



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



**BOUNDLESS
INSPIRATION**



**eastern
counties**
REGIONAL LIBRARY



Greetings from the Library Board Chair

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) expanded its role in supporting community well-being this year. Special funding from the province allows ECRL to give away menstrual products, diapers, and incontinence pads to help with the increasing cost of living. We've been distributing COVID-19 test kits for a few years, so these new offerings easily fit into our library locations. Items are on display, and people can drop by and pick up what they or their family and friends need.

My hope is this trend of special project funding will continue. It is a tremendous example of how public libraries can do so much more to benefit the community if they have the funding. I commend the provincial government for believing in public libraries to do this vital work sensitively.

Internet access continues to be a concern for many Nova Scotians. ECRL works to help bridge the digital divide by leaving our free Wi-Fi on twenty-four-seven at all locations, our public access computers, our accessible computer workstations, and staff assistance with basic technology questions. One significant achievement I'm proud to celebrate is the installation of a Wi-Fi extension project completed this year at the Sherbrooke Public Library. Now, the main street in Sherbrooke is a free Wi-Fi zone, fostering a sense of connection and inclusion for residents and visitors. This project is the first to result from the strengthened partnership between ECRL and the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's.

Finally, I want to share more good news. ECRL increased its in-person programming opportunities by one hundred percent, providing more opportunities for community members to engage and learn. Almost two thousand people attended these events, showing the growing interest in our programs. We also offered three hundred and three on-demand programs, which over nineteen hundred people took advantage of, demonstrating the value of flexible learning options. Increasing partnerships and better supporting local library staff helped to make these changes happen. Clearly, working together with the community and our Municipal partners is the way forward.

Thank you,

Mr. Clair Rankin

Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

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Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer

Although the Library's mission keeps evolving to meet community needs, books and reading are still wildly popular. ECRL saw a 16% increase in total circulation for 2023-2024, which includes both physical and digital materials. This is mainly due to the ease of using Same Page and the incredible opportunity it provides to get what you want quickly. I encourage everyone to browse our online catalogue and discover what you're looking for.

I also want to thank all staff for their diligent work in finding and preparing those books and other materials for users. Your role is crucial to the Library's success, and we appreciate your hard work. I send a special shout-out to our delivery driver, Joey Ranson, who had to fit more books in the van and has driven thousands of materials across thousands of kilometres this past year. You are all amazing! Keep up the fantastic work!!

Laura Emery

2023/24 Partnerships

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



The Discovery Centre session at the Port Hawkesbury Public Library



Skills NS

Skills NS provided ECRL with unique self-directed skill development kits to distribute across the region this year to promote skilled trades. Free carpentry kits and EV vehicle kits were available at all locations and moved quickly. Skills NS also offered a drop-in session to make fairy doors at our Port Hawkesbury location in October.

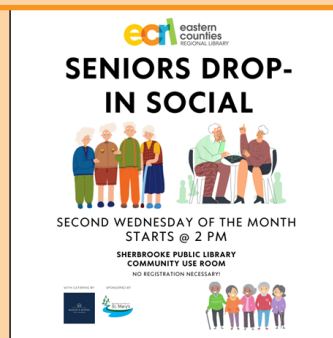


Library Day

A Literacy Day event was held for 18 day-camp participants (and new library card holders!) on August 15. Children and day camp leaders were welcomed to a library scavenger hunt to interact with and learn more about the library and its services.

St. Mary's Rec

St. Mary's Recreation has been a tremendous partner to ECRL this year, collaborating to offer several opportunities for the community to engage with the library.



Drop-in Seniors Socials

Drop-in seniors' socials were offered monthly in the Sherbrooke Community Use Room, with treats catered by Beanie's Bistro. This offered the opportunity to work with community leaders and members to provide a social opportunity for seniors in the community.

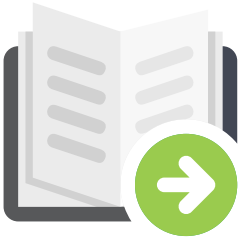


Discovery Centre

The Discovery Centre offered its "Rethink, Repair, Re-imagine" drop-in session at the Port Hawkesbury Public Library on Tuesday, August 15. An unprecedented 126 children and caregivers participated in the hour-long session designed to engage with a variety of materials to discover ways to extend the life of many household objects.



Our Year in Numbers



137,101
Total Circulation



39,658
Total Digital Circulation



2,408
Total Accessible Circulation



4,584
Active Registered Users



871
New Users



14,227
Open Hours



31,012
Branch Visits

328
Programs Offered



1,961
Program Attendance



3,064
PAC Use



Other Regional Statistics

Regional Activity	2022/23	2023/24
Active registered users **	4,540	4,584
Library visits ***	25,513	31,012
Open hours	13,041	14,227
Total Circulation	79,963	137,101
Programs Offered	164	328
Program Attendance	1,031	1,961
Passive Programs Offered	5	303
Passive Program Usage	118	1,967
# of Public Access Computers	23	22
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	6,828	6,128
InterLibrary Loans (Loaned)	29,288	37,371
InterLibrary Loans (Borrowed)	27,236	34,288

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

*** Based on manual gate count

Physical Collection	
Books	60,952
Large Print	5,533
Audiobooks	2,277
Sound	248
Microfilm	168
Video/DVD	8,014
Kits + other	525
Total	77,717

Membership <small>on March 31, 2024</small>	
Canso	221
Chéticamp	267
Guysborough	351
Mabou	468
Margaree Forks	534
Petit de Grat	549
Port Hawkesbury	1,037
Sherbrooke	351
St. Peter's	430
Other	310
Total	4,518

New Users 2023-2024	
Canso	41
Chéticamp	98
Guysborough	57
Mabou	101
Margaree Forks	67
Petit de Grat	85
Port Hawkesbury	219
Sherbrooke	89
St. Peter's	88
Other	26
Total	871



Public Services 2023-2024

Canso Public Library

Circulation	2665
Holds Placed	841
Programs	4
Program attendance	14
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	456
Information questions	315

Chéticamp Public Library

Circulation	7939
Holds Placed	1017
Programs	49
Program attendance	106
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	470
Information questions	45

Guysborough, Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

Circulation	11131
Holds Placed	3723
Programs	20
Program attendance	59
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	332
Information questions	127

Mabou, Alexander Doyle Public Library

Circulation	7743
Holds Placed	3093
Programs	23
Program attendance	142
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	66
Information questions	40

Margaree Forks, Drs. Coady & Tompkins Memorial Public Library

Circulation	5746
Holds Placed	3496
Programs	20
Program attendance	175
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	690
Information questions	200

Petit de Grat Public Library

Circulation	21830
Holds Placed	3392
Programs	93
Program attendance	502
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	1984
Information questions	444

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

Circulation	13071
Holds Placed	4498
Programs	77
Program attendance	791
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	954
Information questions	759

Sherbrooke Public Library

Circulation	4280
Holds Placed	1433
Programs	27
Program attendance	118
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	430
Information questions	158

St. Peter's Public Library

Circulation	7286
Holds Placed	3725
Programs	1
Program attendance	6
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	746
Information questions	73

Mulgrave Library (Curbside)

Circulation	300
Holds Placed	286

Borrow by Mail	
Circulation	5622

Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre Kiosk	
Circulation	5622



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:

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Or visit our website

 www.ecrl.ca

Mailing address for all locations:

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