

2021-2022 Annual Report

**BOUNDLESS
INSPIRATION**



Greetings from the Library Board Chair

One of the many reasons I've enjoyed being involved with the library for so many years is that it is an organization that supports lifelong learning. I strongly believe that you are never too old to learn and that having a library card provides so many opportunities to benefit from knowledge, stories, and our shared human experience. I have also been fortunate that being on the Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) Board has provided me with many opportunities to learn and to grow.

This year I have learned about accessible websites as ECRL was able to, with support from the Department of Communities, Culture, Heritage, and Tourism's Library Development Fund, develop and launch a new website. This website is a much more effective showcase and access point for the library's services, and it is far more accessible for people with visual or print disabilities. It better reflects, with its fresh and inviting look, the quality of services provided by staff at ECRL branches.

I have also had the privilege of seeing how new technology, such as the Library Kiosk, installed at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre can increase community access to public library services. Growth and change are all part of learning. Certainly, I never would have imagined library books being available through a vending machine when I first began serving on the Board with ECRL. Growth, change, and learning are not without challenges.

I have always been proud to work with library staff but even more so this year when I witnessed how staff have served the community by continuing to distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits at ECRL locations. As well, staff are preparing for the next challenge, the implementation of a new online catalogue system called Same Page which will dramatically improve library services for many Nova Scotians who reside outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Finally, ECRL staff are particularly busy as they are also planning for the opening of a new library location in Chéticamp. All these activities are happening in addition to normal library operations without additional staff and I commend the entire ECRL team for their efforts in these public service advancements.

One thing that my time with ECRL has always shown to be true, is that the people who work at libraries are exceptional. They care and they are always trying harder for the community. As my time with ECRL is drawing to a close, I feel most proud to have played a role in supporting the people who are doing such important work on behalf of the community.

Ms. Shirley McNamara

2021-2022 Library Board

Board Appointee

Ms. Shirley McNamara, *Chair*
Personnel Committee

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Councillor Alfred Poirer

Municipality of the County of Richmond
Mr. Clair Rankin, *Vice-Chair*

Municipality of the District of Guysborough
Councillor Mary Desmond

Municipality of the District of Saint Mary's
Councillor Courtney Mailman

Town of Mulgrave
Cllr. Crystal Durling, *Treasurer*

Town of Port Hawkesbury
Councillor Blaine MacQuarrie

Province of Nova Scotia
Mr. Joe Walsh



Greetings from the Chief Executive Officer

It has been another incredible year, busy with projects that will make a global impact elevating ECRL's service such as our new website and the new Library Kiosk in Port Hawkesbury. As well, the role of libraries continues to evolve as ECRL helps the communities we serve by distributing COVID-19 rapid test kits and collecting oximeters for public health. I want to commend ECRL staff for the vital work they have done in helping with the recovery from the pandemic while still doing their best to help people find the books they want to read. It is never boring to work at the library.

Laura Emery

Highlights from 2021-2022



We launched a new website



We rebranded



We now have a Library Kiosk at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre



We distributed Covid-19 Rapid Test Kits to our communities



We're preparing for the implementation of a new catalogue system



We're preparing to open a new location in Cheticamp



Our Year in Numbers



79,232

Items in Physical Collection



43,343

Physical check-outs



44,010

Digital check-outs



6,393

Active registered users



562

New users



8,557

Visits to our branches



34,695

Website visits



8,557

Open
hours

23,432

WiFi
connections



1,494

Public computer hours



Other Regional Statistics

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

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

*** Based on manual gate count

Physical Collection		Membership on March 31, 2022		New Users 2021/22	
Books	62,745	Canso	293	Canso	29
Large Print	5,382	Guysborough	407	Guysborough	62
Audiobooks	2,336	Mabou	339	Mabou	60
Music	330	Margaree Forks	531	Margaree Forks	59
Microfilm	168	Petit de Grat	612	Petit de Grat	53
Video/DVD	7,790	Port Hawkesbury	1110	Port Hawkesbury	149
Kits + other	572	Sherbrooke	389	Sherbrooke	42
		St. Peter's	422	St. Peter's	57
		Other	565	Other	51
Total	79,323	Total	4,668	Total	562



Branch Services 2021-2022

Canso Public Library

Circulation	1,581
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	182
Information questions	332

Guysborough, Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

Circulation	3,586
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	182
Information questions	294

Mabou, Alexander Doyle Public Library

Circulation	2,101
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	0
Information questions	134

Margaree Forks Drs. Coady and Tompkins Memorial Public Library,

Circulation	5,087
Programs	5
Program attendance	76
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	646
Information questions	539

Petit de Grat Public Library

Circulation	7,901
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	572
Information questions	1,144

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

Circulation	5,139
Programs	17
Program attendance	83
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	226
Information questions	957

Sherbrooke Public Library

Circulation	2,266
Programs	1
Program attendance	21
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	267
Information questions	226

St. Peter's Public Library

Circulation	4,006
Programs	0
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	382
Information questions	196

Mabou and Port Hawkesbury branches were both closed to the public and offered curbside pickup only for a part of 2021-22. This explains the lower than usual numbers, especially when it comes to internet sessions and low circulation.



Financial Highlights

Revenues

Provincial	\$968,838
Municipal	\$231,899
Other sources	\$12,905
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	\$1,213,642

Expenses

Salaries and wages - general	\$828,622
Headquarter accommodations	\$61,628
Library projects, grants and programming	\$11,381
Amortization	\$191,376
Other	\$87,742
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	\$1,180,749

Excess of revenues over expenses	\$32,893
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Note: Complete audited financial statements are available at Library Headquarters.

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

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

