

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

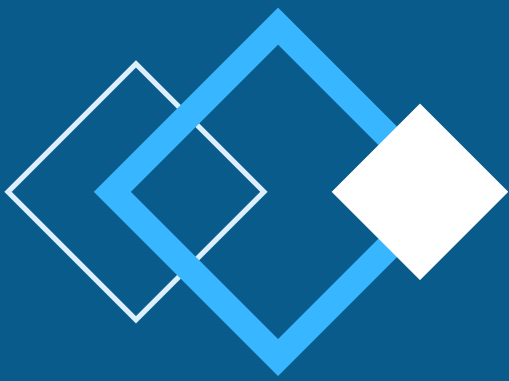
Wollaston Public Library

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Supporters of Wollaston Public Library

We are excited to share with you the progress and achievements of our little library over the past year. Through dedication, hard work, and the support of our community, we have continued to serve as a vital hub for learning, exploration, and connection.

In this report, you will find an overview of the library's growth, key accomplishments, community programs, and the impact we've made in the lives of our patrons. We are proud of our achievements, and as we look ahead, we remain committed to making a difference through access to knowledge, culture, and opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we help create a brighter future for all.

Warm regards,
Kelly Veenstra Librarian/CEO

The Importance of Libraries in Small Communities

Libraries play a crucial role in small communities for many reasons, offering far more than just access to books. Here are some key reasons why they are so important:

1. Access to Information and Resources

Libraries provide a central place where community members can access information, whether it's through books, digital resources, or even specialized materials like local history archives. For people in small communities, this access can be essential, especially when resources are limited in the area.

2. Educational Support

Libraries are often a key resource for both formal and informal education. They offer learning programs, workshops, and tutoring services, helping individuals of all ages expand their knowledge and skills. In small communities, where educational opportunities may be limited, libraries help bridge the gap.

3. Community Gathering Space

Libraries serve as neutral, welcoming spaces for people to gather, connect, and socialize. They often host community events, book clubs, and local meetings, fostering a sense of community and belonging. This is especially important in rural areas, where people might otherwise feel isolated.

The Importance of Libraries in Small Communities

4. Support for Local Economy and Workforce Development

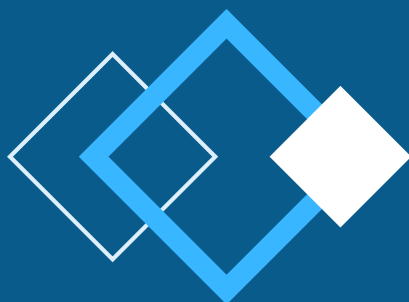
Libraries often provide free access to computers, the internet, and job-search resources. This can be invaluable for those seeking employment, writing resumes, or looking to improve their digital literacy. They can even host workshops for small business owners, helping boost local economies.

5. Cultural and Recreational Hub

Libraries in small communities provide access to cultural resources such as local history collections, art displays, and cultural events. This helps preserve the unique identity of a community while also enriching the lives of residents through art, music, and film screenings.

6 Youth Engagement and Development

Libraries offer programs that keep children and teens engaged in positive activities. Storytime, summer reading programs, and STEM workshops offer children opportunities for growth. Libraries can also help young people build critical thinking and literacy skills, preparing them for future success.



The background of the slide features a corkboard on the right side, displaying various items related to local history. At the top, two white cards are pinned with the words "Local" and "History" in blue. Below them is a white sign that reads "WOLLASTON 620 TOWNSHIP". To the right of the sign is a small crest or logo. Further down, there are several newspaper clippings and photographs pinned to the board. One clipping is titled "The Healing Family" and another "William Coe Starts A Town". To the right of the corkboard, a portion of a bookshelf is visible, showing several books standing upright. The left side of the slide is a solid blue background with white text.

The Importance of Libraries in Small Communities

7. Fostering Digital Literacy

In many small communities, people may not have reliable internet access at home. Libraries can bridge this digital divide by providing free internet access and teaching digital literacy skills, which are essential for success in today's world.

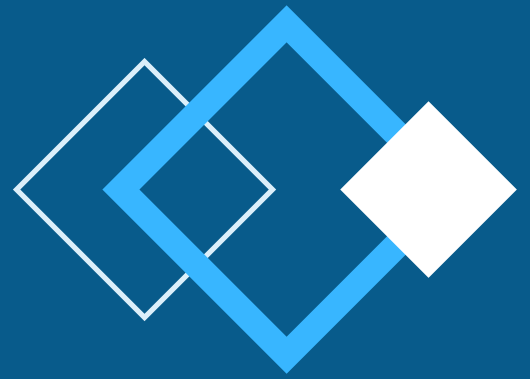
8. Providing a Safe Space

Libraries are safe, inclusive spaces for people of all backgrounds. They can be a sanctuary for those seeking refuge from life's stresses, offering quiet places for reflection or study and providing a supportive environment for personal growth.

9. Encouraging Lifelong Learning

Libraries in small communities help promote lifelong learning by offering programs and resources to the community.

LIBRARY SERVICES



- Average of 220 patron visits a month
- 200 phone calls / emails answered a month
- Over 2000 adult fiction books borrowed
- Over 750 DVD's borrowed this year
- Over 1200 Overdrive books borrowed
- 15 programming days
- 451 active memberships
- 63 Ontario park passes borrowed
- 557 facebook followers
- 2500 WI-FI connections
- 2755 patron visits
- 180 computer logins
- 25 classroom visits
- over \$2000 raised from book sales

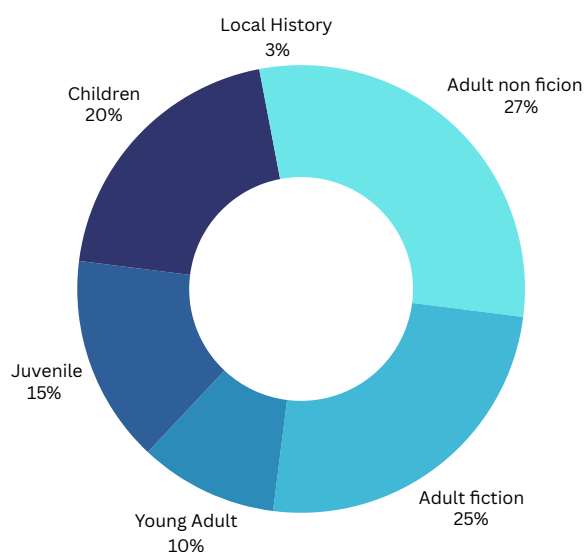
COLLECTION REVIEW

Collection development in libraries refers to the process of selecting, acquiring, managing, and maintaining the library's collection of resources—such as books, journals, digital materials, and audiovisual content—to meet the needs and interests of its patrons. It ensures that the library's resources are relevant, current, and in alignment with its mission and the community it serves.

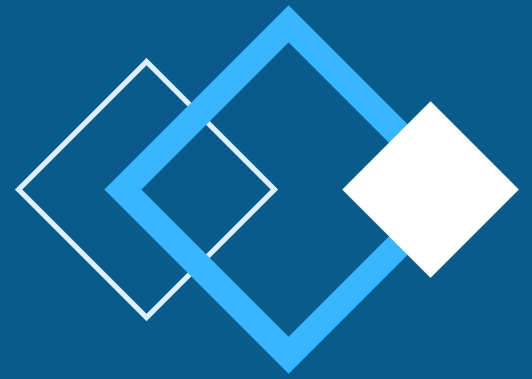


OUR FOCUS

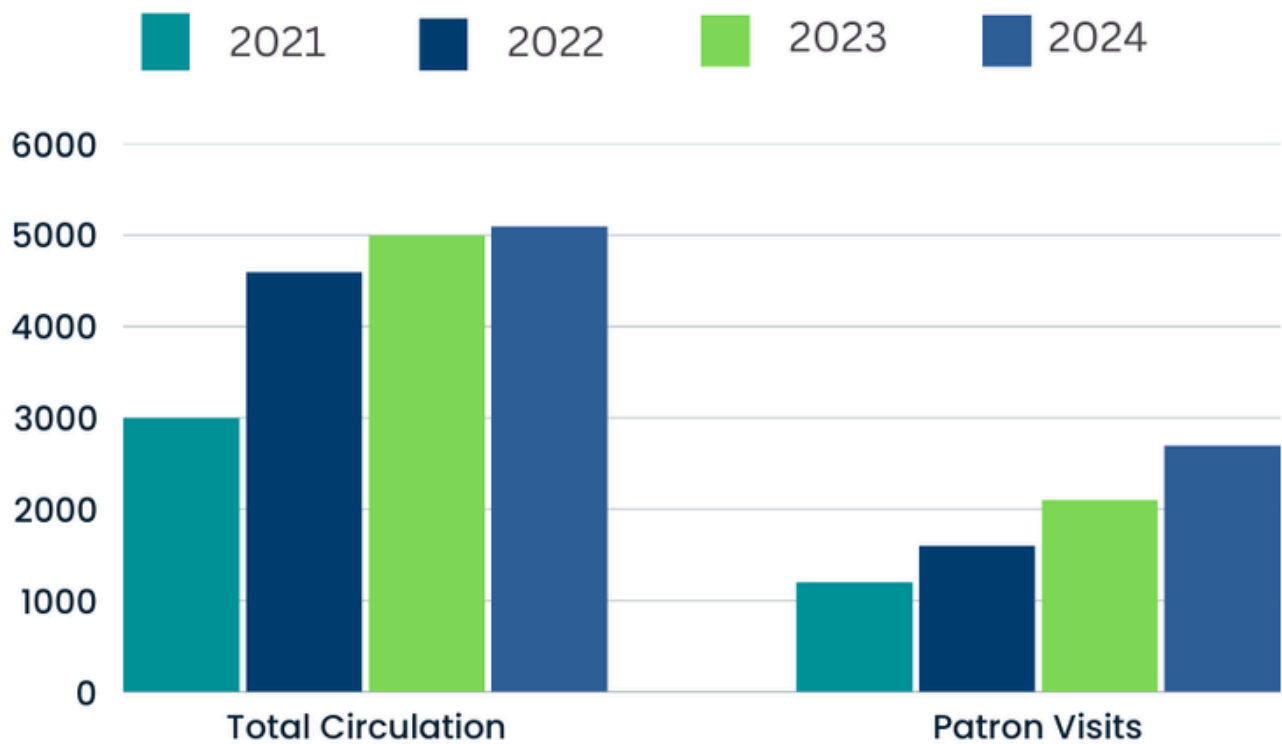
- **Best-Sellers:** A focus on popular books and current best-sellers, such as recent literary fiction, popular non-fiction, or books that are currently trending on platforms like Goodreads or the New York Times Best Sellers list.
- **Trending Genres:** A collection that highlights genres with a lot of attention, like young adult (YA) fiction, true crime, fantasy, sci-fi, or self-help books. The library could switch out collections periodically based on what's trending in these categories.
- **Current Media:** Adding books that are tied to popular media (e.g., movies, TV shows, or podcasts). This can include adaptations of popular shows or books that are being made into films.
- **Local Popularity:** Focusing on authors, topics, or genres that are particularly popular within the local community. We keep track of what books are checked out the most and adjust their collections accordingly.



LIBRARY STATS



WPL STATS



THANK YOU

As always, we are very grateful for all the help we receive all year.

The Township of Wollaston for their continued financial support, the community for their patronage and donations of books and craft supplies.

The Coe Hill School for allowing the Library to be part of the children's daily lives. Coe Hill ATV club for their donations and continued support with fundraisers and book sales. Bear Ridge, Red Eagle and the Coe Hill Legion for everything they do for the Library.

Lastly I would like to thank the absolutely wonderful Wollaston Public Library Board Members, without them the Library would not be what it is today.



Kelly Veenstra- Librarian/ CEO

Ashley Carrol- Library Clerk

Board Members

Roxanne Lambert- Chair

Peter Lennox- Vice Chair

Traci Morrison

Robynn Ripley

J.D. Fentie

Carol Dahlquist

