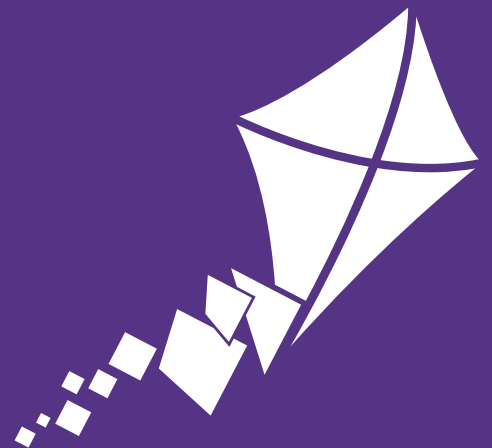




# STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we gather, we acknowledge that we are meeting on the original land inhabited by Indigenous peoples from the beginning.

As settlers, we're grateful for the opportunity to meet here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land since time immemorial.

In particular, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place. We also recognize the contributions of Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, and our province and country as a whole.

As settlers, this recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities.

## INTERIM CEO, KRISTA ROBINSON

In 2022 we saw pre-pandemic services almost fully restored! Circulation of materials was 25% higher than in 2019. Programming has reached new levels as well, at 40% higher than pre-pandemic.

Our library received some much needed upgrades this year. Carpet was replaced on both children and adult floors, the children's service desk was replaced and our children's floor restrooms were completely renovated. These upgrades have made our space much more attractive and accessible. Our front garden was also landscaped by the Stratford Horticultural Society. We look forward to seeing the new garden grow in 2023!

In December, our CEO, Julia Merritt left SPL for a new role in Nova Scotia. I want to thank Julia for over nine years of leadership at SPL and we wish her all the best!

With a new Library Board and strategic directions for 2023, I'm excited to see where the new year takes us!

## BOARD CHAIR, ZAC GRIBBLE

It's been both a pleasure and an honour to serve on the Stratford Public Library Board, and that comes down to one thing: the people. The library management and staff are among the most capable I've ever met, and they also happen to be kind, positive and compassionate. They are eager to serve the public, adaptable and agile to navigate crises such as the pandemic, and true believers in the power of libraries to transform and improve the lives within our community.

## 2018 - 2022 LIBRARY BOARD

Zac Gribble – Chair  
Michael Corbett - Vice Chair  
Kim Bardwell  
Lorraine Butson  
Ana Costa Reis  
Jack Groothuis

Marianne Hawley  
Danielle Ingram – City Council  
Marthe Jocelyn  
Mackenzie Kipfer  
Julia Merritt - Library Director

**"This is a amazing place to come after school. It's a super welcoming place. I can sit here for hours reading. Thank you for being here and thank you for for being so close to Stratford Intermediate School!"**



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL LIBRARY VISITORS **104,680**

**264,357**  
website views



**1,714**  
new cardholders

**816** free programs offered  
**24,155** people attended  
**1,290+** visits to the MakerSpace

**68**

**class visits**  
with **2,844** students



**2,817** Items delivered  
to visiting library  
patrons

hotspots  
borrowed  
**705**  
times

**10,544**  
wifi  
connections

**57,218** family searches  
on Ancestry Library Ed.

# 375,870

**Items Checked Out**

95,668 DIGITAL +  
280,202 PHYSICAL

**NON TRADITIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE**

park passes, seeds, Festival warehouse tour pass, vinyl cutter,  
spool knitting kit, document scanner, projector, smartphone  
gimbal, precision measurement kit, microphone and ring light

**DIGITAL SERVICES USED**

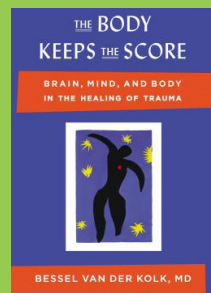
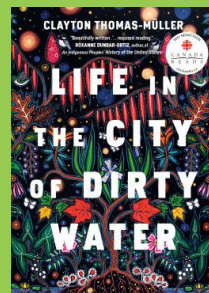
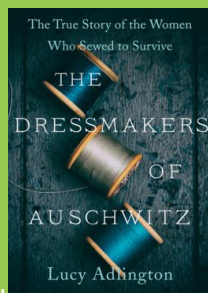
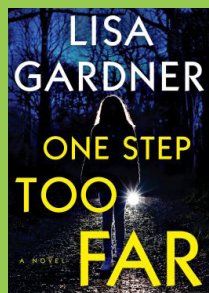
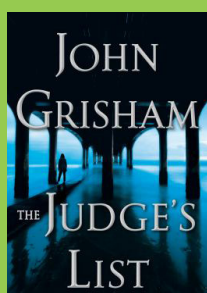
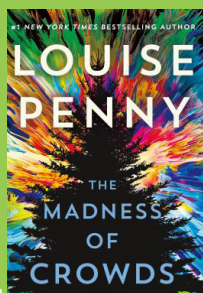
eBooks **49,042**

Audiobooks **30,044**

Magazines **10,590**

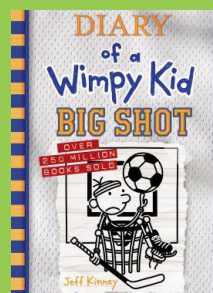
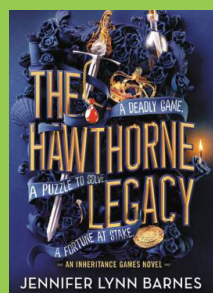
Videos **5,992**

## TOP CIRCULATED TITLES



Fiction

Non-Fiction



Young Adult

Youth

Video Game

Youth & Adult DVDs

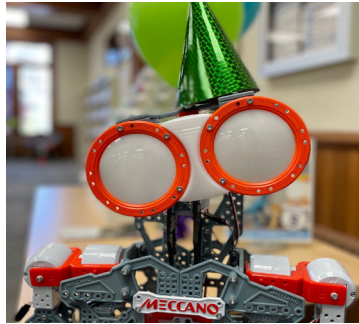
# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



## SUMMER PROGRAM SUCCESS

Summer 2022 saw a record breaking number of registrants in the TD Summer Reading club - 862 youth registered!

Additionally 7,824 people participated in 278 programs over the course of the summer. Exploring Stratford was an especially popular program with visits to the airport, bus terminal, fire department, and public works department.



## MAKERSPACE CELEBRATED 5 YEARS

In October the MakerSpace celebrated 5 years of making. Thanks to a partnership with Perth Community Futures Development Corporation, the MakerSpace was open 5 days a week in 2022.

## FINE FREE

2022 was the first full year officially Fine Free. 99% of the collection now circulates without late penalties. A material recovery service was contracted.

## ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

In November a new children's service desk was installed. The desk was designed to be accessible by not only the public, but also for staff.

The washrooms on the children's floor were also completely renovated. The two restrooms were turned into 4 individual gender-neutral stalls, one of which is barrier-free accessible.

"The library has been a lifeline"

## NEW CARPET

In January, the carpet on the children's floor was replaced and in November, the library closed for a week to upgrade the adult floor carpet. Both were large undertakings by staff as they moved over 75,000 items.



## FANTASTIC BEASTS AND THE STRATFORD EXPEDITION

In April, family-friendly challenges aligned with the Fantastic Beasts movie, were set at various businesses and locations in Stratford's downtown. Youth were invited to participate and win great prizes.

**Libraries are important community hubs. Please support yours!**  
[splibrary.ca/donate](https://splibrary.ca/donate)

**splibrary.ca**  
19 St. Andrew St, Stratford  
519-271-0220 | [askspl@splibrary.ca](mailto:askspl@splibrary.ca)