

*2021*

# ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:  
Jaye Bannon, CEO



Stirling-Rawdon  
Public Library

# CEO AND BOARD CHAIR MESSAGES

"I am pleased to present the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library's 2021 Annual Report. Although we had hoped for a more 'typical' type of year, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic once again dictated our approach to service and programs. While adapting to pandemic life has been challenging in many ways, it has also forced us to think outside the box, discover new ways of doing things and has even allowed us to improve our services in some respects. We are dedicated to bringing our patrons and our community the very best library experience possible and will make every effort to continue to find ways to do just that."

Jaye Bannon, CEO

"2021 has been another challenging year for our library, like so many others. Closures , curbside delivery, limited numbers. Through it all, the Library has maintained its service to the people of Stirling-Rawdon. I hope everyone who reads this report will join me in thanking our amazing staff for their achievements this year. I looking forward to better times in 2022."

Andrew Marre, Board Chair

## Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library is to serve the community of Stirling and area, by providing access to resources and programs for personal, educational, recreational and cultural enrichment, as well as cooperating with other organizations serving such aims.

## Vision Statement

The Stirling-Rawdon Public Library is a leader in celebrating reading and transforming lives through knowledge and information.

The Library provides accessible services through current technology and contemporary facilities. The Library is a recognized contributor to the high quality of life in the community through exceptional services and valued partnerships.

## Statement of Values

Creativity, imagination and curiosity: (encouraging the joy of reading and life-long learning)  
Equity: (ensuring accessibility and fairness, to recognize diversity in serving all individuals)  
Intellectual Freedom: (guaranteeing and facilitating access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity)  
Patron Service: (ensuring high quality and excellence in responding to the needs of our patrons)  
Teamwork: (fostering a work culture that advocates cooperation, communication, respect and training)

# OUR STAFF

CEO: Jaye Bannon

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: Theresa Brennan

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN & PROGRAMING COORDINATOR: Haley Letch

STUDENT ASSISTANT: Kai Evoy

CASUAL RELIEF: Leslie Green

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team at the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library. It was a pleasure to read so many wonderful comments included in the Strategic Plan survey regarding the quality of service our staff provides. Over the past year, staff members have gone above and beyond their traditional roles. Staff have assisted patrons with booking vaccination appointments, accessing and printing QR code vaccination certificates, delivering items to those who are homebound or simply reaching out and keeping in contact with people who are more likely to be isolated and lonely.

On December 5th 2021, we were honoured to congratulate Theresa Brennan on her 15th year anniversary as an employee of the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library! Our library is so incredibly privileged to have someone as loyal, hardworking and friendly as Theresa and we look forward to many more years with her.



*Thank  
you!*

"The staff are enthusiastic about fulfilling my needs. They go beyond expectations"

"I have been a member of this Library for about 30 years, I have never dealt with a better staff anywhere"

"AT THE RISK OF APPEARING DISINGENUOUS, I HAVE ANSWERED IN RAVE REVIEWS ABOUT THE STAFF BECAUSE I FEEL THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF EXCELLENCE IN OUR LOCAL LIBRARY."

# OUR LIBRARY BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

**CHAIR: Andrew Marre**

**VICE CHAIR: Theresa O'Heir**

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Grant Hagerman**

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Sari Watson**

**TRUSTEE: Miranda DeJong**

**TRUSTEE: Dj Sproat**

**TRUSTEE: Kim Finkle**

We are grateful for the incredible support and guidance our Library Board members offer to our library. We sincerely appreciate the direction and dedication each member brings as influential advocates of our library and libraries in general.

The Stirling Library Board met nine times throughout 2021 both in-person or through ZOOM video conferencing. Former Library Board trustee, Kellie Demarsh stepped down and Kim Finkle was appointed in June 2021. Fifteen policies were reviewed throughout the year and after close attention, several policies were revised in order to keep them current, relevant and clear.

The majority of the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library volunteers have waited patiently for library life to return to normal and allow them an opportunity to help out once again. With in-person programs cancelled, lockdowns, restricted browsing and curbside service, their involvement at the library has been limited but they have all expressed interest in continuing their assistance in the future. and we are looking forward to welcoming them all back!



# 2021 REVIEW



2021 was another rollercoaster year of lockdowns, capacity limits, curbside service, virtual programming and brief glimmers of 'normal' operation. With 2020 behind us and all the kinks of this new way of operating figured out, we were able to adjust easily to provincial orders, sometimes with little notice. To help with curbside service, a wireless doorbell was installed outside and home deliveries were also offered to patrons who were unable to make it to the library.

Because we were not able to offer any in-house opportunities for volunteering, a Virtual Volunteering program was launched by Haley, our Children's Librarian & Programming Coordinator. Students created wonderful content for our Social Media Pages which highlighted and promoted the materials in our physical and digital collections. We received wonderful participation during it's inaugural year and it served both the students and our library very well.

Although we weren't able to offer in-person programs again this year, Haley kept patrons busy with over 800 'Take & Make' kits to enjoy at home, seed kits supplied by Grain Farmers of Ontario, community scavenger hunts, outdoor Storywalk, colouring contests, virtual storytimes and music instruction, and a variety of other passive programs within the Children's Department.

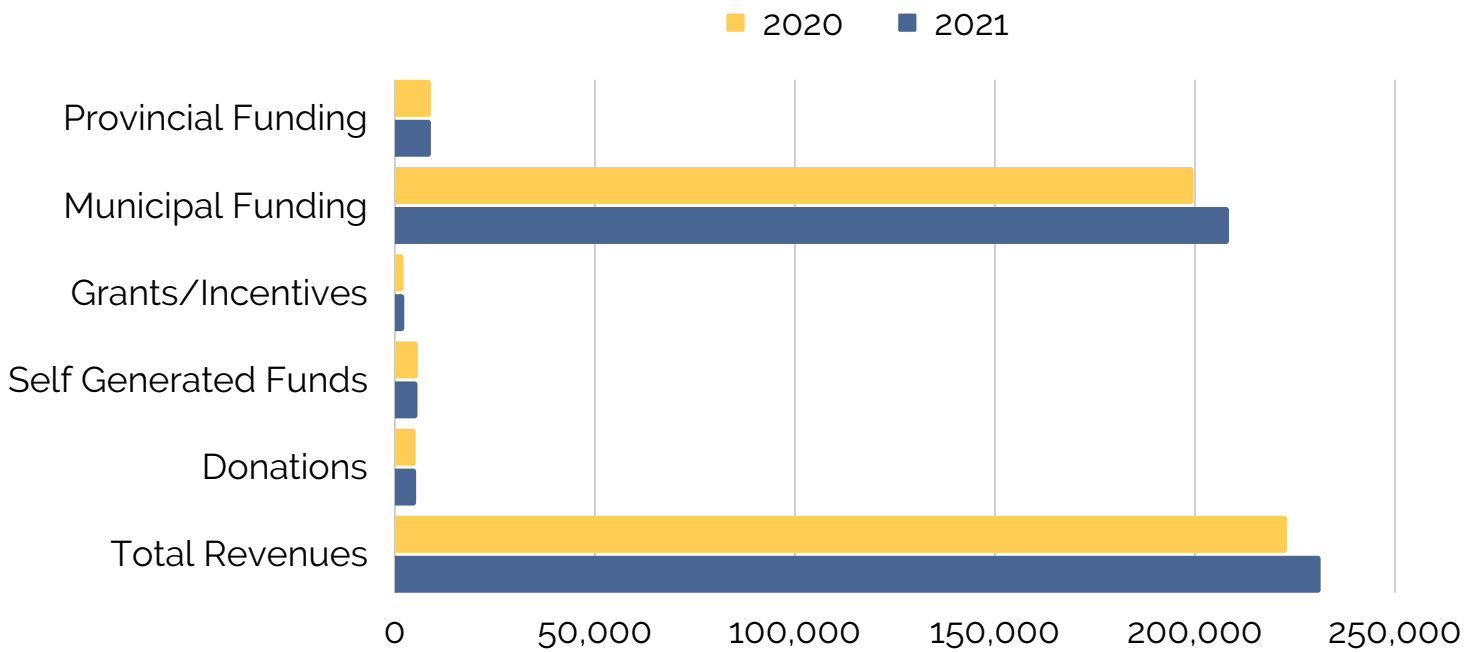
In the spring of 2021, an extensive survey was created and made available to patrons and members of the community in order to establish some new goals for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. We received over 170 responses along with wonderful feedback that gave both staff and our Library Board some insight into where we should direct our focus over the next few years. Using the results of the survey along with collaborative input from staff and board members, our Strategic Plan was created.

The survey responses also sparked an idea to create a monthly newsletter as another way to reach and inform our patrons about everything happening at the library. The first newsletter was published in August and each edition includes library updates, notices, book recommendations, programs and much more. Patrons can choose to access the newsletter from our website, subscribe to have it emailed to them each month or pick up a paper copy at our circulation desks.

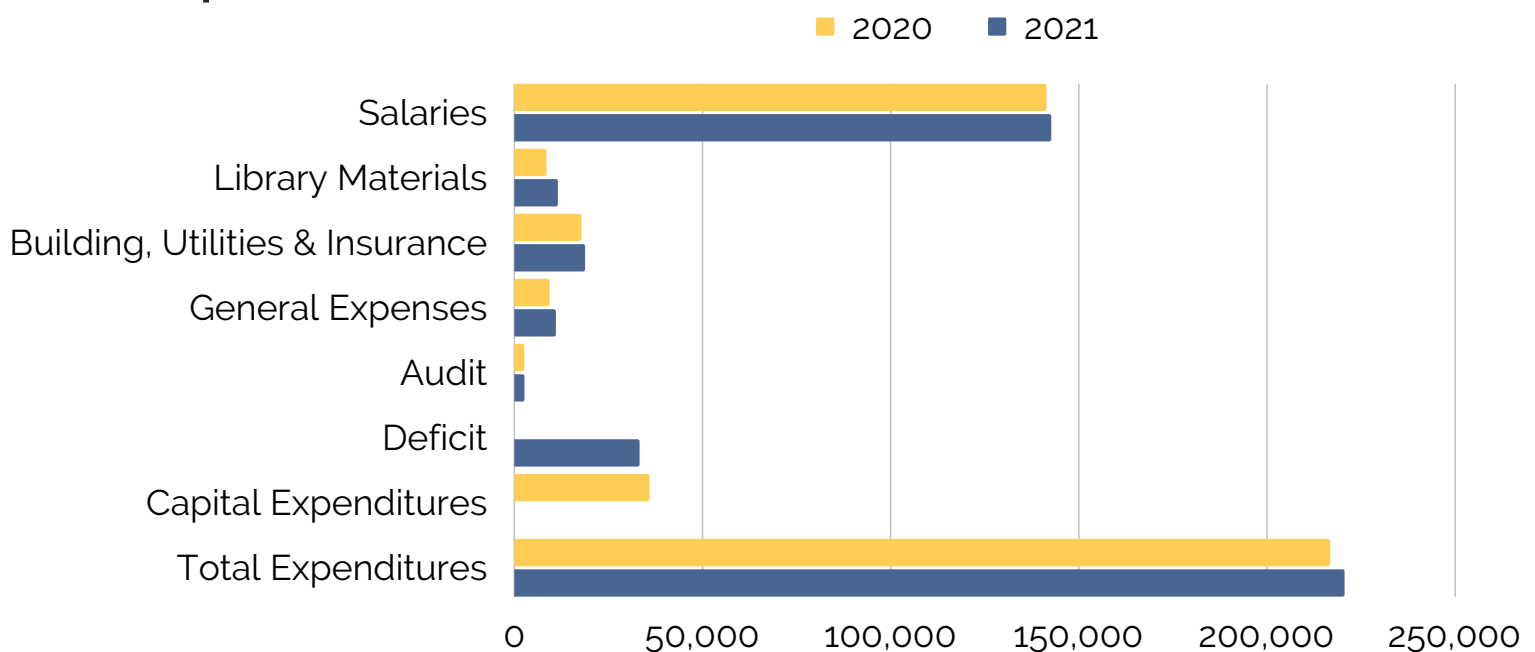
We look forward to 2022 and do hope that we will be able to operate in a more typical fashion and regain the momentum and lively atmosphere we had worked so hard to create prior to the pandemic.

# 2021 (UNAUDITED) REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

## Revenues



## Expenditures



# FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS & SPECIAL PURCHASES

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Once again, we were incredibly thankful for the generous donations made to the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library throughout the year.

In the spring of 2021, the Rotary Club of Stirling made a donation to the library to be used toward technology. With the funds, three LeapFrog tablets were purchased to replace the aging Early Literacy Stations in the Children's Department. These child-friendly systems will be available for use within the library and are loaded with literacy based games and activities for a wide range of ages. We are certain that these devices will be enjoyed by many and are always appreciative of the support we receive from our local Rotarians!

An accessible workstation was purchased with funds provided through the Modernization grant that the Municipality received. We are pleased to be able to offer an adaptable workspace/public computer desk for persons with disabilities in an effort to reduce as many barriers within the library as possible and we are grateful for the funds that were shared with us for this purpose.

The 'Mittens for Kittens' mitten drive was held for the 16th year in a row and a total of 214 items including mittens, hats, scarves and sets were collected. The Community Cupboard received approximately 172 items for their Christmas Sharing program. The remainder was divided between a local Foster Closet who provides free items to foster parents or caregivers in emergency situations, a local nurse travelling to Nunavut and providing winter clothing to families, and to a class at the Stirling Public School collecting items for the Three Oaks Women's Shelter. We are glad to be able to assist others near and far in this way.

We were thrilled when Fred Leonard, a long time patron of ours, had his very first book published! "Grandma's Spirit" was made available to purchase through the library and Fred offered \$5.00 from the sale of each book to our library.

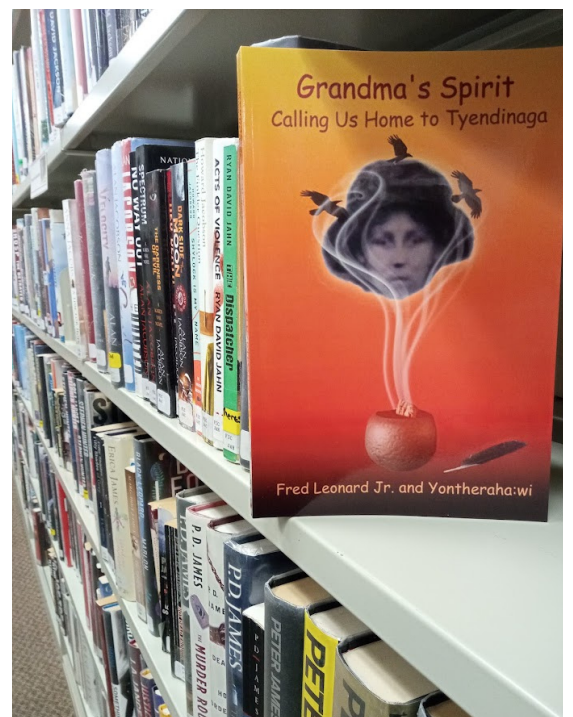
Nancy Snowdon made a substantial, and much appreciated, personal donation which allowed us to purchase a game-changing Cricut machine! Not only will this fantastic printing/cutting device make an enormous difference in preparing Take & Make craft kits, it will be made available, for a small fee, for patrons to use for their own creative purposes. Nancy also used her creative abilities to supply us with over 300 beautiful, hand crafted, fused glass Christmas ornaments to sell for our 2021 fundraiser. The ornaments were restocked several times between October and December and \$1665.00 was raised. We cannot thank Nancy enough for all her time, energy, material, and enthusiasm which made this year's fundraiser an incredible success. The funds, transferred to a reserve account, will be used to purchase items on the library 'Wish List' in the near future.

Thank you to everyone who made donations to the library this year in any amount. Every dime is appreciated and put to good use.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." Kathy Calvin*



# Apps and Games to Learn Math, Science, Reading, and more.





# 2021 STATISTICS



**16033**  
**Library**  
**Items**  
**Borrowed**



**944**  
**Active**  
**Users**



**728**  
**Computer**  
**Uses**

**6554**  
**E-books & Audio**  
**Books**  
**Borrowed**



**67 Programs**  
**Held**



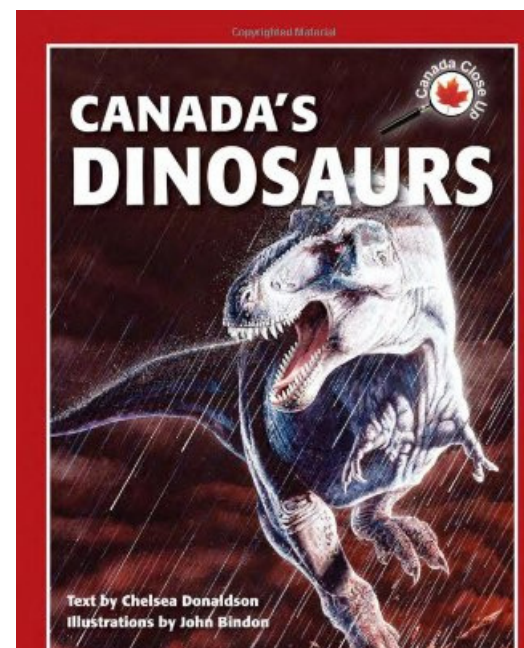
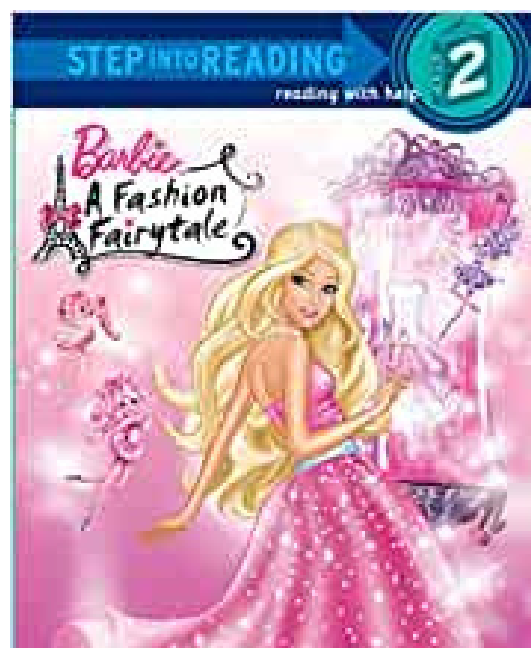
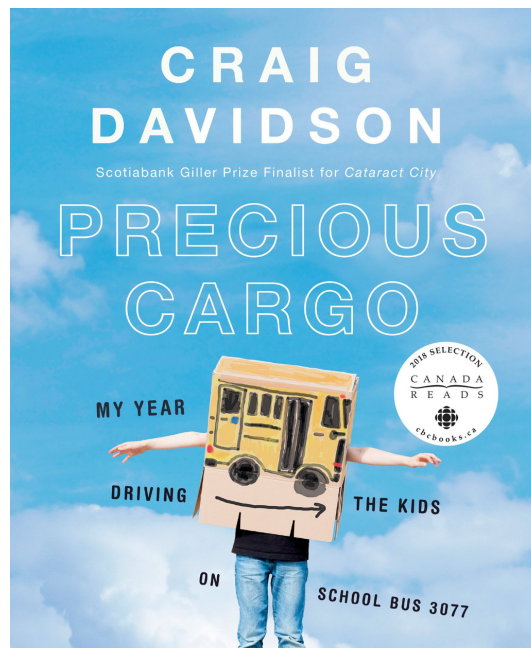
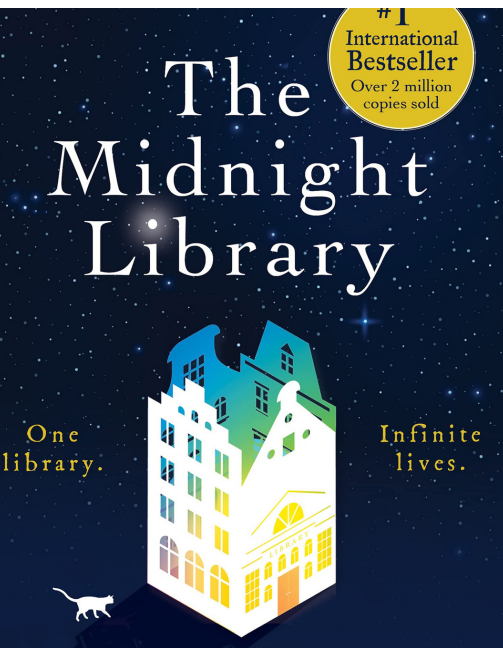
**1466 Participants**

**1408 ILL**  
**Exchanges**



# TOP TITLES

L-R: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Magazine, Young Adult Fiction, Children's Picture Book, Children's Nonfiction, Children's Fiction, DVD, DVD Series





# 2021 PARTNERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS



**OverDrive®**



Over 2,000,000 digital titles available to our patrons through the use of OverDrive or the Libby app.



Access to over 9000 databases from census data to directories and photos, to family trees, Ancestry Library offered remote access to cardholders in 2021.



The Stirling MILL continues to lend musical instruments from the collection housed at the Stirling Library to residents throughout most of Hastings County. In 2021 several neighbouring libraries joined as 'Partner Libraries' for ease of access to residents throughout the area.



CDC-Quinte brings fruit, vegetables and baby boxes to Stirling once a month for a nominal fee. Stirling library staff coordinates orders although the library building has not served as a depot since the beginning of the pandemic.



Stirling-Rawdon Pubic Library patrons were able to obtain day use passes to the Ontario Provincial Parks throughout 2021 with a loan period of 1 week.



Visitors to our digital collections website, 'Stirling-Rawdon Past and Present', have the opportunity to browse digitized content in our Local History Department from the comfort of their home.



Library patrons were able to borrow one of four parking passes to several Quinte Conservation areas in 2021.