

2022-2023 Annual Report

**BOUNDLESS
INSPIRATION**





Greetings from the Library Board Chair

It is an exciting time to take on the Board Chair role for Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL). The opening of the new library branch in Chéticamp this past February was a historic event. This service expansion was only possible through the collective work of the Library Board, ECRL staff, and the Municipality of the County of Inverness. I commend everyone involved for their efforts and commitment to enhancing rural public library services.

The last time ECRL opened a new library was in 2012 with the creation of the St. Peter's Public Library. The iconic Canadian author Farley Mowat spoke at the grand opening celebration about the beautiful madness of establishing a new library during a climate of economic restraint. Flash forward ten years, and discussions began in 2022 of moving the St. Peter's Library into a new community hub location that the Village is developing. I look forward to seeing how this project progresses.

New locations and services help showcase one of ECRL's greatest strengths: our staff and how they help people get books and other materials they want to enjoy. For example, implementing the new Same Page system, a partnership of eight regional libraries across Nova Scotia was challenging for staff. It allows library users to request materials from across the province using their ECRL card, and this means that library users have more items to borrow and that our catalogue offers more and is easier to use. Same Page led to a dramatic increase in shipping materials between

library regions and ECRL locations. Staff rose to the challenge, and their success shows from the 94.5% increase in physical circulation for 2022-2023. I congratulate them on their tremendous work serving their communities.

ECRL has led by increasing branch access by creating new library locations and implementing the only Open Library in Atlantic Canada. The Open Library at the Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library allows users to open the library door with their cards during extended hours when staff are absent. Use of the Open Library has increased 172% in 2022-2023. It would be fantastic if ECRL could offer this technology at other locations.

ECRL has been building on its strengths over the past few years and is well-positioned for a strategic planning process in 2023-2024. We need to engage the community and our Municipal partners to see how ECRL can better meet the needs of our extensive service area. Staff are working hard on many projects, and I look forward to what 2023-2024 will bring.

Mr. Clair Rankin

2022-2023 Library Board

Board Appointee

Ms. Shirley McNamara,
Chair (April 2022 -Dec 2022)

Municipality of the County of Inverness

Councillor Claude Poirier,
Treasurer (January 2023-current)

Municipality of the County of Richmond

Mr. Clair Rankin, *Vice-Chair (April-Dec 2022)*
Chair (January 2023-current)

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Councillor Mary Desmond

Municipality of the District of Saint Mary's

Councillor Courtney Mailman,
Vice-Chair (February 2023-current)

Town of Mulgrave

Mayor Ron Chisholm *(April 2022-October 2022)*
Councillor Debbie King *(October 2022-current)*

Town of Port Hawkesbury

Councillor Blaine MacQuarrie



Greetings from the Chief Executive Officer

This year, ECRL opened a new public library in Chéticamp. I want to thank the many staff who managed their regular duties and the extra work of bringing a new library into existence. Your hard work shows and we can all be proud of this achievement.

I would also like to invite community members in Chéticamp and the surrounding area to join ECRL and enjoy the benefits of having a public library in the community. If you are already a member, I wish you nothing but joy in this new place to read. I look forward to watching how the Chéticamp Public Library will grow its services over the coming year and the many other exciting developments underway for 2023-2024.

Laura Emery

Highlights from 2022-2023



We opened a new library in Chéticamp.



Use of the Open Library increased 172%



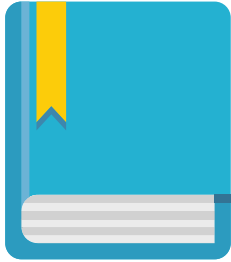
Circulation of books and other materials increased 94.5%



Overall circulation (digital and physical) increased 21%



Our Year in Numbers



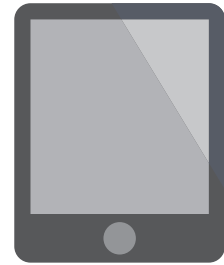
76,686

Items in Physical Collection



79,963

Physical check-outs



23,309

Digital check-outs



4,540

Active registered users



895

New users



25,513

Visits to our branches



67,218

Website visits



13,040

Open hours

29,883

WiFi connections



2,717

Public computer hours



Other Regional Statistics

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Regional Library Activity				
Active registered users **	5,488	5,192	6,393	4,540
Library visits ***	44,173	1,446	12,365	25,513
Open hours	12,804	2,033	8,557	13,040
Total Physical Circulation (ILS)	61,919	26,752	43,343	79,963
Programs	510	0	23	164
Program attendance	4,488	0	180	1,031
No. of Public Access Computers	29	11	17	-
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	15,199	473	2,988	5,434
Wireless connections	89,277	21,187	23,432	29,883
ECRL website visits	26,903	28,687	34,695	67,218
Interlibrary loan (items lent)	4,041	2,269	3,218	29,349
Interlibrary loan (items rec'd)	2,574	1,453	1,957	27,236

** Users that have used the library in the last three years

*** Based on manual gate count

Physical Collection		Membership on March 31, 2023		New Users 2022-2023	
Books	59,899	Canso	231	Canso	30
Large Print	5,510	Chéticamp	177	Chéticamp	122
Audiobooks	2,317	Guysborough	396	Guysborough	73
Sound	324	Mabou	421	Mabou	127
Microfilm	168	Margaree Forks	557	Margaree Forks	101
Video/DVD	7,928	Petit de Grat	570	Petit de Grat	81
Kits + other	540	Port Hawkesbury	1,046	Port Hawkesbury	193
		Sherbrooke	322	Sherbrooke	50
Total	76,686	St. Peter's	410	St. Peter's	79
		Other	409	Other	39
		Total	4,539	Total	895



Branch Services 2022-2023

Canso Public Library

Circulation	2,391
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	234
Information questions	417
Library visits	1,208

Chéticamp Public Library

Circulation	994
Programs	2
Program attendance	2
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	34
Information questions	4
Library visits	563

Guysborough, Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

Circulation	9,207
Programs	2
Program attendance	9
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	372
Information questions	152
Library visits	3,082

Mabou, Alexander Doyle Public Library

Circulation	6,065
Programs	12
Program attendance	54
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	16
Information questions	115
Library visits	3,078

Margaree Forks, Drs. Coady and Tompkins Memorial Public Library,

Circulation	12,334
Programs	14
Program attendance	228
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	1,110
Information questions	343
Library visits	3,628

Petit de Grat Public Library

Circulation	19,789
Programs	41
Program attendance	199
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	1,810
Information questions	400
Library visits	4,543

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

Circulation	9,405
Programs	77
Program attendance	467
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	856
Information questions	653
Library visits	5,108

Sherbrooke Public Library

Circulation	3,415
Programs	15
Program attendance	65
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	224
Information questions	144
Library visits	1,275

St. Peter's Public Library

Circulation	6,902
Holds placed	4,545
Programs	1
Program attendance	5
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	778
Information questions	104
Library visits	3,028

Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre Kiosk

Circulation	599
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Borrow by Mail

Circulation	4,913
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Financial Highlights 2022-2023

Revenues

Provincial	\$1,021,028
Municipal	\$297,300
Other sources	\$16,853
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	\$1,335,181

Expenses

Salaries and wages - general	\$885,629
Headquarter accommodations	\$69,045
Library projects, grants and programming	\$34,203
Amortization	\$202,872
Other	\$123,466
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	\$1,315,215

Excess of revenues over expenses	\$19,966
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Note: Complete audited financial statements are available upon request at admin@ecrl.ca

Thank you to community members and organizations across the Counties of Inverness, Richmond and Guysborough for their generous donations and support!



Locations and Contact Information

Regional Office

390 Murray Street
Mulgrave
Tel: 902-747-2597
Fax: 902-747-2500
info@ecrl.ca
membership@ecrl.ca

Canso Public Library

169 Main Street
Canso
Tel: 902-366-2955
canso@ecrl.ca

Chéticamp Public Library

15359 Cabot Trail
Chéticamp
Tel: 902-224-3728
cheticamp@ecrl.ca

Guysborough – Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

27 Pleasant Street
Guysborough
Tel: 902-533-3586
guysborough@ecrl.ca

Mabou – Alexander Doyle Public Library

11156 Route 19
(inside Dalbrae Academy)
Mabou
Tel: 902-945-2257
mabou@ecrl.ca

Margaree Forks – Coady & Tompkins Memorial Public Library

7972 Cabot Trail
Margaree Forks
Tel/Fax: 902-248-2821
margaree@ecrl.ca

Petit de Grat Public Library

3435 Highway 206
(inside La Picasse)
Petit de Grat
Tel: 902-226-3534
petitdegrat@ecrl.ca

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

304 Pitt Street (inside SAERC)
Port Hawkesbury
Tel: 902-625-2729
porthawkesbury@ecrl.ca

Sherbrooke Public Library

11 Main Street
Sherbrooke
Tel: 902-522-2180
Fax: 902-522-2580
sherbrooke@ecrl.ca

St. Peter's Public Library

10036 Grenville St., Unit C
St. Peter's
Tel/Fax: 902-535-2465
stpeters@ecrl.ca

Want to know what is happening at your library?

Follow us on social media:

 /ECRLibrary

 /ecrlibrary

Or visit our website

 www.ecrl.ca

Mailing Address For All Locations:

c/o ECRL Regional Office
PO Bag 2500
Mulgrave, NS
B0E 2G0

