



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.

2023, our first full year 'post-pandemic', was busy and exciting. After years of isolating at home or meeting with masks, residents were keen to get together to learn and to connect, and we took our mission to "be the community's living room" to heart.

Throughout the year we expanded upon our core programs, services, and collections. We grew our traditional storytimes, for example, bringing in special guests like Mayor D'Eon, Acting Seargent Pitre, and Monroe St. Honeybee. We began a monthly bedtime storytime in pajamas, and listened to stories in French, Spanish, and Persian for Culture Connect in June. We expanded our idea of "books" to include eight brave volunteers who shared their personal stories as part of our first Human Library in October. We learned from our expert neighbours who shared their unique and fascinating knowledge of herbology, the production of medical isotopes, Beowulf, and more, as part of our new "Seminar Series for Inquiring Minds" and local history presentations. Many of the presentations are/will be available on our website at <https://www.deepriverlibrary.ca/local-history/>.



In response to teen requests, we launched a weekly, often animated, Dungeons and Dragons program. We met regularly to knit, to write, to craft, and to create. In 2023 5,472 residents took part in 316 programs. This is a 66% increase in participation from 2022 and a 188% increase over pre-COVID times (2019). Deep Riverites are engaged, and we are delighted to be a part of it! Thank you to all our program partners and volunteers for your generosity of time and skill.



This year we completed our "Not Born from a Virgin Forest" local history project, done in collaboration with the School House Museum and other partners. We are thrilled to share residents' oral history interviews via our website. The project, led by Britt Gillman, culminated in our "Historical Transitions through Art" show with more than 20 artists engaging in the subject matter using multi-media forms. We hope that you will check out Deep Tech's short film of project highlights at <https://www.deepriverlibrary.ca/local-history/>.



We are honoured to collect and share our community’s unique history. Although the project ended, the need to capture early memories did not, and in June we transitioned to our Community Memory Vault program. All residents (past and present) are encouraged to join the program, receive a weekly question about the area’s history via email, and simply reply with your memories. Ask library staff for more information!



Regular library services continue well, as you can see with our snapshot statistics below. This year we added a light therapy lamp, paper shredder, and all-terrain rollator walker to our Library of Things. Whether borrowing a book, seeds, or a magic kit, our goal is to have something for everyone’s interests. Circulation has exceeded our pre-COVID levels with a 21.5% jump in eResource use, in part due to the addition of 3,000+ eMagazine titles and Kanopy film streaming to our digital collection.

Access to technology is a core library service and necessity for modern life. This year, thanks to the Connecting Ontario Libraries Initiative, the groundwork for fibre was laid, doubling our internet speeds. This provincial initiative would not have been possible without the invaluable expertise of Ross Judd and the generosity of WCCT. Our appreciation to all!

We continue to work to remove barriers to library services. In 2023, we opened Mondays from 10am-3pm, removed the security gates that made our front entrance difficult, upgraded the stair treads to the program room downstairs, improving visibility for all users, and made all washrooms more family-friendly by adding a change table to the men’s washroom and potty stairs for our youngest users. We initiated a snack pantry program, built on community donations, to support food security and encourage all ages to spend time, especially with the after-school crowd. We also remain fines free. 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.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our library as patrons, as volunteers, and as donors. We are growing, and your involvement makes a very big difference to us. We appreciate your time and your support, and look forward to the year ahead, together!

Naomi Balla-Boudreau,
CEO Deep River Public Library

Human Library Schedule

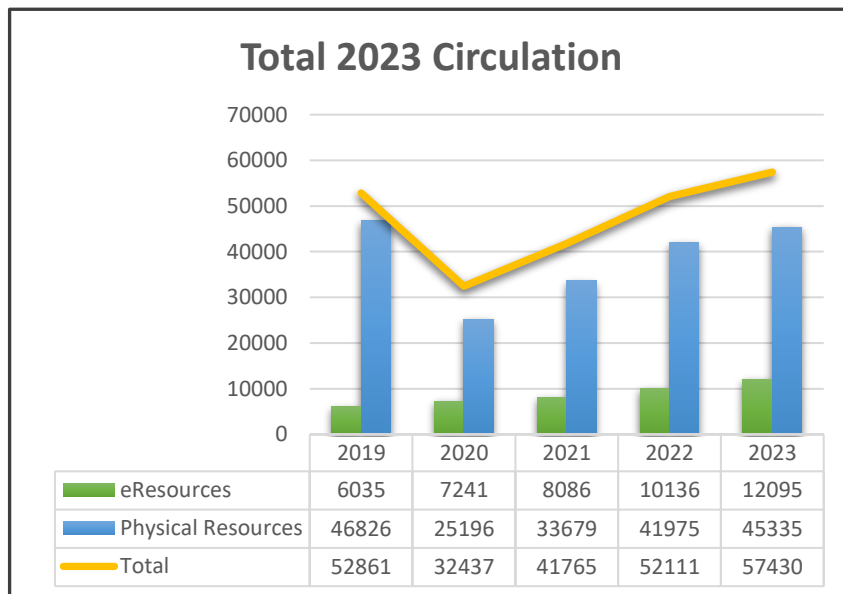
THURS., OCT 12TH
2023

10 AM - 12 PM	“Single Mother by Choice” “Transwoman”
12 PM - 2 PM	“ADHD is my Superpower” “Queer Family”
2 PM - 4 PM	“Ask Me About My Perfect Abortion” “Foster Sister” “Memories of the Past”
6 PM - 8 PM	“Healthy Obese”

Contact the library to reserve your 15 minute time slot with the Human Books!

2023 Snapshot Statistics

- 1,667 active cardholders (40% population; note that some families share a card)
- 357 new cards this year
- 45,335 physical items borrowed (8% more than in 2022)
- 11,710 eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines borrowed (21.5% more than in 2022)
- 1,195 films streamed with Kanopy (increase of 139%)
- 1,259 items borrowed from Ontario libraries and 829 items lent through interlibrary loan
- 316 program sessions with 5,472 participants (66% more participants than in 2022)
- 108 home deliveries
- 2,454 new titles added
- Collection:
 - 90,337 eBook and eAudiobook titles
 - 37,193 Print Titles
 - 8,270 DVDs, CDs, and Talking Books
- 12,161 website sessions
- 29,900 Facebook Reach (increase of 18%)
- 1,918 social media followers
- 43,000+ visits
- 358 meeting room rentals
- 4,000+ volunteer hours contributed from 100 amazing volunteers!



Our Community Partners in 2023

Town of Deep River / Deep River Police / Deep River Fire Department
 Friends of the Library / Library Arts Committee

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories / Children's Junction Day Care Centre / Contact North

Deep River & District Community Foundation / Deep River Geekfest

Deep River and Area Horticultural Society / Deep River Nursery School / Deep River Queer Connection

Deep Tech / Deep River Welcome / Effective Computer Solutions

Head, Clara and Maria Library / Laurentian Hills Library

Mackenzie Community School / St. Mary's Catholic School

Mashkiwizii Manido Foundation / Maven Catering

North American Young Generation in Nuclear

North Renfrew Family Services

North Renfrew Long-Term Care / PFLAG Renfrew County

Renfrew-Lanark Local Immigration Partnership

School House Museum (Rolph, Buchannan, Wylie, and McKay Historical Society)

Steffanie Adams of George Brown College

Society for the Preservation of Nuclear Heritage

Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club / WCCT



We gratefully acknowledge funding support from CommAdvantage, Connecting Ontario Libraries Initiative, Deep River Community Foundation, the Friends of the Library, the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and Ontario Library Service.

Our 2023 Board of Directors

- Jen Bergevin
- Steve D'Eon
- Aliya Ebrahim (until June, 2023)
- Jessica Freedman (Chair)
- Kathy Hughes (Council Representative)
- Samantha Johnson
- Bronwyn Kaiser
- Doug Rodgers



Our 2023 Staff

- Mira Anghel, Library Assistant: Support Services
- Naomi Balla-Boudreau, CEO
- Elizabeth Bond, Library Assistant: Local History & Audio Services
- Robin Dennis, Library Assistant: Interlibrary Loans & 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 (until September)
- Cameron Hopkins
- Wren Rauliuk Dunn
- Evan Sullivan

