



2024 -2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Cumberland Public Libraries
PO Box 220
Amherst, NS
B4H 3Z2

MESSAGE FROM LIBRARY CHAIR

As a long-time library user and supporter, I'm very pleased to be a member of the library board and to help shape the future of the Cumberland Public Libraries. I know an annual report is about looking back on what we've done in the past year but instead I'd like to highlight something we're doing right now. With the guidance and support of Peak Experiences, the library's team and the board are creating a strategic plan. This document will help guide us in our decisions over the next few years and provide clarity on the library's role within the community.

On behalf of the entire Board, I offer our sincere thanks to the dedicated and hardworking staff that make coming to the library such a joy; and to the patrons who have contributed to or used our services during this past year.

Kim Ford
**Chair, Cumberland
Regional Library Board**



Library Board Members (from left to right):
Cllr. Terry McManaman, Cllr. Angela
McCormick, Cllr. Carla Black, and Kim Ford.

OUR LIBRARY BOARD

APRIL 2024 – OCTOBER 2024

Councillor Dale Fawthrop (Chair)
Town of Amherst

Councillor Dale Porter
Municipality of Cumberland County

Councillor Carla Black (Treasurer)
Town of Oxford

Kim Ford
Community Board Member

Provincial Appointee
Vacant since Oct. 2020

Provincial Appointee Vacant
since Dec. 2022

NOVEMBER 2024 – PRESENT

Councillor Terry McManaman
Town of Amherst

Councillor Angela McCormick
Municipality of Cumberland County

Councillor Carla Black (Treasurer)
Town of Oxford

Kim Ford (Chair)
Community Board Member

Provincial Appointee
Vacant since Oct. 2020

Provincial Appointee Vacant
since Dec. 2022

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am very proud of the work that the staff does every single day to serve the citizens of Cumberland County. They go out of their way to help people by providing information, reading recommendations, directions, or just being a listening ear. They provide amazing service to our region, and they make our communities better.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the municipalities of Oxford, Amherst, and Cumberland County. They provided more funding in the fiscal year than was required, and did this so the library would not have to reduce any operating hours. This helped to ensure we could do all the great things you'll see outlined on the following pages.

In the past year we've hosted author readings and art events, read countless stories, played games and made crafts, and done so much more with over 11,000 participants in attendance. We also signed out over 160,000 items. Library circulation in the past few years has been absolutely phenomenal. While we know all of these numbers have a societal impact behind them, the value of the library experience is hard to measure.

I genuinely believe that the public libraries are a vital asset to the people of Cumberland County and I look forward to the year ahead.

Pictured with
Lesley Crewe!



DENISE COREY
LIBRARY DIRECTOR,
CUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

OUR TEAM

"Thank you for
Cumberland Public
Library - Borrow By Mail -
it feels like a birthday &
Christmas present for me
and the whole family!"

Headquarters and Amherst Branch Staff:

Library Director - Denise Corey
Deputy Library Director - Chantelle Taylor
Community Engagement Librarian - Charlotte Gallivan
Systems Manager - Steve Weatherbee
Administrative Assistant / Bookkeeper - Francis Ikpekhia
Library Assistant - Adam Davies
Youth Services Library Assistant - Julie Allison-Savage
Interlibrary Loans Coordinator - Vanessa Sawatzky
Library Clerk - Lisa Strathearn
Community Technology Trainer - Grace Belliveau-Perry
Borrow by Mail Clerk - Dianna Lawless
Library Clerk - Rhi Arlow
Library Clerk - Cat Rector
Shipping Receiving Clerk/Delivery Driver - Aaron Doy, Aldon Brewer
Summer Students - Rhys Davies, Isabelle Ettinger, and Zoe Smith

Branch Staff:

Advocate Harbour - Leslie Allen
Oxford - Megan McNutt, Patrick Allaby, and Jil Bona
Parrsboro - Amber Allard and Cindy Walker
Pugwash - Mary Hartling, Archan Knotz, Marsha Amanova,
and Jil Bona
River Hebert - Henri Etta Stevens
Springhill - Cathy Canning and Candy Grant

Follow us on social media!



@cumberlandpublic
libraries



@cumberland_pl



@cumberland_pl

YEAR IN REVIEW

Support from our Municipal Partners

This year, our dedicated Municipal partners gave additional funding so we did not have to reduce hours at any of our locations. They have shown that Cumberland County deserves sustainable and adequate core library services in the region.

+67.3K

Additional funds given to CPL from our municipal partners!

Thank you!



Read Local Cumberland

During May and June, we hosted Read Local Cumberland around the County. This new initiative allowed local authors to host mini author readings, interact with other writers, and to sell their books at our seven locations.

In total, 11 local authors participated in Read Local Cumberland, including: Clare Christie, Richard Dittami, Morris Haugg, Barbara Robinson, Eric Sparling, and others.



Food Security Initiatives at the Library

Now more than ever, food insecurity is a growing concern in our community. This year, we received a one-time \$53,000 grant to help with food security in Cumberland County.

With this grant funding, we collaborated with local organizations who already do food security work; namely the YMCA of Cumberland and Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CANU).

We supported patrons by providing snacks at our seven locations. We also installed a food pantry in our Amherst location.



A picture of the moon, taken by Leslie Allen in Advocate on April 18, 2024.

Amazing Astronomy

Through generous financial contributions from the Public Health Agency of Canada, we were able to offer our Amazing Astronomy program! During the program, patrons had the opportunity to use a telescope and view planetarium presentations.

The first Amazing Astronomy program took place at our Advocate Harbour location on May 23rd. During the summer, we hosted other Amazing Astronomy programs throughout Cumberland County. We continued to host Amazing Astronomy at our Advocate location until its unexpected closure in March 2025.

Art Attack! at the Pugwash Library

On June 1, members of the Pugwash Artist Collective, and library supporters, hosted "Art Attack" at the Pugwash Library. The purpose of Art Attack was to raise funds for additional art installation systems in the library.

Community members dressed up as famous fictional characters, who read from several works of classical literature as local artists sketched, drew, felted, and painted their interpretations of the readers. Attendees who made donations were able to take artwork home to commemorate a lovely day at the library.

The Pugwash Artist Collective raised \$250 to purchase new installation systems, enabling the library to display more local artwork for all to enjoy.



"We created a different world today at the Pugwash library. Thank you for taking part in which ever form you did."

-A.K.

Summer Reading Club 2024

Our SRC officially launched on June 17, with kickoff parties across the County. Following our launch, we held 85 free programs for all ages to enjoy.

Programs we hosted this summer included: Sensational Slime, Weird Science Day, Family Fort & Giant Game Night, and more. 307 kids and teens sign up for the SRC, and read for approximately 1,769 hours.

Thank you to our Community Health Boards and the Cumberland Child and Youth Foundation for providing grant money to make our SRC a success!

85

FREE programs
offered during
our SRC



1,769

hours of reading
completed by kids
and teens during
the SRC

Happy retirement!
Thanks for all your
years of wonderful
service to everyone
who used the library.
Enjoy your retirement!

-A.PN.



Celebrating 30 Years of Library Service

On Friday, August 30, library staff and patrons celebrated the retirement of Mary Hartling, our Pugwash Library Branch Clerk. Mary worked for CPL for thirty years, and became an integral part of library service in Pugwash.

Well-wishers enjoyed light refreshments, cake, and conversations with Mary on her last day. We greatly appreciate the work Mary has done to provide library service to the Village of Pugwash, and our patrons and staff miss her!



NSLA Conference 2024

From October 25 to October 27, CPL welcomed 93 attendees to the annual Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) conference in Amherst, NS. The weekend was filled with professional development and networking opportunities.

The theme was "Make it Happen, Make it Matter!", highlighting the positive impacts libraries and library staff have on everyone who passes through our physical or digital doors.



The Keynote speaker, Lorisia MacLeod, provided attendees with an exceptional talk on uplifting the community, working collaboratively with your peers, and making things happen in the library world.

CPL staff were able to attend sessions on duty to report, dementia friendly library resources, webcomic and novels in print, supports for children developing motor skills, and more.



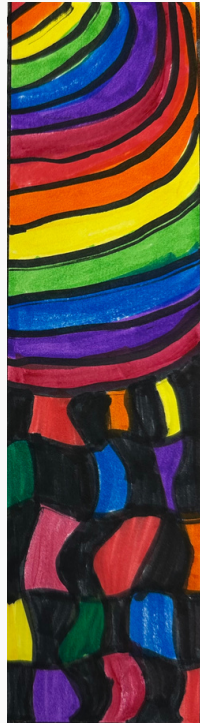
Design a Bookmark Contest

In November, we hosted a design a bookmark contest for Cumberland County kids!

Twenty-four kids participated, and 4 winners were selected by the public via social media voting. In total, the bookmarks received 721 votes, and winners had their bookmarks printed and given away at our library locations. Check out the winning entries below.



Ages 3-6:
Jarika S.
(Amherst)



Ages 7-10:
Penelope M
(Springhill)



Ages 11-14:
Amneh
(Pugwash)



Ages 15+:
Bernadette C.
(Springhill)



Thank you Dale!

We would like to thank Dale Fawthrop for his years of dedication to the Cumberland Regional Library Board. His commitment to promoting literacy and library service has created a lasting positive impact on our community.

The next time you visit your local library, check out a cookbook in Dale's honour!

Advocate Library Closed

Our Advocate Library closed Monday, March 17 due to building issues.

In an effort to maintain service to the area, we started offering a satellite location. This service runs once a week, allows patrons to browse, return, and borrow library materials, create a library card, learn about the library and its services, attend programming, and more.

The Advocate and District Development Association is hard at work fundraising for a new building. We look forward to working with the ADDA to bring regular library services back to Advocate.



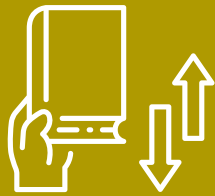
Looking Forward – Updated Accessibility Plan

CPL, working with five other regional libraries as the Interregional Advisory Committee for Library Accessibility (IACLA), has updated our Library Accessibility Plan. The Committee, composed of six regional library employees and nine community members, have worked together to build on our existing plan – published in 2022.

The new IACLA Plan was published on April 1, 2025, and will be used as a roadmap for CPL to become barrier free and welcoming to all.

Visit our website, cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca/accessibility/ to view our updated plan.

2024-2025 NUMBERS



162,281

ITEMS BORROWED
LAST YEAR

**3% increase
from 2023-24**



69,261

PEOPLE VISITED
OUR LIBRARIES



18.54

FULL-TIME
EQUIVALENT STAFF

**A reduction of 7%
from 2023/24**



11,523

PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR
PROGRAMS



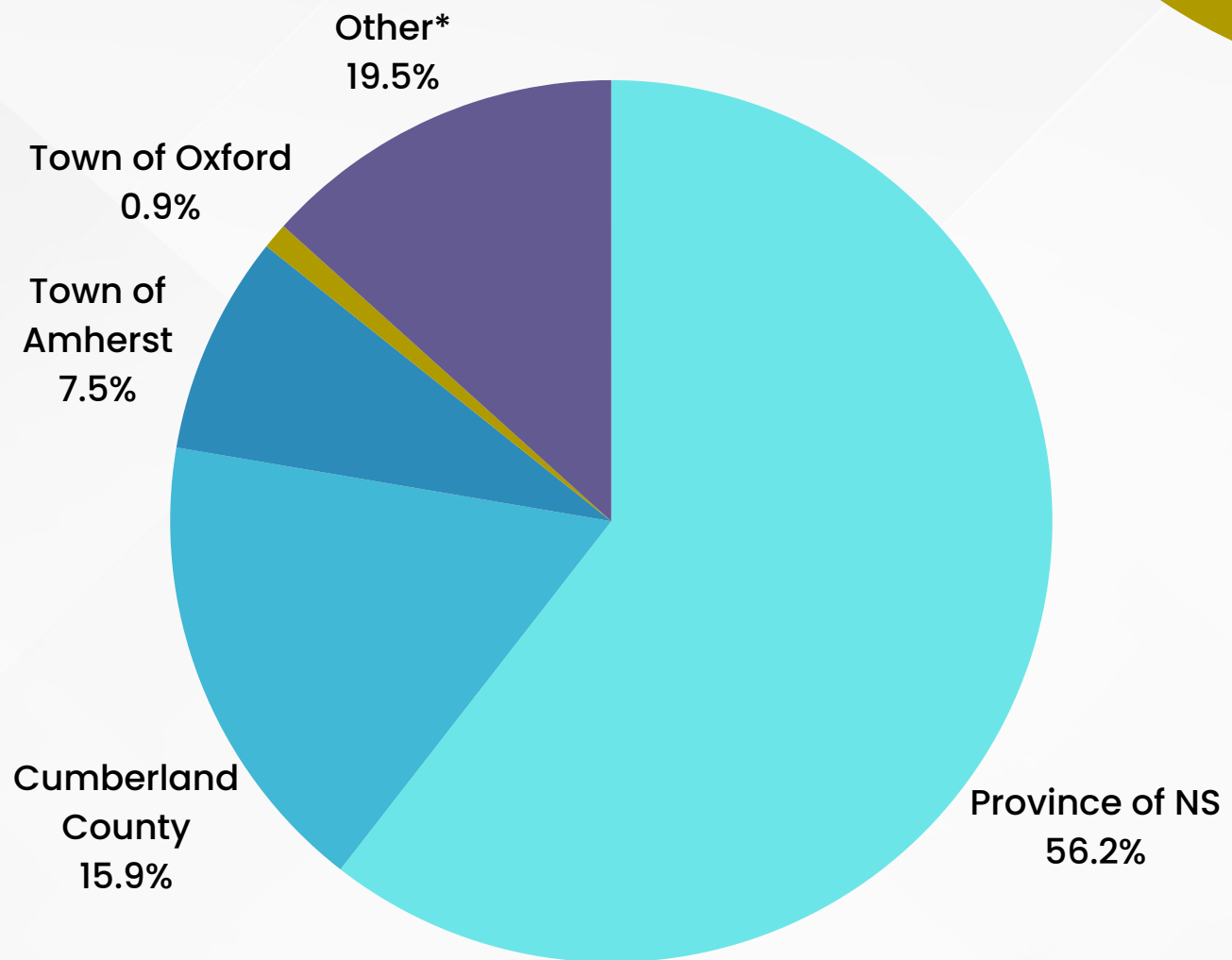
10,246

OPEN
HOURS



LIBRARY FINANCES

SOURCES OF FUNDING



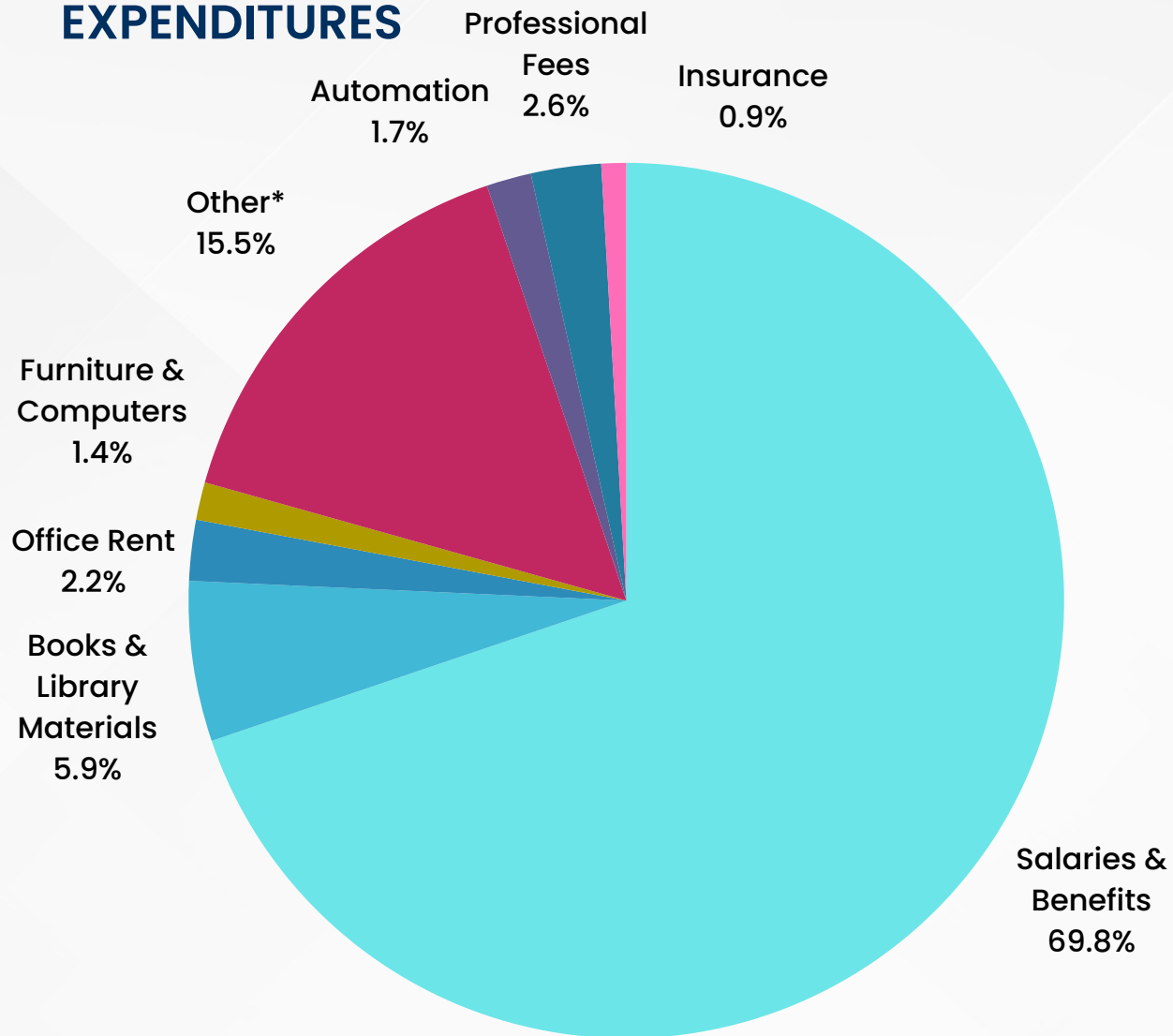
Province of Nova Scotia	\$813,100
Cumberland County	\$230,446
Amherst	\$108,004
Oxford	\$12,785
Other*	\$282,872
Subtotal	\$1,447,207

*Other Includes:

- Donations
- Grants
- Fundraising
- Interest
- Fees

LIBRARY FINANCES

EXPENDITURES



Salaries & Benefits	\$1,020,965
Books & Library Materials	\$86,417
Office Rent	\$32,848
Professional Fees	\$37,865
Furniture & Computers	\$20,335
Automation	\$24,202
Insurance	\$13,376
*Other	\$226,507

Total Expenditures = \$1,462,515

*Other Includes:

- Programming
- Training
- Insurance
- Vehicle operations
- Phone & Fax
- Advertising
- Office Supplies
- Shipping & Postage
- Amortization

THANKS!

We wish to thank the individuals, businesses, and organizations who made financial or in-kind contributions to the library during the past year:

Marsha Amanova

Amherst Lions Club

Sally Austin

Kim Babineau

Lisa Baldwin

Burning Bush Ministries

Joan Cameron

Jean Carr

David Christie

Elizabeth Clinton

Denise Corey

Cumberland Child and Youth Foundation

Dale Davis

Richard Dittami

Bill Dowe

The Dr. & Mrs. H.E. Christie Community Foundation

Bernice Elliott and C Kilburn Elliott

Nancy Farrell

Alton Glenn

Wendy Iler

Bob Janes

Sally Krueger

Maureen Leahey

Karen MacDonald

Mehta Family Foundation

Patricia Nicolle

Northumberland Properties

Oxford Poetry Committee

Joseph Peck & Joan Peck

Pugwash Artist Collective

Pugwash Baptist Church

Lori Quinn

Veronica Richards

Delphine Seto

SOAR Community Health Board

SPAR Community Health Board

Tantramar Chapter IODE

Patricia Thompson

WWPA Community Health Board



CONTACT INFORMATION

Advocate Harbour Library

93 Mills Road
Advocate Harbour
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902-392-2214
advocate@cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca

Four Fathers Memorial Library (Amherst)

21 Acadia Street
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Oxford Library

111 Rideau Street
Oxford, NS
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902-447-2440
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Parrsboro Library

91 Queen Street
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Pugwash Library

10182 Durham Street
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River Hebert Library

1808 Highway 242
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Springhill Library

85 Main Street
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