



Ottawa Bibliothèque
Public publique
Library d'Ottawa

A Space for Literacy, Creativity, and Connection



2025 Annual Report

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for Orléans East-Cumberland
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Message from **Matthew Luloff**

**Chair of the Board and Councillor
for Orléans East-Cumberland**

As we enter the final year of this Board term, we continue to build on the many successes of 2025. It was a defining year in advancing intellectual freedom, improving accessibility, and fostering literacy across our community. These efforts are opening our doors even wider, so more people can experience the library as a welcoming “third space” for the public, where everyone belongs.

The power of a library card is undeniable. Removing barriers to access remains a priority, and in October, we expanded eligibility for free library membership to urban Indigenous communities in the Gatineau region and residents of Kitigan Zibi Anishinaabeg First Nation and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. This important step reflects OPL’s ongoing commitment to access and to meaningful connection with Indigenous and Host Nation communities.

In 2025, the Board also approved a new brand for Ottawa Public Library. The new brand goes beyond visual identity and brings to life the Library’s vision, mission, and values, reflecting OPL’s commitment to provide a unique value and a consistent experience to clients with every visit, transaction, and interaction.

At its heart, OPL remains grounded in a promise to promote literacy, curiosity, inclusion, and intellectual freedom, offering spaces, collections, and programs for everyone, free of fees and free from judgement.

Throughout this 2025 Annual Report, you will see how OPL brings this promise to life: sparking curiosity, inspiring learning, expanding access, creating connection, and strengthening our community.

Matthew Luloff

OPL Board Chair and Councillor
for Orléans East-Cumberland



Message from Sonia Bebbington

**Chief Executive Officer and
Chief Librarian**

In today's world, the importance of public libraries cannot be overstated. Ottawa Public Library is the "third space" where Ottawans can gather alone or together to think, learn, and dream freely in a welcoming space of inspiration and discovery.

In 2025, we developed Service Strategies that affirm our commitments to the people we serve, across all our offerings. Our doors are open to the curious and the creative, the seekers of knowledge, and those first learning their ABCs. Whether a reader, writer, thinker, or dreamer, OPL is a welcoming source of inspiration and discovery, both in-branch and online.

In addition to strengthening our service approach, 2025 saw an assessment and articulation of the social value of our library services. Placing clients at the centre of the assessment, OPL partnered with the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC) to undertake an impact study, measuring how clients experience our services.

The results are very positive. 93 per cent of clients and 72 per cent of non-clients agree that a public library is one of the most valuable resources a city can offer its community. 89 per cent of clients and 70 per cent of non-clients agree that ensuring public access to libraries is more important now than ever. But the words of our clients are more eloquent than the numbers:

"Just walking through the door de-stresses me. [...] the options in a good library make them important to the community. I'm usually in a library at least once a week. It's my go-to place. My go-to place since I was a child, before I was old enough to sign out my own books. Thank you."

I am grateful to our employees, volunteers, and partners, whose dedication and collaboration take serving our community to a whole new level.

I thank every single person who shows up at the Library, participates in our programs, connects with their community in our spaces, reaches out for support from our staff, and discovers inspiration, information, and guidance along the way. This engagement is the best and most meaningful way of showing your support.

Sonia Bebbington

Chief Executive Officer and Chief Librarian

Board Members



Councillor
Matthew Luloff
(Chair)



Kathy Fisher
(Vice-Chair)



Councillor
Jessica Bradley
(Trustee)



Mary-Rose Brown
(Trustee)



Alison Crawford
(Trustee)



Councillor
Rawlson King
(Trustee)



Councillor
Catherine Kitts
(Trustee)



Harvey A. Slack
(Trustee)



Adam Smith
(Trustee)

Senior Management Team

Sonia Bebbington
Chief Executive Officer
& Chief Librarian

Sarah Macintyre
Division Manager,
Client Services

Anna Basile
Deputy CEO and Division
Manager, Corporate Services

Myra Skaronski
Division Manager,
Branch Services

Craig Ginther
Division Manager,
Facility and Technology Services

Alexandra Yarrow
Program Manager,
Board and Strategic Services

2025 Highlights



Upholding Intellectual Freedom

Ottawa Public Library champions the freedom to read by remaining free from judgement and censorship, building diverse collections, and providing access to new ideas and different voices. Having access to a variety of content and engaging with other perspectives makes it easier to think critically, understand different viewpoints, and question the information you encounter.

- In 2025, OPL received 11 formal challenges to its collections and meeting room rentals. All items remained in their existing collection area and the meeting room rental events proceeded as planned.
- In February, the Library celebrated Freedom to Read Week to highlight the right to access diverse ideas, stories, and perspectives. Two events explored this theme:
 - **Upholding Intellectual Freedom in Libraries: a Balancing Act**, with Mathilde Barraband, literature professor at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
 - **The Freedom to Read Graphically: A (Brief) History of Comics Censorship**, with Amie Wright, Public Historian and Comics Librarian.

Promoting Literacy

Literacy is at the heart of what the Library does, from early learning to the development of critical thinking, financial literacy, media awareness, and science learning. The Library recognizes that these essential abilities help everyone navigate a complex world. To support the development of these skills, the Library offers a variety of programs, resources, and initiatives.

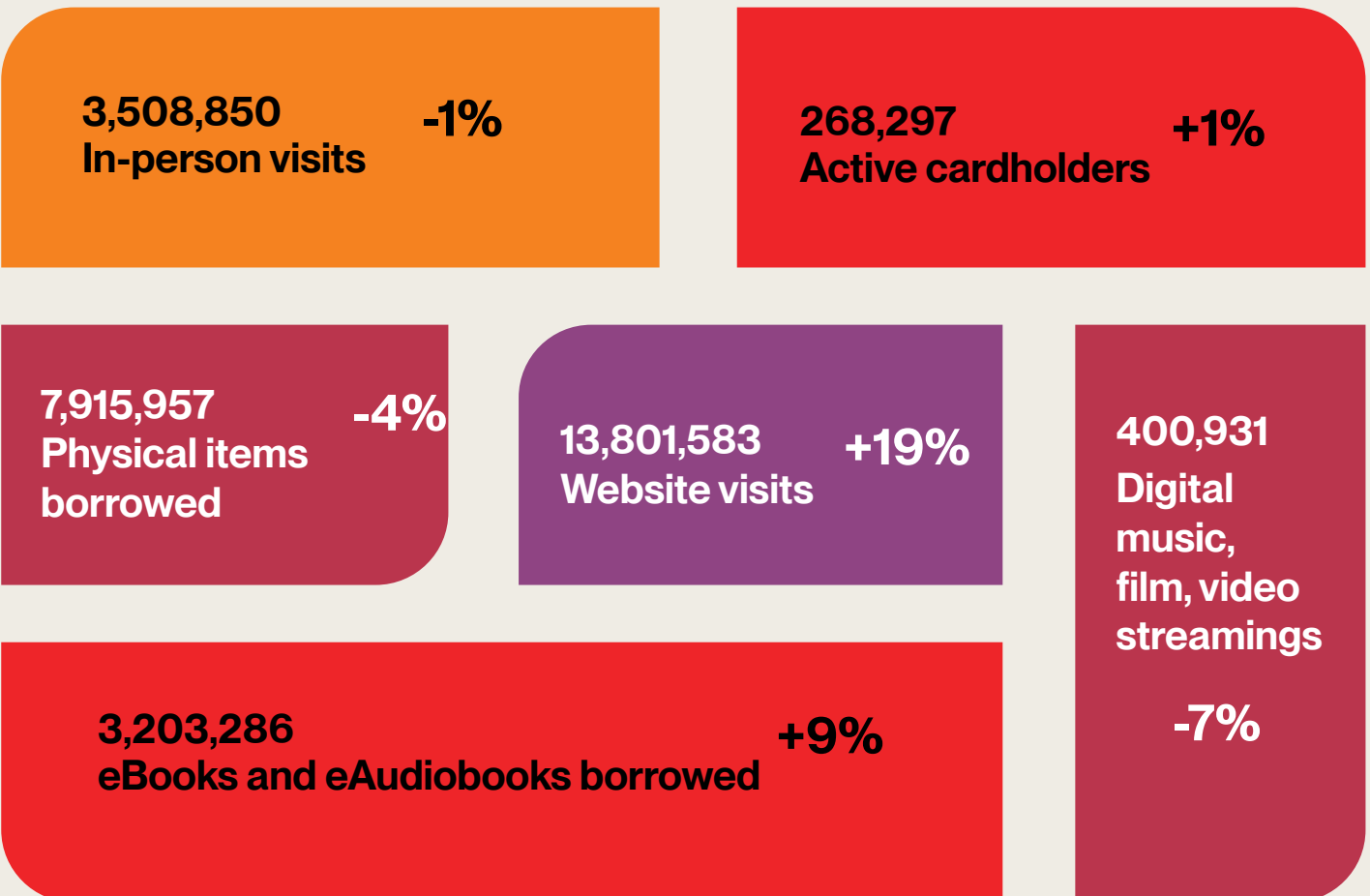
- Sparking the curiosity of little ones through books, storytimes, and other library activities helps set the foundation to engage with more complex learning later in life. OPL has consistently championed literacy for young children, reflecting the ongoing commitment to nurturing a love of reading which in turn helps children become lifelong learners and sets them up for future success. Today, 53% of OPL's literacy programs are designed for kids aged zero to nine.
- The service strategies approved by the Board in April 2025 included service commitments that demonstrate how OPL supports the development of early literacy skills. The Library's early literacy programs are founded in research and best practice and reflect that children learn best with a combination of multiple tools, experiences, and approaches.
- In January, Ottawa Public Library celebrated Family Literacy Day to underscore the importance of participating in literacy-related activities as a family. The Library website included tips to support children's literacy and creative ways to make reading part of everyday life, while branches hosted a series of engaging programs for families to enjoy together.



- During Science Literacy Week in early October, OPL branches transformed into hubs of curiosity. Under the theme of From Sea to Space, branches organized STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) storytimes, gardening activities, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) clubs and stations to promote discovery and wonder.
- In late October, the Library participated in Media Literacy Week, helping individuals become more informed and empowered media users. Through in-person and virtual workshops for all ages, participants learned to spot misinformation and disinformation, understand how algorithms influence content, protect their privacy and digital identity, and engage with greater awareness.
- The Library also provides programs dedicated to adult literacy, such as conversation groups, writing workshops, and skills-building sessions. These offerings help clients strengthen communication, language, and literacy skills. In a welcoming and inclusive environment, participants find the support to build confidence, connect with others, and develop practical skills for personal and professional growth.

Initiatives like these at OPL foster a culture of learning, curiosity, and inclusion, nurturing essential skills at every stage of life and empowering individuals and families to thrive.

Key Metrics



Percentages represent the change compared to 2024.

Collections

Collections are at the heart of OPL's services, reflecting our core values of literacy, community, intellectual freedom, integrity, and inclusion. The breadth of OPL's collection furthers language development, while cultivating a love of reading, lifelong learning, and discovery.



Book Club Kits

Launched in 2023, the Book Club Kit lending service expanded significantly in 2025 with 28 new titles, bringing the total to 118. Each kit contains 10 copies of the same book and a laminated guide with discussion questions and additional resources. Aimed at adult clients, the kits include fiction and non-fiction titles in English and French. In 2025, the kits were borrowed 318 times, sparking community discussion and connecting people through shared literary experiences and the joy of reading as a community.

The Impact of Ottawa Public Library (2025)¹ showed that 88 per cent of clients and 65 per cent of non-clients agreed that a public library allows them to discover a much broader range of knowledge than they would be able to on their own.

¹ *The Impact of Ottawa Public Library (2025)* part of the national study *The impact of Canadian urban libraries*, led by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC).



Examine+

In May 2025, Ottawa Public Library expanded its efforts to support literacy across all areas of life by introducing access to Examine+, an online resource that provides evidence-based health and nutrition information. Clients can explore the platform's supplements guide, data base and research feed, helping them make informed decisions about their personal well-being.

“Every book is a little window into different perspectives, which is why I love reading!”



“If I didn’t have access to the library’s collection, I would go to thrift stores or bookstores to buy books, but that’s a significant expense. The library offers diverse opportunities without any financial burden. I usually borrow books from the library with my library card, and at home my son and I pick out the ones we like together. The books from the library have actually helped my son start rhyming and connecting images to words, which really aids his language development. He is almost three this year.”



Multilingual Collections

In 2025, the Library reviewed its World Languages collections using updated demographic data, circulation trends, and feedback from clients and employees. As a result, over the next two years, we will be refreshing the Arabic collections for adults and children across locations, adding new Arabic materials at Elmvale Acres branch, and relocating some of the Chinese collections

to Rosemount branch. These updates will enhance access to diverse resources, support inclusion, and strengthen connections within our community.

11,520,174
checkouts of
Library items in 2025

Expertise

At OPL, our employee expertise plays a vital role in connecting the community to knowledge, services, and experiences. In a welcoming and inclusive environment, staff listen, respond, and build community by

supporting clients of all ages in digital skills, research, education, leisure, and literacy.

In 2025, we continued to expand the reach and impact of this expertise. Highlights include:

1:1 Appointments

In 2025, staff delivered 721 one-on-one appointments, both in person and virtually, with the majority taking place in person. During these appointments, staff provided focused, individualized support tailored to a wide range of client needs.

**51,333 phone calls,
4,399 chats, and more
than 5,000 emails
answered by InfoService**





Readers' Advisory

Through personalized recommendations, staff helped more than 60,000 clients discover new genres, explore multilingual collections, and find materials that reflect their interests. This is how OPL staff leverage their expertise to make the Library's extensive collections more accessible, enhance the client experience, and support reading for pleasure and learning.

"I like to chill at the library because I get my best writing done there. And there's books handy for research. And the librarians give the best reading recs."

More than 340,000 reference and information questions were answered by employees, including 64,800 reader's advisory questions to connect clients with personalized reading recommendations

Personalized Support

Staff also provided essential and timely assistance to clients with tasks such as job applications, government forms, and use of email and digital devices at the branches. By offering hands-on guidance, staff help reduce barriers to access and empower clients to confidently engage with the Library's various services and online resources.



“A huge thank you to all the wonderful OPL staff for making all this possible and for making each visit a pleasant experience.”



Early Literacy with Ottawa Public Health

OPL, in partnership with Ottawa Public Health, created a video about the importance of early literacy. Along with discussing the benefits of reading to a child, the video explained the technique of Serve and Return that helps build thinking and social skills in children in a fun way and provided links to additional helpful resources.



**Watch
now!**



[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=RclKaqO5f68](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RclKaqO5f68)

Programs

OPL's programming is designed to nurture a love of reading and strengthen community connections by providing opportunities to exercise creativity, build skills, and engage socially. In 2025, the Library offered a variety of programs, workshops and events that supported learning and growth through language, life skills, and creative activities.

Awesome Authors

With the generous support of the Friends of Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA), OPL organized the 30th annual Awesome Authors Writing Contest. More than 270 young students answered the call and submitted either a short story, a poem, a comic, or a book cover design. In addition to entering the contest, young writers were invited to attend free writing workshops hosted by the contest judges to enrich their writing journey. By giving kids and teens a chance to get published and share their talent with the world, the Library encouraged them to explore their creativity and develop their writing skills.

Black History Month

To celebrate Black heritage and culture and to reflect on the remarkable contributions of Black Canadians to history, the Library prepared an exciting lineup of sixteen events to inspire, educate, and connect. There were storytelling workshops, film screenings, and Afro-Caribbean dance classes, the latter for families to explore culture in dynamic ways. In addition, author Mélodie Joseph, author of the La Semeuse de Vents series, took part in

an event about the powerful artistic movement of Afrofuturism and its reimagining of diasporic futures.

**Program attendance
for 2025 was
202,638**





March Break

March Break is always an adventure at the Library with both virtual and in-person events and workshops for both children and teens. A total of 193 programs were organized for a combined attendance of 4,153 participants.

Kids aged five to twelve were invited to take part in Mission: March Break to enjoy games, crafts, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), dance, reading, writing, arts, storytimes, and more. Notably, the Library challenged kids to use their detective skills with Mad Science and various testing techniques to solve a mystery at some of our branches. Children were also invited to design and create their own spy gadgets, and to learn to make and solve codes and ciphers to reveal hidden messages.

Teens aged 13 to 18 had the chance to unwind from school by participating in fun, interactive, and immersive activities that covered topics from DIY clothing upcycling, cooking, or credit counselling to writing and illustrating. Author and illustrator Rob Justus taught aspiring authors and illustrators all about creating immersive worlds with vibrant characters, developing story panels, and plot pacing, while cosplayer Lady Jessica Harkonnen offered an online workshop on the basics of sewing. There was also a youth gambling awareness program to discuss what happens when gaming meets gambling.



One eRead Canada

In April, OPL joined hundreds of participating Canadian public libraries in offering free and unlimited access to Valid by Chris Bergeron in eBook and eAudiobook formats as part of the fourth edition of One eRead Canada. This national bilingual virtual book club, created by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, supports a common, national e-reading experience, while raising awareness about the challenging eBook and eAudiobook pricing and access models that libraries face.

Many libraries across Canada have seen increased digital circulation, but struggle to provide enough eContent due to restrictive licensing and disproportionately high prices from major multinational publishers, including important collections of prominent Canadian and Indigenous works. More information on this issue is available on the One eRead website.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

For the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, OPL organized events and activities to encourage clients to reflect, learn, and take action in support of truth and reconciliation.

Jenny Kay Dupuis, bestselling author of *I Am Not a Number* and *Heart Berry Bling*, shared her personal journey of using literature and art to break the silence on critical issues affecting Indigenous communities.

On September 30, seven library branches were open to provide opportunities for clients to engage in interactive learning centred on Indigenous knowledge and perspectives. These branches screened National Film Board of Canada short films featuring Indigenous stories and experiences.

National Indigenous History Month

In June, the Library celebrated National Indigenous History Month by offering enriching programs with Indigenous authors.

- Award-winning Innu author and journalist Michel Jean took part in an event to discuss his bestselling novel *Kukum* and the often-overlooked history of residential schools and Indigenous resistance within Innu communities.
- Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day and CEO of the Orange Shirt Society, shared her powerful story and ongoing work to educate the public about the legacy of residential schools.
- OPL's mini-Bookmobile and employees were at the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival with a selection of books and resources on Indigenous cultures and history.

Summer Programs

Fun and exploration were at the heart of summer programming at Ottawa Public Library, with activities designed to engage the whole family and spark curiosity through reading.

To keep adults engaged and connected, the Stories of Summer Adult Reading Challenge offered a fun and inspiring way to explore books, conversation, and discovery. Clients were invited to pick up a challenge bookmark featuring a variety of prompts designed to spark curiosity at any library branch and begin their summer reading journey.

The TD Summer Reading Club, aimed at children aged 0 to 12, encouraged children to

read a little more each day during their school break in an active and upbeat way. The summer lineup featured an exciting mix of activities, including reading and writing, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), games, arts and crafts, dance and music, nature discovery, and health workshops.

Teens aged 13 to 18 were invited to dive into summer through OPL's annual Teen Staycation. This program provided opportunities to explore new interests, develop valuable skills, and connect with new friends during the summer break. This year's focus was on helping teens build confidence and practical knowledge through fun, hands-on experiences such as arts and crafts, writing and reading circles, wellness sessions, cooking and baking workshops, sewing, music and dance, and games.



“I’ve been coming to the Library since I was a child. My father brought me to my very first event, and I’ve never stopped coming back! Over the years, it’s become a big part of my life. I come here regularly with my friends, spend a

lot of time participating in activities like Teen Craft Nights on Tuesdays, and join in on special programs for teens and kids on Saturdays. I even bring my cousins when there are events for younger children.”



Pride

To celebrate International Pride Month in June, OPL had a vibrant lineup of programs, displays, and events spotlighting 2SLGBTQ+ voices and stories. In addition to Rainbow Storytimes and curated booklists, the Library hosted a conversation with Emily Austin, bestselling author of *Interesting Facts About Space*, the number one bestselling 2SLGBTQ+ book in Canada and the most circulated 2SLGBTQ+ book in Canadian libraries in 2024, to discuss her writing process and to hear about her journey.

Financial Literacy Month

November was Financial Literacy Month and OPL presented a series of workshops delivered by financial experts who provided practical insights on budgeting, saving, and investing. Topics included investment basics, living well on retirement income, and raising financially fit kids.

Canadian Library Month

In October, OPL celebrated Canadian Library Month (CLM) with the theme of **Meet me at the Library**, a joyful invitation, and a reminder, that library spaces are welcoming and open to all! A highlight of CLM was the Saturday live concert series that took place at the Main, Cumberland, Greenboro, and Nepean CentrepoinTE branches, featuring diverse artists such as Moonfruits, Monkey Rock, Mia Kelly, and Keith Whiteduck.

This year's campaign was especially focused on teens and young adults, and creating comfortable, inspiring spaces where they can discover new interests, make friends, and be themselves.

**11,547 programs
were held in 2025**

Strong Partnerships for Successful Programs



Ottawa Book Awards

In November, OPL hosted the 40th annual Ottawa Book Awards, honouring the best books published in English and French by Ottawa writers. The contest, which is run by the City of Ottawa, has a prize of \$7,500 per winner and \$1,000 per finalist. This year's keynote speaker was award-winning local author Charlotte Gray who spoke about the importance of these awards, the state of publishing in Canada, and why writers remain vital in the age of artificial intelligence (AI).

Connecting with the Community

Ottawa Public Library is committed to working collaboratively with the community to identify barriers and develop supports through library services. OPL has been hard at work developing new projects that have come out of conversations with community partners.

- **Food and Library Literacy Workshop:** In May, OPL offered a one-hour food literacy workshop to teens living at Banff Avenue Community House. Taking place at the Albion-Heatherington Community Centre's community kitchen, the event focused on teaching youth how to make pizza dough and various fillings. This was a great opportunity to promote OPL's services to teens, all the while giving them an opportunity to develop important food literacy skills.
- **Richmond Newcomer Resource Fair:** At the end of September, a Newcomer Resource Fair was held in collaboration with more than a dozen community organizations. The fair connected newcomer clients with the following services: settlement, health, legal aid, education, employment, recreation, and more. The event welcomed 120 newcomers who had recently settled in the Richmond area.

- **Nepean Centrepointe Health and Wellness Fair:** In September, the Library organized a Health and Wellness Resource Fair, bringing together 24 community groups that offer health and wellness services to older adults. The Fair also featured guest speakers from Connected Canadians and Ottawa Public Health and welcomed approximately 125 participants. Participants received brochures highlighting health resources at OPL and at other organizations citywide.
- **Welcome Bus:** In partnership with OC Transpo, Housing Services, and the Integrated Neighbourhood Service Team, OPL provided an OC Transpo bus to families living at Corkstown Transitional Housing to show them how they could get from Corkstown to Centennial branch and back. The project empowered the families to use the bus system to access library services. Twenty-seven (27) residents had the opportunity to visit the branch and learn about OPL services and programs, and one child said it was, “the best day ever!”



Board Book Partnership

In partnership with Ottawa Public Health (OPH), the Library relaunched the board book promotion for new parents. Every new parent receives a coupon for a free board book with their OPH welcome letter, distributed through hospitals and midwives. The program encourages parents to read to their babies, visit their local library branch, and discover the free literacy services OPL offers.

Turtle Egg Incubator

Between June and August, the Cumberland branch hosted the Friends of Petrie Island's turtle egg incubator. Clients were able to watch the turtles hatch and learn about the conservation of at-risk species. A series of turtle-themed storytimes took place which included songs, crafts, and a member of Friends of Petrie Island was on hand to talk about the incubator and the turtle conservation project.



Tools

Functional and experiential self-directed tools are a key service at OPL, supporting clients in completing tasks and exploring creativity, individually or collaboratively. In 2025, new tools were introduced to continue fostering a culture of curiosity, experimentation, and innovation.

Collection Search Stations

New quick-access digital stations were placed at strategic locations in some branches, making it easier for clients to rapidly search the catalogue, locate items, or access general library information without waiting to access a public PC.

Curiosity and Creativity in Action

As part of a system-wide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) pilot project, the Library is testing a range of tools to inform future programming at the new Central branch at Ādisōke. From robotics kits to coding toys and engineering sets, these resources are being evaluated through a summer programming initiative to ensure they are engaging, age-appropriate, and effective for young audiences.

Insights from this pilot will guide the development of the Children's Markerspace at the Central branch at Ādisōke, helping shape a dynamic, hands-on environment that supports curiosity, creativity, and lifelong learning.

1,312,656
wireless logins, a 119 per cent increase over 2024

329,362
sessions on public workstations, up 6 per cent compared to 2024





Imagine Space

Imagine Space is OPL's makerspace where clients can explore available technologies like 3D printers, a laser cutter, and an embroidery machine, among other technologies and tools, for their creative projects.

“We had an amazing experience. [...] We made buttons on the Teen Button Maker, and youth loved it. We also learned about the different equipment and services in the Imagine Space, it was really cool! At the end, we created our own cell phone holders, and many of the youth also got their library cards. Overall, it was a wonderful experience, and the youth shared they had so much fun!! We are grateful for the opportunity. Thank you!”

In 2025, 26,808 clients visited the Imagine Space, a 23 per cent increase compared to 2024. Through personalized safety certification and training sessions, 325 clients were supported by OPL staff to gain the skills to confidently and safely access specialty equipment in the Imagine Space.

Several program offerings helped clients learn about and work with a range of technologies, including Beginner Cricut, Beginner Inkscape, Intro to 3D printing, and Intro to Sewing. In total, the Library's 3D printers used 16,991 grams of PLA filament. Rolled out end-to-end, that's 5.7 kilometres, the distance between Parliament Hill to Dow's Lake.

UV Cleaning & Charging Stations

In 2025, the Library adopted UV cleaning and charging stations for public facing Chromebooks at four branches. This technology ensures that each device returns to circulation fully charged, sanitized, and features up-to-date software, increasing reliability and turnaround efficiency for clients.

Spaces



OPL spaces offer welcoming environments for learning, leisure, and connection. The following details the work undertaken to continue developing these environments.

Building the Central Branch at Ādisōke

The new Central branch at Ādisōke is an exciting and transformational project for Ottawa, with several key milestones reached in 2025.

- As part of Annual Accessibility Day, Ādisōke was awarded a certification from the Rick Hansen Foundation for its pre-construction and design phase, reflecting the commitment of the Library to making its spaces accessible to all.
- With the structure complete, and the building enclosed, work is now focused on detailed interior work.

- All bird-friendly windows, which showcase Indigenous public art commissions, have been installed, and exterior landscape is progressing, including the construction of benches and planters.
- Significant progress has been achieved on the building's exterior, including final stonework, wood siding, roof work, and solar panels.

Expansion of Rural Branch Hours

In March, Ottawa Public Library added a total of 39 hours across eight of its 10 rural branches (Greely, Richmond, Metcalfe Village, North Gower, Osgoode, Constance Bay, Munster, and Vernon). This enhancement provides more consistent service hours, improves the client experience, and creates opportunities for additional programming and community engagement.

Upgrades to our Spaces

- **Alta Vista:** To improve accessibility, renovations were made to accommodate a full universal washroom. The existing barrier-free washroom was expanded and equipped with an adult change table.
- **Centennial:** The parking lot was repaved.
- **Manotick:** The branch's curved ceiling was repaired and repainted.
- **Nepean Centrepointe:** The branch received a new air handler unit.

24.4 per cent of Ottawa residents are active cardholders of the Library, the highest proportion in more than a decade.

- **Orléans:** This branch's parking lot was completely redone.
- **Sunnyside:** The public computer stations were relocated to make them more accessible to clients.

Osgoode Branch's 100th Anniversary

In November, Osgoode branch celebrated 100 years of dedicated service to the community. Those attending the celebration were able to enjoy a range of family-friendly activities throughout the day, such as performances from the Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre and magician Luc Leduc. A special artwork by local artist Bonnie McQuillan was also unveiled. Created to mark the 100th anniversary of the branch, the painting depicts a serene four-season tableau portraying the harmony of wildlife through nature's cycle and reflects the natural environment surrounding the branch. It is now located in the children's section of Osgoode branch.





Commemorative Naming

The OPL Board approved three commemorative naming of branch spaces to honour local individuals who have significantly contributed to the library and their local community.

- **Allan Higdon Room:** The program room at the Alta Vista branch was named in recognition of the outstanding contributions Allan made to OPL and Ottawa through his service on the OPL Board, his support of the Alta Vista branch (his home branch), his broader commitment to the community in his professional and volunteer roles, and his support of literacy and the arts.
- **Joan Dodsworth Ware Room:** The program room located at the Beaverbrook branch was named in honour of Kanata's first librarian, later the Chief Librarian of the Kanata Public Library. Ware led the transition of the library branch from a small room at the former Beaverbrook Community Centre (now known as John G. Mlacak to

the Beaverbrook branch (pre-renovation) and supervised the construction of the Hazeldean branch.

- **Giovanna Panico Room:** The program room located at the Sunnyside branch was named in acknowledgement of Giovanna's love of sharing literature with others and her vital contributions to the local Italian community in Ottawa and to the neighbourhood of Old Ottawa South. For many years, she organized screenings of Italian movies at the Sunnyside branch, which continue to this day and remain popular.

“The library is the perfect place to settle down with a project on my laptop, some atmospheric music on the earphones, and a big cup of tea - the study carrels have plenty of outlets right where I need them and I can stay as long as I like.”

Facilities Master Plan

In September, the OPL Board approved the Facilities Master Plan which provides a plan for the Library's branches for the next 20 years. Based on current demands and future growth needs, the plan identifies recommendations such as renewals, expansions, or new locations. As part of the Facilities Master Plan, the Library prepared a list of 18 projects that addresses legacy gaps, projected gaps based on growth, and needs for existing facilities.

Vernon Branch Heritage Designation

The Library's Vernon branch is located in a former schoolhouse, which received heritage designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Built in 1882, the one-storey red-brick building is a representative example of the rural one-room-schoolhouse typology of the late nineteenth century found in villages across Ottawa. Today, the branch provides Vernon residents with a wide range of library resources such as programming for all ages, Chromebooks, and access to OPL's collection.



Memberships for Indigenous Community Members

Free library memberships are now available to First Nation, Inuit, and Métis community members residing in the Gatineau census metropolitan region and residents of Kitigan Zibi Anishinaabeg First Nation and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. This initiative eliminates jurisdictional barriers and affirms OPL's commitment to equitable and respectful access for Indigenous peoples.

Hunt Club Branch

The Old Hunt Club neighbourhood has an estimated population of nearly 19,000 residents with an anticipated growth of more than five per cent within the next five years. It is considered to have a legacy gap for library services, resulting in the need for a new facility in the area. Consequently, the OPL Board approved the development of a branch to serve the Hunt Club community.

OPL's Most Popular Books of 2025

The list below reflects the most popular books across OPL this past year based on the number of hold requests, offering a snapshot of what the community wanted to read and enjoy in 2025.

Adult (English)



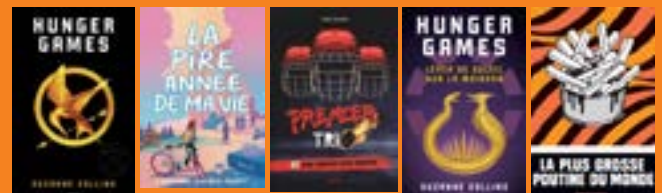
Adult (French)



Teen Fiction (English)



Teen Fiction (French)



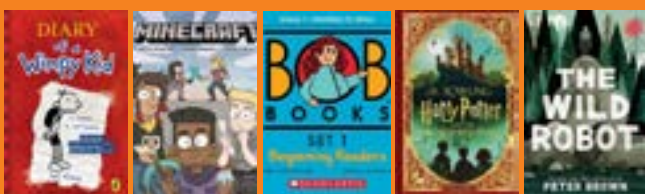
Teen Graphic Novels (English)



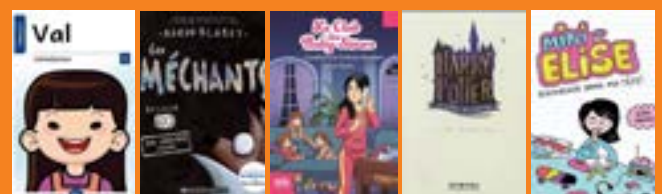
Teen Graphic Novels (French)



Children's Fiction (English)



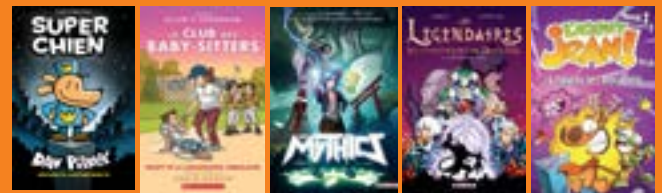
Children's Fiction (French)



Children's Graphic Novels (English)



Children's Graphic Novels (French)



In Your Own Words



“These days chilling at the library looks like playing with blocks and picking out board books with my toddler. I’ve been assured library-blocks are far superior to home-blocks. Library day is a weekly highlight for both of us.”



“When they say, “the best things in life are free,” they are directly referring to Ottawa Public Library.”



“I always have my library card with me, in case of a literature emergency. Because, you just never know when you will find the perfect read.”



“Ottawa Public Library played such an integral part in my childhood, whether it was to discover new books or have a quiet place to study. In 2021, I was really happy to see the late fees disappear to reduce barriers and increase access. Thanks for all the work that gets put in to make all the branches so welcoming and fun for kids (and adults)!”

Thank You for Your Generosity

The Library's efforts would not be effective without the support of the community. More than 268,000 people are active OPL cardholders, representing 24 per cent of Ottawa's population. We thank the clients who used OPL services in 2025.

We also acknowledge the many individuals and organizations who supported OPL financially. In 2025, nearly \$225,000 was donated to OPL, a 10 per cent increase compared to 2024. In addition, the Unlock Potential Campaign raised nearly two million dollars to support enhancements to technology, programming, and the visitor experience at the Central branch at Ādisōke.

Campaign Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership and generosity of those donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more to the Unlock Potential Campaign in support of Ottawa Public Library's new Central branch at Ādisōke.

Your investment is helping to realize a landmark city-building initiative that will redefine how residents engage with their library and with one another. As a shared space for literacy, culture, and community, the Central branch at Ādisōke will serve generations to come.

Through your support, OPL is advancing a vision for expanded access to services, innovative spaces, and meaningful partnerships, including with the Anishinābe Algonquin Host Nation.

Annual donors

We extend our sincere thanks to the many individuals who supported Ottawa Public Library general fundraising in 2025.

Whether made online or in person, these contributions reflect a shared commitment to equitable access to knowledge, literacy, and community connection. Gifts of all sizes play an essential role in enhancing OPL's services.

We are grateful for your support and for the confidence you place in Ottawa Public Library as a vital public resource.

We are deeply appreciative of your commitment and leadership in helping to shape the future of library services in Ottawa.

**Arch Campbell | BMO |
CN Rail | Crabtree Foundation |
Danbe Foundation (Dan & Barbara) |
Dream Foundation |
Estate of John Hok Pok Wong |
Friends of the Ottawa Public Library
Association | Harvey A. Slack |
Jane Beaumont | Jean Teron |
Josette Robertson and Joan
Johnston Family Foundation Fund |
Ottawa Centre Eco-District | RBC |
Rockcliffe Park Spring Book Sale |
Vibrant & Sustainable Fund (OCF)**



Message from Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) President & CEO

Kathleen O'Connell Renaud

2025 was another exciting chapter in supporting Ottawa's libraries and communities.

Since 2003, Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association has proudly contributed more than \$5 million to Ottawa Public Library, including \$232,800 in 2025. We achieve this through the generosity of our donors, the loyalty of our members, the passion of our staff and Board, and the tireless and inspired efforts of our volunteers in our 30 in-branch used bookstores and Distribution Centre.

FOPLA's gifts are directed to programs that enhance library spaces, support innovative programs, and fund special projects across the city. Throughout 2025, FOPLA sponsored outstanding programming for readers of all ages: from Black History Month author events and the Awesome Author Youth Writing Contest to summer reading programs for children and adults, and Library Month celebrations. Our funding supported diverse branch activities, workshops, cultural programs, and new learning opportunities in communities citywide. We also supported OPL's participation in an important Impact Study that will help the Library to develop even more relevant programs and collections in the coming years.

FOPLA's mission is focused on literacy in the widest sense. To that end, we supported a variety of community organizations across the city with book donations. FOPLA scholarships and awards at the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College continued to help students pursuing careers in librarianship.

With heartfelt thanks to our extraordinary volunteers, Board members, staff, and our partners at OPL and the City of Ottawa for another successful year of strengthening libraries and enriching our community,

Kathleen O'Connell Renaud

President & CEO,
Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association

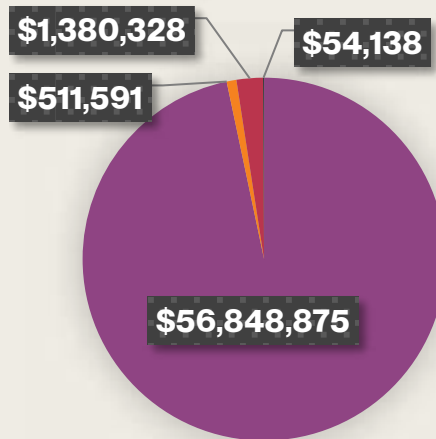


Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

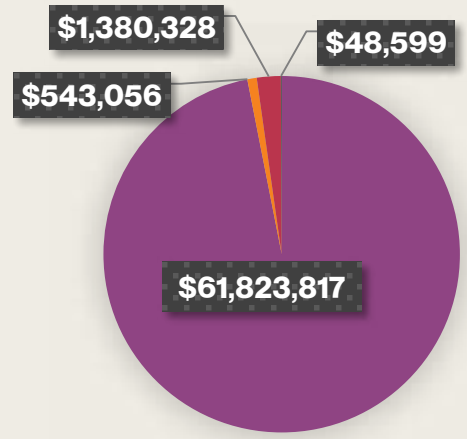
NOTE: the Annual Report does not represent the official annual financial report which is issued separately pending the annual audit.

Revenue

- City of Ottawa
- Library Fees
- Province of Ontario**
- Rental and Other



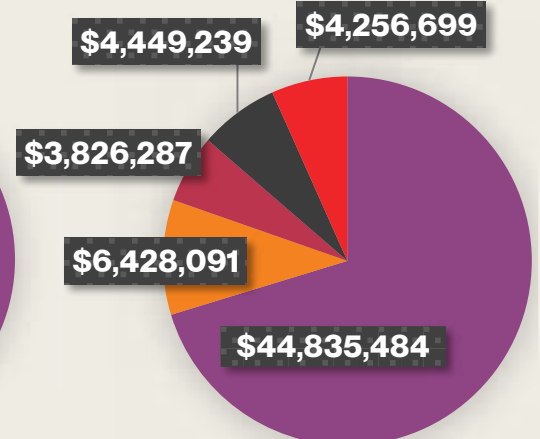
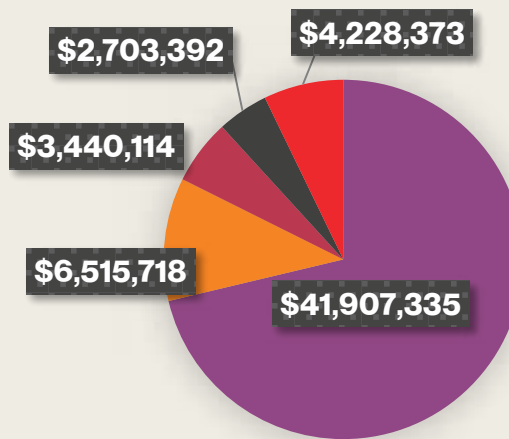
2024



2025

Expenditures

- Salaries & Benefits
- Library Materials
- Purchased Services
- Materials*
- Program Facility Costs



	Total Revenue	Total Expenditures	Year-End compared to Budget Surplus / (Deficit)
2024	\$58,794,932	\$58,794,932	\$1,857,404
2025	\$63,795,800	\$63,795,800	\$2,006,463

*In 2025, OPL's capital allocation was included in the operating budget. At the end of the 2025 fiscal year, OPL had a surplus of \$2M. Library services experienced increased revenues and spending across almost all categories.

**Funding and continued support from the Province of Ontario, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming (through the Public Libraries Operating Grant - PLOG).