



2024

Annual Report

A Year of Collaboration

While we've always valued collaboration, this year was truly one for the books. It was a year of strengthened relationships, shared expertise, and impactful partnerships that helped us enhance library services for everyone. By joining forces across various initiatives, we were able to maximize impact, share valuable resources, and create meaningful outcomes for our community.

Key Highlights:

- Representation on the Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment (MURFA): Exploring resident needs, shared opportunities, and options for expansion of library services.
- Launch of the Town of The Blue Mountains Cultural Map, with **over 170 sites added**.
- Representation on the Youth Climate Action Fund Project Team, establishing new networks and **engaging young climate leaders across the Saugeen Ojibway Nation**.
- Launch Little Free Libraries & Food Pantry: Over **200 books distributed and more than 250 pounds of food staples and hygiene products**, including toothbrushes, diapers, and period products.
- Expanded Arts & Crafts Walk with **33% increase in participation from the previous year!**



TBM cultural mapping project will go live in July

The Blue Mountains Cultural Map will provide users information and pictures about historic and heritage landmarks throughout the town

Chris Felt, Local Journalism Initiative reporter
about 5 hours ago



Community Hubs

Provide spaces to connect, explore, and create

Providing safe, accessible, and multi-use spaces, including physical and digital spaces, remained a priority for the BMPL. We continued to support the community's learning, discovery, and development while collecting and analyzing information that is prudent to the growth and sustainability of GLAM services.

Goal 1: Foster Social Cohesion in a Time of Growth and Challenges

- Truth and Reconciliation remained a priority for the Board. In 2024, the BMPL **invested \$1800 in Indigenous programming**, welcomed **over 300 participants in National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities**, and continued to purchase Indigenous reading material directly from GoodMinds Indigenous books.
- The **Board revised 25 GLAM policies to ensure alignment with an IDEA framework**, which stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access.
- **Distributed 100+ letters from "Santa"** during the Postal Strike.
- Celebrated local author Dorris Heffron's 80th birthday, retirement, and final book launch with **over 150 community members**.



Community Hubs

Provide spaces to connect, explore, and create

Goal 2: Develop Multi-Use Spaces and Provide Outreach Services

- Participated in the Town's Multi-Use Recreation Feasibility Assessment (MURFA), an ongoing project exploring community space needs for recreation facilities, including library services.
- Staff **hosted or attended 63 outreach events**, connecting with **over 1700 people across the community**, marking a **35% increase in participant engagement**.



Goal 3: Provide Technologically-Connected Spaces

- All **15 public access computers were replaced** with new desktops
- **40+ items were added** to the Library of Things collection, including **tech toys** like iPads, an audiobook player for low vision readers, a portable scanning pen, a Wi-Fi digital microscope, an Epson FastFoto photo scanner, a Botley coding robot, and a portable speaker/karaoke machine.
- Staff **hosted 38 tech-related programs**, including drop-in tech help, with **over 900 participants**. Topics ranged from virtual augmented reality to film editing to digital art.



Community Hubs

What we heard from the community....

"The L.E. Shore Library in Thornbury has been a friendly, safe and welcoming space for me when it comes to staying up to date with technology. Having a physical place and a scheduled time to access inperson Tech Help has been such a wonderful opportunity." – Rita

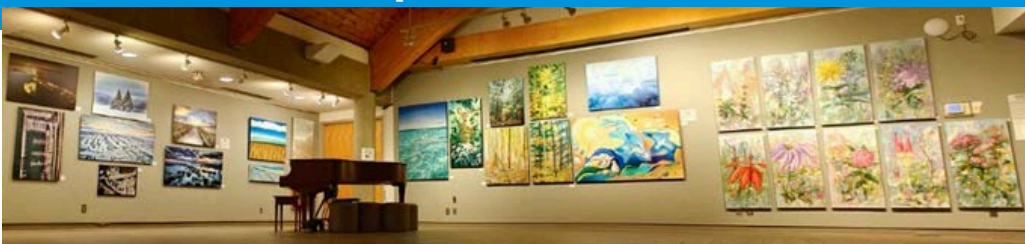


"You have a wonderful community-focused facility that obviously enriches your area and is much enjoyed." – Artist showing in The Gallery



"Incredible you made [letters from Santa] happen for families ❤️" – Ashley

"[Staff member] Ashley is a phenomenal resource that the L.E. Shore provides to the local community. She can deal with all issues whether they are minor or complex. I look forward to dealing with her in the future if required." – Tim



Empowering Services

Create a service model that reaches those who live, work, and play in the Town of The Blue Mountains

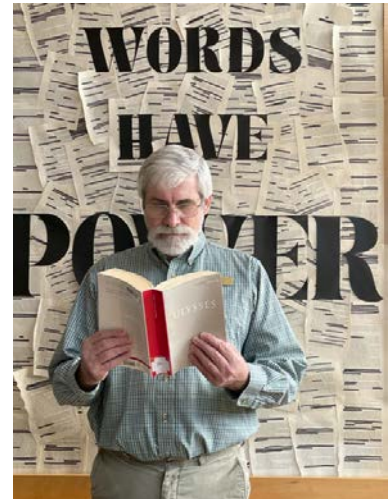
Our community hubs remained vibrant spaces for connection, creativity, and more than just reading.

Goal 1: Provide Diverse GLAM services, Collections, and Programs

- We hosted **our first REEL History Film Festival**, with 147 participants, and **over \$1000 raised for future local history films**. Premiered *Craighleith Station* at the end of the year, and the film has **over 460 views on YouTube**.
- The Gallery's February Salon Show featured **over 200 pieces of artwork from nearly 100 local artists**.
- 2024 marked the year of the solar eclipse! Staff **distributed 200 free pairs of solar eclipse glasses** to the community, and collected over 100 to recycle and send to Astronomers without Borders.
- We **increased programming for seniors by 16%** and saw a **54% increase in participation**.
- We also **saw a 37% increase in participation in teen programming**, with 2024 being the first year staff oversaw a Teen Escape Room (with overwhelming success)!

Goal 2: Support 21st Century Literacy Through Resources, Opportunities, and Coaching

- **Created a Book Sanctuary** in celebration of 40 years of Freedom to Read Week
- The Library **launched a new blog series, "Libraries [Re]Imagined"**, educating the community about the modern library and sparking critical thinking about the role of the BMPL.
- Staff **participated in the province-wide advocacy** for protecting school library funding, with the community's support.
- We published 26 Wired Wednesdays videos, **reaching over 1560 views!**



Empowering Services

What we heard from the community....



"Dear Thornbury Library Team, Thank you for hosting that beautiful escape room for us! We had so much fun and wanted to express our gratitude for staying after hours and hosting this event." – Email sent from group of teens after March Break Escape Room

"We loooooove the library! Its welcoming staff, the art, the kid-oriented activities, the amazing collection!" – Nicolle

"What an amazing tribute to the Station. Well done. Ken and Suyrea Knapman are smiling right now knowing their legacy lives on. Thank you to all of you that made this possible. Amazing to watch...fabulous work!!" – YouTube comment for Craigleith Station REEL History Film



Organizational Excellence

Create a service model that reaches those who live, work, and play in the Town of The Blue Mountains

The Board focused on improving the workplace by offering staff funding for career development, introducing policies to promote safety and well-being, and encouraging ongoing partnerships with local municipalities. They also ensured staff had a voice by supporting their participation in regional and provincial committees, helping them contribute to larger, community-wide efforts.

Goal 1: Retain and Recruit Personnel as an Employer of Choice

- The Board participated in the Town's Market & Pay Equity Compensation Review, where all staff salaries were moved from the 50th to the 60th percentile.
- Staff attended the Ontario Public Library Super Conference.

Goal 2: Demonstrate Stewardship through Transparency and Accountability

- The BMPL's social return on investment was completed, presented to Council, and shared with the community. The study highlighted that for every hour the BMPL is open, it generates \$390 in value. Additionally, for **every \$1 invested in Gallery, Library, Archive, and Museum services, the BMPL returns \$2.50 in value, reflecting a 250% return on investment!**

Goal 3: Increase BMPL Financial Opportunities

- Over \$30,000 in grant funding was secured to fund summer positions and a 26-week internship at the Museum for recent graduates.
- The Board funded an accessibility audit of the L.E. Shore Memorial Library, strengthening future grant applications for capital improvements.



Organizational Excellence

What we heard from the community....

"We love the Library and everyone working there. Always welcoming and supportive" – Jennifer

"You guys need t-shirts that read "Librarians Rock " on it as I truly believe you so epically important in our community." – Instagram message after Reader's Advisory

"I just joined your Library and I am so pleased to be receiving your newsletter. I am impressed with all the activities." – Registrant for upcoming event

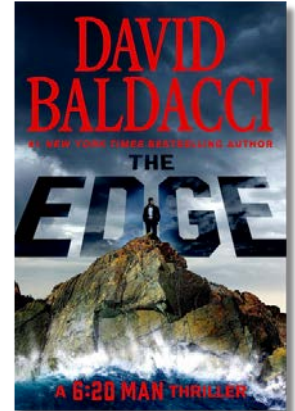
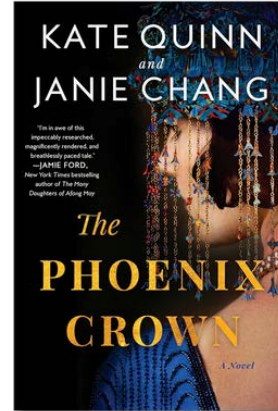
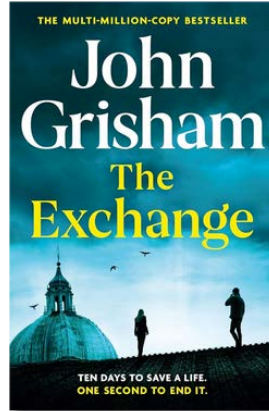
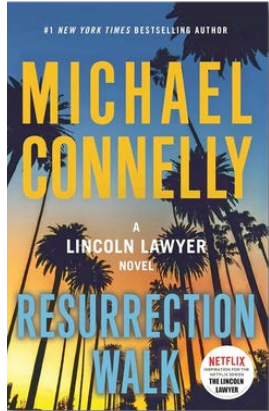
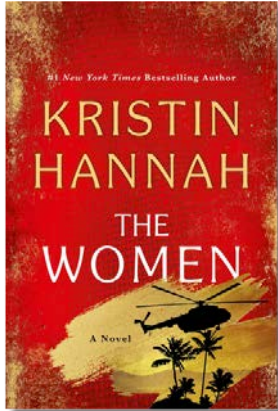
"Such a beautiful space, the staff are amazing and all the offerings for the community are awesome!" – Kassandra



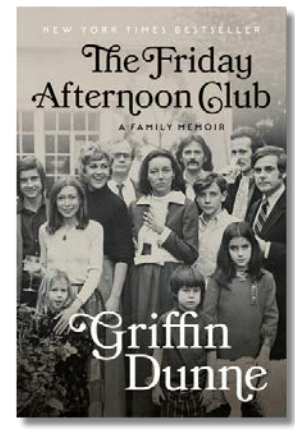
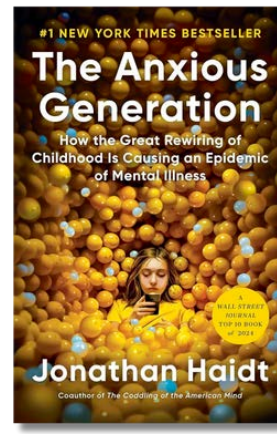
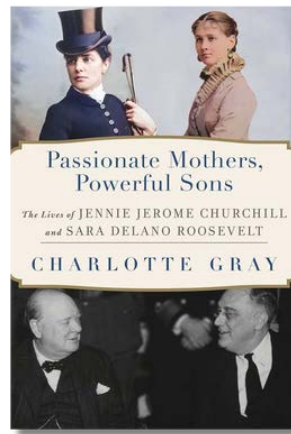
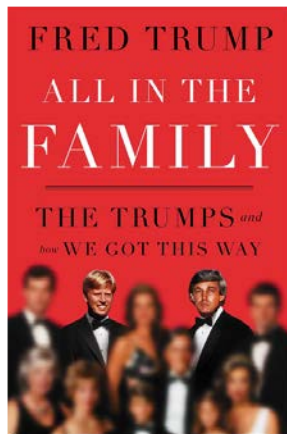
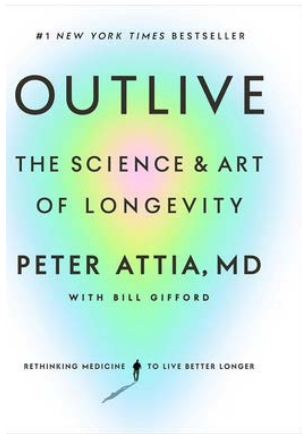
Top 5 in TBM

Our top 5 circulating items in 2024, in various formats

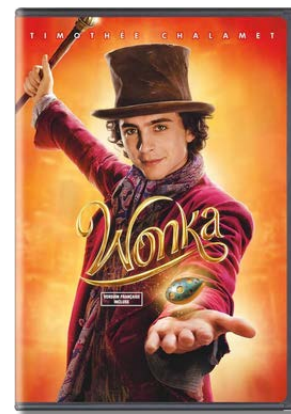
Top 5 Fiction Books



Top 5 Non Fiction Books



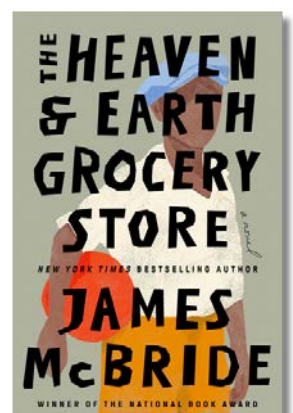
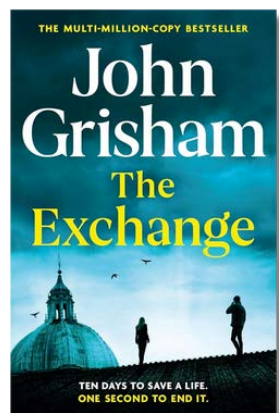
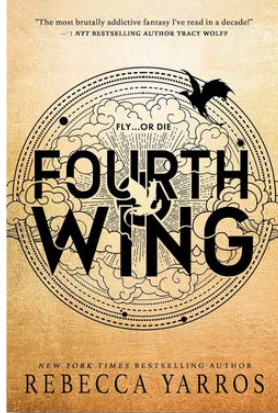
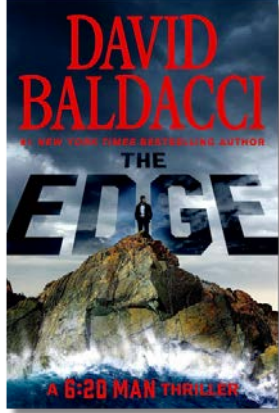
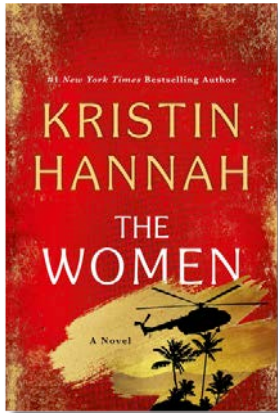
Top 5 DVDs



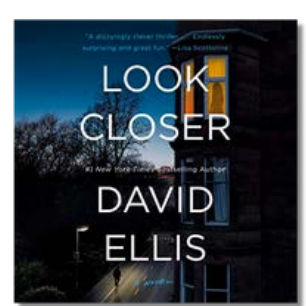
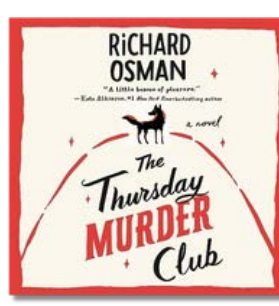
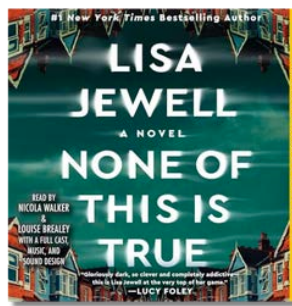
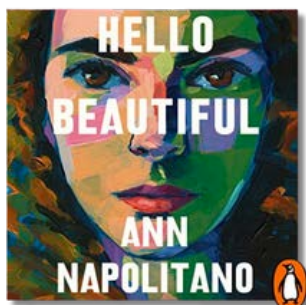
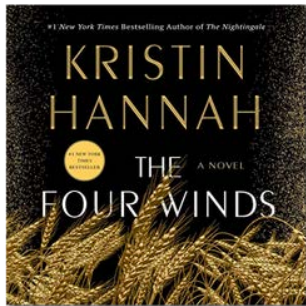
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Our top 5 circulating items in 2024, in various formats

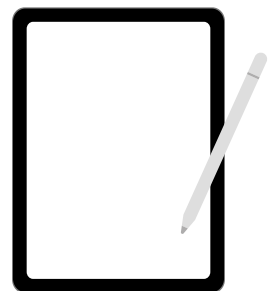
Top 5 eBooks



Top 5 eAudiobooks



Top 5 Library of Things



BMPL by the Numbers



515 New
Memberships Created



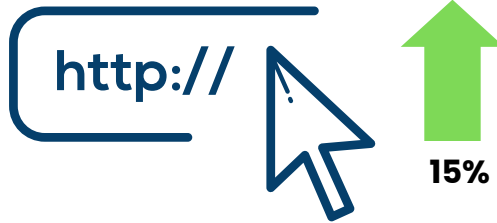
3500+
Questions
Answered



97,900+
In Person Visits



98,400+
Items Borrowed



53,500+
Website Visits



3762 Social
Media Followers



690
Programs for All Ages



15,700+
Participants at
Programs & Events



\$16,600+
Donations Received