

2024-2025

Annual Report



Greetings from the Library Board Chair

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) has a lot to celebrate about accessibility this year. I commend the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's for their leadership on library accessibility with renovations they completed at the Sherbrooke Public Library. The new accessible entrance and door are wonderful.

I also want to thank the Municipality of the County of Richmond for the accessibility renovations and the general renovations to repair the hurricane damage at the Petit de Grat Public Library. The overall result is tremendous. As well as part of their Rick Hanson certification process, they hired an accessibility consultant to advise the Library about changes we needed to make to the interior of the facility to make it more accessible, which we sincerely appreciate.

I would also like to recognize the Municipality of the County of Inverness for the installation of new signage at the Bibliothèque Publique de Chéticamp Public Library. Multiple signs now

guide library users to the library doors in both official languages. Accessible library facilities are a critical foundation for accessible library services. Since ECRL does not receive funding for facilities, the role that Municipalities play in improving public library services is vital.

Another exciting development this year was the arrival of ECRL's new delivery van! It had been on order for two years and came in early December. All the Library wanted was a new delivery van for Christmas, and we got it. I want to thank the Province of Nova Scotia and the Department of Communities, Culture, Heritage and Tourism for their financial support, which enabled us to purchase this new vehicle. Renewing critical infrastructure, like a delivery vehicle, is a tremendous financial challenge for the ECRL Board.

Finally, it was terrific to see ECRL continue its community well-being work with special funding for Food Security. Food Security is having consistent, reliable access to safe, nutritious food.

With the economic turmoil in the world right now, I'm sure everyone can understand how many people face food insecurity. Supporting the work of local groups that combat food insecurity was a privilege for ECRL. As well, our library locations gave away thousands of packets of seeds to encourage people to grow their own food. The opportunity to 'grow' our services for the community in this new way is a trend that I hope very much will continue into 2025-2026.

Mr. Clair Rankin

Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

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PO Box 179
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of Inverness**
902-323-0209
catherine.gillis@invernesscounty.ca

Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer

It was a year of saying yes to new opportunities and learning.

First, I had the chance to serve on the provincial Library Funding Review Committee. This committee was tasked with advancing recommendations to the government for the next funding model supporting public libraries. It included library CEOs, board members, municipal representatives, and provincial government staff from CCTH and the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH). It was a rare opportunity for me to inject our local concerns into work that will affect the future of public library service in our service area for years to come.

The ECRL Board approved the opening of a new library location in Whycomagh in partnership with the Municipality of the County of Inverness. The operations of this new library will be funded directly by the County. It is a historic arrangement, and the development process for this project has been gratifying.

Working with various consultants, I also learned a great deal more about facility renovations and maintenance. ECRL's Regional Office is over fifty years old and in need of significant upgrades. Before ECRL can proceed

with construction, we need to be fully informed to safeguard against construction costs negatively impacting our budget for public library services.

One of the most important things I learned this year is about incontinence poverty. Many seniors, of all genders, are suffering the economic burden of a medical condition that requires them to use incontinence products. Through special one-time funding ECRL has, over the last year, offered these and other personal care items free of charge, no questions asked, at all locations. The impact of this service has been profound.

Finally, thanks to a grant from the Library Development Fund, Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) also had its first consultant lead strategic planning and community engagement process. Hearing from the staff, the community, and our municipal partners was illuminating and foundational to creating ECRL's 2025-2026 Strategic Operational Plan. I look forward to taking these experiences into 2025-2026 to achieve the projects and goals outlined in our new Strategic Operation Plan. It is never boring to work at the Library!

Laura Emery

Highlights: Accessibility @ ECRL

IACLA Accessibility Plan

Six library regions across the province worked together to complete an updated Accessibility Plan to guide library operations and services in the coming years. This integral plan will inform our committee development, engagement, and service delivery.



Sherbrooke Public Library Accessible Door Installation

Sherbrooke Public Library is now accessible with the press of a button! All entrances and doors have been upgraded with fully automatic door openers for ease of access.



Petit de Grat Public Library Accessibility Improvements

Petit de Grat Public Library underwent renovations after storm damage, which provided an opportunity to improve our accessibility. Adequate clearances, layout improvements, and automatic doors ensure everyone can use the library with ease.





Partnerships & Acknowledgments

Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club

ECRL was pleased to be able to help support the work of the Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club. Food Security funding was used to purchase \$50.00 food cards which were distributed to anyone in need within the Antigonish/Guysborough area but mostly from the District of Guysborough. The Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club programs see the need growing just like others who are trying to combat food insecurity. They also provide hot meals monthly to seniors in Upper Big Tracadie.



ScotiaComp Technologies

ECRL would like to thank our IT partner ScotiaComp Technologies for their work supporting public library services.

ScotiaComp Technologies is a Nova Scotia-based Managed Services Provider (MSP) offering comprehensive IT solutions to businesses and organizations across the province and beyond. Headquartered in Port Hawkesbury, ScotiaComp delivers 24/7 support, cybersecurity-first services, and strategic IT leadership tailored to each client's needs. Their offerings include managed IT, co-managed services, infrastructure monitoring, endpoint protection, and compliance readiness. With a people-first approach and a commitment to innovation, ScotiaComp empowers clients to focus on their mission while ensuring their technology is secure, efficient, and future-ready.



SCOTIACOMPTECH
PEOPLE - PROCESS - TECHNOLOGY

1 (902) 600-2523 | www.scotiamp.ca | info@scotiamp.ca
811 Reeves St, 8B (Center Lobby)
Port Hawkesbury, B9A 2S4

Margaree Area Development Association

ECRL would like to thank the Margaree Area Development Association and their wonderful volunteers for their work supporting the Drs. Coady Tompkins Memorial Public Library since 1978. Without their ongoing and tireless efforts ECRL would not have a facility to provide service from for the community. Thank you for 47 years of caring!!





Our Year in Numbers



143,954

Total Circulation



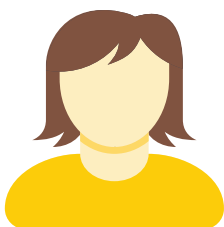
58,074

Total Digital Circulation



2,692

Total Accessible Circulation



5,046

Active Registered Users



843

New Users



15,088

Open Hours



31,794

Branch Visits

717*
Programs Offered



4,573*

Program Attendance

**includes all regular and passive programming*



3237.5 hours

PAC Use



Other Regional Statistics

Regional Activity	2023/24	2024/25
Active registered users **	4,584	5,046
Library visits ***	31,012	31,794
Open hours	14,227	15,088
Total Circulation	95,035	143,954
Programs Offered	328	284
Program Attendance	1,961	1,729
Passive Programs Offered	303	433
Passive Program Usage	1,967	2,844
# of Public Access Computers	22	25
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	6,128	6,475
InterLibrary Loans (Loaned)	37,371	28,261
InterLibrary Loans (Borrowed)	34,288	27,310

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

*** Based on manual gate count

Collection	
Print Books	44,168
Audio Visual Items	7,918
Other items	238
Digital Collections (OverDrive, e-subscriptions)	18,616
Added Acquisitions	3,807
Total Collection	74,747

Membership on March 31, 2025	
Canso	187
Chéticamp	328
Guysborough	417
Mabou	547
Margaree Forks	496
Petit de Grat	557
Port Hawkesbury	991
Sherbrooke	323
St. Peter's	408
Other	216
Total	4,470

New Users 2024-2025	
Canso	30
Chéticamp	66
Guysborough	81
Mabou	150
Margaree Forks	73
Petit de Grat	63
Port Hawkesbury	216
Sherbrooke	44
St. Peter's	86
Other	34
Total	843



Public Services 2024-2025

Canso Public Library

Circulation	2067
Holds Placed	558
Programs	6
Program attendance	0
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	296
Information questions	249

Chéticamp Public Library

Circulation	7529
Holds Placed	1097
Programs	61
Program attendance	271
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	716
Information questions	118

Guysborough, Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

Circulation	10038
Holds Placed	3404
Programs	24
Program attendance	89
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	388
Information questions	118

Mabou, Alexander Doyle Public Library

Circulation	7511
Holds Placed	3076
Programs	12
Program attendance	
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	186
Information questions	102

Margaree Forks, Drs. Coady & Tompkins Memorial Public Library

Circulation	10681
Holds Placed	3676
Programs	41
Program attendance	174
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	940
Information questions	1019

Petit de Grat Public Library

Circulation	13499
Holds Placed	3747
Programs	55
Program attendance	500
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	1510
Information questions	322

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

Circulation	13897
Holds Placed	5005
Programs	72
Program attendance	593
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	997
Information questions	720

Sherbrooke Public Library

Circulation	3130
Holds Placed	921
Programs	28
Program attendance	69
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	606
Information questions	128

St. Peter's Public Library

Circulation	7217
Holds Placed	2823
Programs	3
Program attendance	33
Internet sessions (1/2 hour)	836
Information questions	101

Mulgrave Library (Curbside)

Circulation	357
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Borrow by Mail

Circulation	5981
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Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre Kiosk

Circulation	442
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Contact Information

Chéticamp Public Library

15359 Cabot Trail
Chéticamp, NS B0E 1H0
902-224-3728
cheticamp@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Sat: 10:00am-1:00pm
& 2:00-6:00pm*

Coady & Tompkins Memorial Public Library

7972 Cabot Trail,
Margaree Forks, NS B0E 2A0
902-248-2821
margaree@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Sat: 10:00am-1:00pm
& 2:00-6:00pm*

Alexander Doyle Public Library

11156 Route 19 (inside Dalbrae Academy),
Mabou, NS B0E 1X0
902-945-2257
mabou@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
& 1:30pm-4:00pm*

Port Hawkesbury Public Library

304 Pitt Street (inside SAERC),
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2T9
902-625-2729

porthawkesbury@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:30am-12:30pm
& 1:30-4:00pm,
Sat: 9:30am-12:30pm & 1pm-3:30pm*

St. Peter's Public Library

10036 Grenville St., Unit C,
St. Peter's, NS B0E 3B0
902-535-2465
stpeters@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Sat: 10:00am-1:00pm
& 2:00-6:00pm*

Petit de Grat Public Library

3435 Highway #206 (inside La Picasse),
Petit de Grat, NS B0E 3J0
902-226-3534
petitdegrat@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Sat: 10:00am-1:00pm
& 2:00-6:00pm*

Canso Public Library

169 Main St,
Canso, NS B0H 1H0
902-366-2955
canso@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Fri: 12:30-5:30pm,
Sat: 9:30am-1:00pm*

Sherbrooke Public Library

11 Main Street,
Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0
902-522-2180
sherbrooke@ecrl.ca

*Open Hours: Wed-Fri: 12:30-5:30pm,
Sat: 9:30am-12:30pm*

Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library

27 Pleasant Street,
Guysborough, NS B0H 1N0
902-533-3586
guysborough@ecrl.ca

Staffed Hours:

*Tues, Wed, Fri: 12:30pm-5:30pm,
Sat: 9:30am-1pm,*

Extended Hours: 7am-9pm

Want to know what is happening at your library?

**Follow us
on social media:**

 /ECRLibrary

 /ecrl_ns

**Or visit
our website**

 www.ecrl.ca

Regional Office

390 Murray Street, PO Box 2500,
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Toll-free: 1-855-787-7323

Mailing address for all locations:

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Mulgrave, NS

