

# 2024

# Annual Report

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Prepared by  
Jaye Bannon, CEO

# CEO'S MESSAGE

Throughout 2024, we have remained dedicated to our core mission: to provide access to resources and programs that promote personal, educational, recreational, and cultural enrichment while collaborating with other organizations that share these goals. Over the year, we have established new partnerships, experienced our highest growth in statistics since before the pandemic, updated our public computers for the first time in over a decade, and continued to progress toward our strategic objectives. As we look to the future, we aim to discover new and innovative methods to engage our community. Our goal for 2025 is to ensure that more residents of Stirling-Rawdon are aware of the programs and resources we provide and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Jaye Bannon

# BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Stirling-Rawdon Public Library has had another successful year in 2024. As always, demonstrating incredible adaptability and commitment, our dedicated staff have worked hard to create the best possible environment and programming for everyone to enjoy. Ten new computers were secured to replace the very old public computer workstations. The local history department is now located upstairs in the adult department with a couple new comfy chairs to enjoy. Many new programs based off patron interest have been offered, like the self-sufficient living discussion group. Staff have also continued collaborating with various community partners—whether by welcoming local professionals to lead discussions for programming groups, partnering with the Stirling Public School Parent Council to help run the Fun Fair, or working with the Stirling Horticultural Society to organize a scavenger hunt in the downtown gardens, to name just a few. I truly hope everyone reading this report will join me in thanking our incredible staff for their hard work and achievements over the past year!

Miranda deJong





# Vision And Mission

## 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.

## Mission

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.

# Meet Our Team



**JAYE BANNON**  
**CEO**

I have been employed at the library since 2007, and I genuinely look forward to coming to work each day. The combination of dedicated, knowledgeable staff and an incredibly supportive Board and Council makes all the difference, along with the friendly patrons we serve. Outside of my work at the library, I enjoy training and coaching Muay Thai, spending time with my two grandchildren, camping, kayaking, and playing with my silly chocolate lab.



**THERESA BRENNAN**  
**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN**

I cannot imagine working at a better job than at the library! Every moment spent here with my co-workers is a real pleasure. Helping patrons find just the right book and hearing their reviews afterwards brings enjoyable discussions. I love ordering books and anticipating which patron may read them. I delight in reading at home and generally have at least three books on the go. Time spent outside and with friends and family, brings peace to a busy lifestyle.



**HALEY LETCH**  
**CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN &  
PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR**

I've been at the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library since April 2017 and I love how every day is different. As Children's Librarian and Programming Coordinator, I get to work with people of all ages and get to do creative, arty stuff which I love to do. It doesn't feel like work when you love what you do! There's nothing better than a child excited about coming to the library to pick out books or make crafts or play a game, or an adult who didn't think they were creative surprising themselves by creating something beautiful. Outside of work I like to do arts and crafts, travel when I can, garden in the spring and summer and obsess over the multitude of houseplants that are starting to take over my house.



## ANNA BECKENHAM

### STUDENT ASSISTANT

I have been working at the Stirling-Rawdon Library for 2 years as a student assistant, and I could not think of a more perfect first job! I greatly enjoy talking to both our patrons and my coworkers. I love to help plan and run our children's programs each week, and look forward to seeing familiar faces. The library has such a wonderful atmosphere and I feel lucky to be a part of it. I am a grade 12 student so my spare time outside of work is often taken up by schoolwork, however, I also enjoy reading, listening to music and being outdoors.



## LESLIE GREEN

### CASUAL RELIEF

I'm a retired Educational Assistant with over 30 years of experience, and often step in to cover for other staff members here at the library. When I'm not called in to work, I can be found traveling the world on cruises, visiting my four grandchildren and volunteering at the Stirling Festival Theatre.

## VOLUNTEERS

### IAIN MORTON

Over the past two years, Iain Morton has volunteered more than 230 hours of his time to sort, document, scan, and upload hundreds of resources from our local history department to our online database. Thanks to Iain's dedication, we are able to make these valuable resources available to the public.

### AVI PERSAUD

We are excited to see teens visiting the library each week to take part in the fantasy tabletop role-playing game, Dungeons & Dragons, under Avi's guidance. Additionally, on a monthly basis, Avi generously shares his time and expertise by leading a Coding Workshop for kids. Both of these new programs have been very popular, and we are grateful to Avi for his commitment and support.

## CO-OP STUDENT

### RAVEN

For the first time in decades, we brought on a co-op student to help over the summer months. As a student of the Library and Information Technician program at Confederation College, hosted by Mohawk College through Ontario Learn, Raven proved to be an incredible asset to the library during our busiest time of the year. Raven has subsequently graduated from her program and is currently employed at a neighbouring library.



# Our Library Board

**Miranda deJong- Chair**

**Stasia Bennett- Vice Chair**

**Don Stewart- Council Rep.**

**Caroline Smith- Council Rep.**

**Kim Finkle- Member**

**Valerie Sills- Member**

**Kristina Smith- Member**



In 2024, the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library Board maintained its original composition, allowing the well-established team to effectively fulfill their important duties.

During the year, the Board met ten times to review, modify, and adopt various policies; evaluate the library's Strategic Plan; and prepare the budget for 2024. They also developed a Land Acknowledgment and discussed necessary renovations and improvements to the facilities.

Board members showed their support by attending the retirement celebration for long-time volunteer Jackie McFee. Meanwhile, Kristina Smith represented the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library at the Ontario Library Service Board Assembly meeting in November. Additionally, Stasia Bennet and Board Chair Miranda DeJong worked together on the CEO Evaluation for Jaye.

The advocacy and support provided by the Library Board to the library and its staff is truly invaluable.



# Highlights

It has been another fantastic year at the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library. Jaye and Haley took the opportunity to engage in personal development workshops at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference held in Toronto. At the event, Jaye was delighted to accept the Library Accreditation Award on behalf of the library for its reaccreditation received toward the end of 2023.

The library played a significant role in organizing the Stirling Fun Fair, collaborating with a group of parent volunteers from Stirling Public School. Countless hours of meetings and planning contributed to the event's remarkable success, raising over \$4,000 for the library.

The Stirling Public School acknowledged the library's contributions, particularly noting Haley's efforts in coordinating visits from the Kindergarten and Grade 2 classes throughout the year by presenting the library with a 'Making a Difference' award during their year-end ceremony.

To honor our volunteer of nearly thirty years, Jackie McFee, we hosted a retirement party following her resignation. Additionally, Theresa accompanied Jackie to the Canada Day Celebration in Stirling, where she was recognized with the Volunteer of the Year award for her longstanding dedication to the library.

During the summer months, we were fortunate to have the assistance of a co-op student from the Library and Information Technician program at Confederation College. Raven proved to be an invaluable asset to our summer programs, helping with various library tasks while gaining essential experience for her studies.

The library received new windows and doors from Vic's Glass, enhancing its exterior with a clean and uniform look while improving the building's energy efficiency. This upgrade was made possible through a grant the Municipality secured as part of the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.

In Fall 2024, Ontario Public Libraries transitioned to a new interlibrary loan (ILL) software platform called Resource Sharing for Groups. Theresa invested a considerable amount of time in completing online training ahead of the system migration. Unfortunately, the Canada Post strike from November 15 to December 17 affected the library's use of the Interlibrary Loan service just as the new system was launched, but thankfully, it was resolved before the end of the year.

Program participation saw an increase of nearly 20% compared to 2023. While a few programs were canceled due to low turnout in 2024, several new initiatives were introduced, and many existing programs gained traction.

# Year in Review

18615  
Library Items  
Circulated

1487  
Computer  
&  
Wifi  
Uses

8911  
Ebook &  
Audiobook  
Loans

39  
Book  
Deliveries







**4419  
PARTICIPANTS  
in  
215 PROGRAMS**



**234 Good  
Food Bag &  
Good Baby  
Box Orders  
from CDC-  
Quinte**



**1228  
Cardholders  
&  
176  
New Patrons**



**1204  
Inter-  
Library  
Loans**

# Year in Review

## GUESTS WE WELCOMED

Authors Jean & Rachel - The Baker Sisters (Sensory Blast)  
Illustrator Andre Jolicoeur (Art Club)  
Stirling & District Horticultural Society  
(Bird Feeders, Botanical Scavenger Hunt)  
Avi Persaud (Kids Coding)  
Jessica Lee Sheppard (Author Visit)  
Lower Trent Conservation (Various Presentations)  
Stirling Musical Instrument Lending Library (Jug Band)  
Hannah Collins (Animation Club)  
Alissa McCaw (Soap Making Demonstration)  
Joanne Hoang (Paper Making Workshop)  
Family Space (Infant Massage Series)  
Alzheimer Society-Hastings Prince Edward (Brain Health)

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

### New Book Distributor-Library Bound:

This improved the consistency of our book orders and ensured that we always had a good supply of new titles for our patrons.

### Large Audio CD donation:

We were thrilled to receive a very large donation of audio books from a neighbouring library, allowing us to add several new titles to our collection.

### DVD Pool:

We joined the OLS DVD Pool which provided a cost effective way of offering 80 new DVD titles every few months to our patrons

## ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE GALLERY

Andy Milczarski  
The Group of Eleven  
Patti Fenwick  
Susan Lorensen  
Dan Stewart  
Marie Barclay  
Betty Ryan  
Norah McCaw  
Mary Ellen Thompson  
Bee's Nest Quilt & Sew

## BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

All new windows and doors installed by Vic's Glass through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Grant received by the Municipality.

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Largescreen TV  
Envoy Connect  
10 refurbished computers  
Comfortable lounge chairs



# 2024 Programming

Haley worked her magic once again throughout 2024, curating an exceptional lineup of programs and events for children, teens, and adults. By utilizing the expertise of special guests, her own creativity, and community suggestions, our library provided engaging activities for everyone all year round. Theresa continued to successfully lead a monthly 'Self Sufficient Living Discussion Group,' regularly organizing guest speakers. Funds generated from merchandise sales and the Vendor Craft show in 2023 significantly contributed to program planning costs, enabling the library to enhance both the quantity and quality of library offerings in 2024.



## Recurring Programs

- Writer's Group
- Library Book Club
- Self-Sufficient Living Discussion Group
- Homeschool Meetup
- Storytime
- Take & Make Craft Kits
- Adult Craft Nights
- Stirling Reads
- Mittens for Kittens

## New in 2024

- SMUG - Stirling MILL Ukele Group
- After School Hangout
- Coding Club
- Conversation Circle
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Art Journaling
- Knitting Club



## Special Programs & Events

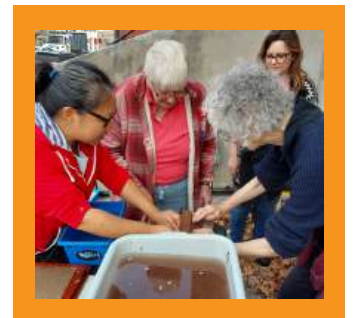
- Author Visits
- DVD Swap
- Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- Camp Read-A-Lot
- National Popcorn Day
- Poetry & Spoken Word Open Mic
- National Canadian Film Day
- Houseplant Swap
- Volunteer Retirement Party
- Stirling Fun Fair
- Small Town Shorts Film Fest
- Tiny Art Show
- Canning Demonstration
- Animation Club

- Soap Making Demonstration
- Costume Swap
- Paper Making Workshop
- Holiday Market Outreach
- Infant Massage Course
- Holiday Party
- Craft Supply Swap
- Sourdough Bread Discussion
- March Break Programs

(Candyland, Sensory Blast Off, Bird Feeders, Coding Club, Art Club, I Spy Scavenger Hunt, Craft Roulette)

- Summer Programs

(Choose Your Own Adventure, Jug Band, Fair Crafts, Think-Make-Create, Taylor Swift Party, Nerf Battle, Candyland)



# 2024 Fundraisers & Donations



The Stirling Fun Fair was a significant project that demanded extensive planning and execution. Library staff, board members, school volunteers, and community members united to revive an evening filled with family fun and games for the first time in five years. By sharing the proceeds with Stirling Public School, the library successfully raised \$4,372.90!



Sales of custom book bags, stickers, and buttons, all crafted by Haley with our Cricut machine, generated \$459.50 for the library in 2024.

Several artists who showcased their work in our Gallery in 2024 generously contributed to the library, either through monetary donations or by supplying prints for the library to sell.



In 2024, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 228 in Stirling generously contributed \$388.00 to the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library. We truly appreciate the ongoing support from our local service groups.



The Rotary Club of Stirling has been a tremendous supporter of the Stirling-Rawdon Public Library. Jaye was invited to attend their Wednesday morning breakfast meetings on two occasions to discuss the library and its offerings. During both visits, the Rotary Club generously presented checks for \$1,000 to be used for technology purchases.



We were excited to discover that The Stirling Lion's Club selected the library to receive the proceeds from one of their monthly breakfasts in 2024. On April 26, 2024, members of the Lions Club presented a generous cheque for \$1,000.00 from their delightful breakfast event!

Walmart Trenton generously supported our library's future Cooking Program with a donation of \$1,000.00. Haley took the initiative to attend a morning meeting at Walmart, where she shared details about the upcoming program and outlined how the funds would be utilized.



Once again, Nancy Snowden dedicated numerous hours to crafting stunning fused glass ornaments for the library's sale from October to December 2024. This fundraiser successfully raised \$730, which will be allocated towards future non-operational expenses.



In addition to the valuable contributions from our community, our patrons donated a total of \$2,220.00 to the library over the year. We are truly thankful for the unwavering support from patrons, community members, and service organizations. This extra funding through donations enables us to enhance our services.





# Contact Us



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**"The only thing that you  
absolutely have to know, is the  
location of the library"  
-Albert Einstein**