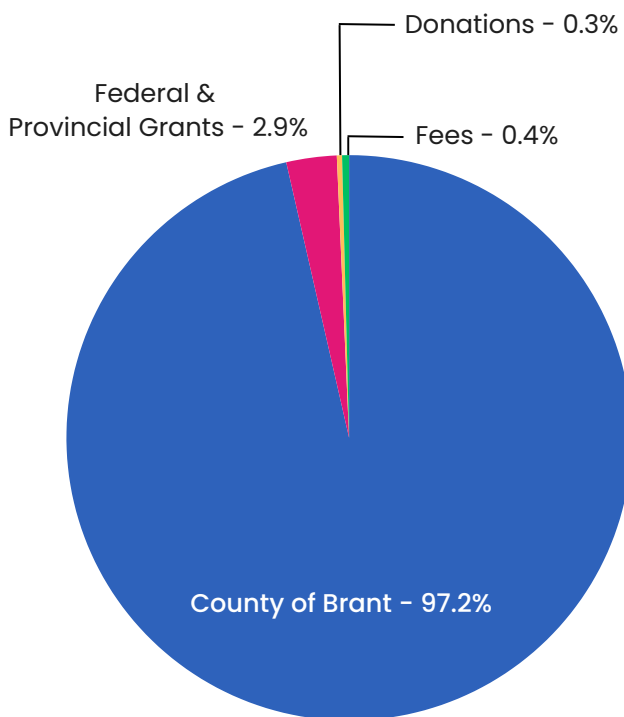
We are committed to cultivating a lifelong love of reading and celebrating a growing, diverse community.

We connect Brant County residents with information and services that inspire and support personal and community success.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Foster creativity and innovation.
2. Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Provide exemplary customer service.
4. Optimize the use of facilities
5. Build organizational capacity.

2023 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES



*2023 Operating Budget

CONNECT WITH US

(519) 442-2433
brantlibrary@brant.ca
brantlibrary.ca



LOCATIONS

Paris Branch

12 William Street, Paris
519-442-2433

Burford Branch

24 Park Avenue, Burford
519-449-5371

Glen Morris Branch

474 East River Road, Glen Morris
519-740-2122

Onondaga Library Service

734 Highway 54, Onondaga
519-442-2433

Scotland-Oakland Branch

281 Oakland Road, Scotland
519-446-0181

St. George Branch

78 Main Street North, St. George
519-448-1300



Public Library

