



# 2025 Annual Report

# A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Shelley Smith, Chair  
Carleton Place Public Library Board



I am honoured to share the 2025 annual report highlighting the commitment and accomplishments of which our Board and staff are justifiably proud. First, on behalf of the Board I extend thanks to Carleton Place Council and staff for their ongoing support through the annual budget allocation and services such as IT, finances, infrastructure, and human resources. Thanks to our outstanding staff who serve our communities with vision, creativity and passion. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the committed Board trustees who pay attention, make tough decisions when required, and are fair and steady stewards of the Carleton Place Public Library.

*“We envision a future where the library is the beating heart of a strong and engaged community.”*

Like most other organizations in the area, the Carleton Place Public Library (CPPL) is seeing the impact of the rapidly growing communities we serve. With over 55,000 library visits and 922 new members in 2025 our staff have been challenged to meet demand. The Board recognized the challenges inherent in this growth and, through a restructuring of the budget and careful use of reserves, was able to approve the creation of a Program Coordinator position. The reinforced program team created an annual program plan which has resulted in a 30% increase in program participation over 2024.

In 2025 CPPL continued with existing services and, as always, looked for new ways to reach out to our communities. In addition to ongoing programming with children and youth, an expanded emphasis on senior’s programming has included several new initiatives, such as morning coffee and a new Facebook group for seniors. Through partnership with Lanark and Renfrew Immigrant Settlement Services, we provide free ESL services for newcomers.

The Board and Beckwith Township reached a new three year service agreement which sees residents of Beckwith continue to be provided with free CPPL memberships. Library staff have participated in programs at Beckwith Public School, including a Grades 3 and 4 Real World Project to create literacy kits to complement the Library’s collection of decodable books. The project culminated in a visit by the classes to the Library to present their project. Library staff were also present at both Beckwith Heritage Days and Beckwith Sign-up Night.

I am delighted that we will also be able to look forward to partnership with the newly formed and very enthusiastic Friends of the Carleton Place Public Library. Thanks to Board trustee Linda Guetta for being the driving force to get the Friends group established.

2025

# A YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2025, Carleton Place Public Library strengthened its role as a cornerstone of community life—advancing literacy, creativity, and connection for residents across Carleton Place and Beckwith. We were proud to see Program and Outreach Manager Heidi Sinnett recognized with a Lanark County Asset Builder’s Award, celebrating her outstanding contributions to children and youth.

The Library reinforced its community connections by signing a three-year service contract with the Township of Beckwith, supporting sustainable, collaborative public library service delivery with a valued partner and stakeholder.

Innovation and community engagement were also on display through our Mini Maker Craft Fair, which was shortlisted for an Angus Mowat Award of Excellence—an honour that reflects both staff leadership and the enthusiasm of local makers, families, and partners.

To meet growing demand, the Board invested in capacity by adding a new Program Co-ordinator position—strengthening our ability to deliver high-quality programs and outreach. These efforts were matched by strong community usage, with circulation and programming numbers reaching an all-time high and demonstrating continued trust in the Library as a vital public service.



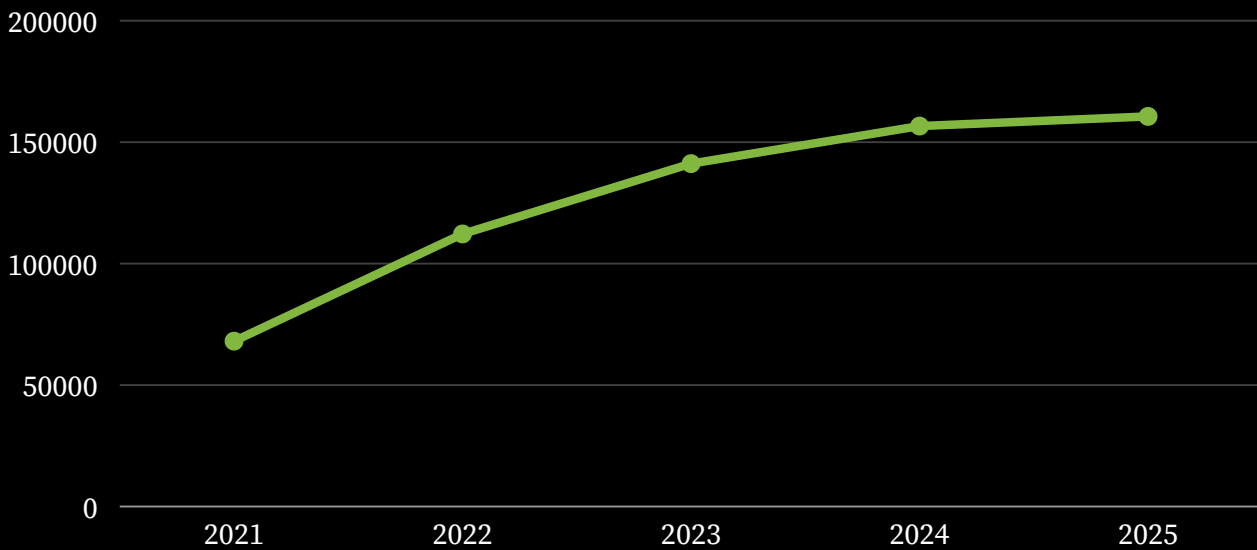
Programs and Outreach Manager Heidi Sinnett accepts a Lanark County Asset Builders Award

# RECORD-BREAKING CIRCULATION

Carleton Place Public Library continues to break circulation records, once again outperforming the previous year. These numbers include physical books, eBooks and eAudio, and popular “library of things” offerings such as museum passes, seeds, and radon monitors.

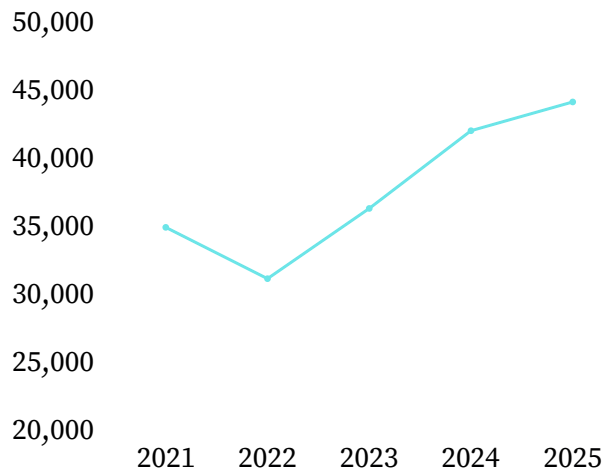
*Circulation increased*  
**2.5%**  
*over 2024*

**160 605**  
Items circulated

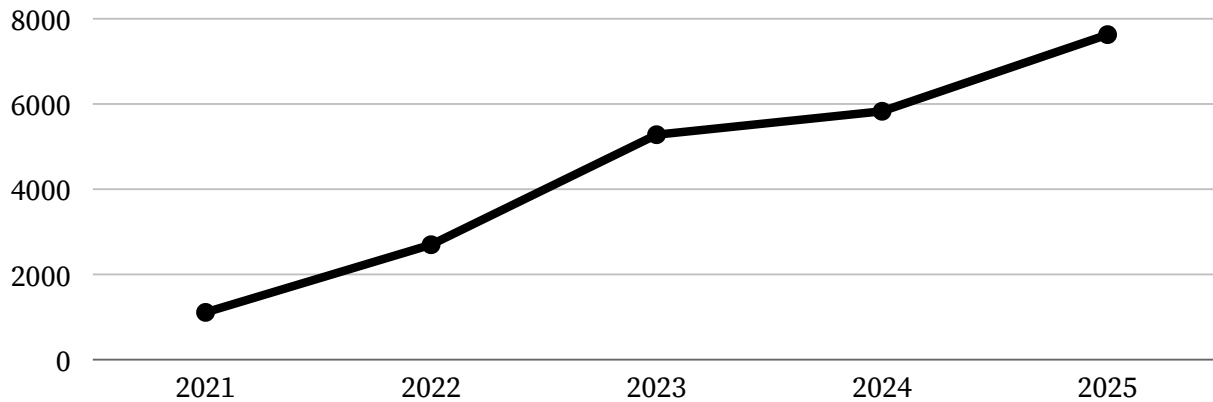


## CONTINUED INTEREST IN DIGITAL MEDIA

Patron interest in eBooks, eAudio, and digital magazines continues to rise. In 2025, digital downloads represented 27% of all library circulations.



## Library Program Attendance



## LIBRARY PROGRAMS - 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Implementation of the Library's first annual Program Plan.
- ✓ Creation of a new, permanent Program Coordinator position.
- ✓ Focus on quality programs for seniors and older adults has resulted in increased library participation across these communities.
- ✓ **30% increase in program participation over 2024.**
- ✓ Modernization of the library's annual children's reading challenge to reflect current trends and interests.
- ✓ New partnership with Lanark and Renfrew Immigrant Settlement Services, offering free ESL sessions to community members.

# 2025 in Numbers



612

Library programs



6552

Active memberships



55 363

Library visitors



1054

Interlibrary loans circulated



922

New library memberships



39 563

Items in the collection



3011

Public computer sessions



7971

WiFi sessions



909

Experience passes circulated



692

Online language learning sessions, including ESL courses.



Program Coordinator Julia preparing for a Dragon Party

## 2024 - 2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2024, after thorough research into our communities, industry, and current capacities, the library board set the following strategic priorities for the years ahead:

- Increase Community Connections
- Adapt and Grow with the Community
- Raise the profile of the library in the community

[Read our full 2024-2028 Strategic Plan here](#)

## 2025 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Increase Community Connections

- Signed a 3-year service contract with longtime Strategic Partner, the Township of Beckwith.

Adapt and Grow with the Community

- To address the growing interest in library programming, a new Program Co-Ordinator position was created and filled.

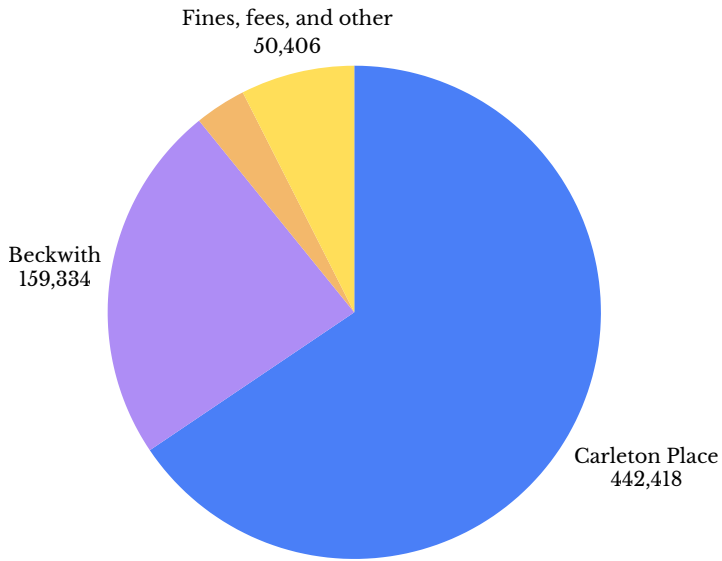
Raise the Profile of the Library in the Community

- The library's Mini-Maker Craft Fair was shortlisted for a Angus Mowat Award for Excellence, placing it among the best library programs in the Province.

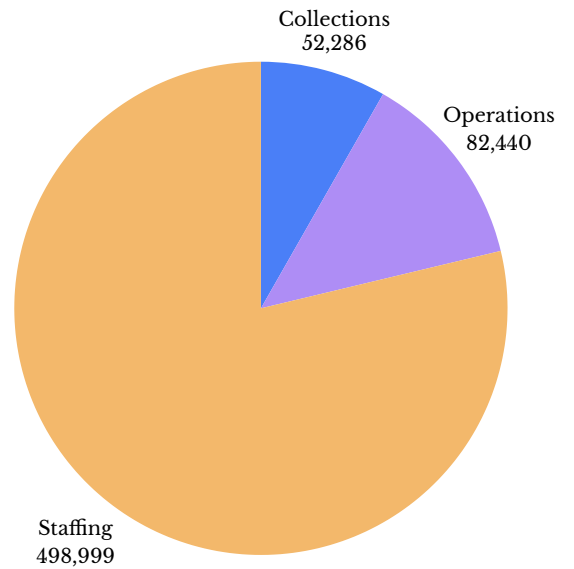


*A Year's Overview*

# 2025 LIBRARY FINANCES

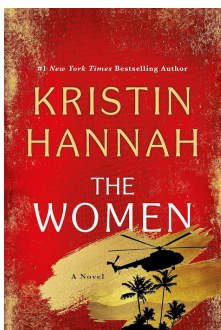


Where library funds come from

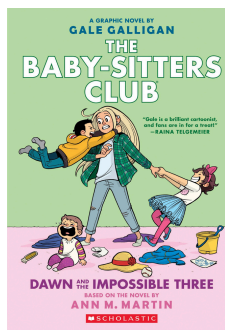


How library funds are used

# TOP CIRCULATING TITLES



Adult  
45 Borrows



Kids  
18 Borrows



Young Adult  
19 Borrows



DVD  
16 Borrows

# Coming up in 2026

- ✓ New, easy-to-use program registration portal
- ✓ Accessibility upgrades to collections and the library website
- ✓ Focus on outreach, ensuring library visibility at events across Carleton Place and Beckwith
- ✓ Planning and recruitment of the 2027-2030 Library Board



Claudia Radmore Poetry Event

Your 2023-2026 Carleton Place Public Library Board

