

2025 Annual Report

**St. Catharines Public Library**

**SCPL**

**in**



**Bloom**



# 2025 at the Library

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2025 was a year of exciting change and purposeful growth. We dove headfirst into the first year of our new strategic plan, creating experiences and spaces where our community could bloom. We remained steadfast in our commitment to becoming a hub where leisure and lifelong learning connect, enriching our city and helping people at every age and stage of life.

The biggest adventure of the year was the Merritt Relocation Project as we moved the Merritt Branch to its new home at the Niagara Pen Centre. This endeavour, while a huge undertaking for the SCPL team, led to many wins for the community including more space for the collection, bookable meeting and study rooms, and easy access by public transit. We kept service interruptions to a minimum during the branch relocation by introducing the Merrittton Holds Locker at the Home Hardware on Hartzel Road. Through this partnership, we were able to maintain customer access to library materials during the move and beyond. The new Merritt Branch location and the Merrittton Holds Lockers have proven to be a hit with the community!

2025 was also a big year for digital growth at SCPL. In May, we introduced a fresh new website to reflect our commitment to innovation and growth. The new website, with its bright design and user-friendliness, puts our brand and values on the forefront of our digital presence. Another digital development was the launch of our PrintMe services, a new way to print, scan, and copy documents with ease. Now, with PrintMe, customers can send a file to an SCPL printer from anywhere and complete that print job cashless with just a few taps of the touchscreen.

This year, we have also sought digital solutions to reaffirm our commitment to early literacy with the introduction of our AWE Literacy Stations. These stations offer educational games and activities for children ages 6-12 and early literacy programs for kids ages 2-8. Originally piloted at the Dr. Huq Family Library Branch in December, we now offer AWE Literacy Stations at the Central Library and the Merritt Branch as well.

For years, customers have enjoyed the cost-savings of borrowing items from the library. Now, customers can see exactly how much they saved during each visit at the bottom of their checkout receipt. This small addition serves as a powerful reminder of the library's significant impact on our community's daily lives... one visit at a time.

# Message from the Chair and CEO

2025 was a milestone year for SCPL as we modernized our spaces and expanded our reach. The launch of our new website, the installation of a Merritton holds locker, and the relocation of the Merritt branch have enhanced how our community connects with us.

Beyond our walls, we strengthened regional partnerships across Niagara by expanding reciprocal borrowing and initiating a shared online catalogue and borrowing system. We also prioritized safety and accessibility at our facilities, secured multiple grants, and completed the detailed design for the Central Library Renovation.

From launching new collections to fostering community dialogue, our focus remains on inclusivity and innovation. These achievements are a testament to our dedicated staff and the vibrant community we serve. As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our programs, enhancing our facilities, and evolving our services to meet the diverse needs of the people of St. Catharines.

**Janice Coles**  
Library Board Chair

**Ken Su**  
CEO

## Financials

### Revenues

Municipal Contributions	\$7,010,502
Provincial Grants	\$228,616
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$699,577
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,938,695</b>

### Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$5,345,790
Materials	\$787,385
Occupancy Costs	\$506,595
Services and Supplies	\$544,314
Operating Capital	\$754,611
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,938,695</b>

# Our Values

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## **Inclusion**

We are committed to creating a space that is welcoming, accessible, and free of judgement.

## **Change**

We recognize that societal changes are occurring and we embrace our own evolution to keep up with the times and develop new ways of better serving the community.

## **Community**

We believe the community is for all people and we are committed to building a healthy and connected St. Catharines.

## **Teamwork**

We work collaboratively with the Board of Directors, staff, and community partners to provide the best possible service to our customers.

## **Service**

We believe every customer deserves to be treated with kindness and we are dedicated to delivering outstanding customer service.

## **Accountability**

We understand the importance of being transparent and taking responsibility for our actions to foster a healthy organization and an engaged community.

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# Ideas in Bloom

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# SCPL by the numbers

**401,679**

**in-person visits**  
to all branches across  
St. Catharines.

**7,478**

**new memberships**  
were issued, including  
1,270 online memberships.

**886,693**

**physical items**  
were borrowed, a 14.2%  
increase from 2024.

**226,976**

**digital items**  
were checked out.

**29,264**

**attendees**  
attended 1,251 programs.

**91,220**

**electronic resources sessions**  
were recorded.

**94,052**

**questions answered**  
by staff.

**2,079,101**

**catalogue searches**  
were conducted, a 17%  
increase from 2024.

By using the library,  
**customers saved**

**\$38,914,177**

# SCPL by the borrows

**344,363** adult fiction & non-fiction books

**324,261** children's books

**134,200** movies

**112,193** ebooks

**80,932** audiobooks

**35,383** video games

**28,955**  
newspapers and magazines

**26,285**  
teen books

With the City's investment of  
**\$7,010,502**  
we generated

**\$46,364,707**

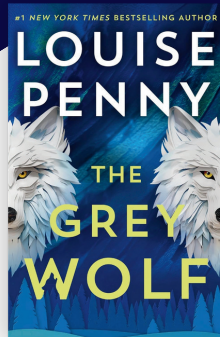
in economic benefit for the  
community in 2025!

\*as calculated using the Ontario Library Service's  
Social Return on Investment Calculator in the  
Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit.

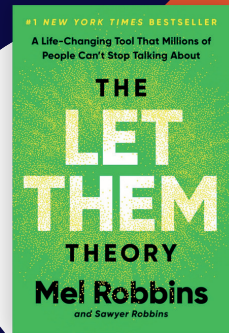
# Your favourite SCPL items



Library of Things



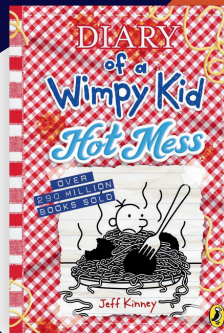
adult fiction



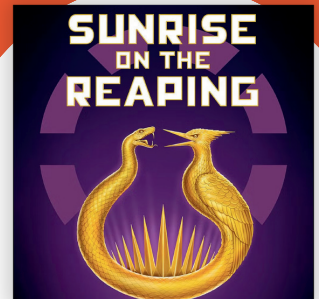
adult non-fiction



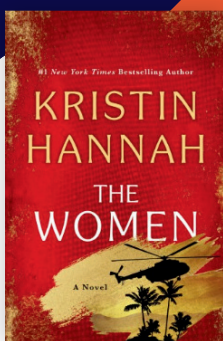
teen book



children's book



eAudiobook



ebook



movie



video game

# Serving our community in our community

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**4,960** participants attended **156**  
community outreach programs.

Throughout the year, we hosted **106**  
book club meetings.

And made **438** Visiting Library visits.

# Program attendance

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In 2025, we saw:

**12,344**

attendees at our adult, older adult, and all ages programs.

**1,029**

attendees at teen programs.

**15,891**

attendees at our early years and children's programs.

## Summer Reading Club

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**826** readers signed up for the Summer Reading Club

Together, we read for a total of **23,826** days.

# Visit your local library

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## Locations

### **Central Library**

54 Church Street  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 7K2

### **Dr. Huq Family Library Branch**

425 Carlton Street  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2M 4W8

### **Merritt Branch**

221 Glendale Ave,  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2T 2K9

### **Port Dalhousie Branch**

23 Brock Street  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2N 5E1

### **Books to Go Kiosk, Holds to Go Locker**

240 St. Paul Street W.  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2S 4B8

### **Merritton Holds to Go Locker**

111 Hartzel Rd, St.  
Catharines, ON  
L2P 1N6

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