eastern counties REGIONAL LIBRARY

2025-2026 Annual Report

BOUNDLESS INSPIRATION



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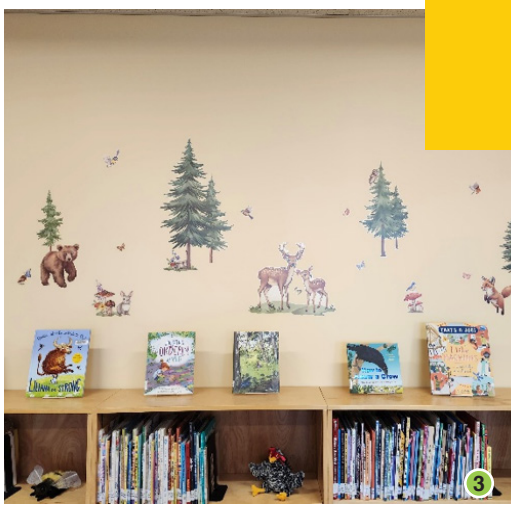
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1Port Hawkesbury Public Library got a refresh of the children's area this year thanks to the Town of Port Hawkesbury. 2 Port Hawkesbury Public Library now offers a comfortable sofa for public use. 3 St. Peter's Public Library has a brand new children's area that is bright and inviting. 4 St. Peter's also offers a comfortable sitting area for browsing and relaxing. 5 The Regional Office got a significant update with new windows on the main floor. 6 Along with new windows, the Regional Office also got a new staircase and entrance, landscaping, and much-needed TLC.



Greetings from the Library Board Chair

It's been a busy year throughout all the ECRL community. As you may or may noy know, my mother was a librarian and instilled in me the importance that a local library has in the health of a community. Libraries are more than a book repository, they provide a safe meeting place for friends, neighbours, and visitors alike. They take on the individual soul of every neighbourhood and make it their own. I am proud and honoured to be Chair of the ECRL and we can all be assured that the board will do their utmost to continue this valuable community service in the future.

Here are just a few of the highlights from our year in review; Repairs to the central office were completed. These were vital to the health and safety of staff as well as preservation of our book supply. In December the new St. Peter's Public Library was opened through the generous support of Farley and Claire Mowat family. Thanks to the hard work of our administrative directors and staff, the first Strategic Operational Plan was developed to help guide the ECRL through the future as well as tireless advocacy efforts to elicit future financial supports. This was also the first year that saw a broad community engagement survey distributed throughout our region. The feedback received from you, our supporters, will help us offer additional supports where needed.

In short, a very busy year working for all of you. Our neighbours and friends.

James Fuller
Chair

Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

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Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer

In 2025-2026, Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) launched its first annual community engagement survey. It was a historic opportunity to gather evidence about community perceptions of ECRL services. Library users gave ECRL an outstanding 8.46/10 for overall user satisfaction. I know ECRL staff do an excellent job, so I wasn't surprised, but it was fantastic to see this positive reality in print. So often, only the negative voices are heard.

The survey showed that library users visit and use the library frequently, both in person and online. Traditional library services were our top-rated service. Borrowing books and other materials remains a highly valued service.

Digital library users also shared how often they use and value the services. Downloading books and movies is a quiet activity, so it was great to hear from these folks.

ECRL must find a way to amplify the positive stories and feelings about our services. So often I hear that ECRL is not doing enough. And yet, year after year, ECRL is doing the most with the fewest staff and the least money. In 2024-2025, ECRL provided the 4th-highest number of public open hours of the nine Library Regions in the province. The truth is that people love the library and its services so much if anything, they are mad they can't have more.

You can have more public library services and open hours. You just need to vote for it. You need to donate to it. And you need to celebrate the good that it does. Let 2026-2027 be a year of library positivity!

Laura Emery

Highlights: Facility Improvements and Funding Advocacy

St. Peter's Public Library Location

Moved to 9992 Grenville with VIC, more space



Port Hawkesbury Public Library Furnishings

New furniture for family area



Regional Office Renovations:

Major project to replace all upper windows, basement work, front step and entrance area, removal of basement portico, etc.

Funding Advocacy



Creation of webpage to house information (https://ecrl.ca/about-us/advocacy/), ongoing dialogue with the province and municipal units.



Our Year in Numbers

132,088
Total Circulation

43,424
Total Digital Circulation

2,382
Total Accessible Circulation

5,110
Active Registered Users

740
New Users

14,225.75
Open Hours

938*
Programs Offered

33,451
Branch Visits

5,740*
Program Attendance
**includes all regular and passive programming*

5,878
Internet Sessions
(1/2 hour)



Other Regional Statistics

Regional Activity	2024/25	2025/26
Active registered users **	5,046	5,110
Library visits ***	31,794	33,451
Open hours	15,088	14,225.75
Total Circulation	143,954	132,088
Programs Offered	284	431
Program Attendance	1,729	2,095
Passive Programs Offered	433	507
Passive Attendance	2,844	3,645
# of Public Access Computers	25	23
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	6,475	5,878
InterLibrary Loans (Loaned)	28,261	12,970
InterLibrary Loans (Borrowed)	27,310	21,733

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

**** Based on manual gate count*

Collection	
Print Books	40,332
Audio Visual Items	6,565
Other items	247
Digital Collections (OverDrive, e-subscriptions)	4,882
Total Collection	**52,026**

Membership on March 31, 2026	
Canso	220
Chéticamp	367
Guysborough	494
Mabou	583
Margaree Forks	563
Petit de Grat	577
Port Hawkesbury	1,183
Sherbrooke	343
St. Peter's	514
Borrow by Mail, EMU Curbside	263
Total	**5,110**

New Users 2025-2026	
Canso	40
Chéticamp	62
Guysborough	83
Mabou	79
Margaree Forks	63
Petit de Grat	73
Port Hawkesbury	176
Sherbrooke	29
St. Peter's	109
Borrow by Mail, EMU Curbside	26
Total	**740**

Public Services 2025-2026

Canso Public Library	
Circulation	1,709
Open Hours	779
Programs Offered	9
Program Attendance	49
Passive Programs Offered	46
Passive Program Participation	106
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	234
Info Questions	187
Branch Visits	1,184

Chéticamp Public Library	
Circulation	6,551
Open Hours	1,224.5
Programs Offered	99
Program Attendance	166
Passive Programs Offered	44
Passive Program Participation	80
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	804
Info Questions	119
Branch Visits	2,826

Guysborough, Cyril Ward Memorial Public Library	
Circulation	9,495
Staffed Hours	736
Open Hours	3,971
Programs Offered	13
Program Attendance	34
Passive Programs Offered	37
Passive Program Participation	21
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	511
Info Questions	361
Branch Visits	3,215

Mabou, Alexander Doyle Public Library	
Circulation	9,550
Open Hours	1,139.75
Programs Offered	51
Program Attendance	173
Passive Programs Offered	28
Passive Program Participation	57
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	241
Info Questions	79
Branch Visits	2,711

Margaree Forks, Drs. Coady & Tompkins Memorial Public Library	
Circulation	12,191
Open Hours	1,267
Programs Offered	85
Program Attendance	234
Passive Programs Offered	74
Passive Program Participation	433
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	662
Info Questions	153
Branch Visits	3,818

Petit de Grat Public Library	
Circulation	15,038
Open Hours	1,381
Programs Offered	102
Program Attendance	798
Passive Programs Offered	66
Passive Program Participation	1,189
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	1,362
Info Questions	630
Branch Visits	6,567

Port Hawkesbury Public Library	
Circulation	13,518
Open Hours	1,385
Programs Offered	67
Program Attendance	618
Passive Programs Offered	117
Passive Program Participation	1,365
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	1,032
Info Questions	765
Branch Visits	8,256

Sherbrooke Public Library	
Circulation	3,346
Open Hours	1,169
Programs Offered	3
Program Attendance	0
Passive Programs Offered	43
Passive Program Participation	207
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	552
Info Questions	36
Branch Visits	2,340

St. Peter's Public Library	
Circulation	5,095
Open Hours	1,173.5
Programs Offered	2
Program Attendance	23
Passive Programs Offered	52
Passive Program Participation	187
Internet Sessions (1/2 hour)	480
Info Questions	97
Branch Visits	2,534

Regional Office - Curbside Pickup & Borrow by Mail	
Circulation	4,793

Port Hawkesbury - Civic Centre Kiosk	
Circulation	144



Contact Information

ECRL Regional Office

390 Murray Street
PO Box 2500
Mulgrave, NS, B0E 2G0
Local: 902-747-2597
Toll-free: 1-855-787-7323

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

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

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

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*

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

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

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

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

Whycocomagh Public Library

9650 NS-105 *(Lower Level)*
Whycocomagh, NS B0E 3M0
902-631-2078
whycocomagh@ecrl.ca

Open Hours:
Mon-Wed, Fri: 10:00am-6:00pm;
Th: 10:00am-8:00pm; Sat: 12:00pm-4:00pm

Want to know what is happening at your library?

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Or visit our website

www.ecrl.ca

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