



# Perth East Public Library

# 2024

# Annual Report

BUILD COMMUNITY ● INSPIRE DISCOVERY ● LIFELONG LEARNING

## Our Mission

We build community by providing welcoming & vibrant spaces that inspire discovery and lifelong learning.

## Our Vision

The library is recognized as essential to the community as an innovative hub that takes a collaborative approach to encouraging literacy, innovation, and opportunity.

## 2023-2026 Library Board

Laura Hallahan - Chair  
Mark Steffen - Vice Chair  
Diann Davidson - Member  
Allie Fallis - Member  
Jeremy Matheson - Council Rep  
Patrick Minor - Member  
Jerry Smith - Council Rep

# Dear Friends & Supporters,

As we close out 2024, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the outstanding progress and accomplishments we've made together this year. Through the dedication of our staff, and community partners, PEPL has continued to serve as a vital hub for learning, creativity, and connection for the residents of Perth East.

This year, we were fortunate to receive the New Horizons Grant, which allowed us to expand our services to seniors through tech courses and tutoring. Thanks to this generous funding, we were able to offer tech tutoring sessions in communities across Perth East, including Rostock, Millbank, Sebringville, Shakespeare, and Milverton. This initiative has been a fantastic way to help bridge the digital divide and empower our senior residents with essential technology skills.

In addition, our Summer Reading Program was a great success, with a memorable Community Helpers event. Families and individuals had the opportunity to explore fire trucks, meet paramedics, and interact with the amazing pups from the OPP Canine Unit. This event brought joy to many, fostering learning and a sense of connection.

Our partnerships have been instrumental in delivering unique and engaging programs to Perth East residents. Together, we have created meaningful opportunities for growth, learning, and community engagement.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue growing our programs throughout Perth East. One of our key focuses will be the Strategic Planning process, and we want to hear from YOU—the community. Your feedback will be essential as we plan for the future, ensuring that we continue to meet the evolving needs of the residents we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere gratitude for your ongoing support. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community.

Warm regards,

Laura Hallahan  
Chair

“We are committed to creating a space that fosters innovation, creativity, and lifelong learning for all.”

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnered with Neighborhood Forest - provided 190 trees to children in Perth East
- Partnered with OPP to host a book club focused on crime novels
- Alzheimer' Society - Wellness Speaker Series
- Community Outreach - Wellness Speaker Series
- Let's Talk Tech - tutoring sessions for seniors
- Seasonal reading challenges for all ages
- New Special Collections added:
  - C-PEN, Internet Access Kits, Coding Robots
- First VOLT report
  - highlighted the social return on investment



# 2024 TRENDS

- The library continues to build relationships with Community Organizations to provide services and programs.
- Favourite programs continue to be community oriented events: Dave's Armoury & Community Helpers, OPP Book Club
- Physical lending collection continues to be more popular than digital materials.



# 2024 GRANTS

The library was excited to receive the New Horizons for Seniors Program grant. The library was able to purchase special collection items, including internet access kits, iPads, Cube-lets, Makey-makey, VR-Goggles and most importantly host tech-tutoring courses for senior learning.

# By the Numbers

Numbers are a great way to demonstrate the way information is gathered and shared by library users.

11,188



Perth East materials  
circulated to neighboring  
libraries

12,114



digital items borrowed

42,069

physical items  
checked out



165

new library cards  
issued



16,470

in person visits



2,864

public computer sessions



747 unique WiFi visits



43,983

social media interactions



525

Reference questions  
answered

775

Reader's advisory



"The Early On and Sing to Me programs  
are a weekly outing for us"

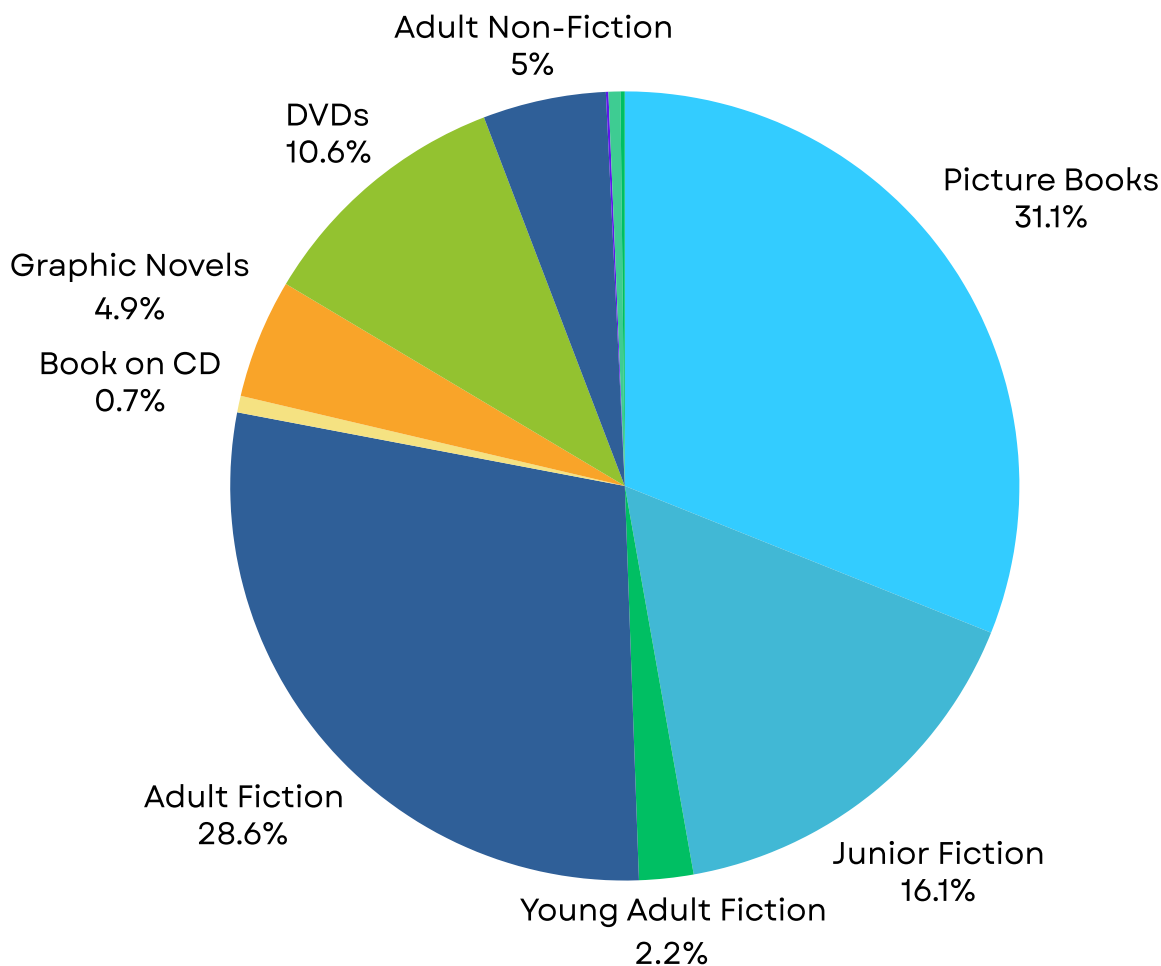


Customers saved  
**\$438,533.67**

by checking out physical  
library materials in 2024!

Thank you for using  
Perth East Public Library

You can see how much you saved at  
the bottom of your checkout receipt



New  
Special Collections



New  
Digital Resources



pressreader<sup>™</sup>  
Access to 100s of  
magazines



Learn a new  
language

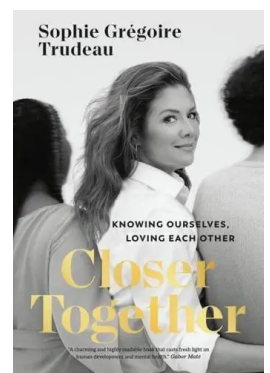
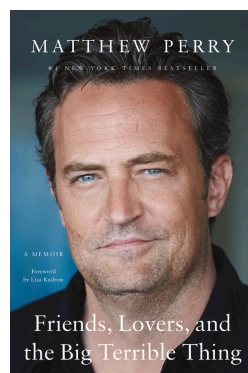
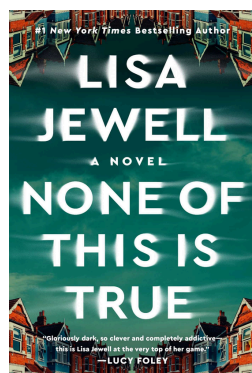
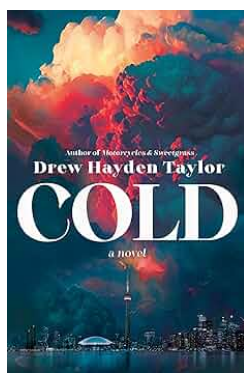
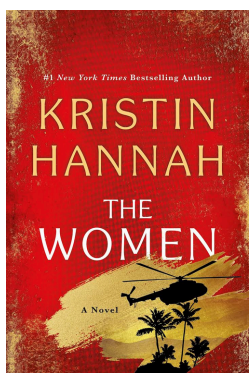
"The abundance of material we have access to  
is simply incredible!"

# Top Circulated

Perth East Public Library Cardholders have access to following library collections:

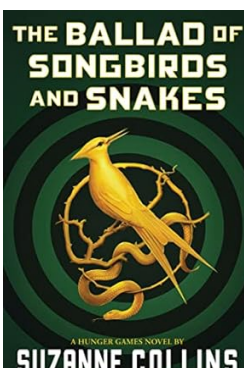
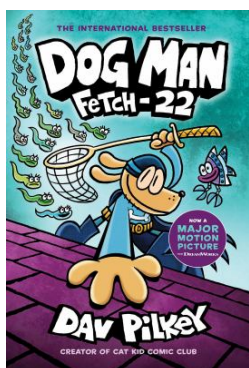
- North Perth Public Library
- St. Marys Public Library
- Stratford Public Library
- West Perth Public Library

Below are the top circulated items in Perth East



Adult Fiction

Adult Non-Fiction



Junior Fiction

Young Adult

Video Game

Junior & Adult DVDs

"I was able to try new seeds from the Seed Library and was impressed with the variations! Everything we grew was awesome!"



# Programs & Outreach

The library works diligently to offer unique and educational programs and events that invite people of all ages to engage with. The library loves to partner with community organizations to provide services and programs to the public.

**7,848** people attended **483** programs



## A Special Thank You to our 2024 Community Partners

Alzheimer's Society of Huron Perth  
Avon Maitland District School Board  
Dave's Armoury  
Early ON  
Community Outreach  
Girls Guide  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
Huron Perth Catholic District School Board  
Huron Perth Poverty Task Force  
Milverton Legion  
Neighborhood Forest  
Ontario Parks Lending Program

PC Connect  
Perth County Information Network  
Scientists in School  
Service Canada  
Stratford & District Horticultural Society  
Stratford-Perth Archives  
Upper Thames Conservation Authority  
Ontario Parks  
Ontario Provincial Police  
Pastor Sonja  
Township of Perth East  
YMCA of Three Rivers