the library

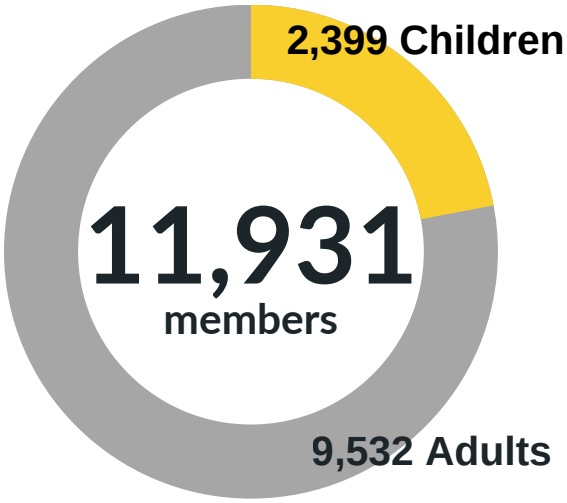
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

VISION: The Library respects its legacy, cultivates future opportunities, enriches community life and inspires personal growth

MISSION: Building generations of readers

LIBRARY VISITS + MEMBERSHIPS

185,909
to The Library and Adult Learning Centre



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

19,158

610 room bookings 543 programs



27,870 information questions answered

FROM THE CHAIR



The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is a vital resource and community hub. It has been my pleasure to serve as Board Chair during 2025. I'd like to thank the Townships of Chatsworth and Georgian Bluffs and the City of Owen Sound for believing in the continued importance of our wonderful union library. We thank them for their support, and look forward to the five-year review of our agreement, to be held in 2026.

In 2025, the numbers for our programs, visits, and circulation continued to improve. The library offered new programs, resources and services to meet the needs of our local citizens. The staff and Board were kept busy during 2025 ensuring that we are responsive to community needs. With a small staff component, the library provides an amazing breadth of programming and services. Looking at our year's highlights, it is astounding how much we accomplished. The Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) was developed to help libraries measure the social return on investment: it revealed that for every dollar our municipalities spend, $8.49 of value is delivered back to the community. That is an amazing return on investment.

I extend thanks to our municipal partners, board members, community donors and our professional staff for their support, commitment, and service. To our patrons, your continued support underlines the importance of the library to everyone in the community. The Board is pleased to work on your behalf to ensure this remains a vital and important service.

Thank you!

Richard Thomas

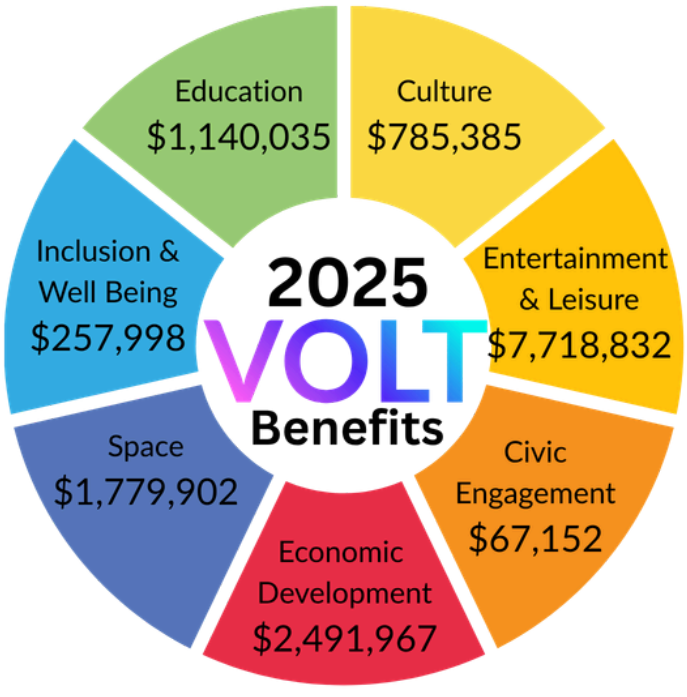
the library BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Richard Thomas, Chair - Owen Sound Representative
Rosemary Buchanan, Vice-Chair - Georgian Bluffs Representative
Elizabeth Thompson, Chair of Finance - Chatsworth Councillor
David Adair, Owen Sound Representative
Tobin Day, Georgian Bluffs Councillor
Deborah Eaton, Owen Sound Representative
Frank Emptage, Meaford Public Library Board Member
Marion Koepke, Owen Sound Councillor
Janet Walker, Owen Sound Representative

Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO/Chief Librarian
Nadia Danyluk, Deputy Chief Librarian
Lindsey Harris, Administration and Facilities Manager
Dale Albrecht, Technical Services Manager

VOLT 2025 = $14,240,000

We utilized VOLT to measure the Social Return on Investment (SROI). It reflects an approximate dollar value of benefit that is created for each dollar that is invested in the public library by our funding municipalities. The benefits when looking at the social and cultural infrastructure, can be seen in the infographic:



Our work with VOLT calculated a value of over 14.24 million dollars a year for our local community. This is a value of $357.89 per resident of Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs and Owen Sound or $833.31 per household. One dollar of our municipal funding equals $8.49 of value delivered by the library to our local communities.

the library MAJOR EVENTS

During 2025, the library hosted / partnered or participated in many local events including:

Art Banner Project / ArtWalk / Author Visits / Canada Day Festivities / Chamber of Commerce Seniors Trade Fair / Earth Day / Family Literacy Day / Freedom to Read / Georgian College Outreach / Grey Bruce Pride Parade / Grey Bruce Youth Film Festival / Hottest Street Sale / Keystone Pride Celebration / Library Book Sale (monthly) / Local Author Book Fair / Lunar New Year Celebrations / March Break Programs / New Year's Eve @ The Julie McArthur Recreation Centre / OSAAVA Community Volunteer Fair / One World Festival / Owen Sound Camera Show / Owen Sound Mini Con - OSMiCon / Poet Laureate Community Revue / Seedy Saturday / Story Walk / Summerfolk / TD Summer Reading / Waterfront Festival / Wellness Walk About / Wordshop

2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenues

City of Owen Sound	**$1,099,691**
Township of Chatsworth	**$177,412**
Township of Georgian Bluffs	**$401,184**
Meaford Public Library	**$158,476**
Provincial Support	**$75,980**
Federal Support	**$4,490**
Library Revenues	**$97,434**
Donations	**$12,784**
TOTAL Revenue	**$2,027,451**

Expenses

Staffing	**$1,573,220**
Collections	**$184,153**
Operations	**$231,803**
Special Projects	**$17,857**
Total Expenses	**$2,143,139**
Net Operating Expenses	**$20,418**
Net transfers to reserves	**($19,058)**
Operating Surplus	**$1,360**

the library 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

2025 was the second year for the Repair Cafe in partnership with the Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Group, our community kiosk project in Keady and Shallow Lake and our Local Author Book Fair. With our three OPEN Card partners, we initiated pollinator habitat projects for all our sites. We began working on VOLT calculations. We hosted an information series with Safe 'n' Sound. Staff participated in cultural awareness and indigenous relations training. We transitioned to Office 365 and continued to be challenged to support the ever changing technology needs of the community. Poet Laureate Rebecca Diem celebrated the end of her term with a Community Revue showcasing the power of collaboration.

AUTHOR VISITS

During 2025, the library had over 50 author visits including our Local Authors Book Fair.

Bailey Baldassari, Ryan Ball, Sheila Balls, Lauren Best, Esther Boles, Matt Bors, Lyn Carlson, David Carreira, Edith Faye Chester, Nadia Comeau, Elora Cook, Susan Cullen, Hazel Daines, Anne Darling, Bill Dickson, Rebecca Diem, RW Duder, Lydia Foch, Jennifer Frankum, Amberley Gardhouse, Maureen Gillberry, J.K. Gravier, Paula Hiscox, Michael Holden, Lili Anne Holding, Renn James, Dorothy Ladd, Gwen Lamont, Alison Leonard, Jana Lewis, Cindy Matthews, Susan McElroy, Jennifer McGuire, Nicky McMaster, Murgatroyd Monaghan, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Lynda Pilon, Lynne Porter, Jenna M. Prestige, Zanne Raby, Rob Ritchie, Rob Rolfe, AnnMarie Rowland, Alanna Rusnak, Cam Scholey, Richard-Yves Sitoski, Suzanne Sloan, Allen Smutylo, Sean Stokes, Richard Thomas, Jules Torti, Paul Vanwyck, Allan Walker, Christopher Wren, Diana Young, Eric Zwieg

There were 31 virtual author visits including Phillipa Gregory, Lisa Jewell, Jodi Picoult, Waubgeshig Rice and Malala Yousafzai available through https://libraryc.org/osngupllibrary.

THANK YOU

We extend sincere thanks to all of the volunteers that help with our Adult Learning Centres, Library-To-Go Program, Monthly Book Sales, Repair Café, Teen Advisory Group and other tasks. We thank everyone who contributes / donates to the library to support the many resources, services and programs that we offer. Thank you for believing in the library and helping our community!

KIDS PROGRAMS

3D Printing 101 / 3D Modelling / Art Attack / Babytime / Billy Bishop Museum (Take Flight) / Brilliant Birds of Prey / Cardboard Architecture / Cosplay Parade / Cross Country Canada Challenge / Cross Stitching / Creative Kids / Earth Day / Edison Robots / Family Literacy Day / Games Around the World / Hand Sewing / Inspired Inventors / LEGO Building Competition / LEGO Club / LEGO Tallest Towers / Loom Knitting / Mad Science Explorers / Makey Makey / Marine & Rail Museum (Incredible Voyages) / Marvelous Mosaics / Needle Felting / Nature Friends with Speaking of Wildlife / Paint and Plant / Perler Beading / Preschool Storytime / Prop Building Sandbox / Reading Buddies / Scavenger Hunts / Scoops for Stories Reading Challenge / Spectacular Sculpting / Spooktacular Stories with Qaptain Kit / Stop Motions Studio / Storytime / Summer Reading (Launch, Ongoing & Wrap-Up Party) / Taylor Swift Party / Tech it out Tuesdays / Textile Tuesdays / Tom Thomson Art Gallery / Valentines for Veterans / Video Games / Wacky Wednesdays

TEEN PROGRAMS

3D Printing 101 / Cosplay Competition / Creepy Crafting / Dungeon & Dragons / Exam Cram / Grey Bruce Youth Film Festival / Lego Building Competition / Reading Buddies Volunteers / Scoops for Stories Reading Challenge / Teen Advisory Group / Teen Anime Fandom / Teen Immortal Murder Mystery / Teen Creative Writing Workshop – Film & Writing / Teen K-Pop Club / Video Gaming / Write @ Your Library / Youth English Language Conversation Club

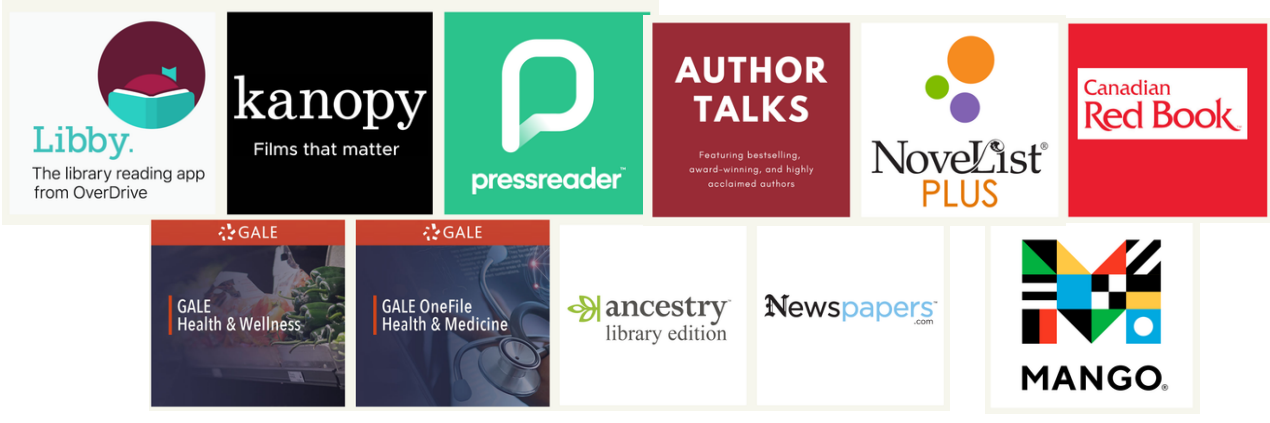
the library ADULT PROGRAMS

Accessible Reading / Black History with the B.M.E. Church / Blind Date with a Book / Book Clubs (Booked 4 Tuesday, Page Turners, Romance, True Crime, Young @ Heart) / Chair Yoga for Seniors / Community Art Exhibit (Esther Boles, AJ Lawrence, Brian Murray, OS Camera Club) / Creation Stations / Decluttering and Downsizing / Elder Law Series with Angela Yenssen (Aging & Driving, Frauds & Scams, Housing Continuum) / Debut Film Screening of *Voices: Lighting a Pathway to Indigenous Inclusion* with Muckpaloo / French Conversation Group / Gardener in Residence / German Conversation Group / Going Green in Grey / GP Writing Group / Grey Bruce Chess Club / Health Literacy / Holiday Crafts / Infant Gross Motor Skills for Families / Lavender 101 / Learn to Read Tarot Cards / Learn About Your eReader / Lego Building Public Viewing / Let's Get Published / Local History with Norma Graham: Bert Kennedy / Make & Takes / Online Resources / OSNGUPL Ukes / Owen Sound Sidewalk Astronomy / Paper Folding / Poetry Among the Peonies with Rebecca Diem / Poet Laureate Pride Block Party / Puzzle & Game Swap n Share / Qigong with May Ip / Reading Challenges (Summer & Winter) / Repair Café / Sound Ideas Education Series / Seedy Saturday / Scrabble / Stitch it Together / Superior Listening Skills / Writing Prompts

RESOURCES ONLINE

https://www.osngupl.ca/browse-borrow/online-resources/

Our library members can access our virtual library 24-7, including:



CIRCULATION STATS

380,165 materials circulated

149,566 | 18,716 | 2,848

3,726 | 4,357 | 200,952

Plus 24,445 materials used in the library by patrons

Savings to Local Residents

$4,879,448

(Value of Physical Items Borrowed in 2025)

TECH USAGE & HELP

WIFI Connections
50,730

Public Access Computer Use
8,068

Tech Help in Minutes
22,069

OSNGUPL ONLINE

Website
www.osngupl.ca

Catalog
www.osngupl.bibliocommons.ca

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https://soundcloud.com/osngupl
www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn3elUMN6jo-fOZLsCj1Yg

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