



Vision

The Deep River Public Library will be a destination for discovery; a community hub of creativity, curiosity, and connection for every resident.

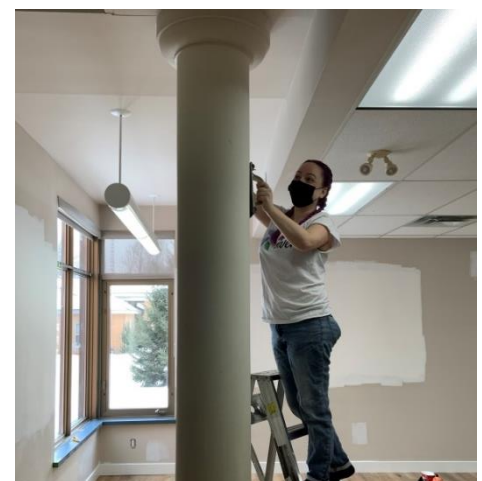
Looking out at the bustle today it is difficult to imagine that we started 2022 with closed doors and curbside service. COVID-19 continued to impact our library and our community throughout the year, but each stage of re-opening was celebrated: the return of front desk volunteers, the return of soft seating, and the absolute joy of in-person programming. Positive outcomes from the pandemic will shape our services forever, whether home delivery options, take-home kits, or hybrid programming. We've learned to meet evolving needs quickly, like with vaccine booking support. We are more flexible, responsive, and resilient in the face of massive change. While hopeful not to repeat this experience, we remain profoundly grateful for the kindness, support, and overwhelming enthusiasm of our community as we grow.

During this year of transition, we are proud of several key achievements.

1. **Our first strategic plan.** Since 2020 we have invited residents to help us “write our next chapter” and we continue to invite your input as we work towards our strategic goals for building community, supporting learning and development, creating vibrant, functional, and accessible spaces, and strengthening our organizational capacity. You can check out our full plan [here](#).
2. **Renovations to our children’s area.** This spring new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, new gallery space, and re-arranged furniture created more open, welcoming (and beautiful, we think) space conducive to gathering, playing and creating together. We hope you will spend time!
3. Our **new website** launched mid-September and we are particularly excited about the local history resources centralized at <https://www.deepriverlibrary.ca/local-history/>. Check out Owl Virtual Tour’s [virtual tour](#), and our new [program calendar](#).
4. **‘Not Born from a Virgin Forest’ local history research project.** As a joint project with the School House Museum and other community partners, we secured New Horizons for Seniors Program funding to capture and make accessible Deep River’s earliest history. Project activities are twofold: oral history interview research and a series of workshops and presentations to engage residents in historical material. We are beginning to better understand the pre-1945 history of the area and the experiences of our Indigenous families. If you have stories to share, we would love to hear from you. Patrons may also borrow a tech toolkit to record their own stories.

Mission

To be the community’s living room: a welcome and safe gathering place for all residents, with resources that ignite a sense of wonder and spark new possibilities for enjoyment, lifelong learning, and meaningful connection.



1 Candice painting the children's area

- 5. Fines Free service model.** After a pilot year, the Board joined 1/3 of Ontario libraries and adopted a fines free service model in December of 2022. Studies have shown that fines do not deter late returns, but do deter patrons from returning. The move to fines free reflects our values of accessible, equitable library service and a better return on investment for public resources.

In February of 2022 Britt Gillman joined our team for parental leave coverage, and is now Research Analyst for the “Not Born from a Virgin Forest” project. Britt has brought her warmth and her passion for people and the arts to launch our monthly Writers’ Unite, Open Mic nights, and our first in-person book club.

As COVID restrictions lifted, we were eager to try new ways to connect with neighbours and ideas. Whether through our “Authors in Deep” fall series, local artist workshops, or Saturday Lego and STEAM clubs, we gathered to share stories and learn new skills. We met outside library walls at Geekfest, Deep River’s first pride parade, or at the Seniors Active Living Fair. We organized a community poetry hunt with the support of local businesses. Together we sang songs, felted hats, and learned new languages. We learned the best vegetable varieties to grow locally, dog safety for young children, and local geology. More than 3,290 residents took part in 216 programs this year.

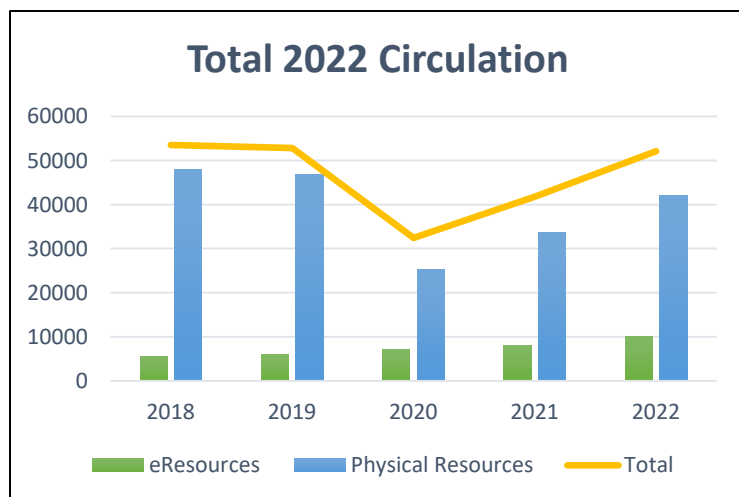
In 2022 we added new resources to our collection. Residents can now access Transparent Language Learning online, Kanopy film streaming, or Niche Academy, an online learning platform. In-library, patrons can now “borrow” seeds, costumes, or peruse the Deep River Digest. We added three special Explorer Backpacks created in memory of Mallory Tonner.



2 Our first Poetry Coffeehouse in April



3 New friends at Deep River Geekfest!



Patrons borrowed more than 51,610 items, returning to pre-COVID levels. Traditional library services continue.

Technology is essential for modern life and patrons continue to come through our doors for free internet and our self-serve photocopier. An average of 30/week use our computers and 700/week access our WIFI.

In the fall, we were thrilled to host local business Maven Catering for their daily scones and coffee so

that we can sip and snack while we sit by the fire and browse online or catch-up with neighbours.

As we emerge from this period of transition, a special thank you to long-term Board members Lucy Yamazaki, Phil Davis, Anne Hutton and Ann Marie McInall who will not be returning for another term. Their leadership and support have been instrumental, and their contributions of decades have left a wonderful legacy for our library.

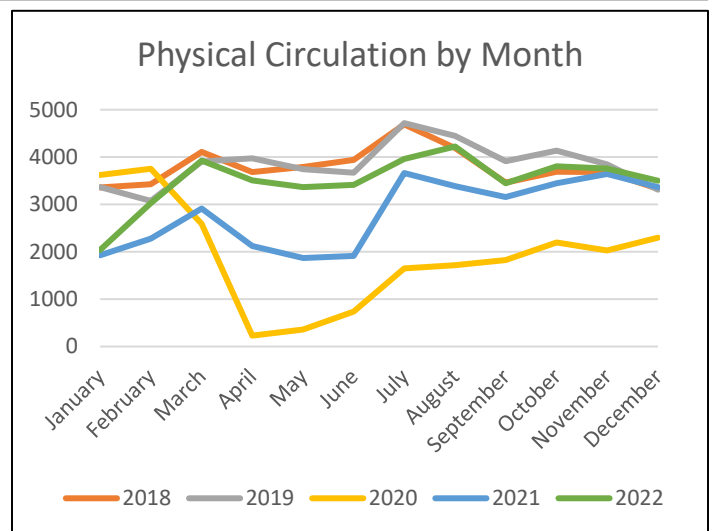
To the 100+ volunteers who keep our library running, we are SO HAPPY that you're back. We missed your help dearly during the pandemic and your return has been a highlight of our year.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our library as patrons, as volunteers, and as donors. We so appreciate your time and your enthusiasm, and look forward to working together in the year ahead. We're ready!

Naomi Balla-Boudreau, CEO

2022 Snapshot Statistics:

- 1,404 active cardholders (34% population)
- 322 new memberships
- 41,975 physical items borrowed
- 9,635 eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines borrowed (17% more than in 2021)
- 1 in 5 library patrons use OverDrive
- 500 films streamed with Kanopy
- 2213 new titles added
- 216 program sessions with 3,291 participants
- 143 home deliveries
- Collection:
 - 101,270 eBook, eAudiobook and eMagazine titles
 - 35,291 Print Titles
 - 7,752 DVDs, CDs, and Talking Books
- 700 WiFi sessions / average week
- 27,289 Facebook Reach and 522 Instagram Reach
- 1089 Followers on Facebook, 435 on Instagram.
- 287 meeting room rentals (despite COVID restrictions)
- 100+ volunteers contributed approximately 80 hours of work / week.



Our Community Partners in 2022

Town of Deep River
Friends of the Library / Library Arts Committee
BIAK EarlyON Mobile Unit Indigenous Teachings / Children's Junction Day Care Centre
Deep River & District Community Foundation / Deep River Geekfest
Deep River and Area Horticultural Society / Deep River Hospital Foundation
Deep River Nursery School / Deep River Queer Connection
Deep River Weavers' Guild / Deep Tech
Head, Clara and Maria Library / Laurentian Hills Library
Mackenzie Community School / St. Mary's Catholic School
Maven Catering / North Renfrew EarlyON Child & Family Centre / Owl Virtual Tours
Renfrew-Lanark Local Immigration Partnership
School House Museum (Rolph, Buchannan, Wylie, and McKay Historical Society)
Stefanie Adams of George Brown College / Studio Dreamshare
Society for the Preservation of Nuclear Heritage / Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club

We gratefully acknowledge funding support from the Friends of the Library, Canada Summer Jobs program, Deep River Community Foundation, Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, the Writers' Union of Canada, and Canada Council for the Arts.

Our 2022 Board of Directors

Phil Davis
Aliya Ebrahim
Kathy Hughes (Council Representative)
Anne Hutton (Chair)
Ann Marie McInall
Doug Rodgers
Lucy Yamazaki

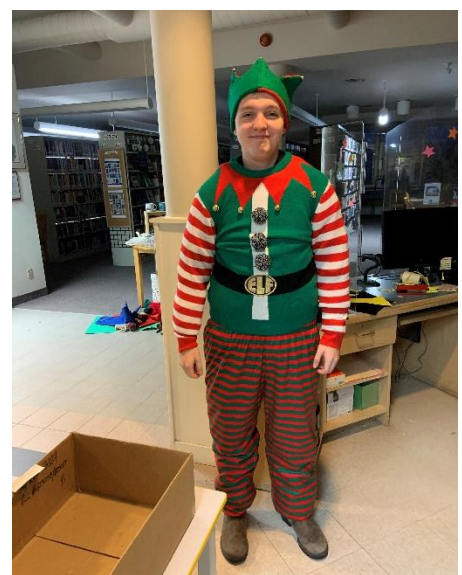


Our Staff

Mira Anghel, Library Assistant: Support Services
Naomi Balla-Boudreau, CEO
Elizabeth Bond, Library Assistant: Local History and Audio Services
Robin Dennis, Library Assistant: Interlibrary Loans and Adult Services Support
Britt Gillman, Research Analyst
Candice Hersak, Library Assistant: Children's Services
Heather Pentney, Library Assistant: Administration

Student Pages

Shahed Albakhit
Wynn Chapman
Alison Chiasson
Wren Rauliuk Dunn
Evan Sullivan



4 Evan the elf is ready for the Santa parade