

Belleville Public Library & John M. Parrott Art Gallery

2025 Annual Report



We help you find what you are looking for.

- lifelong learning
- growth
- creativity
- success



Belleville
Public Library &
John M. Parrott Art Gallery

2025 Annual Report

Introduction

A message on behalf of the Library Board.

As Chair of the Belleville Public Library Board, I'm pleased to share that 2025 was another successful year for providing vital services to our community. The 2025 Annual Report demonstrates how busy and dynamic our library and gallery are every day. From storytimes, workspace, public computers, wireless internet, educational workshops, author visits, and art exhibitions, to our extensive physical and digital borrowing collections, BPL has everything you need to develop your creativity, learning and success. This report includes many impressive statistics that show how important these services are to our community. As we reflect on our past results, we also look to the future and are excited about an upcoming capital campaign and service expansions.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PC" or similar initials.

Councillor Paul Carr

Chair, Belleville Public Library Board

Financial



Belleville Public Library and John M. Parrott Art Gallery is an independent public sector corporation and registered charity. The majority of its funding is provided through an annual grant from the City of Belleville. The organization is governed by a Board of volunteers appointed by Council.

Revenue breakdown (budgeted)



City of Belleville Operating Grant (90%)
\$2,776,000



Province of Ontario Grants (3%)
\$94,000



Sales, fees, donations and other revenue (7%) \$202,000

Self-generated revenue (actual)

Donations including Friends of the Library: \$43,386

Public printing and copier fees: \$9,629

Gallery commission sales: \$10,055

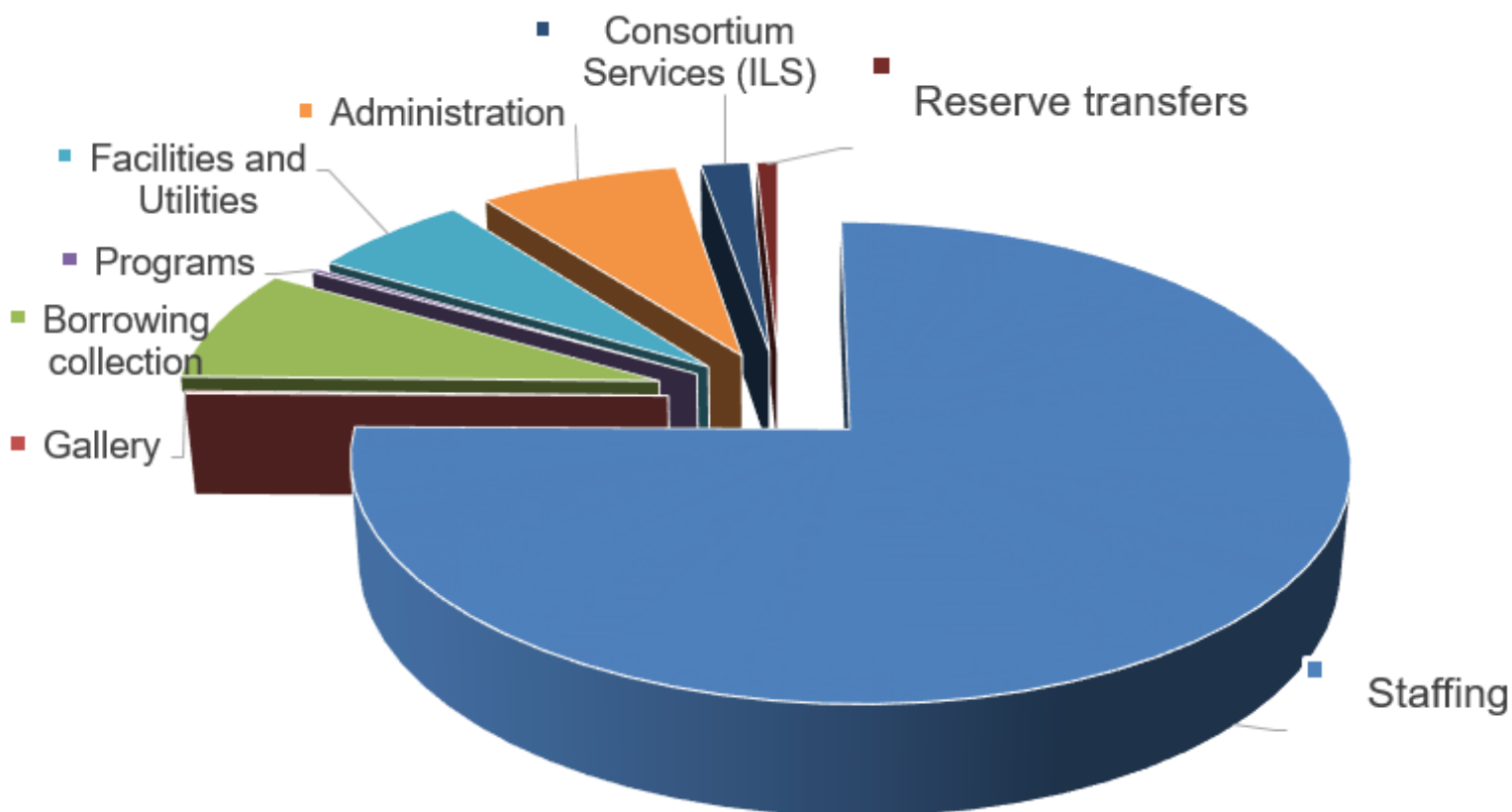
Room rentals: \$5,215

User fees, lost item replacement charges: \$12,516

Cost sharing and consortium revenue: \$34,231

Other revenue: \$90,000

Expenditure breakdown



Collections budget

Physical media (DVDs, CD audio):
\$32,000

Print books: \$90,500

eBooks and digital resources:
\$111,000

Microfilm, periodicals: \$9,000

Total: \$242,500



Programs



The Library and Gallery offer a variety of programs, events, art exhibitions, concerts, and more. In 2025, we held 711 programs and events, attended by 16,001 people.



The Library held **263 children's programs and events**, with a total attendance of 7,619 people.

There were **15 March Break programs** with a total attendance of 908 people.

We also had 199 children enrolled in our **Summer Reading Club**, submitting 480 reading reports.



The Parrott Art Gallery offers **exhibitions, concerts and workshops** on a variety of topics. There were 71 Gallery programs, with a total attendance of 2,338 people.

There were **17 opening receptions for exhibitions** by regional artists, with 1,156 attendees.



Did you know the Library has three Book Clubs? In 2025, there were **36 book club sessions**, with a total attendance of 320 people.

We also offered Chess Clubs, French Conversation Circles, the Creative Fibres Crafting Circle, drop in tech help and a **variety of informational sessions** on topics like A.I., tax and estate planning.

Featured program: Paws for Reading

At Paws for Reading, kids read aloud to therapy dogs from St. John Ambulance (and their handlers). These dogs are the best listeners, perfect for helping young readers feel comfortable. We had 88 young readers participating in Paws sessions in 2025.





There were **44 programs for teens**, with 804 people in attendance.

Programs included Junk Journaling Nights, Micro:Bit Python workshops, and the Youth Chess Club.

There were **39 teen volunteers** who donated their time to the library, putting in 290 hours of service.



Authors and special events: The Library and Gallery participated in the Belleville Arts Festival, with a presentation by bestselling author Charlotte Gray. We also organized a local author fair, and had several guest authors take part in children's storytimes throughout the year.



Event highlight:

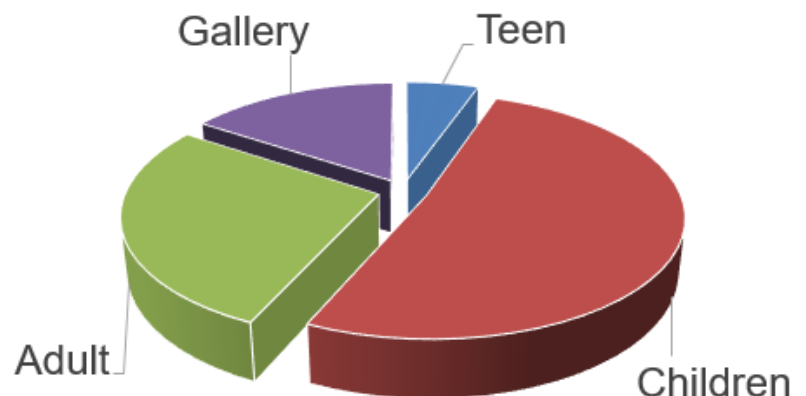
International Women's Day

The Library was proud to host Micky Colton, former Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, who discussed her career as an aviator and her work as a Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning (FEEL) professional.

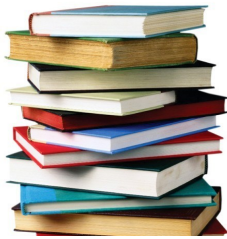
Photo: Jeannie Gane

What was the breakdown of program attendance?

Children represented the largest share of the total.



Collections



Providing borrowing collections and digital resources is a core library service. A library card is all you need to check out books, magazines, DVDs, children's material, and digital content such as full-text journals, eBooks, audiobooks, movies, and music.

2025 Circulation stats

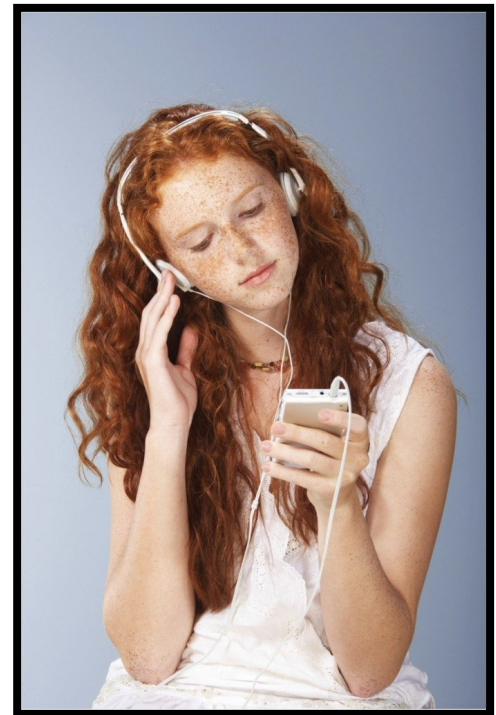
101,182 digital downloads

285,474 print book checkouts

40,198 DVDs & CD audiobooks

644 Wi-Fi routers (hotspots)

427,498 total item checkouts



Featured items to borrow:

Mobile internet routers (hotspots)

A mobile hotspot allows you to connect devices like phones, tablets, and laptops to unlimited high-speed internet from any location. Supported by the Government of Canada's Healthy Communities Fund.



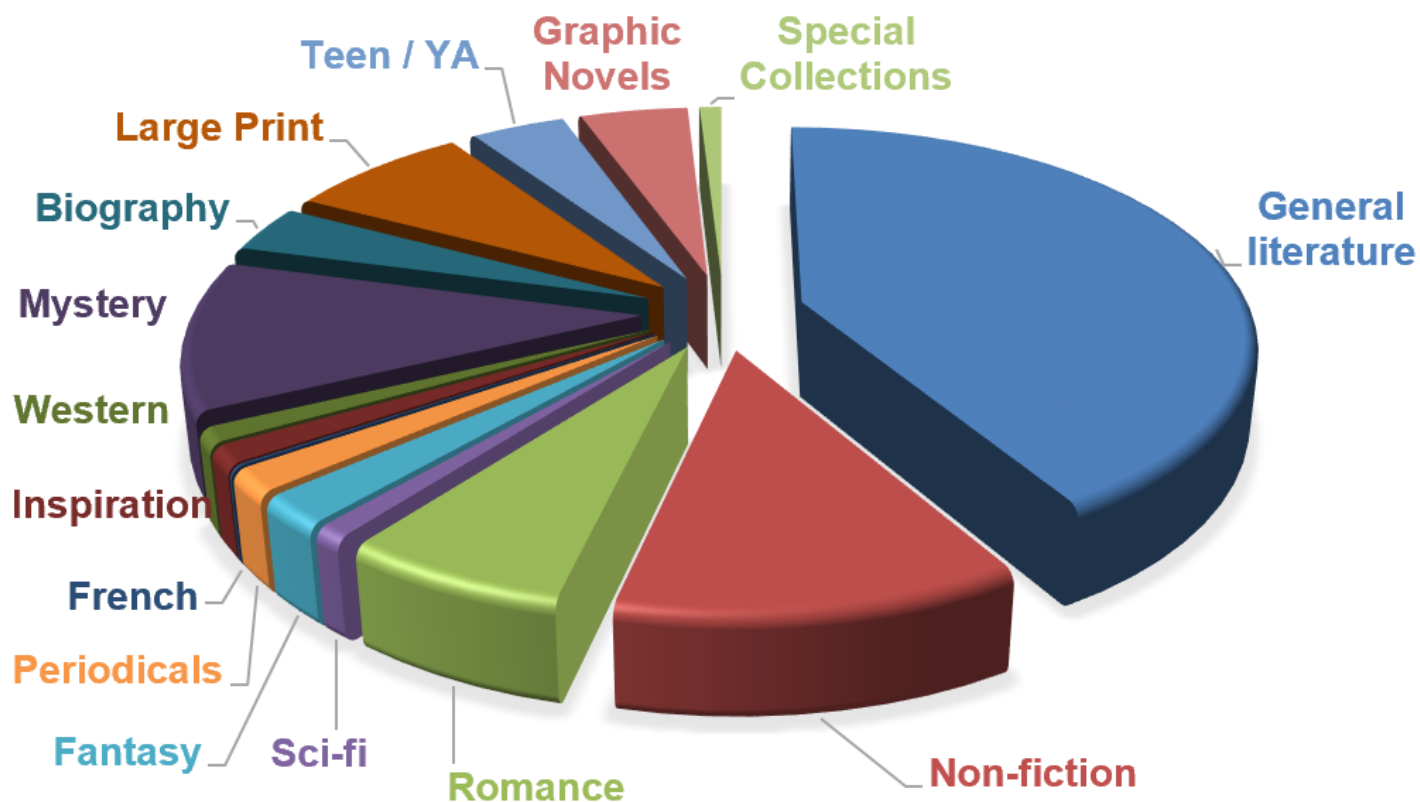
Canadian Canoe Museum Pass

Visit The Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, with a one-week pass for free admission up to 2 adults and 4 youth (ages 5-17). Discover Canada by canoe and explore the world's largest collection of paddled watercraft.



What are people reading?

Genre breakdown



Top circulating titles:

The most borrowed item by our patrons in 2025 was:

⇒ The Women, a novel by Kristin Hannah (Adult fiction)

The most borrowed film on DVD was:

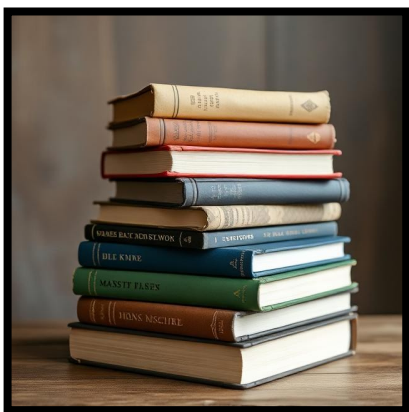
⇒ Deadpool and Wolverine, directed by Shawn Levy

The most borrowed children's book was:

⇒ Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School, a novel by Jeff Kinney

The most borrowed fiction book for teens was:

⇒ Sunrise on the Reaping, a novel by Suzanne Collins



Online resource highlights



Gale Courses

Our patrons registered for 424 free online college level courses on topics like Microsoft Office, digital photography, and business writing.



Libby

Our patrons used Libby to download 39,359 eBooks, 22,548 audiobooks, and 19,693 magazines.

Mango Languages

Learn one of 70 languages with this free online platform. We had 615 patrons use Mango to learn a language in 2025.



Our website was redesigned and upgraded. There were 254,795 visits in 2025.

www.bellevillelibrary.ca

Services



The Library provides research services, room rentals, charging stations, genealogy resources, study and work space, public computers, printing and copying, access to the internet, and more.

The Friends of the Library bookstore

Have you visited the Friends Bookstore in the main lobby? It is a great place to find low-cost books and the proceeds are a vital source of funding for the Library. Since 2006, the Friends have raised more than \$300,000 in support of collections, technology and services.

There are a number of ways you can help the Friends in their work. You can shop at the bookstore, donate cash or gently used books, purchase a membership, or volunteer to help.

folbelleville@gmail.com

Interlibrary loans

If we do not have a book that you are looking for, we can borrow the title from any public library in Ontario. In 2025, our patrons borrowed 752 books from other libraries, and we loaned out 835 books to patrons at other libraries.



Printing from any device



In 2025, we implemented Princh, a new printing, copying and scanning solution at our library. It is now possible to easily and securely print from a mobile phone, tablet, or laptop, both remotely and at the library, as well as copy and/or scan your documents using our printers.

Musical instrument lending

Belleville Public Library is a partner and pick-up location for the Stirling Musical Instrument Lending Library, a non-profit organization that serves Hastings and Northumberland Counties. Choose from a wide variety of instruments such as guitars, drums, keyboards, and violins. www.stirlingmill.ca





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Conclusion

A closing message from the CEO.

I hope you enjoyed reading about the Library and Gallery and all of the incredible programs and services we offer. Every day I am thankful for our staff and the hard work they do, and for the support of our community. I encourage everyone to stay connected with us through regular visits to our location, and by following our social media feeds and the What's On Calendar on our website. I'm looking forward to another year of supporting our staff as they provide essential services for the people of Belleville.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trevor Pross".

Trevor Pross MLIS

CEO

Belleville Public Library and
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Art Gallery

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