



**STIRLING-RAWDON**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# ANNUAL **REPORT** **2023**

Prepared by:

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# Ceo Message

## Jaye Bannon



2023 was another great year at the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library.

With the implementation of new programs; a 30% increase in program participation; over 40% increase in donations; 20% increase in the use of digital resources; and a new, fully stocked Makerspace Department in the Children's section, we feel as though our residents are becoming more and more aware of our presence and importance in the community.

In the year ahead, we will continue to work toward our strategic goals and will strive to deliver the services and programs that meet the identified interests and needs of our patrons. We will work hard to create a barrier-free environment that is accessible to everyone and continue to engage with the public through outreach efforts to promote the resources available at our wonderful library.

# Board Chair Message

## Miranda Dejong



The 2023 year has brought about many exciting projects for the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library! One notable project was staff working to gain reaccreditation through the Ontario Public Library Service, by scoring 90% or higher as set out through their guidelines. The reaccreditation process also provides staff with valuable suggestions of next steps to work towards in the library's strategic plan! A second notable project this year was the development of the makerspace on the main level of the library. The makerspace was a vision of staff that became reality through countless hours of planning and some invaluable partnerships with a grant organization and donations from our very own local patrons and small businesses. Our library is truly a little community hub, with dedicated staff, great patrons and volunteers always willing to lend a skill set when needed for the betterment and enjoyment of our village! Please reach out to Library staff if you have any questions about programming or services the library offers. Check in often, as staff are always working on new innovative ideas and programming for all ages!



# Our Library Through the Years

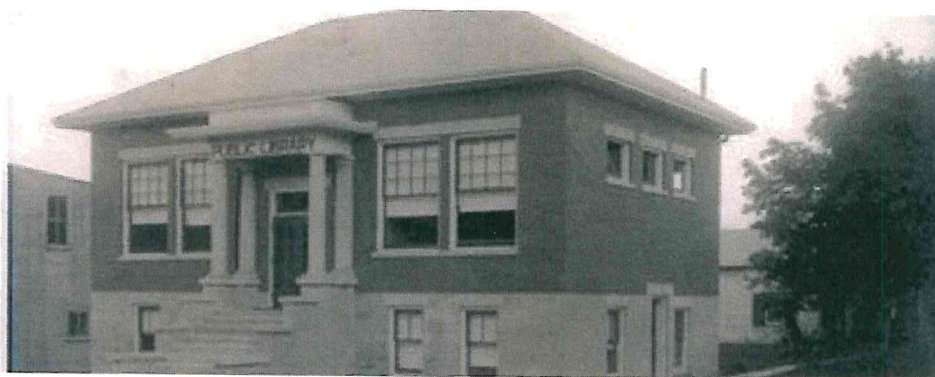
*"I LOVE PUBLIC LIBRARIES BECAUSE THEY ARE BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT BOOKS ARE SO IMPORTANT AND SO NECESSARY TO HUMAN FLOURISHING THAT ACCESS TO THEM CANNOT DEPEND ON YOUR INCOME"*

-@iconawrites

- 1903- The Stirling Public Library was established and located above Mr. Martin's Law Office with Miss Clara Gravely acting as Librarian. There were 587 books available to borrow and the library was open for 6 hours each week
- 1914- The Carnegie Corporation donated \$5,000.00 to erect a building. The current lot was purchased from Mr. Hadley for \$475.00 and the cornerstone was laid on September 17th. The library building was completed in December 1914 and Mr. T.G. (Gerry) Clute was the librarian
- 1915- When Trenton Library dissolved, 1312 books-half of their collection was donated to the Stirling Library. The new, fully stocked library officially opened on March 16th, 1915
- 1975- The "Children's Room" opened in the downstairs portion of the Carnegie building
- 1989- New addition was added to the Carnegie Building partially funded through a grant of \$250,000 from the Ministry of Culture and Communications
- 1996- Peggy Faulkner, CEO retired. Township started handling library's bookkeeping and payroll
- 1998- The Library began participating in the Inter Library Loan system
- 1999- The Library first offered internet to the public, and library circulation became fully automated
- 2001- The Teen Department was moved upstairs
- 2003- The Library celebrated it's 100th birthday
- 2006- Theresa was hired as Desk Assistant
- 2007- Library's first website was launched. Jaye was hired as casual/relief.
- 2008- A grant was received and the North-West corner storage room was renovated to create a Local History Department. Jaye moved into the Children's Librarian position.
- 2010- An Ontario Trillium Grant in the amount of \$25,200 was received and 12 new computers were purchased.
- 2012- Major renovations were completed with funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, moving the circulation desk to the new area in the upstairs lobby, accessible doors installed on the washroom and front entrance, and a new computer lab area was created.
- 2017- The Library moved to a new software circulation system called JASI. Jaye started as Interim CEO. Haley was hired as Children's Librarian.
- 2023- A Makerspace Department was created in the Children's Department through a grant from the Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group and cabinetry from Mirmil Products in Campbellford.

## Our Mission

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.



## Our Vision

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.





# Our Team

"THE ONLY WAY TO DO GREAT WORK IS TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO" - STEVE JOBS



**Jaye Bannon,**  
CEO



**Theresa Brennan,**  
Assistant Librarian



**Haley Letch,**  
Children's Librarian/ Programming Coordinator



**Anna Beckenham,**  
Student Assistant



**Leslie Green,**  
Casual Relief



**Jackie**

*Volunteer-Shelving  
Resigned in 2023 after 28 years!*



**Iain**

*Volunteer-Local History  
Digitization  
Logged over 100 hours in 2023!*

**Andy**

*Volunteer-Art Gallery  
Started in 2023!*







# Our Library Board

<b>Miranda Dejong-Chair</b>	<b>Kim Finkle-Member</b>
<b>Stasia Bennett-Vice Chair</b>	<b>Valerie Sills-Member</b>
<b>Don Stewart-Council Rep.</b>	<b>Kristina Smith-Member</b>
<b>Caroline Smith-Council Rep.</b>	<b>John Rock- Member until June 2023</b>

The Stirling-Rawdon Public Library has been fortunate to have such a committed, supportive and efficient Library Board to set goals and objectives that meet the community's information needs.

The Board met ten times through 2023 and implemented, reviewed and revised several policies; prepared the library's budget to present to Council; oversaw the library's finances; extensively discussed potential options for supporting non-residents in our area and approved the reciprocal borrowing agreement with Centre Hastings and Marmora; conducted strategic plan reviews; reported on relevant Municipal activities; took part in a Board evaluation process; and supported Jaye in her role as CEO in numerous ways.

Outside of the regular monthly Board meetings, Stasia attended the Ontario Library Service Governance 101 Library Board training at the Trent Hills Public Library; John Rock who sat on the board until his resignation in June, attended a virtual OLS Board Assembly meeting; and Kristina Smith who was appointed to the Library Board after John's resignation attended the OLS Board Assembly meeting in November. Members brought back valuable information from these meetings to share with the rest of the Board.

Library Board members showed their support and enthusiasm by attending the Makerspace Grand Opening Reception and kindly acknowledged Jaye's 15 years of employment at the library with a cake and card.

Caroline Smith represented the Library by laying a wreath during Stirling's Remembrance Day ceremony and Miranda Dejong and Caroline prepared Jaye's annual evaluation at the end of the year.



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

In-person  
Ontario Library  
Service  
regional meetings  
resumed



The library moved to a new, more efficient, book distributor

## Makerspace Installation



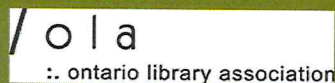
With the generous support from the Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group and Mirmil Products in Campbellford, the hard work by Coolen Painting, and the ingenuity of our Programming Coordinator, an exciting new Makerspace Centre was developed and installed in the Children's Department of the library.

The Library received its Reaccreditation by The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council



Iain and Andy joined our team of volunteers to assist with the Art Gallery and the Local History Departments

Stirling-Rawdon Public Library staff attended the OLA Super Conference in February 2023 for the first time in several years



Donations increased by over **40%** from the previous year thanks to numerous individual contributions, the Rotary Club of Stirling, the Stirling Pickleball Club and special fundraisers throughout 2023!



Anna, our new student assistant was hired

Our library entered into a reciprocal borrowing agreement with Centre Hastings and Marmora Public Libraries



The Local History Department was relocated to the Adult Department allowing for a more comfortable and accessible experience for visitors



# Programs



We enjoyed partnering with outside organizations and individuals to facilitate some of our programs. Kindergarten and Grade 2 teachers from the Stirling Public School booked visits to the library every month and made the trip a scheduled part of their monthly agenda. We were thrilled to partner with the Belleville Senators Hockey Team to promote the newly established Belly's Book Club aimed to inspire kids to read in exchange for a chance to win hockey tickets. The Musical Instrument Lending Library was our partner in offering a Kids Music Intro program as part of our summer lineup and the Stirling Horticultural Society led a Marigold planting workshop for kids and teamed up with the library for a Plant and Art sale at the covered bridge. We welcomed guests from the Canadian Hearing Services, and members from First Tuesday Muse Poetry Open Mic.

Thursday morning Story Time consistently welcomed 15-20 young children and their caregivers for songs, stories and free play and was the most well attended program offered. While the Afterschool Club programs didn't seem to draw as much attention, a new monthly Homeschool Meet Up program brought in a number of homeschooled families who utilized the resources in the Children's Department.

Program participation increased by 30% from the previous year!

A new Library Book Club was established this year and the Writer's Group continued. Although the numbers for both weren't what we had hoped, resources were shared, conversations were enjoyed and some new friendships were created.

Our Assistant Librarian, Theresa, facilitated a very well attended 'Self Sufficient Discussion Group' once a month. Participants shared their skills, suggestions, questions, answers, and methods with each other around a variety of topics such as gardening, preserving, soap making, and pressure canning. Separate from the Self Sufficient Discussion Group, our seed lending library offered an incredible number of seeds to the public and a small vegetable garden was planted on the west side of the library building. Children were encouraged to participate in the maintenance of the garden through the summer months.

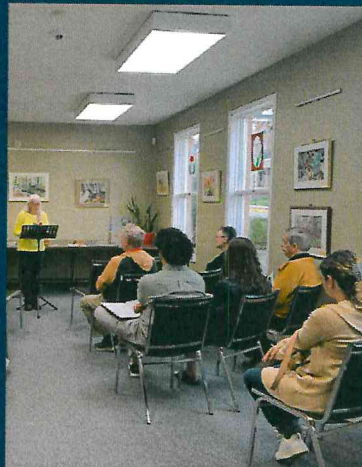
Thanks to the creativity of our Programming Coordinator, Haley, Craft Nights were offered on a monthly basis as in years past and some impressive creations were completed including paintings, paper succulents, macramé plant hangers, copper tooling, DIY T-shirts & tote bags, and wood cross stitch ornaments to name just a few.

We hosted a few different 'swaps' over the course of the year which went over very well including a houseplant swap, a puzzle swap and a very popular costume swap leading up to Halloween.

Between the Kids Craft Night, Take and Make Kits and Class Visits roughly 72 Valentine's Cards were created and delivered to the residents of Stirling Towers and the Stirling Manor to spread some love on Valentine's Day. Due to the popularity of the Take & Make Kits during the pandemic, Haley continued to make them available to patrons who were unable to attend the in-person programs and throughout the year roughly 420 kits left the library.









# 2023 STATISTICS



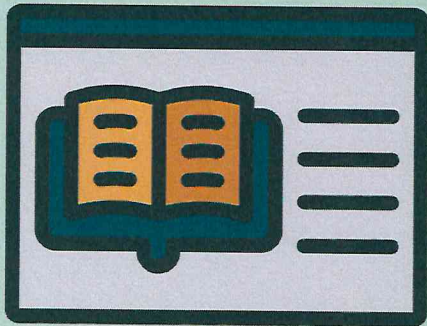
**18279**  
**Library**  
**Items**  
**Circulated**

**1254**  
**Computer/Wifi Uses**



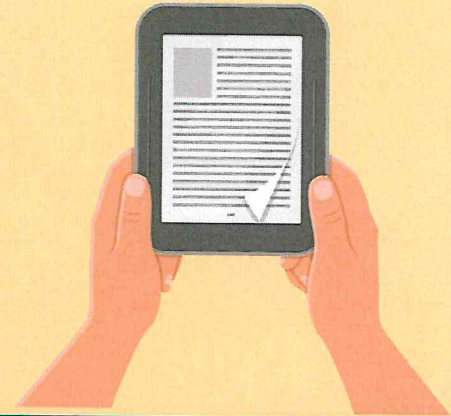
**3610**  
**Program/Event**  
**Participants**

**1133 Cardholders**



**164 New Patrons**

**7154**  
**Ebook & Audiobook Loans**

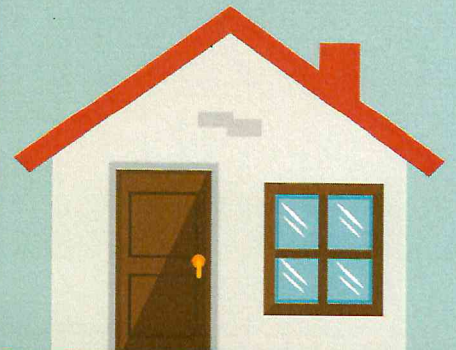


**1293**  
**Inter Library**  
**Loans**



**335 Good Food Bag &**  
**Good Baby Box**  
**Orders from CDC-Q**

**78**  
**Book**  
**Deliveries**





# 2023 FUNDRAISERS



IN MAY, WE HELD A SUCCESSFUL ART SALE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STIRLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S PLANT SALE AT THE COVERED BRIDGE. THE ART PIECES, DONATED BY ANDREW AND IRENE MARRE, RAISED OVER \$375 TO BE USED TOWARD FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ART GALLERY.



IN JUNE WE HELD A YARDSALE THAT BROUGHT IN A SMALL AMOUNT OF REVENUE TO BE PUT TOWARD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ART GALLERY AND ALSO CLEARED AWAY A NUMBER OF UNUSED ITEMS TAKING UP SPACE IN OUR STORAGE ROOMS.



IN NOVEMBER, WE HELD OUR FIRST CRAFT SHOW AND SWAG SALE IN THE UPPER HALL OF THE THEATRE. WE HAD 12 VENDORS SELLING A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE ITEMS AND A DECENT AMOUNT OF SHOPPERS WHO STOPPED BY. THE VENDORS FEES, ALONG WITH THE SALE OF OUR OWN MERCHANDISE WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, BROUGHT IN OVER \$700 TO BE USED TOWARD PROGRAMMING IN 2024.

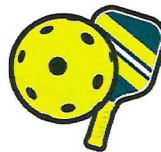


FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW, LOCAL ARTIST NANCY SNOWDON GENEROUSLY OFFERED A BEAUTIFUL SELECTION OF FUSED GLASS ORNAMENTS TO SELL FROM OCTOBER THROUGH TO THE END OF DECEMBER. THIS YEAR WAS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR ORNAMENT SALES WHICH RAISED \$2070! THESE FUNDS WILL BE PUT TOWARD ITEMS ON THE LIBRARY'S 'WISH LIST' THAT ARE NOT COVERED IN THE OPERATING BUDGET.

# DONATIONS



THE ROTARY CLUB OF STIRLING HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL SUPPORTER OF THE STIRLING-RAWDON PUBLIC LIBRARY. A \$1000 DONATION WAS MADE TO THE LIBRARY TO BE USED TOWARD TECHNOLOGY NEEDS.



THE LIBRARY APPLIED FOR AND WAS EXCITED TO RECEIVE A COMMUNITY GRANT OF \$750 FROM THE STIRLING PICKLEBALL CLUB TO FUND A NEW COOKING LITERACY PROGRAM BEING LAUNCHED IN 2024.



AN INDIVIDUAL DONATION OF \$1000 WAS GENEROUSLY MADE TO THE LIBRARY TO BE USED TOWARD SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THE OPERATING BUDGET.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED SEVERAL OTHER DONATIONS FROM PATRONS, BOOK CLUBS, PROGRAM ATTENDEES, AND FEATURED ARTISTS IN THE GALLERY. DONATIONS TOWARD BOOK PURCHASES WERE ALSO MADE IN MEMORY OR IN HONOUR OF LOVED ONES.



# 2023 Partners, Supporters, Subscriptions and Friends



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