

# 2023

# YEAR IN REVIEW

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ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS  
*our story told under our  
strategic pillars*





# COMMUNITY HUBS

PROVIDE SPACES TO CONNECT, EXPLORE, AND CREATE

In 2023, rain, snow, or shine, BMPL continued to offer programs for all ages, from photography, pottery, and pollinator habitats, to film and animation, and storytime at Georgian Peaks Ski Club.

We remained committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, by implementing an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) policy, investing in programming and unique opportunities for staff to strive for more respectful, connected, and inclusive community spaces. The community participated in Black History Month Trivia Game Night, our International Women's Day campaign, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and Indigenous-led Truth & Reconciliation events.



Our community hubs provided spaces for much more than reading. We saw:

- **2,200+ Museum visits**
- **30,000+ visitors to The Gallery at L.E. Shore**
- **500+ participated in outreach initiatives**
- **3,300+ participated in tech-focused programs**



Our Wired Wednesdays have built-in popularity. When asked for feedback, several individuals provided detailed impact stories related to how our staff have been a cornerstone in building their confidence in using technology.

“ Ashley has saved me from hours of frustration and made me feel more confident and relaxed to ask any question that I may have about technology. ”  
– Rita



“ I will continue to tell all my senior friends who may be technology challenged that they must make an appointment at the Library. ”  
– Wayne

# EMPOWERING SERVICES

CREATE A SERVICE MODEL THAT REACHES THOSE WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY IN THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

In 2023, BMPL's Library of Things collection circulated over 2,000 times, and 35 new items were added, including virtual reality equipment, gaming items, puzzles, and a Kidizoom Camera.

Our Museum added 243 artifacts and 5 ft of records to its collection and launched 37 exhibits. Our local history film, *Blue Clay*, won the 2023 Telly Award, the world's largest honour for video and television across all screens. The film explores the unique shapes, colours, places, and faces of Blue Mountains pottery. It was uploaded to BMPL's YouTube page in the late summer of 2023 and boasts 1,200+ views.

“ [Blue Clay is a] beautiful documentary! Love the local history and especially the serendipitous coming together of Jozo and Dennis ”  
- Lori





“ It was great!  
– Mareen ”



BMPL's Arts & Culture Council (ACC) hosted its first Arts Walk, a 2km experience with over 50 spots featuring artists and artisans, for the enjoyment of **750+ residents and visitors** alike. This event represented the power of connecting communities to support local talent while enjoying the beauty of the Town of The Blue Mountains. This incredible volunteer-led day highlighted the ongoing commitment of the ACC, who **contributed 265+ hours of their time** to The Gallery's art exhibitions and cultural programming in 2023.



“ Sending out my gratitude for the fabulous day in Thornbury, all the people who came out for the Arts Walk, Carla my host, Molly & Ruth, and to everyone involved at The Blue Mountains Public Library in organizing this great event. ”  
– Marilyn

# ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

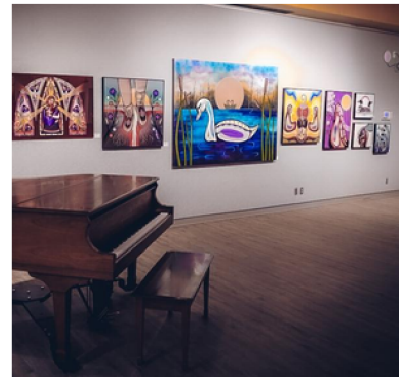
GROW BMPL AS A KEY PARTNER AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE



In January, BMPL celebrated the promotion of Alessia Farris to Museum Curator, after 7 years of dedicated service to BMPL. We also welcomed a new Library Board, who were provided with comprehensive training with Council and the Ontario Library Service. Other key highlights included:

- Receiving our accreditation (boasting a 100% score!)
- Securing \$24,000+ in employment grants, increasing employment and learning opportunities for youth and recent graduates.
- Advocating for restoring the legal name of the Museum, in addition to building, and expansion needs
- Securing \$27,000+ in profits and commissions from The Gallery.

In December, the Library said goodbye to its CEO, Dr. Sabrina Saunders, who was praised for her strong leadership and unprecedented work ethic. The Library welcomed new CEO Jennifer Murley, who is looking forward to working with staff as they continue their exciting and productive work at BMPL.





7,240+  
Cardholders



96,700+  
Items  
Circulated



690+  
Programs  
19,000+  
Participants



\$48,000+  
Grants Received  
\$8,700+  
Dollars Donated



122,720+  
In Person  
Visits to the  
GLAM



53,500+  
Website Visits  
8,300+  
Wi-Fi Uses