



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD YEAR IN REVIEW

On behalf of your Blue Mountains Public Library Board, let us begin by saying these are very difficult times and we are happy our library, museum, and gallery have been able to pivot the service model and provide many reading materials online as well as daily workshops, story times, and tech help programs on social media.

Your BMPL is a GLAM

The BMPL is comprised of a Gallery, Library, Archive and Museum. At the time of the establishment of BMPL in 1995 and the opening of L.E. Shore in 1996, the first Board and CEO felt it was important to add The Gallery at L.E. Shore into the building. This made the organization a trail blazer and early adopter of the GLAM. For this reason, and the overall design of the L.E. Shore building, BMPL won the Library new construction awards through the Ontario Library Association in 1996. In 2016 the Board and TBM further established the organization as a GLAM when the

Craigleith Heritage Depot became a part of the BMPL with a primary focus on museum and tourism.

GLAMs are now understood to be the cultural hubs of communities across the province, regularly overseen by a single operational body, such as in the BMPL model. For information on each of the GLAM Mandates, visit [POL-SYS.2018.71 Mission & Mandates](#) on our policies page.

"Town Hall" Meetings

In Summer 2020 the BMPL Board had planned to begin rolling out our 3 Town Hall meetings across the Town. Of course with COVID-19, we have all had to rethink our physical interactions and we have opted to hold a [Facebook Live](#) meeting on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 3:00pm. This meeting will be a 2 way communication between members of the Board and CEO with the community. A brief update will occur followed by Q&A via the Facebook Live platform. We hope you will join us for that session.

Your Blue Mountains Public Library Board

2019 saw the appointment of a new library board for a four year term. Appointees come with a range of professional and business backgrounds and all believe in the important role the library, museum and gallery play as community hubs. You will find a photo and brief bio of board and staff members and volunteers on the website under [About Us — Meet the Team](#).



2018-2022 Members

Dorothy Cammaert
Jesse T. Glass, Q.C.
Laurey Gillies

Maurice Pepper (C)
Rob Potter

Odeen Probert
Joanne Vivona
Gary Zalot

2020 Committees of the Board

Vibrant Spaces & Capital Campaign
Joanne Vivona (C), Jesse Glass, Gary Zalot

Organizational Capacity, By-Laws & Governance
Laurey Gillies (C), Jesse Glass, Maurice Pepper

Communication & Strategic Planning
Odeen Probert (C), Dorothy Cammaert, Laurey Gillies

Museum Advisory Council
Chris Clark (C), Rob Potter, Kirsty Stevenson,
Rick Rzeplinski, Robert B Waind

2019 Successes

Board Communications

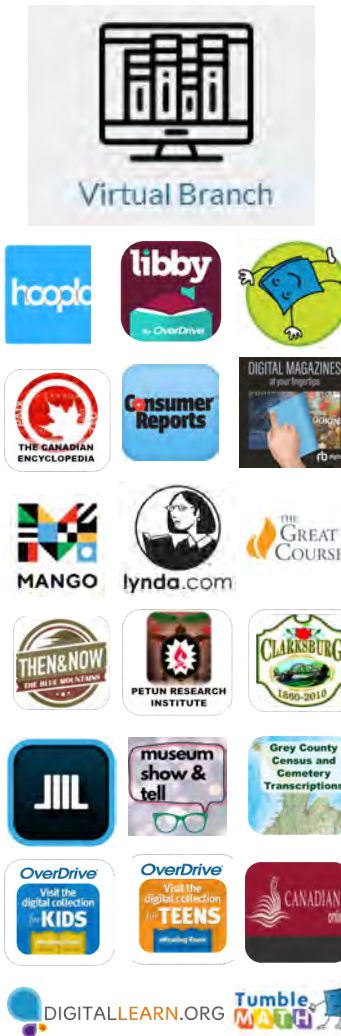
A particular focus of the Board this year has been on communications with the community and with Town Council and staff. We began publishing monthly key messages from the Board highlighting actions under each goal of the strategic plan. We developed an advocacy plan to raise awareness of BMPL as a GLAM and cultural hubs for the Town. We have worked closely with the Town on facilities needs. We also initiated planning for the LE Shore 25th anniversary celebrations and plans for a capital campaign. While COVID-19 has disrupted many of these plans for 2020, we will continue to focus on our Strategic Plan.

Museum Series Awarded

The REEL History series produced by BMPL's Craigleith Heritage Depot was awarded, not once, but twice. First was the *Award for Excellence* from the Ontario Museum Association. This was followed by the *Minister's Award for Innovation* from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries. If you have not yet seen our films, many are featured on our YouTube Channel during the building closure.

Museum Series Awarded

Featured Partnership: The CHD has received funding from Veterans Affairs Canada for the Our Military Heritage on-line resource to digitize and upload the museum military collection. Our staff and volunteers are working with the Royal Canadian Legion Beaver Valley 281 resources and accepting additional materials from our community.



Virtual Branch

As part of the 2019 website relaunch, a Virtual Branch was created. This branch is a one-stop shopping opportunity for all digital resources including audio and e-books, museum collections, magazines, language and educational resources, and more.

Accreditation of BMPL

In 2019 the Board and staff were awarded the Re-Accreditation of the BMPL for the 5th time. The Ontario Public Library Guidelines are "designed to analyze the state of development of a public library and to measure itself against a set of objective, widely accepted guidelines. They also provide public library boards, managers and staff and local governments with up-to-date public library guidelines on policies, resources and services". As of the 2019 Accreditation ceremony, 44 of the 379 library systems in Ontario were accredited. Our accreditation further demonstrates BMPL's commitment to excellence.

Youth Designation

The Town of The Blue Mountains, with assistance from The Blue Mountains Public Library and other local organizations, was thrilled to be recognized as a Youth Friendly Community from Play Works. For the first time in history, the Town is now a Designated Silver Youth Friendly Community, joining a list of other municipalities committed to serving youth aged 13 to 19.

The Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program of Play Works acknowledges communities that have invested in opportunities for youth in recreation, sports, arts, drama, volunteerism and leadership development. Youth Friendly Communities must meet several criteria that demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging youth between the ages of 13 to 19.

Action Plan

Every year the Board approves an Action Plan with governance and operational outcomes and timelines. These outcomes are designed to implement the four year Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The Action Plan 2019 included 86 outcomes of which 77 (90%) were achieved. The remaining nine were deferred to the 2020 Plan.

This year, the Board approved the Action Plan 2020 on January 16, 2020 which included 108 items. As a result of the current pandemic, on April 16, 2020 we deferred 22 of these items because of timing or inability to gather safely. Several others have been shifted from physical meetings to virtual meetings, such as the May Town Hall Meeting with the community. The updated Plan now includes 86 items to be achieved in 2020. As of the April Board Meeting 21 had been completed (24%). We report on the progress of the Plan and the individual items each month in the Board agenda. The original approved document is also available for viewing on our website on the [Policies page](#).



The BMPL Audit is scheduled to be received at the May 21st Board Meeting. Following this meeting it will be posted on the website.



Featured Service

In 2019 we expanded our core service of technology and connectivity by developing a new series Wired Wednesday. Each week staff provided Tech Help and training workshop on technology and software. Join us at 1pm each week.

Facility Updates

Leonard E. Shore Branch

The LE Shore building was scheduled to have a \$105,000 capital investment of library furniture and shelves in 2020. We will be working with Council to determine how to proceed in Fall 2020 as the financial impacts of COVID-19 are better understood. While these replacements are each required, we understand the financial constraints our community will be under this year.

We are all in this together.



2019 Statistics

Visits:

LE Shore Visits 109,616

CHD Visits 10,787

Card Holders 3,201

Collections:

Print 26,438

Digital 153,219

Archival 186 linear ft

Museum 8,037

Usage:

Print Circulation 81,887

Digital Circulation 19,864

Inter-Library Loans 1,600

Programs:

Programs Offered 798

Program Attendees 16,001

Creator Space Attendees 304

Technology Usage:

Wi-Fi Usage 12,584

Public Computer Use 15,548

Website Visits 64,064

E-followers & Social Media Contacts 31,356

Volunteers (LES/CHD) 41

Creator Space Partnership

In 2019 the Board partnered with the Blue Mountains Creator Space Digital Arts Lab. While we are unable to provide a comprehensive maker-space in our current buildings (e.g 3D printer, sewing machines, coding robots, digital labs, etc), the Creator Space partnership allows us to support arts creation for our community. While we have not been able to provide all maker options, this partnership does bring digital options to the community including workshops and alternate collections such as professional grade cameras, lights, audio mixers, editing software, and other technology which can be borrowed through the BMPL with your library card.

This partnership was so successful in 2019 that BMPL and The Creator Space have extended this partnership for another 3 years thanks to the Canadian Council for the Arts funding. Further, the one year pilot project grant was extended for another 3 years and has been expanded to include more workshops offered at both BMPL locations. Check out the Digital Art Show [Your Brain on Digital Art](#) from the BMPL website.

According to
The Ministry of Heritage, Sport,
Tourism & Culture Industries
2018 Library Statistics
and
The Federation of Ontario
Public Libraries Ranking

Your Library is:

#1 in Program Attendance
#2 in Active Cardholders
#3 in Circulation

All rankings are provincial within our
class of population served in 2018.
Statistics & rankings released Fall 2019.

Craigleith Heritage Depot

The Craigleith Heritage Depot closed October 24, 2019 due to air quality issues. In February 2020 radon remediation occurred and the final test results are expected to be received in late May or early June 2020. At that time CHD will begin the facility reopening process. For ongoing updates, please visit our [Museum FAQ](#), which is updated regularly.



Board Meetings During COVID-19

During the pandemic, the BMPL Board and Committees are meeting virtually. These meetings are open to the public. Due to increased hacking attempts during the pandemic, we have been instructed to no longer provide our link on the calendar or on social media. Instead, all interested parties can contact Dr. Saunders at LibraryCEO@TheBlueMountains.ca anytime prior to 30 minutes before a meeting, and the login credentials will be provided. Again, earlier is better.

Current Services

As we all embrace the provincial pandemic orders to Stay Home, your GLAM is here providing virtual services.

Gallery

- Virtual Exhibits-Your Brain on Digital Art
- *In the Gallery* Blog-review of virtual arts by Arts & Culture Council members

Library

- Seniors Exercise, Mon. 10am
- Wired Wednesday, Wed. 1pm
- Bedtime Story Time, Wed. 7pm
- Digital Book Club, Thur. 1pm
- Virtual Story Time, Fri 11am
- Family Craft Time, Sat 11am
- Picture & Words Contest (through May 31)
- Many Creator Space Workshops [Event Calendar]
- Educational Workshops & Webinars [Virtual Branch]
- 100,000+ eBooks & audio books [Virtual Branch]
- Homework Help [Virtual Branch]
- Mango Languages [Virtual Branch]
- TumbleBooks [Virtual Branch]
- COVID-19 Resources [Service Updates & COVID-19]

Archive

- BiblioBoard virtual museum [Virtual Branch]

Museum

- Museum Mondays, Mon. 3pm
- Cluesday Tuesday, Tue. 12pm
- Museum Show & Tell, Fri 1pm (alternating weeks)
- Museum Talk & Sketch, Fri 1pm (alternating weeks)

All events and activities are available on our [Event Calendar](#). Many of our past programs are available on our the [BMPL YouTube](#) page.

Books on hold will be available for pick up when the Provincial Order to close has been lifted. BMPL is working on plans based on Ontario reopening requirements and will release plans as these become available.

**THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Virtual Town Hall

May 22, 2020 3:00 pm

on

**Blue Mountains Public Library
Facebook Live**

Join the Library Board for a Virtual Town Hall
This will be an interactive meeting
where community questions
will be asked and answered




Need a Library Card?

Staff are working from home and are available to answer all questions received by email or phone. If you can't find your card or you think your card is expired, our staff can provide you with your card number so you may access our [Virtual Branch](#). All active library cards and materials have been extended through the pandemic and facility closures.

No card-No problem. Complete [the form on our Virtual Branch](#) and a staff person will provide a temporary card number so you may access our Virtual Branch holdings. This temporary card will continue to be extended throughout the pandemic and BMPL facility closures.