

# 2023 Annual Report

**St. Catharines Public Library**

# SCPL

in



# Bloom



# 2023 at the Library

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We're proud to put SCPL's 2023 annual report in your hands and to celebrate a year of incredible successes together. In 2023, we put our strategic plan to work and made strides in our promise to be a library for all.

Port Plus, a new extended access model at the Port Dalhousie branch, more than doubled our service hours at that location, making the library a prominent service in the Port Dalhousie community. Likewise, the introduction of Fine Freedom in February removed barriers for our modest-income members who may have otherwise hesitated to use our services.

In August, we proudly launched Sensory Kits at all branches with support from Autism Canada. Sensory Kits contain a selection of sensory and tactile items for self-regulation and comfort, to help facilitate a positive library experience for anyone who needs the support.

Our Library of Things continued to grow throughout the year with the addition of entertaining and practical items including a green screen, lawn games, CO2 monitors, STEM kits, and jigsaw puzzles. All of which have been well-received by our community.

As the needs and interests of St. Catharines neighbourhoods have changed, so have we. Our floating collections have expanded to include DVDs, YP fiction, literary collections, and video games to ensure the materials at each branch reflect the needs of each unique community.

We often say that the library is so much more than books and this sentiment extends to the continued delivery of our programs. In 2023, we had a record-breaking year, offering more programs than ever before and running our largest Summer Reading Club to date. Additionally, in April, we launched our inaugural Get Growing event, an all-day, all-ages celebration of gardening and nature, by offering workshops and drop-in programs across the Garden City.

Every day, our team strives to be an inclusive, multi-faceted hub of information, resources, and experiences woven into the fabric of our City. We're proud of the steps we've taken in 2023 to help St. Catharines citizens learn, grow, and connect. Thank you to our customers, volunteers, and Board of Directors for supporting us in our mission.

# Message from the Chair and CEO

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are proud to report significant strides in our commitment to creating a Library for All. Through initiatives like Port Plus and Fine Freedom for All, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that our resources and services are accessible to every member of our community, regardless of background or circumstance.

We are also thrilled to announce the completion of several space improvements, including the addition of vibrant craft corners and children's activity areas at all branches, a dynamic gamer space at the Central Branch, and a laptop bar at the Dr. Huq Family Branch. These enhancements were designed with the diverse needs and interests of our customers in mind, and we are excited to see how they will further enrich the library experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to serve and uplift our community.

**Janice Coles**  
Library Board Chair

**Ken Su**  
CEO

## Financials

Revenues	
Municipal Contributions	\$6,204,214
Provincial Grants	\$228,600
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$93,995
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$6,688,727</b>

Expenditures	
Salaries and Benefits	\$4,485,054
Materials	\$775,961
Occupancy Costs	\$490,748
Services and Supplies	\$373,315
Operating Capital	\$563,649
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,688,727</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.

# Ideas in Bloom

# SCPL by the numbers

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**342,497**  
**in-person visits**  
to all branches across  
St. Catharines.

**5,478**  
**memberships**  
were issued, including  
1,045 online memberships.

**781,052**  
**physical items**  
were borrowed in 2023, a  
30% increase from 2022.

**216,939**  
**digital items**  
were checked out  
in 2023.

**26,823**  
**attendees**  
attended 1,078 programs.

**42,587**  
**electronic resources**  
were accessed.

**65,899**  
**questions answered**  
by staff.

**1,759,753**  
**catalogue searches**  
were conducted last year.

# SCPL by the borrows

**305,303**  
adult fiction  
& non-fiction  
books borrowed

**239,651**  
children's books  
borrowed

**119,620**  
movies  
borrowed

**47,303**  
audiobooks  
borrowed

**106,173**  
ebooks  
borrowed

**31,705**  
video games  
borrowed

**22,360**  
teen books  
borrowed

**33,165**  
newspapers and  
magazines

By borrowing books, movies and more, by attending our programs and using our services, we've helped our community save

**\$13,586,223**

in 2023!

# Your favourite SCPL items



Library of Things



adult fiction



adult non-fiction



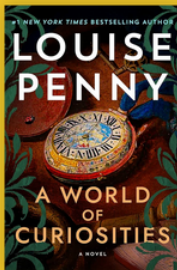
teen book



children's book



eAudiobook



ebook



movie



video game



# Serving our community

**5,981** participants attended **129** community outreach programs.

Throughout the year, we hosted **10** book clubs.

And made **380** Visiting Library visits.



# TD Summer Reading Club

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**1,497** readers signed up for the Summer Reading Club

Together, we read for a collective total of **35,449** 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**

149 Hartzel Road  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2P 1N6

### **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

## Contact us

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