Meaford Public Library

ANNUAL Report 2025

meaford public Library

KIM GRAFTON

Chair, Meaford Public Library Board



Welcome to the annual report of the Meaford Public Library (MPL). As Chair of the MPL Board it is a pleasure to be celebrating 100 years of Library Service in our community.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contribution of my fellow MPL board members, Library CEO Lynne Fascinato, and our great library team. Their innovative leadership provides a public space that creates opportunities for people of all ages to learn, collaborate, and connect.

Community partnerships are essential to our success and we again welcomed financial support from the Friends of Meaford Library (FOML), Rotary Club of Meaford, individual donors, the Municipality Of Meaford Council, the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and the Ontario Library Service (OLS).

We also welcomed partnerships from local cultural and economic stakeholders who helped contribute to the diverse mix of programming that included, Life Directions and the YMCA of Owen Sound (employment resources), Brightshores (well-being resources), Adult Learning Centre (learning resources), Elder Law Series, Income Tax clinics, Gardener-in-Residence Series, the ever popular Story Time sessions, stem and craft

events for youth and teens, author events, book clubs and puzzle exchanges, just to name a few! An average of 65 progams a month for all ages.

A vast array of resources await at the MPL from fishing rods, room rentals, to tech help. The MPL was featured in the January 2025 edition of Connecting the Sound magazine, in an article entitled "The Little Library That Could". One hundred years in, Meaford Public Library is a shining example of a hub of learning, care, and connection. A space where everyone can belong and enables our community to thrive.

The coming year holds the promise of new programs and exciting events. With municipal elections this fall a new MPL Board will be appointed. It is a great time to consider getting involved with your community in a significant and impactful role as a Library board member. Thank you fellow board members, staff and council for your investment in our Library which continues to be the cornerstone of the "social infrastructure" in our community. I have enjoyed working and learning alongside our amazing team of staff and board members for the last 8 years and wish all future appointees all the best as our story continues.

Kim Grafton

Chair, Meaford Public Library Board

VISION AND MISSION



VISION

Your welcoming and inspirational destination for knowledge and learning.

MISSION

Bringing service excellence to meet the needs of a dynamic community through universal access to innovative and vibrant spaces and experiences.

HIGH LEVEL NUMBERS

Revenues

Donations (including FOML & private individuals)	$11,252.00
Fees and Charges	$7,899.00
Inter Library Loan Postage Rebate	$2,762.00
Program Revenues	$1,625.00
Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)	$23,935.00
Room Rental	$1,675.00
Special Events	$11,891.00
Summer Experience Student Grant	$3,741.00
Total	**$64,780.00**



HIGH LEVEL NUMBERS

Expenses

Advertising/Promotion (FOML supported)	$631.00
Association Fees and Memberships	$566.00
Books and Collections (Capital Expense)	$36,417.00
Clothing/Protective Gear	$848.00
Conferences and Training	$6,329.00
Copying/Office Supplies	$2,054.00
E-Resources like Libby, Hoopla, Biblio+	$16,452.00
Events (FOML supported)	$6,605.00
Facility Maintenance (Includes $86,490 Interest; $119,540 Principal on New Library Debt)	$313,360.00
Information Technology	$178,810.00
Insurance	$2,134.00
Library Computer Hardware/Software	$15,828.00
Magazine Subscriptions	$1,499.00
Other Expenses (FOML supported)	$5,163.00
Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Contract	$158,476.00
Postage/Courier (OLS supported)	$1,192.00
Programming (FOML supported)	$9,983.00
Salaries and Benefits	$546,899.00
Total	**$1,021,246.00**

HIGH LEVEL NUMBERS

FOML

With a Little Help from Our Friends

Friends of Meaford Library (FOML)

Donations 2025

Newspapers $6,170.47

Programming - Kids and Youth $3,115.66

Summer Reading Club Prizes $582.13

Programming - Adults $5,278

Prizes for Ontario Public Library Week $1,676.28

Alan Doyle Event - $1,808

Steel Book Ends $951.81

Inventory Wand $7,674.14

Video Games $502.78

Library Cards $1,621.55

WiFi Routers $1,779.07

TOTAL: $31,159.89

Friends of Meaford Library

Meaford Public Library 2025 by the Numbers

6,822 Active Card Holders

804
New Patrons

31,769
COLLECTION ITEMS

72,451
CHECK OUTS

83,480
TOTAL VISITORS

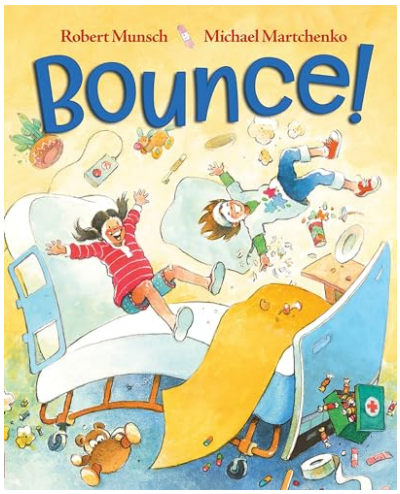
789
Programs
11,659
Attendees

Library Members Saved
$1,356,858

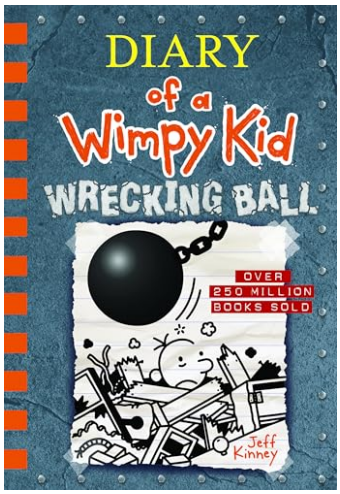
15,610 Public Computer Logins
339 Tech Centre Visits
39,296 eDownloads and 44,129 Catalogue Searches

1,872
Facility Bookings

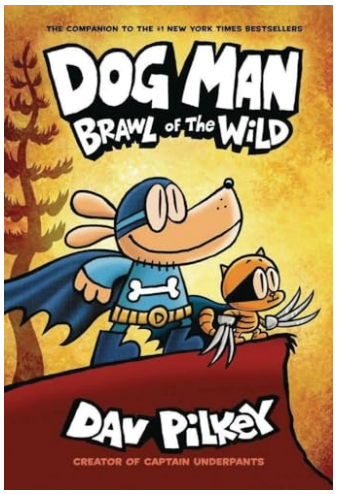
MOST CIRCULATED ITEMS OF 2025



Picture Book



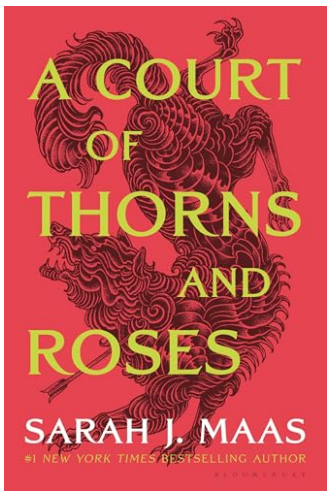
Junior Fiction



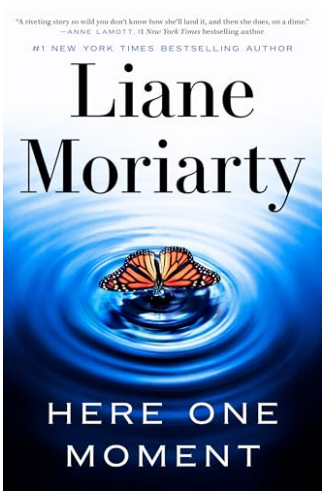
Junior Graphic Novel



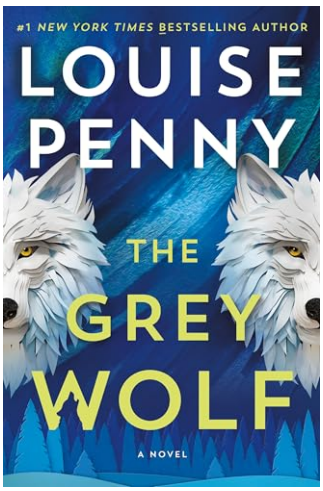
Young Adult Graphic Novel



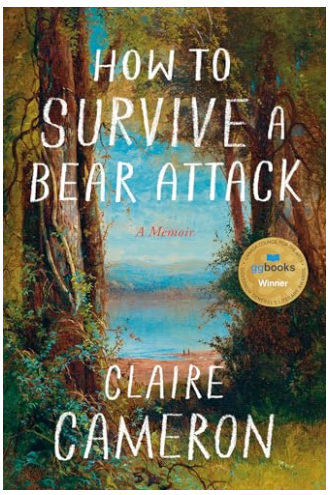
Young Adult Fiction



Large Print



Fiction



Non-Fiction



Junior Movie

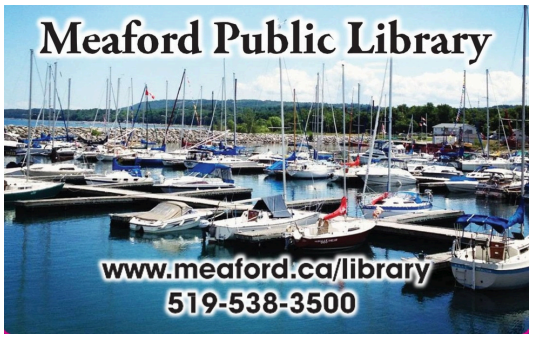


Young Adult Movie



Movie

Membership



Who Makes Up Our Membership?

Meaford Public Library Active Membership

Year	Municipality of Meaford Members	Blue Mountains Members	Grey Highlands Members	Non-Resident Members	Total
2023	4,801	519	146	568	**6,034**
2024	5,002	600	169	677	**6,448**
2025	5,235	631	189	767	**6,822**

* Active Membership is a member with an unexpired card within the last two years

Meaford Public Library Engagement

Meaford Public Library Strategic Plan 2022+
Three Pillars of Service -
Engagement, Innovation, and Collaboration
Highlights from 2025:









- Embraced Diversity and Inclusion – Rainbow Book Club continued in 2025, and created Rainbow crafts. Select library staff and Board Trustee Elgin Pecjak presented a seminar on 2SLGBTQQIA+ inclusion and safe spaces in rural libraries at the OLA Super Conference in January 2025.
- Ensure Library is Safe – First Aid training, Joint Health and Safety Committee training.
- Staff Training – Attendance at Ontario Library Association Annual Conference, grant writing workshops, RA in a Day, 2025 Digital Odyssey Conferences, OLS 2025 Virtual Conference. Select staff are registered in the Ontario Library Services EXCEL Certificate program. A ten course program covering public library core skills.
- June 23 hosted James Turk for talk on Intellectual Freedom with Library Board, staff and local libraries in attendance.
- Targeted Outreach – Meaford Farmers' Market, Georgian Bay FanCon, Meaford Pet Expo Pop-Up Library, and the Meaford 55+ Friendship Club.
- Educational programs:
    - 21 class visits from local school for a total of 422 students
    - 701 patrons enjoyed the TD Summer Reading Club
- Senior Programs:
    - 72 senior programs including Qigong, Ageless Artists, Elder Law, Fall Prevention, and Elder Support with 825 participants
- 12 patrons participated in the Walk to the Centre of the Earth Community Movement Challenge.

Meaford Public Library Innovation



- Purchased Inventory Wand for collection maintenance.
- Purchased new Switch, XBox and Playstation games.
- Provided tech help through Tech Centre and Adult Learning Centres to a total of 339 people.
- Purchased coding toys for junior department for use in Bots for Tots STEM programs.
- Replaced staff desktop computers.
- Purchased new colour printer for public printing.
- Purchased Square terminal for debit payments.
- Continued sponsorship of WiFi Routers by the Rotary Club of Meaford and FOML.
- Daily posting on Library social media accounts including weekly “New Book Thursdays” and “New Movie Mondays” videos.
- Held Technology workshops on e-resources use, Inter Library Loans, library catalogue use and STEM programs for juniors.



Meaford Public Library Collaboration







- Collaborated with the Municipality for AccessAbility week programming.
- Partnered with CRA for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) for 102 individuals.
- Provided proctoring services for exam takers.
- Partnered with Service Canada, Life Directions, YMCA of Owen Sound, Brightshores Health Services to promote community well-being, employment, and government services to patrons.
- Grey County Master Gardeners for Gardener-in-Residence series.
- Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic for an Elder Law series of sessions.
- Partnered with Christmas on the Bay to offer theme-related programming including a Santa and a separate Silent Santa visit.
- Partnered with many local businesses such as Book Hive on an After-Five event with the Meaford Chamber of Commerce, and for refreshment needs for Coffee House Reads and other public programming events.
- Collaborated with Library Volunteer who hosted a Fall Prevention Series of workshops for seniors.
- Collaborated with Gabrielle Clermont and the "Connecting the Sound" magazine on an article called "The Little Library That Could" featuring the Board, Staff, FOML, on the positive impact MPL has on its community.
- Provided a pet food pantry maintained by Georgian Triangle Humane Society.

- Partnered with Grey Sauble Conservation and Ontario Parks for parking passes.
- Partnered with Grey County - Climate Action Team in hosting Earth Week programming.
- Partnered with Early Literacy Facilitator for story times throughout the year, including Parkette summer story times.
- Partnered with the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre to host Dr. Tim Cook for an author talk on his latest book *The Good Allies*.
- Partnered with 9 community service partners such as United Way Bruce Grey, Home & Community Support Services Grey-Bruce, Women's House, and PFLAG Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound to host Pop-Up Ambassadors with 67 people learning more about the services they provide.

















MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board



Kim Grafton - Chair
Lloyd Mohr - Vice Chair
Frank Emptage - Trustee
Elgin Pecjak - Trustee
Marnie Wraith - Trustee
Councillor Brandon Forder - Council Representative
Councillor Harley Greenfield - Council Representative

MEAFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Staff

Lynne Fascinato - Library CEO
Lori Pierce - Children & Youth Coordinator
Amy Solecki - Community Outreach Coordinator
Shauntel Highfield - Technical Services Coordinator
Ashley Trusler - Library Specialist, Circulation & Inter Library Loans
Samantha McIntosh - Library Assistant
Rosemary Palmer - Library Assistant
Kim Blakeney - Public Services Clerk
Library Assistant - Seasonal Summer Student

REVIEWING THE YEAR PLANNING THE FUTURE

Lynne Fascinato, CEO, Meaford Public Library



It was a very busy and rewarding 2025 at the Meaford Public Library welcoming 804 new patrons who enjoyed our diverse services, programming, collections, and the very popular meeting rooms! A glance at our monthly newsletter, What's Happening pamphlet, and Library Board Team Reports, would surprise you with the many educational, cultural, and skills-based programs for all ages we hosted for little or no charge.

Collaboration and engagement were central themes in 2025. We have a strong and collaborative relationship with our municipal colleagues, including the Office of the CAO and Council, whose support played an important role helping us move forward. Our community members contributed significantly by helping shape our collections, leading workshops, attending events, supplying feedback, and more. We are a user-driven organization, and our partnerships and community engagement helped us deliver diverse and inclusive programs and services, vital in maintaining our role as a community hub.

Looking back, 2025's signature author event featuring Alan Doyle and interviewer Christopher Thomas, proved to be an amazing night of storytelling. The audience was provided with a tour of Newfoundland and Labrador as could only be told by Alan Doyle, one of Canada's most celebrated Newfoundlanders and musicians. This event netted over $6,700 in profits. Earlier in the year, it was an honour and pleasure to partner with the 4th Division Canadian Training Centre to host Tim Cook, Chief Historian and Director of the Canadian War Museum. He passed away a few months after his engaging presentation. He was a person of exceptional kindness and his expertise and passion for Canadian military history will be truly missed.

Two challenges in 2025 were artificial intelligence and intellectual freedom. Literature created by a human voice has to be protected. Training is on-going in AI policies and procedures to help ensure our library collections reflect human voices, research, passion and heart, and not a reflection of a machine algorithm that decides for us. The second

challenge is the protection of intellectual freedom and the need to maintain equal access and diversity to programs, services, and collections, without restrictions or censorship. In June, we hosted a workshop with James Turk, Director of the Centre for Free Expression. An event for Board, staff and surrounding library employees. Turk is an expert on this topic and the information he supplied to help guide our polices and procedures was impactful and he highly approved the library's current Intellectual Freedom Policy.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host the TD Summer Reading Club for kids and youth, Ontario Public Library Week in October, another signature author event in November, and continue our collaboration and partnerships. The Library will turn 100 in 2026, so it's time to celebrate! A new Meaford Public Library Board will begin a four-year term starting 2027.

There are so many to thank for another successful year. Thank you to our hard-working Meaford Public Library Board who helped support and guide the library team in sustaining us as a go-to destination for 83,420 visitors in 2025. I am privileged to work with a very committed and exceptional library staff who work in synergy and supply unparalleled customer service. The Library thanks our volunteers, who helped with technology, shelving, programming, and more! These committed individuals round out a truly remarkable library team. The Friends of Meaford Library (FOML) is always there for us, supporting a myriad of items, programming and services. Thank you to our individual donors, your support helps enhance library services. By the end of 2025, the Library had 6,822 active cardholders - indicating that 47% of Municipality of Meaford residents have an active membership! This points to a strong connection with our community. We sincerely thank everyone who utilized our services in 2025.

We look forward to another year of connection, creativity, and collaboration, with our partners and most of all, our community, and making the Library a vibrant destination for learning, discovery, and enjoyment.

Visit the Meaford Public Library today, where your experience is important to us!



CEO, Meaford Public Library

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