# Introduction

The previous 2018 Wollaston Public Library Board reviewed the great work outlined and detailed in the Wollaston Public Library 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan. This document outlined a mission, vision, pillars and goals, as well as activities by which the library could move forward.

Earlier in 2022, the library board began discussing how to update that Plan. We were assisted by Peggy Malcolm, from Ontario Library Services (OLS), who lead us through a series of visioning activities to help identify / define / add some detail to our plan.

In January 2023, the new library board was appointed, and was grateful for this strategic planning work, completed by the previous board. The new board discussed and decided that, since circumstances and some priorities had changed for Council, that the library board should re-consider its priorities. This document reflects those changes.

# Updated Statement of Values, Vision & Mission

Our Statement of Values are the foundation for all aspects of providing library collections, service, and programs to our community.

**The Wollaston Public Library’s Statement of Values (Revised February 2024)**

The Wollaston Public Library:

* *Supports and encourages creativity, imagination and curiosity* by encouraging the joy of reading and life-long learning
* *Supports equity* by ensuring a welcoming and accessible library that recognizes diversity and serves all individuals fairly
* *Believes in intellectual freedom* by facilitating access to knowledge and intellectual activity
* *Provides customer service* by ensuring high quality and excellence in responding, to the best of its ability, to the broad range of needs of members of the community
* *Supports and enables community connectedness* by enhancing library services through partnerships with partner agencies and consultation with the community
* *Believes in and supports teamwork* by fostering a work culture that advocates cooperation, communication and respect and appropriate staff training

Mission and Vision

**The Wollaston Public Library’s Mission Statement (Revised February 2024)**

The Wollaston Public Library provides access to an organized collection of print and non-print materials.

The Library supports Wollaston Township’s cultural, informational, educational and recreational needs.

It provides appropriate programs and services, with a focus on literacy and lifelong learning, as needed by groups and individuals across the community.

**The Wollaston Public Library’s Vision Statement (Revised February 2024)**

*Inspiring lifelong learning and a love of reading.*

As a welcoming and active 21st-Century public library, the Wollaston Public Library inspires lifelong learning and a love of reading, and gives people the tools, services and supports they need to thrive and to be fulfilled, empowered, resilient and productive.

# Our Priorities

Priority 1 – Our collections, services and programmes

Priority 2 – Our community

Priority 3 – Our space

# Our Collections, Services and Programs

These comprise the core library work which helps us accomplish our mission and support our vision.

1. Ensure the library collects and provides access to core resources as identified and confirmed by both the Library and its Community.
* By reviewing the information collected from the Spring 2025 community survey and assessing the library collection and core resources, making changes as required.
1. Ensure the library maintains its collection and continues to collect local historical information and promotes itself as a primary source for accessing local historical information.
* By inventorying the current collection to create an accurate listing of materials by the end of December 2024.
* By purchasing or acquiring at least two new items each year.
* By highlighting the historical collection during an open house event to be held by the end of 2024.
1. Promote literacy, lifelong learning and the joy of reading
* By reading stories to children, either indoors or outdoors, at least twice a month
* By hosting or planning an activity or program for adults, such as Blind Date with a Book, at least twice a year.
* By participating in the TD Summer Reading Program, every other year, as available, encouraging and assisting families with children to participate.
* By setting up a Story Walk, on an annual basis, as available.
1. Improve the content and usability of our in-house and electronic services.
* By culling the collection at least once per year to remove materials that haven’t been accessed during the previous two years.
* By ensuring all new materials added to the collection, are coded with multiple search words beginning in January 2025.

# Our Community - Communication and Engagement

Continue the objective from 2018-2021 to develop stronger ties with the community so the library is recognized as a “go-to” place.

1. Increase communication and availability of library information to our community:
* By sharing the Wollaston Public Library Annual Report to Wollaston Council; and posting it on the Website and Facebook page, by the end of April each year
* By updating the Wollaston Public Library flyer (paper and electronic formats), in the Spring and Fall and circulating it to local businesses within the community asking them to share it on their Facebook pages; and posting it at the Post Office.
* By creating and circulating a community survey in the Spring 2025.
1. Emphasize / Highlight special collections, services, and programs:
* By creating a listing of special monthly activities/events that also align with special library collections and then posting monthly notices on Facebook, throughout 2024 that align with specific events or designated recognition dates, i.e. Black History Month, along with information about books in our collection.
1. Engage our community by participating with other stakeholders in fulfilling our Mission.
* By hosting an Open House event at the library to showcase our services, in conjunction with another community event, by the end of 2024.
* By creating a Library Float and participating in a community parade, by the end of 2024
1. Engage our community by bringing library collections and/or programs to them; be where our users are.
* By setting up space to sell Books/DVD’s at the two seasonal campgrounds, and any local businesses that wish to assist.
* By distributing “take and make” craft kits within in the community – Food Bank, on a quarterly basis, beginning Spring 2024.

# Our Space

We need both a new space and want to improve our existing space. Space includes indoor and outdoor areas. The library board understands that Council as our primary funder will be an instrumental partner in obtaining new library space when it is financially viable to do so.

Goal 1. Make the existing indoor space usable and inviting, and ensure it meets accessibility requirements.

* By creating a listing of current furnishings and equipment, ensuring accessibility, along with a proposed replacement schedule and estimated costs, to align with the annual budget cycle.

Goal 2: Create outdoor library space.

* By developing a multi-year plan and budget by the end of December 2024 to purchase outdoor furnishings to expand the library space.

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Goal 3: Improve internet connectivity for our community.

* By seeking advice on internet connectivity from Bell Canada staff on an annual basis and preparing a budget and proposal to purchase improvements.

Goal 4: Determine space requirements for a new library, both indoor and outdoors.

* By preparing a detailed written description and proposed indoor floor plan and outdoor space requirements for a new library, by December 2024, and annually reviewing this information with the Board to keep it current.

The Library Team will prepare a multi-year workplan to implement this strategic plan and review the progress on a quarterly basis.