



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Bibliothèque de
**SDG
Library**

YEAR AT A GLANCE

9537

active
cardholders

417,788

items
circulated

↑ 20%

new
cardholders*

↑ 24%

circulation*

*compared to 2022.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It is my pleasure to share with you the highlights and achievements of our library over the past year. This annual report reflects our commitment to fostering a love of reading, learning, and community engagement. This year has been one of growth and innovation for our library. In addition to seeing an increase in library cardholders, we launched our new website and established our MakerLab as a permanent fixture. We expanded our collection with a diverse range of books, digital resources, and multimedia materials, and our dedicated staff consistently delivered exceptional service. Community programs and events have continued to thrive, thanks to your enthusiastic participation. From author talks and book clubs to educational workshops and children's story hours, our library has been a hub of activity and learning. Looking ahead, the Library Board is excited about the future and the opportunities it holds. We remain committed to adapting and evolving to meet the needs of our patrons, and we are confident that the library will remain a cornerstone of our community. We are grateful for the support and involvement of our residents, and for making our library a vibrant and welcoming place for all to 'Connect. Create. Explore.'



MARGARET MACDONALD
SDG LIBRARY BOARD CHAIR

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Effective June 2023, after twelve years of leadership, Karen Franklin announced her retirement as Director of Library Services. It has been my pleasure to follow under her great footsteps and assume the role of Director of Library Services. I am extremely proud of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) Library, and all that it accomplished in 2023.

We continue to respond to the needs of the community. For this reason, an express depot was implemented in Morewood wherein patrons now have the opportunity to have their items delivered to Morewood's Shelly's Sea Shel Salon.

All resource branches were outfitted with a new credit/debit payment system, so that patrons no longer need to rely on cash payments. Additionally, patrons can now enjoy the use of wireless printing at all branches.

Along with the launch of our new accessible website, an "events" page has now been created, wherein patrons can register for an event online. Lastly, community members now have a reliable communication channel to discover library services, events and collections relevant to their interests and needs through the acquisition of BiblioEmail.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board, dedicated staff, and community partners for their support during this transition period and hope that this Annual Report summarizes the great accomplishments realized by SDG Library in 2023.



REBECCA LUCK
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

“The Library brings our town just a little bit closer.”
-SDG Library Patron

“I love the library because it gives me a quiet place to focus and enjoy learning.”
-SDG Library Patron

“Being new to the area, the library is a great place to meet people.”
-SDG Library Patron

PROMOTING LITERACY: 2023 NOTABLE SYSTEM-WIDE PROGRAMS

SDG Library offered more than 800 programs across its 15 branches in 2023 to inspire the community of SDG Counties to Create. Connect. Explore. Here are a few standouts.



SDG READS WITH MAUREEN JENNINGS

SDG Reads is a “One Book, One Community” program that encourages all residents across SDG to read the same title before coming together for an evening with the author. Nearly **200 attendees** visited North Stormont Place in the fall to hear 2023 feature author Maureen Jennings present her Paradise Café Mysteries.

Perhaps best known for her character William Murdoch of Murdoch Mysteries fame, Maureen is the author of thirteen novels and has won the Grant Allen award for her contribution to Canadian Crime Writing. Books from her featured series were taken out **218 times** and **124 copies** were purchased through the SDG Reads program. All funds were reinvested into SDG Reads.

TD SUMMER READING CLUB

Each year, SDG Library hosts TD Summer Reading Club. The program is designed to inspire kids to explore the fun of reading over the summer months. This free, bilingual program is co-created and delivered by more than 2,000 public libraries across Canada.

Children across the SDG Counties attended 1230 times in 2023 for a variety of activities and learning experiences. At the end of the summer, participants had **read 3,000 books**.





FOOD+ FOR FINES

Food+ for Fines is a twice yearly fines amnesty program which encourages library users to donate non-perishable, non-expired food items. In 2023, Food for Fines was expanded to accept personal care items. Each donation resulted in \$2 of fines forgiven from the user's account. If there were no fines, it was paid forward for others that may have been in need. In the winter alone, branches collected over **791 items**, which amounted to **\$1,582 fines forgiven** across the system.

MOBILE MAKERLAB

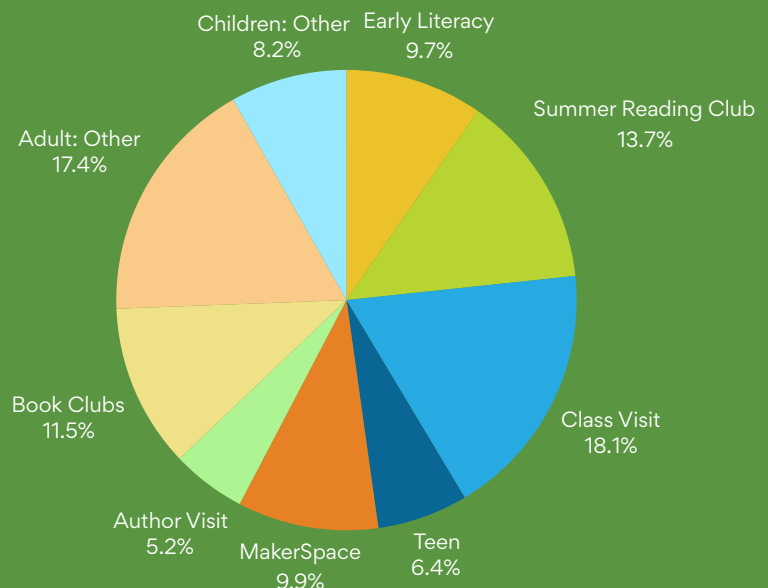
SDG Library's Finch MakerLab is home to equipment such as Cricuts, 3D printers and a laser engraver. To give people across the SDG Counties an opportunity to use this equipment, the MakerLab went mobile in 2023, visiting **8 branches**.



"I love the libraries for the role they play in building communities, providing accessible information and creating a safe space."
-SDG Library Patron

884
programs offered,
12,495
attendees

Types of events offered in 2023:



SDG LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US:

- 41 Staff Members**
across 15 branches and an administration office, including two summer students.
- 23 Volunteers**
of all ages who donate their valuable time and service.
- 5 Friends of the Library groups**
made up of passionate community members who advocate for library services.

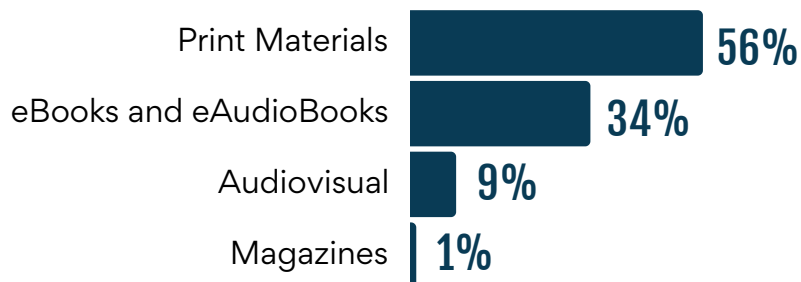


COMMUNITY POP-UPS

14 community events, such as fairs and parades, were attended in 2023.

COLLECTIONS & CIRCULATION

417,788 items circulated:



Our collection:

99,687
English Materials

26,144
French Materials

97,212

in-person visits.

213

library service visits to residence-bound people or people-at-risk.

FOSTERING DIGITAL EQUITY

In a world of expanding technology, some community members are left behind due to factors such as financial barriers and unreliable internet connectivity in rural areas. Digital equity means giving the community access to technologies and the skills to use them.

10

in-person programs that taught computer literacy.

674

cardholders participated in e-learning courses through the library.

MOBILE HOTSPOTS

30
mobile hotspots taken out
657
times

Lending out mobile hotspots gives SDG Counties residents a way to access important online resources like skills training, health information, homework help, and job boards even when the library is closed.

45 PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS



equipped with Wi-Fi used 9,373 times.

E-RESOURCES

SDG Counties residents can access language learning courses, newspapers, ebooks, audiobooks, movies, french content, and more using one of the Library's e-resources. All for free.



MORE 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Introduction of accessible website and events platform



Hired new position of Communications and Marketing Coordinator

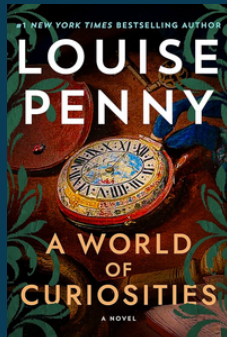


Launched Morewood Express Depot to bring library services to Morewood



Introduced wireless printing to all branches

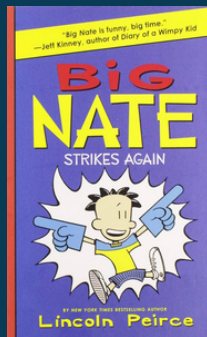
TOP 2023 CHECKOUTS: PRINT



Adult Fiction
90 borrows



Adult Non-fiction
77 borrows



Children
53 borrows



Teen
23 borrows



Adulte Romans
13 borrows

TOP LIBRARY OF THINGS CHECKOUTS



Museum Passes
676 borrows



Ontario Park Passes
44 borrows



Musical Instruments
97 borrows



Household Help Items
29 borrows



LOCATIONS

Alexandria Branch | Avonmore Branch | Chesterville Branch | Chrysler Branch
 Ingleside Branch | Iroquois Branch | Lancaster Branch | Long Sault Branch
 Finch MakerLab | Maxville Branch | Morrisburg Branch | South Mountain Branch
 Williamsburg Branch | Williamstown Branch | Winchester Branch
 Glen Walter Express Depot | Morewood Express Depot | St. Andrews West
 Express Depot | Dalkeith Express Depot

BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret MacDonald (Public Trustee), Chair
Tony Fraser (Mayor of North Dundas), Vice-Chair
Dr. James Algire (Public Trustee)
Lachlan McDonald (Mayor of South Glengarry)
Francois Landry (Mayor of North Stormont)
Jason Broad (Mayor of South Dundas)
Jo-Anne McCaslin (Public Trustee)