

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The
PERTH COUNTY
INFORMATION
NETWORK

2021 at a Glance

Through another year of extraordinary circumstances, the Perth County Information Network proved once again that our dedication to providing excellent customer service, valuing access to equitable library services, and setting long term goals not only guided us through unpredictable circumstances, but granted us to thrive.

PCIN libraries were able to provide core library services while navigating staffing levels and evolving COVID-19 regulations. The courier van, which celebrated its first anniversary in the Summer, travelled over 29,120 kilometers, and delivered over 93,800 items between our five library systems.

While library staff and patrons accommodated new procedures, one constant remained at the forefront, staff dedication to providing continuous services to meet the evolving needs of our communities. One of the emergent needs PCIN was eager to assist our community with was offering access for printing of vaccine receipts, free of charge. In addition, our libraries were excited to introduce new and unique collections including Wi-Fi hotspots, provincial park passes and kayaks.

Perth County Information Network is optimistic about 2022, as management and staff look to the future of library services.

93,881 items shared between libraries

PCIN in 2021 by the NUMBERS

1991
new card holders

12,785
cards were used to check out physical and/or access digital collections



372,327
physical materials
circulated



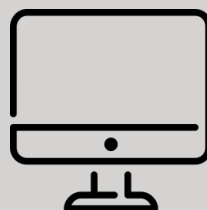
164,882
digital materials
circulated



234,313
requests
filled



30,190
attended
1,067 in persons &
virtual programs



> 25,600
people accessed
public Internet and wifi

>1,099,000 transactions



Kayaks borrowed from St. Marys Public Library

Library of Things

Our libraries continue to expand their collections to include a variety of items that promote recreation, fitness and digital literacy.

- light therapy lamp
- tennis rackets
- kayaks
- provincial and local park passes
- seeds
- puzzles & board games
- wireless hotspots
- vinyl cutter & heat press
- 3D design mouse
- digital drawing tablet
- video games

Collections vary by library location



over 10,000 vaccination receipts were printed for members of our community



Story Walk with West Perth Public Library



Eric, MarkerSpace Assistant at Stratford Public Library

Member Updates

PERTH EAST PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2021 we were excited to offer wi-fi hotspots and local and provincial park passes, providing our community with opportunities to explore and discover the world beyond our doors. Throughout 2021 the library board and staff adapted library services and programs as they navigated another year of changing COVID-19 regulations. Throughout the first half of the year Interim CEO, Allie Fallis, and library staff were successful in acquiring funds for a StoryWalk project that the library plans to roll out in 2022. | Kendra Roth, CEO

NORTH PERTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2021, NPPL had three major accomplishments to take services to the next level. We successfully met provincial standards of a public library through the OPLB's (Ontario Public Library Board) re-accreditation process. This included a full review of policies and procedures, and an evaluation of the library spaces at all three sites. Our library board also passed the motion to move to a fine free model of service to truly achieve the library's mission of "We connect" further into our community. We continued to provide innovative and dynamic library service throughout the challenges and changes that the COVID-19 pandemic presented. | Ellen Whelan, Interim CEO

ST MARYS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The continuation of the pandemic was impetus to think of ways to offer library services "outside of the box". We began loaning five kayaks, with great interest by locals and tourists alike. We were involved in events and the adoption of our Town's official, locally designed flag to honour Every Child Matters. Our technology grew to include a 3D printer, sewing machines, a keyboard, and a Cricut cutter and heat press. We continue to share these exciting tools with our community and enjoy watching them create! SMPL had a successful first annual "Love Your Library" event during Ontario Public Library week and we thank our Friends of the Library for assisting as always to make the library a wonderful place. | Sarah Andrews, CEO

STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2021 SPL embraced the development of partnerships and the improvement of its building and services. In partnership with the Perth Community Futures Development Corporation, our MakerSpace expanded its services to offer more support to local entrepreneurs and small businesses. SPL also launched Immigrant Services, with the YMCA of Three Rivers, to support the Newcomer Community in Stratford. To help with physical accessibility, we were happy to add more parking spaces and automated door openers. Finally, we entered into a partnership with the Stratford and District Horticultural Society to embark on a redesign of the Library's front garden space, with completion to take place in Spring 2022. | Julia Merritt, CEO

WEST PERTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2021, WPPL received our provincial re-accreditation through the Ontario Library Service. We extended our open hours to 54 hours per week and added two new part time staff positions. A new website and logo were launched, giving the library's brand an updated look. Our collections were enhanced with the addition of a young adult graphic novel collections, digital magazines and a subscription to Creative Bug. Our programs went out into the community with activities happening at Mitchell Lions Park, and Story Walks at the Wetlands showcasing children's books from local authors. Lastly we launched a mobile print service where you can submit a print job from home or school, 24/7. | Rosemary Minnella, CEO

For more information about PCIN and partnership opportunities:

perthcountylibraries.ca Kendra Roth, PCIN Management Chair
519-595-8395 kroth@pcin.on.ca