

2019 Annual Report

Brantford Public Library



135
years
BRANTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY





Marion McGeein

Brantford Public Library Board Chair

2019: A year to celebrate

2019 marked the 135th anniversary of the Brantford Public Library.

While there are several ways to recognize the significance of the opening of the library in 1884, there is one interesting fact that helps capture the spirit of the times and the public's hunger for information: 1884 was, in fact, the first year the Oxford Dictionary was published.

The public's desire to learn and be introduced to new ideas has not waned over the years. Through world wars, moon landings and the creation and dissolution of several nation-states, the Brantford Public Library has continued to provide resources to the community that connects them to ideas and information.

What was an innovative idea in 1884 continues to be innovative today. Instead of just books and newspapers, the Library has evolved to offer access to information in ways the public wants to consume it. This explains the robust use of our eBook and Audiobook collection, the introduction of several new MakerSpace items and the launch of PressReader - a new digital newspaper and magazine service.

By offering the community equal access to these services, the Brantford Public Library provides an opportunity for an entire community to learn and grow together.

Just imagine what we will look like 135 years from now!

Highlights



eBooks and Audiobooks

Surpasses 126,000 circulations

eBook and Audiobook use continued to climb at a dramatic pace. A total of 126,933 eBooks and Audiobooks were downloaded through our OverDrive (Libby), cloudLibrary and TumbleBook services. OverDrive, and its Libby app, remained the most popular service.



Reciprocal Borrowing

With Brant County and Six Nations

The Brantford Public Library entered into agreements with both the County of Brant Public Library and Six Nations Public Library that allowed residents in all three areas to become members of Libraries at no charge.



PressReader

Service launched

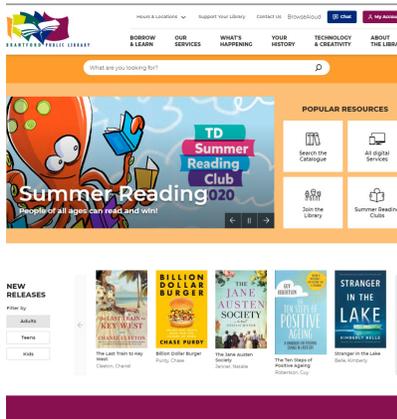
In October 2019, the Library began offering the PressReader digital magazine and newspaper service. There were immediate results, with nearly 7,000 magazine and newspaper issues being downloaded in the first three months.

New Board Appointed

A new Brantford Public Library Board was appointed in January 2019 for a four-year term.

Board members: Caroline Freibauer, Josie Heath, Marion McGeein, John Morrissey, Matt Reniers, Karen Towler, Councillor John Utley, Councillor Joshua Wall, Gladys Woodburn

Highlights



New Website Launched

- Includes online booking tools

A new library website was launched in December 2019. The new site now exceeds AODA standards and has several integrated tools that allow customers more opportunities to book library services.



Interlibrary Loan

- Changes in how service is delivered

The Library's interlibrary loan service was briefly paused after a change to the Southern Ontario Library Service (the organization that coordinates this service provincially). The Library was able to adapt to the changes and re-introduce the service with some modifications.



WiFi Spots Offered

- Unlimited data included

The Library began lending out devices that allowed customers to access WiFi from anywhere there was cellular reception. These WiFi data sticks included unlimited data.

Children's Area Upgrade

Work began on improvements to the Children's Area at the Main Branch.

The project began in the fall and continued into early 2020. Improvements included new carpeting, paint, children's play-based materials. Funding for two murals was also secured through the city's Public Art Fund.

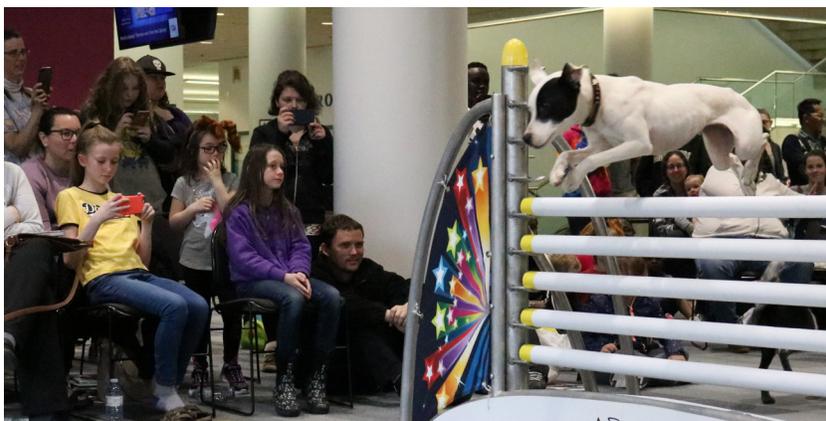
Donors



Birds of Prey



Canada Reads panelists



SuperDogs performance

Thank you to the following donors

Along with those listed below, there are others that donated anonymously in 2019 and several other local businesses and agencies that sponsored library events and initiatives.

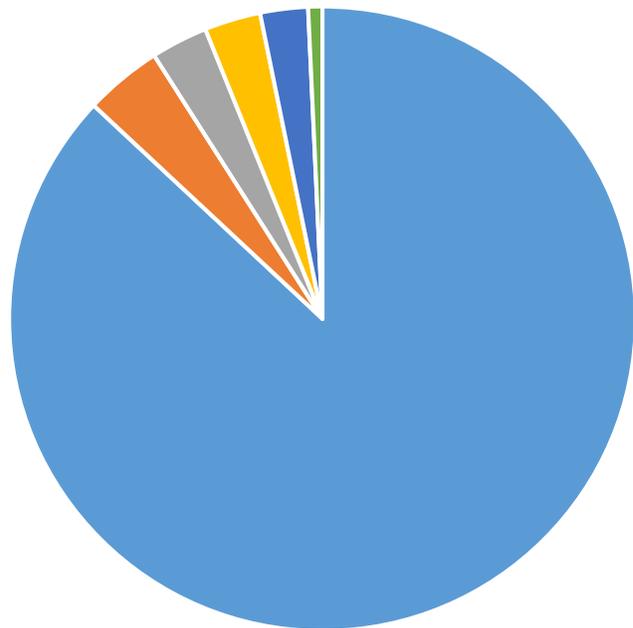
Donors are listed alphabetically.

- Benevity Community Impact fund
- Mr. & Mrs. Croal
- Grand River Women's Probus Club
- Karen Leonard
- Zachary Miller
- Zigmund Misiak
- Melody Myers
- S.C. Johnson & Son, Ltd.
- Sophie Tan (Steven Tan)
- Eva Emilie Katharine Tonn (Estate)

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

City of Brantford	\$4,677,674
Donations	\$215,195
Province of Ontario	\$157,481
General Revenue	\$156,045
Contracted Library Services	\$132,540
Government of Canada	\$39,306



Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$3,784,528
Building	\$299,988
Other Operating	\$299,420
Administration	\$220,625
Other - Non Operating	
Library resources purchases	\$590,057
Other capital additions	\$248,494
Transfers to reserves	\$270,155
Transfers from reserves	\$340,672
TOTAL	\$1,485,378

