

# ANNUAL REPORT



2022-2023



# WELCOME

We had many reasons to celebrate in 2022-23. Meeting rooms reopened in March 2022 and we resumed in-person programming in April. It has been so gratifying to welcome you back to your library!

This past year also marked a watershed moment for Nova Scotia public libraries with the launch of Same Page (more on page 7). Described by a patron as “more dangerous than Amazon,” Same Page is an excellent example of regional libraries working together to improve our communities’ library experience.

After two long years, we were thrilled to see our spaces full of activity again.

We ran our first annual community survey in October, and we remain committed to continuing to listen, learn, and evolve in order to best meet the needs of you and your family.

Thank you for reading this report and engaging with your library. You are the reason we are here.

See you at the library!

Norval Mitchell, Board Chair  
Tiffany Bartlett, Executive Director and Chief Librarian

# OUR VISION

We are the heart of a vibrant community. We empower. We enrich. We inspire.



“

As we seek to attract skilled professionals, including much needed doctors, to our community, the Truro Colchester Partnership frequently takes these folks around to show them the amazing attractions, activities, and services that we have to offer. The Colchester-East Hants Public Library is always a feature attraction, and it has an impact. It is an important example of our commitment to literacy, education, and culture. And it is an historical and architectural icon in our community.

J. David Phillips, Chief Executive Officer  
Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity

”

## STAFF SERVICE MILESTONES

We celebrated service milestones for these valued team members in 2022:

- Joseph Humphrey, 5 years
- Amy West, 10 years





Truro Library Staff

# 2022-2023 LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

## Province of Nova Scotia

Ruby McDorman (until November 2022)

Nathan Little

## Colchester

Councillor Karen MacKenzie

Councillor Victoria Lomond

## East Hants

Councillor Norval Mitchell (Chair)

Deputy Warden Michael Perry (2nd Vice Chair)

## Stewiacke

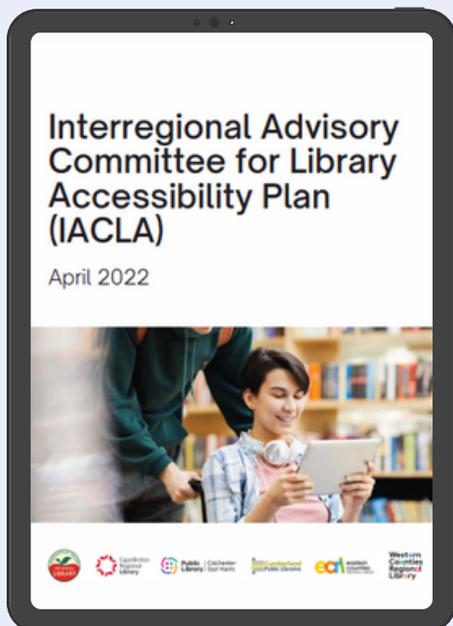
Deputy Mayor Roseanne Chapman (1st Vice Chair)

Councillor Mary Commo (until December 2022)

## Truro

Councillor Alison Graham (Treasurer)

Donna MacGillivray



## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

In April, the CEHPL Board of Directors adopted a multi-year accessibility plan that was developed by the Interregional Advisory Committee for Library Accessibility (IACLA). This plan reflects our ongoing commitment to be responsive to the needs of people with various abilities. The plan identifies barriers and actions covering five areas of focus: Collections, Employment, Information and Communication, Programs and Services, and the Built Environment. Read more about it at [LoveMyLibrary.ca/Accessibility](https://LoveMyLibrary.ca/Accessibility)

# OUR REGION BY THE NUMBERS

**203,141**  
in-person  
visits.



**3,446**  
new  
library  
cards  
issued.



  
**184,933**  
online visits.

**196,580**  
COVID-19  
rapid tests  
given out.



  
**11,120**  
questions  
answered.

**348,576**  
items  
circulated.\*



**1,402**  
in-person  
programs with  
**13,818**  
in attendance.

**18,557**  
active  
registered  
users.



  
**82,846**  
wireless  
connections.

\*includes digital and physical items.

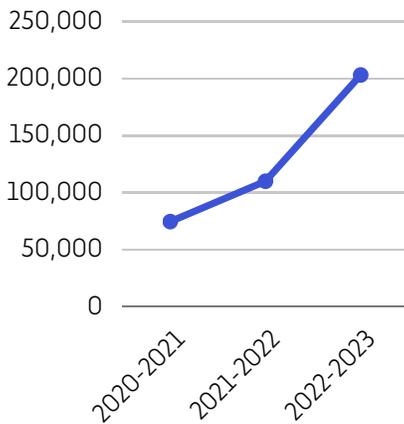
# YEAR OVER YEAR

**75%**  
increase in  
physical  
checkouts\*

**60%**   
increase in  
WiFi  
connections.\*

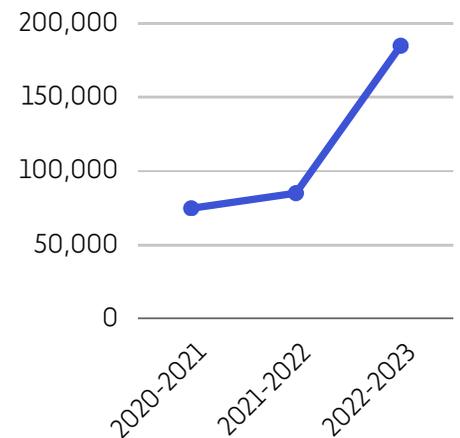
 new  
membership  
increased by\*  
**44%**

## In-Person Visits



Library visits  
increased by\*  
**99%**

## Virtual Visits



**hoopla**  
usage up by\*  
**47%**

**OverDrive**  
usage up by\*  
**39%**

  
**45%**  
increase in  
Borrow by Mail.\*

\*compared to the previous year (2021-22).

# Same Page.

One Card

One Catalogue

One Million Things to Discover

Launched in April, the Same Page library card provides residents of Nova Scotia with easy access to 1,000,000 items held at over 60 public library branches. That's 10x the number of items our patrons had access to before! Plus major upgrades to our catalogue, making it bigger, better and easier to use! Same Page is a partnership of eight regional libraries in Nova Scotia.

Read more about it at [SamePageNS.ca](http://SamePageNS.ca)

## Wow! You love Same Page!



Compared to pre-pandemic (2019-20), we saw a 32% increase in physical items checked out (over 100,000 more!)

## Text Message Alerts



You can now sign up for text notifications that will tell you when your holds are ready for pick-up!

## SEE YOURSELF IN STORIES



The Same Page TD Diversity Collection launched on June 27th, for Canadian Multiculturalism Day. Encouraging people to celebrate the rich diversity in our communities, this collection features hundreds of works by authors from a diverse range of cultures and contexts writing in nearly every genre imaginable.

Browse the collection here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8pzewwb>

# TD DIVERSITY COLLECTION

# ACCESSIBILITY

Many of the challenges facing our community today disproportionately affect vulnerable individuals. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility are core values of your library.



## Public Policy Development

We updated a total of 12 public policies governing library spaces, programs and collections. Each one has taken accessibility into consideration. Updated policies have been translated into plain language and published in a machine-readable format on our website.

## Social Equity Lens

By developing and implementing Social Equity Lens Guidelines, we are challenging ourselves to critically analyze our own beliefs and biases and their impacts on decisions or suggestions. The goal of the Social Equity Lens framework is to create inclusion, increase diversity, reduce barriers, and engage stakeholders from diverse groups.



## Library Delivery Service

We launched a Library Delivery Service in January! This new service allows group settings like nursing homes and other care homes in Colchester and East Hants to get free deliveries of items from the Library.

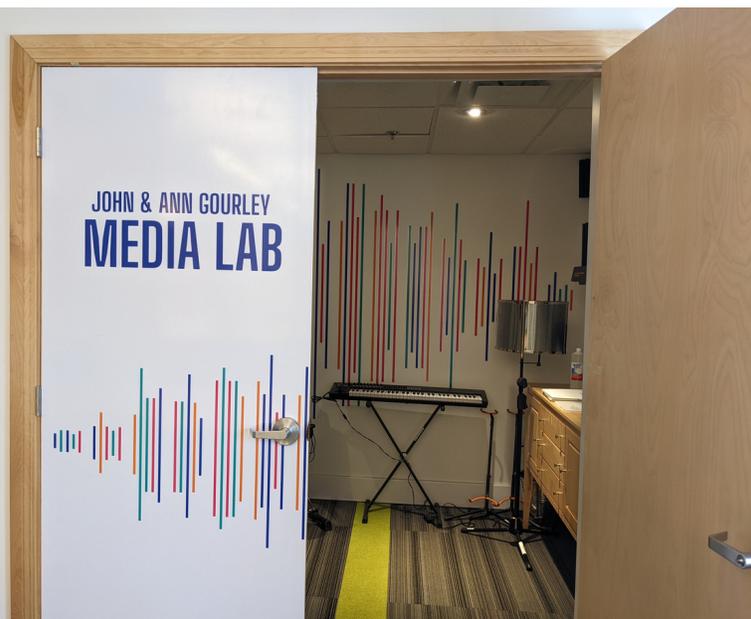
# NEW ADDITIONS

We are always looking for new ways to serve our communities.

Here are some of the things we added this year!

## Expanded Access: Media and Maker Labs

We launched a new certification training program for the Truro Library's Media and Maker labs that allows certified community members to book the labs and equipment for independent use.



You asked us for better, expanded access to newspapers and magazines. In March we introduced PressReader, a digital platform that provides unlimited access to over 7,000 newspaper and magazine publications from around the world!

## Little Free Pantry in Stewiacke

The pantry is full of donated food and hygiene items for people to take what they need.



## Mobile Hotspots

Same Page libraries partnered with @NS Community Technology to launch a pilot program lending mobile hotspots! A mobile hotspot is a stand-alone device that lets users connect to the internet by acting as a localized Wi-Fi network.

# Dee Dee Austin's 'Buried Truth'

On October 3rd, 2022, Dee Dee Austin, a 16-year-old Indigenous singer, filmed a music video using the Truro Library as the backdrop. Her song 'Buried Truth' is about the legacy of the Residential Schools and in the video, the Library represents one of the large, imposing institutions she's singing about.

Watch the music video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xx-XHeTuQM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xx-XHeTuQM)

## Every Child Matters: Finding a Way Forward



We were honoured to host the 'Every Child Matters: Finding a Way Forward' project rug hooking art exhibit at our Truro Library. The 'Every Child Matters: Finding a Way Forward' project was created by the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia in collaboration with Mi'kmaq artists Tara Francis, Gerald Gloade, Phyllis Grant, Lorne Julien, and Noella Moore. The exhibit honours the indigenous children who suffered and died in residential schools and provides awareness for Indian Residential School survivors, their families, and those missing children who never returned home.

# TD Summer Reading Club

979

kids took part in  
our 2022 TD  
Summer Reading  
Club.

1,945

activities completed!



239,600

minutes read!

# March Break

44 programs offered.

1,527 participants attended.



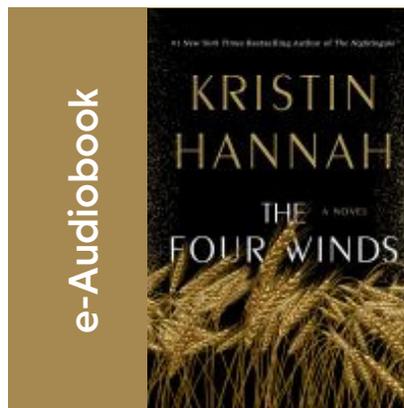
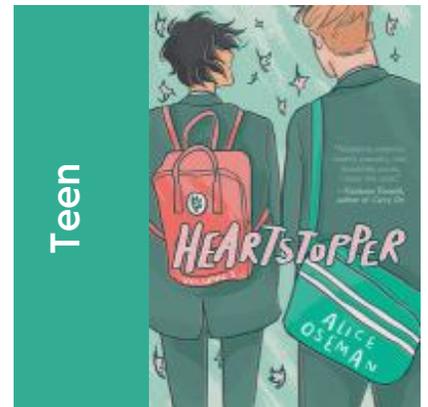
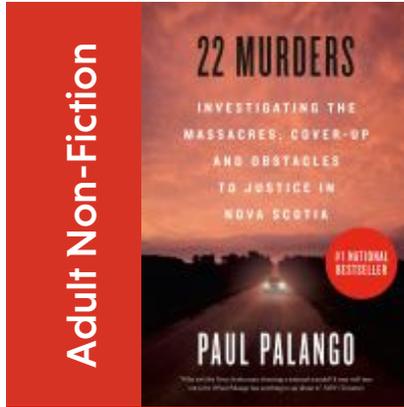
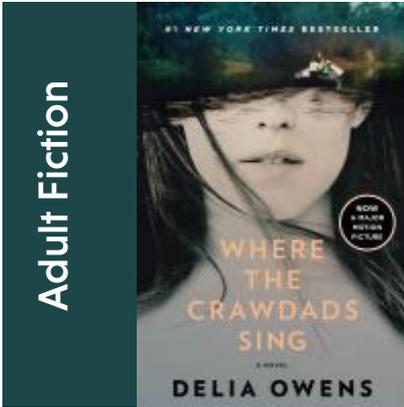
# FINANCIALS

This represents CEHPL's Statement of Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2023.  
The Library's finances were audited by Baker Tilly NS. A full copy of the financial statement is available upon request.

Revenues	Operating Fund	Reserve Fund	Capital Asset Fund	Stanfield Fund	2023	2022
Province of Nova Scotia	1,490,100	-	-	-	1,490,100	1,490,100
Province Grants	102,670	-	-	-	102,670	69,994
Federal Funding	6,037	-	-	-	6,037	6,423
Municipality of the County of Colchester	275,700	-	-	-	275,700	275,700
Municipality of East Hants	169,300	-	-	-	169,300	169,300
Town of Truro	90,200	-	-	-	90,200	90,200
Town of Stewiacke	10,500	-	-	-	10,500	10,500
Hall and Office Rentals	6,283	-	-	-	6,283	3,390
Designated Donations	4,500	-	-	-	4,500	2,955
Photocopy and Print Fees	9,454	-	-	-	9,454	5,790
Interest	18,210	-	-	6,426	24,636	1,918
Fees & Non-Designated Donations	9,797	-	-	-	9,797	6,718
Truro Building Cleaning	60,721	-	-	-	60,721	60,721
Stanfield Bequest	-	-	-	126,272	126,272	111,299
Reserve Fund Revenue	-	56,100	-	-	56,100	106,376
-	<b>2,253,472</b>	<b>56,100</b>	-	<b>132,698</b>	<b>2,442,270</b>	<b>2,411,384</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
Salaries and Employee Benefits (Schedule)	1,569,240	-	-	64,202	1,633,442	1,558,225
General Operating (Schedule)	228,499	-	-	29,557	258,056	264,482
Building (Schedule)	177,111	-	-	22,500	199,611	174,513
Reserve Expenses	-	131,863	-	-	131,863	85,835
-	<b>1,974,850</b>	<b>131,863</b>	-	<b>116,259</b>	<b>2,222,972</b>	<b>2,083,055</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses Before Amortization	278,624	(75,763)	-	16,439	219,298	328,329
Amortization	178,283	-	-	-	178,283	187,689
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	100,341	(75,763)	-	16,439	41,017	140,640

# MOST POPULAR

Here are this year's most popular titles in various categories.





# A heartfelt thank you to our amazing donors and Library community!

You have once again warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits. Your donations, kind words, and encouragement mean so much.



 [love my library.ca](https://www.love-my-library.ca)

