

Deep River Public Library Annual Report 2024:



2024 was a dynamic year of both growth and the strengthening of our foundation.

In 2024 residents continued to gather at the library to learn, to share, and to create.

This year, we celebrated storytelling in new and exciting ways. We highlighted local authors' "works in progress" and new publications. We learned about a range of topics from online music collaboration to the mathematics of backgammon from our expert neighbours. Hazel Atkins's three engaging workshop series on literature were an exciting addition to our adult programming.

We celebrated our own stories with a special Summerfest program of "Deep River Before 1944: An interactive exhibit" and genealogy workshops. We dressed fabulously in pink for Barbie, and enjoyed National Film Day with "Ru", thanks to our new public performance licensing. Also new this year, we provided opportunities for English language learners to practice conversation over coffee and tea. We expanded this program for 12 weeks of formal learning with Lana Johnson of the Renfrew County District School Board. All are welcome to join the conversation Mondays at 10:00am!

Responding to community interest in crafting and making, we launched new programs, including night knitting, a sewing lab, and our first "attend and mend" sessions, as well as a series of art workshops.

We shared our love of stories and learning outside our walls, whether a special Summerfest storytime, a slideshow of "Early Housing in Deep River" at North Renfrew Long Term Care, or by measuring groundwater seepage beside David Lee's pond.

In total, 5,790 residents took part in 339 programs. Thank you to our program partners and inspiring volunteers. We could not respond to community interest, and have fun doing so, without you.

Our collection continues to grow to best meet our residents' evolving informational and entertainment needs. In 2024 we added new items such as:

- Local historic materials:



John Veen celebrates the publication of his first children's book at 100 years old.



- 1938 aerial photographs of the land that would become Deep River;
- A high school class kit of resources on “Deep River Before 1944”; and
- Further uploads to our [Local History webpage](#), including the web’s most complete collection of information about women’s contributions to CRNL in the early days.
- A rotating pool of Large Print materials shared with Ontario libraries.
- Five book club sets for the innumerable clubs in town, or anyone wanting to start a club.
- Dementia-friendly resources like puzzles, books and games, expanding our accessible materials.
- DVD players and CO2 monitors, growing our Library of Things.
- A subscription to the Eganville Leader.
- Teen Health & Wellness information database.

So that patrons could better find authors and titles of interest, we integrated NoveList discovery tool into our online catalogue. Now you can get “if you like this, you might try ...” while browsing from the couch.

So that residents were more aware of library programs and events we developed a printed monthly calendar. We are always looking for ways to reach our residents better and get on your fridge!

Our technology support continues to grow. Thanks to the Connecting Ontario Libraries Initiative and the invaluable expertise of Ross Judd and WCCT, the library was connected to fibre! We upgraded our public computers, adding data protection. We added wired internet to the program room for a more reliable connection and added wireless microphones thanks to Community Foundation funding. In 2024 our computer usage increased by 87% over 2023, largely due to the after-school crowd that continues beyond the fall bus strike.

Infrastructure challenges, such as the halt to the province-wide interlibrary loans with the Canada Post strike or a failing elevator, will be resolved as we head into 2025. Accessible library services are essential, and we’re grateful that the Town is working quickly on refurbishment.

I would like to recognize the energy and work of Candice Hersak, who provided Children’s Services since 2017 and stepped back this fall. The impact of her creativity, initiative, and passion on our collection and services will be felt for years to come. I’m thrilled to welcome Robin Dennis to this new role. Robin’s ideas and enthusiasm were evident at our very first Family Art Club night where 29 made festive candles and more. I’m also pleased to welcome Melissa Daley in the role of Interlibrary Loans in 2025! Our team is innovative, resourceful, and caring and we are well-positioned to respond to community needs for library services in 2025. We survived the Polar Dip, after all!

Candice Hersak, Children’s Services, is excited for our Barbie movie!



Robin Dennis, Children's Services, provides stories after an evening of crafts.

Certainly, a highlight of 2024 was the return of the Volunteer Appreciation Party, and we were delighted to host more than 80 of our 130 volunteers upstairs among the stacks. Our volunteers bring heart to our work every day, and we are grateful for their commitment to our community, as well as their gift of time and skill. Each year we benefit from more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service. This summer we expanded our student volunteer program, and we are currently recruiting tech tutor volunteers. If this interests you, please contact us.

These achievements would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers and program partners. Their enthusiasm and commitment continue to shape the library as a hub of community connection. Thank you for making 2024 such a remarkable year!

Naomi Balla-Boudreau
CEO, Deep River Public Library

Community Comments:

For one new resident, the library was a deciding factor when evaluating which community to settle in.

2024 Snapshot Statistics

1,728 active cardholders (41% of the population; some families share a card)

298 new cards issued this year

40,875 physical items borrowed

16,184 digital items borrowed (33% increase from 2023), including:

- 4,194 eMagazines
- 1,696 films streamed with Kanopy
- 4,520 eAudiobooks
- 5,674 eBooks

Interlibrary Loans: 1,167 items borrowed, 534 lent

52 home deliveries

2,843 new titles added

Our collection includes:

- 93,412 eBook and eAudiobook titles
- 40,007 print titles
- 9,252 DVDs, CDs, and Talking Books
- 198 items in our Library of Things

339 programs offered

5,790 program participants

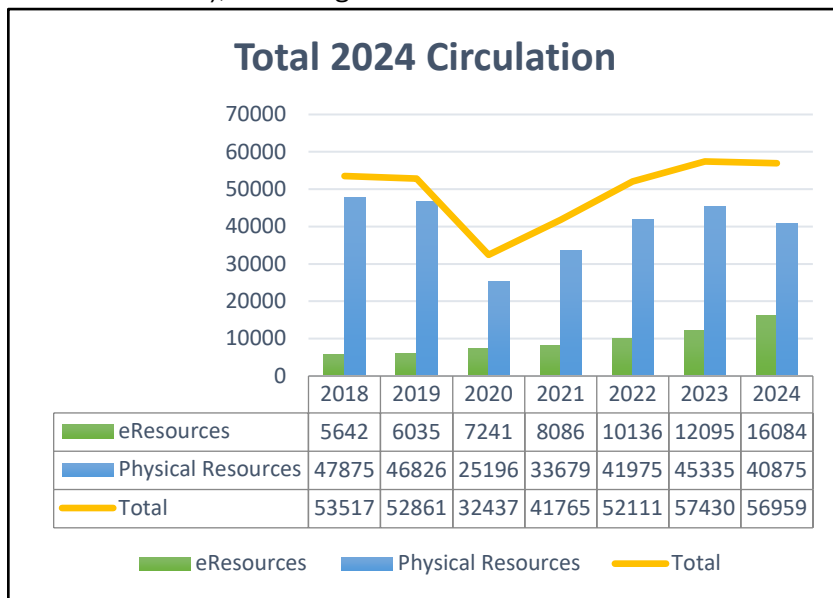
45,000 visits

351 program room rentals

4,000+ volunteer hours (2.2 FTE)

Technology use:

- 3,600 computer sessions



- 9,300 WIFI connections
- 🌐 **Connecting online:**
 - 1,475 Facebook followers
 - 5,900 Facebook reach (up 20.6%)
 - 642 Instagram followers
 - 4,800 Instagram views
 - 7,700 website users, 18,908 page views



Our Community Partners in 2024

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 /
 Deep River & District Community Foundation / Deep River and Area
 Horticultural Society / Deep River Nursery School / Deep River Queer Connection / Deep Tech /
 Effective Computer Solutions
 Mackenzie Community School / St. Mary’s Catholic School / Maven Catering
 North American Young Generation in Nuclear
 North Renfrew Long-Term Care / PFLAG Renfrew County
 Renfrew County School Board / Renfrew-Lanark Local Immigration Partnership
 Service Canada / Steffanie Adams of George Brown College
 Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club / WCCT / Women in Nuclear
 Upper Ottawa Valley GLAM partners, including:
 Canadian Clock Museum, Head, Clara and Maria Library, Laurentian Hills Library, School House
 Museum (Rolph, Buchannan, Wylie, and McKay Historical Society), Society for the Preservation
 of Nuclear Heritage, Valley Artisans Coop

We gratefully acknowledge funding support from

Canada Summer Jobs; Connecting Ontario Libraries Initiative; Deep River & District Community
 Foundation; the Friends of the Library; the Province of Ontario, including the Ministry of
 Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility; Ontario Library
 Service; Summer Employment Opportunities; and the Writers’ Union of Canada.

Our 2024 Staff Members

Mira Anghel
 Naomi Balla-Boudreau
 Elizabeth Bond
 Robin Dennis
 Candice Hersak
 Heather Pentney

Student Pages:
 Shahed Albakhit (until Fall)
 Wynn Chapman
 Cameron Hopkins
 Piper Kells (Fall 2024)
 Keanna Lim (Fall 2024)
 Wren Rauliuk Dunn (until Fall)
 Evan Sullivan

Our 2024 Board of Directors

Jen Bergevin
 Steve D’Eon
 Jessica Freedman (Chair)
 Kathy Hughes (Council Representative)
 Samantha Johnson
 Bronwyn Kaiser
 Doug Rodgers

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.