



CEO Report April 2023

As the seasons change to spring, we are seeing public libraries in the news locally as well as internationally. In all cases, libraries are working hard to protect intellectual freedom and freedom to read without censorship, for all. In Ontario, we are seeing protests against the inclusive drag queen storytimes. In the United States groups wishing to censor reading materials available to the public have now involved publishers in their campaign against public libraries. This week, CBC The Current reported US book banners are threatening funding for libraries and trying to run candidates to take over Boards. The trend in Ontario is slightly optimistic as some communities are experiencing greater support than resistance.

Libraries in the Spotlight and our values being impacted



TRUST

Shelved - Canadian television sitcom

March 6, [2023](#) on CTV

Tackling sensitive issues

Relax and laugh



INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Freedom to read can never be taken for granted as well as the intellectual freedom to seek information without judgement.

Canadians were just encouraged to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, a guarantee under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



INCLUSIVITY

A drag queen storytime in Woodstock, Ont., on March 23 was the most recent library event in Canada to be disrupted by protesters.

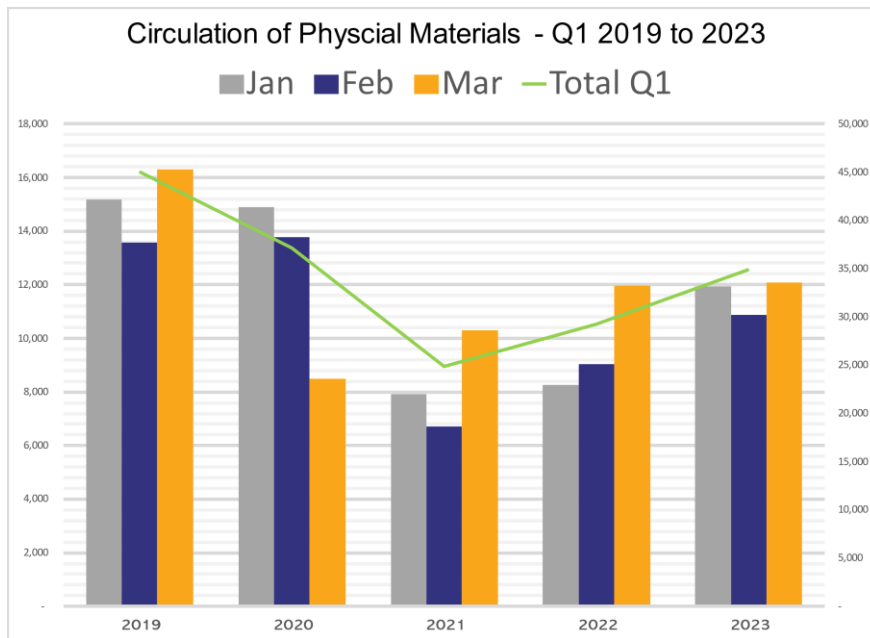
Good News: Supporters outnumber protesters at drag queen storytime in Woodstock, Ontario

Review of Operations

The Alder Branch and the Train Station are experiencing increased public demand. Evidence can be found in some of the metrics including another increase to the number of members (6,198 as of March 31, 2023).

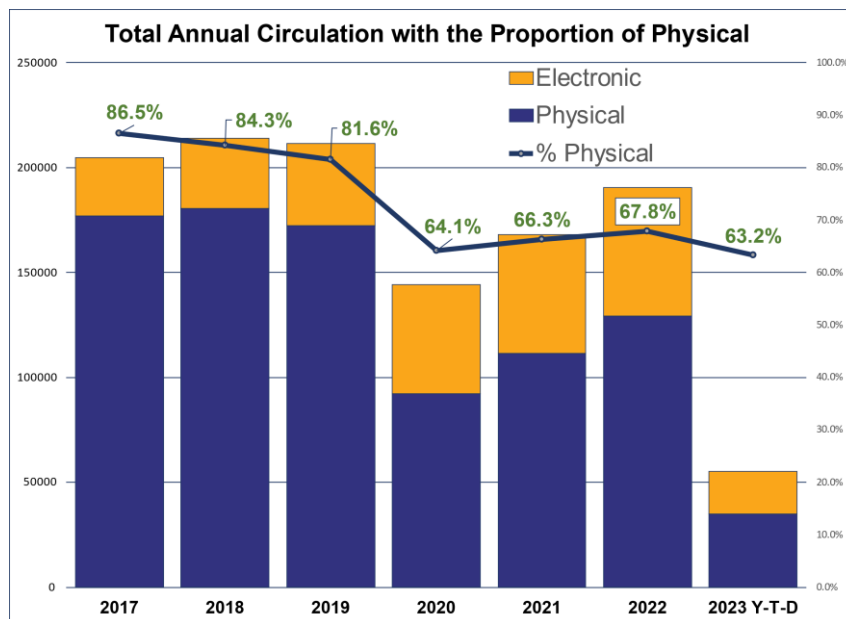
First quarter statistics and metrics indicate a strong start to the year – with circulation for the first quarter higher than in the past two years (COVID closures). Reminder that the library closed to the public on March 14, 2020, for the first of many closures.

Figure 1: 2019 - 2023 First quarter circulation of physical materials



Use of the electronic collection has risen year after year for the past six years. The line on the chart below depicts the ratio of physical items in the total circulation. Staff continue to monitor and work to ensure both collections are well utilized.

Figure 2: Total annual circulation with the proportion of physical



Not unexpectedly we are experiencing two trends: An increase to the number of non-traditional items borrowed and a significant decrease to the number of public access computer sessions.

Figure 3: Yearly public access computer sessions

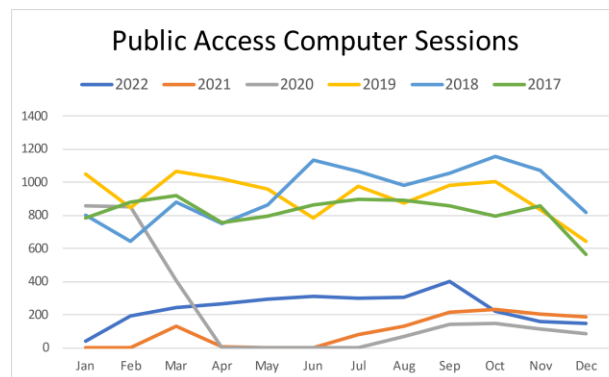
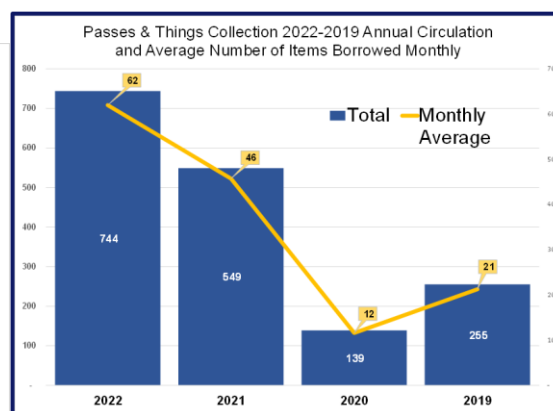


Figure 4: 2022-2019 annual non-traditional items borrowed.



Staff Development

G.L.A.D. day was held March 27th, this is one of the staff professional development days – named by staff as Grow, Learn and Develop @ the Library. We were able to introduce General Manager, Heather Savage to the team when she brought greetings from the Town. Feedback from staff was positive and 100% of respondents to the follow-up survey answered, “YES” when asked, “Did the GLAD Day presentations provide useful information that you can use in your daily duties?”.

Annual Survey of Public Libraries

Every year, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport requires that public libraries complete the Annual Survey of Public Libraries (ASPL). Operating statistics for 2022 are due on April 30th. Submission of the annual survey is the first step in the process to access the Public Libraries Operating Grant (PLOG). Once the process is complete, the Ministry will release \$ 30,708 in total – this amount has not changed since 1994.

Access to Reserves

Confirmed with Finance, the process for the library board to access the library reserves is two-fold:

1. The library board must pass a resolution to approve the transfer of funds from the reserve.
2. Then, since the reserve is technically a Town reserve (as noted on the audited FS), the board requires final approval from Council to use the funds.

Note: The Finance division will not touch the library building reserve unless the above process is complete.

Relationship Building

Staff are seeking direction for board events organized to build relationships and express appreciation.

Transparent and accountable decision-making processes – strong relations with Municipal Council

1. Library Board / Town Council BBQ
 - a. Recommend September 2023 (year one; June 2025 year three)

Cultivate a workplace culture that fosters creativity & innovation – appreciate all personal contributions to ensuring success of the library as a place for everyone to connect and discover, where learning and possibility allow each member to soar.

2. Board Appreciation Staff/Friends/Volunteers
 - a. Discuss timing - Once per term – 3rd year – plan for 2025

No honorarium or compensation for volunteer board members. Annual team building and recognition of time commitment to the Library/Town.

3. Board Luncheon (December)
 - a. Annual – local restaurant

Presentations

Arrangements have been made; the Board Chair and the CEO will be addressing the following Boards/Council as delegations on the agendas for the following meeting dates:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Police Services Board | May 16 @ 5:00 pm |
| • Town of Mono | May 9 @ 9:00 am (<i>unconfirmed</i>) |
| • Township of East Garafraxa | May 9 @ 2:00 pm |
| • Township of Amaranth | May 17 @ 6:00 pm |

All meetings are open to the public and all board members are welcome.

Facilities

Library staff met with facilities personnel to discuss structural changes to the entrance of the Alder Library. The decision was made, at this point the library will make cosmetic changes only – add logo decal to the round blue wall and paint the grey door the gold colour (same as logo).

At Mill, good news is the work that continues to progress on the building with some features taking shape. The bad news is the delay in production of the elevator. Staff are cautiously optimistic for a late summer, early fall opening.

Establish working groups – (optional) Section 8 – Committees of the Board

Working/sub-committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Board. According to our Procedure By-law, the Board shall establish terms of reference and specific duties for each committee. Committees shall be limited in responsibility and power to advise the full board, unless specifically authorized to act on behalf of the board. Terms of Reference may be amended on the recommendation of the Committee and with the approval of the Board.

The Board consists of seven members only, and since 2010, the Board has dealt with most matters as a committee of the whole at regular and special meetings (one exception is the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan).

The board may choose to cover the following topics under two different sub-committees. Terms of reference and specific duties for the two working groups need to be developed:

- ❖ Finance and Personnel – scope of work to include
 - Succession Planning
 - Consider removal of Overdue Fines (Fine Free Movement) – eliminate barrier to service; benefits in reduction of transactions and cash handling; reduction of revenue
 - Non-Resident Memberships with neighbouring municipalities. Explore alternative service arrangement.
- ❖ Technology – scope of work to include
 - Makerspace
 - Digital Strategy

Sector News

- [Federation of Ontario Public Libraries](#) (FOPL) – Annual General Meeting was held virtually on Friday, April 21st.
- [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#) (CFLA)
- [Ontario Library Association](#) (OLA) – Membership in OLBA is being processed and more information will be forth coming.
- [Ontario Library Services](#) (OLS)
 - April News

Networking: Ontario Library Services Board Assemblies

At the February 24, 2021 meeting, the Board appointed board member S. Bergant to serve as the [Board Assembly](#) representative.

[Motion 21:08 Moved by Councillor Post](#)

[That the board receive the two correspondence items;](#)

[And that the board appoint Shelley Bergant as its representative on the Ontario Library Service Board Assembly for communities in the 20,000 - 39,999 category until 2022.](#)

Appointments are intended to serve until the end of the OLS Board's term in June 2024. Libraries do not have to change their board assembly representative. However, if that person is no longer on the library board or no longer wishes to be a BA representative changes can be made.

The board could consider reaching out to S. Bergant to confirm her wishes to remain a BA representative and if so, to formalize communications to ensure information is shared appropriately from both directions.

FYI - Board Assemblies provide library board members with opportunities to share information and hear how other boards deal with issues in governing a public library. They serve as a communication link between the Ontario Library Service and local boards. OLS staff members in attendance provide updates and share relevant board resources.

Training Opportunities

The Ontario Library Service continues to offer diverse training in all areas of public library service for staff and board members.

Visit [LearnHQ.ca](https://www.learnhq.ca) to browse course offerings (and for more details on each webinar), or [subscribe](#) to the [OLS Training Bulletin](#).

Managing Social Media Anger

Red Brick Communications will provide advice on managing social media discussions, particularly on Facebook - Tuesday, May 2 (10-11:30 am ET). There is a cost of \$50 for this webinar.

Governance 101: Library Board Training.

Over the last few months, OLS staff have offered board orientation sessions as

- a) recordings (posted in the Governance HUB),
- b) virtual Zoom sessions and at several locations around the province.

There are still a few in-person sessions available through April, May and June.

Two additional virtual training sessions have been added –

Thursday, June 15 (6:30-8:30 pm ET) and

Saturday, September 9 (10 am to noon)

Up and Coming Dates and Programs

- June 16th Board representation requested for the of the **Tales on the Trails** StoryWalk at Island Lake CVC. Orangeville Public Library is partnering with the Halton Hills Public Library and Credit Valley Conservation to display story panels in permanent fixtures along trails. The library supplies the stories (with proper permission for copy rights). Tales on the Trails is also available at the Terra Cotta CVC in Caledon.

- The 2023 theme for the **TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC)** is “Check This Out” and it is all about facts and mysterious fiction; about exploring your neighbourhood, library, and the world; about having fun creating new things and discovering mysterious and intriguing stories gathered from near and far and from our imaginations.



Reading fun for kids, from
Canada's public libraries
tdsummerreadingclub.ca

- For the first time since 2019, [Battle of the Books](#) will take place in person at Alder Recreation Centre. The Intermediate Battle is on Wednesday, April 26, 9 a.m. for students in grades 7 and 8. The Junior Battle is on Wednesday, May 3, 9 a.m. for students in grades, 4, 5 and 6.
- [Storytelling Series: Sustainable Living Panel](#) - Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m. at Alder. Local community members Elizabeth Glenday, Heather Peters and Bruna Zarlenga will share practical strategies for living a more eco-conscious lifestyle including the best places to shop, how to reduce waste, and why doing these things matter. The evening will be moderated by Mark Whitcombe.
- [Coffee Conversation and Books](#) is presented in partnership with Grand Valley Public Library and Shelburne Public Library. - Join Brian Bixley, author of *Minding the Garden: Lilactree Farm* on Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m. in the Atrium of Town Hall, as he explores the deep connections between gardening and other forms of art.
- **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia Author Spotlight** on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Atrium of Town Hall. Featuring Stars Wars and Dungeon and Dragons bestselling author E. K. Johnson. Presented in partnership with Dufferin Child and Family Services GLOW Group.
- **Duckling Visit with author Carolyn J. Morris** - a special interactive storytime on Thursday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. at Alder.
- **Storytelling Series: Introduction to Astrology** - Join Kelly Surtees on Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. at Alder for an introduction to astrology including what's in an astrology chart, essential features like the planets, Zodiac signs and houses, and how parts of a chart link to important topics like career, relationships, and identity.
- **Friends of the Library Pant and Book Sale** – Saturday, May 27, 8 a.m. to noon, outside the train station at 49 Town Line.