



Annual Report 2024

BY THE NUMBERS 2024 Library Use

Library Visits

↑ 4% In Person: 14,700

Items Borrowed

↓ 5%
Library Materials: 21,200
eBooks, etc: 10,350
Kanopy Films: 2,370

TOTAL Circulation: 35,630

InterLibrary Loans Borrowed: 660
InterLibrary Loans Lent: 570

Programs & Meetings

↑ 8%
of: Programs: 330
Class Visits: 60
Meetings: 110

Total Participants: 4,730

Computer & Internet Use

↑ 14%
Library Computers: 1,250
Wifi: 1,790
TOTAL: 3,040

Active Library Members

↑ 4% Individuals: 1,650
↑ 0% Households/Grps: 710
New in 2024: 135 Hhds

Busiest Month: July

2024: Making a Difference Together Library Partners to Promote Learning & Literacy

2024 was another year of collaboration and outreach for Merrickville Library. The Library Board is pleased to report that almost all use metrics grew in 2024. User visits, programs, class visits, meetings, and computer use all continued their upward trend, although there was a dip in circulation and interlibrary loans. The Board is happy to see that the Library is providing Merrickville-Wolford and Montague with services that residents value.

Collaborating with local groups lets the Library offer more learning, wellness, and social engagement activities to the community (p 4-5), work together on impactful projects (p 2-3), and improve collections and services (p 6-7).

In 2024, this resulted in more programming for seniors — including a popular smartphone course, in addition to *Fitness for Your Aging Brain* (p 4). Partnering also allowed us to add a new adult French language collection (p 7) to better serve our Francophone population.

The Library also joined a partnership to create Eco-Literacy Centers for Kids in local libraries, and has done more outreach to the schools to promote class visits to and from the Library (p 3). And, of course, we continue to work with

our partners on the Seed Library, Story Trail, and Eco-Champions Contest; host groups and meetings, and contribute to community events (p 2-3). In addition to providing more opportunities for our users, the Library is able to support the goals of our community partners through these collaborations.

The Library appreciates all of the support we receive from the community. **Park View Homes** very generously rebuilt the Library's porch in 2024. The support of the **Friends of the Library** and other donors (p 6-7) provides funding for resources, programs and collections — adding non-fiction, indigenous, graphic novels, and 'Romantasy' this year.

See what's new @ your Library:
<https://merrickvillelibrary.ca>



The Library Board was very active in 2024 and began work on a new strategic plan (p 7). The Board's goal is to keep the Library moving forward to meet the changing needs of our communities — and to support municipal goals by contributing to the well-being of Merrickville-Wolford and Montague residents.

Thank you to Park View Homes for generously donating materials and labour to rebuild the Library's porch, making it safer and more accessible



Library Partnerships Connect our Community

Collaboration Supports our Partners & Enhances Community Well-Being

Seed Library

The **Seed Library** continued to flourish in 2024 with greater seed variety and a **24%** increase in seeds distributed. We received seed donations from **McKenzie Seeds** and **Stokes** —and from local growers — which help to make the Seed Library sustainable for the future.

Our **Seedy Saturday** (April 20) seed & seedling exchange was unseasonably cool, but attendees were not discouraged. We continue to include educational talks (this year, indoors) on gardening techniques and related topics.

See the Report at: <https://tinyurl.com/2y6tb8t8>

Thank you to the volunteer Steering Committee! The Seed Library is a joint project with **Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford**.

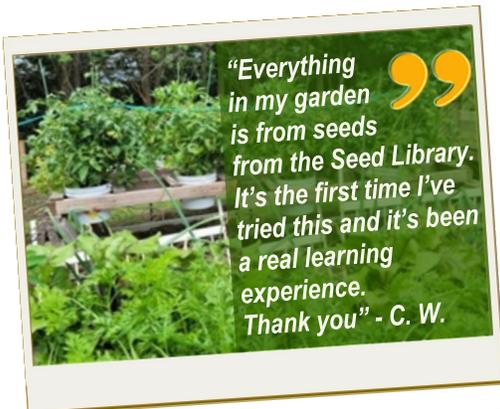


Seedy Saturday



The Library appreciates our Community Partners

- Merrickville Lions Club
- Sustainable Merrickville-Wolford
- Trails Society (MDTS)
- Community Health Centre (MDCHC)
- Historical Society (MDHS)
- École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys
- Merrickville Public School
- Montague Public School
- Merrickville Day Nursery School
- Merrickville Cooperative Playgroup
- Christmas in Merrickville
- ECO-Champions
- Rideau Roundtable Eco-Literacy
- Chamber of Commerce



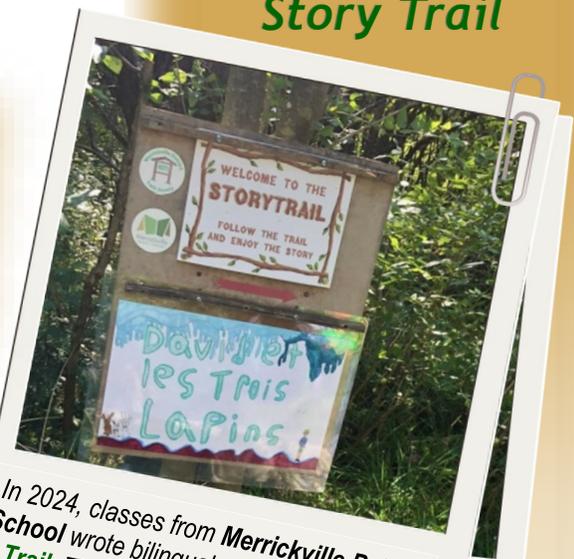
Story Trail

Community Events

The Library loves to join in community events!

The Library was part of the **Merrickville-Wolford & District Chamber of Commerce's Snowflake Festival** on Family Day. Over **80** people dropped by the Library for children's activities and family fun.

The Library also took green screen photos as part of **Christmas in Merrickville** and the **Firefighters' Halloween Party**.



In 2024, classes from **Merrickville Public School** wrote bilingual stories for the **Story Trail**. This trail is a joint project with the **Merrickville & District Trails Society**. See our StoryTrail video: <https://fb.watch/3wgLZ5jEca/>



Working Together Lets Us Work Better”

Eco-Literacy Centres

The Library joined 5 other area libraries in a new ecological literacy initiative for youth, spearheaded by Rideau Roundtable. As Eco-Literacy Centres, our libraries will offer an enhanced collection of ecology materials, plus hands-on educational programming.

In 2024, we added new books on wetlands and a very popular visit with local environmentalist Andrea Howard (Merrickville’s Bug Lady) during the summer. We look forward to additional Eco-Literacy programs in 2025.



Municipal Partners

The Library was excited to partner with Montague Township to enhance summer programming for kids in 2024.

A big Thank You to Montague for sharing Emilie Lackie, their summer recreation coordinator, to assist with running the Library’s Summer Reading Club.

And Mary Kate was delighted to bring some of the Library’s popular activities to Montague’s Kidz Klub evenings.

ECO-Champions



ECO-Champions winners!



2024 was Year 3 of the Library’s partnership with the **ECO-Champions Contest** for kids — an initiative to raise awareness of species-at-risk in Merrickville-Wolford and how to help.

This year the program became a **Lions Club** project.



In addition to continuing on the steering committee, the Library was pleased to display the contest entries through the summer. There were some impressive medal-winning displays!

The Library looks forward to continuing to collaborate on this contest in 2025.

See www.ecochampions.ca



Class Visits



The Library continued to welcome regular class visits from École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys. These were on hiatus in the fall due to school staffing, but we look forward to them resuming in 2025.

Librarian visits to Merrickville School expanded from seasonal to bi-weekly this year, and increased visits to Montague School are planned for 2025. These visits

raise the Library’s profile with students. Mary Kate also does regular story visits to the local daycare and playgroup. (See stats, p 4)

A Place to Meet



Meeting Room Use (by Community Groups)

Meetings: 110

Participation: 730

Community Groups made frequent use of the Library’s meeting room in 2024. These included the Knitting Club, the Agricultural Fair Board, Chamber of Commerce, Theatre Night In Merrickville, Soccer Club, Run Merrickville, Scouting leaders, the Friends of the Library & more. Remote meeting space is available via the Library’s Zoom account.

Library Programs

Entertain, Educate & Engage

Library programs **promote community well-being!** They support life-long learning and social interaction enabling people to become more engaged in their interests and the community. Programs increase library use by families and kids, promoting literacy and learning through play.

The Library offered more programs in 2024, and saw an increase in attendance. There were more programs for seniors, including a smartphone course (in partnership with the **Adult Learning & Training Centre**) and an Anti-Fraud seminar by the **OPP**, in addition to several sessions of the **Fitness for Your Aging Brain** program.



The "**Library Readers**" book club hosted a visit by Canadian author **Peggy Blair** in 2024.

Of course, the Library also offers literary programs such as **Off The Shelf**, a monthly program of literary readings for adult listeners hosted by Charles Merredew, and hosts a monthly **Book Club**, as well as supplying books for 6 others in the community.

The Library is committed to providing opportunities for both adults and children and works with local groups or individuals to offer a broader selection of programs to the community than is possible with our current level of staffing. Many programs are offered through these partnerships, such as the Library's regular **Guided Meditation** group led by staff from the **Merrickville & District Community Health Centre**.

Seniors' programs support learning, wellness & connection.

Right: **Mobile Plus Class**; Below: **Fitness for Your Aging Brain**



Library = Family Fun!

The Library also offers programs to encourage Saturday family visits.

In 2024, this included a very popular **Bluey Party**, with activities inspired by the series (thank you to **Brockville Public Library**), as well as our **Saturday Play Days** — which offer a variety of play opportunities and the chance to look at books. Parents also get time to socialize and browse the Library. Win-win!



Jingle Bell Jive with Anya Perry (Maple Music Studios)

Program Participation

Adult Programs:	140
Participants:	900
Kids/Youth Programs:	140
Participants:	1,500
Summer Reading Club:	130 kids
Class Visits (in Lib):	20
Class Visits (to Sch):	40
Total Participants:	1,100
Other Librarian Visits:	50
Participants:	500
Snowflake Festival:	85

Adult Programs

- Mobile Plus Class for Seniors
- Anti-Fraud Seminar
- Fitness for your Aging Brain
- Guided Meditation
- Library Readers Book Club
- Off the Shelf
- Seed Library / Seedy Saturday
- ZenMindset Art Group

Children & Youth Programs

- StoryTime
- L'Heure du Conte
- Summer Reading Club
- Art4Youth Workshops
- Saturday Play Days
- March Break 'STEAM' programs
- ECO-Champions
- Jingle Bell Jive (music program)
- Bluey Party & Halloween program

Library Visits (to and from)

- École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeois
- Merrickville Public School
- Montague Public School
- Merrick Preparatory School
- Merrickville Day Nursery School
- Merrickville PlayGroup





StoryTime welcomes a special guest

The Library Makes A Difference

"[The Summer Reading Club] keeps my kids reading all summer, which helps them improve. They love their time here". — M.M.

"The mobile phone course was a godsend for helping me learn how to use my phone. Who knew it could do so much?!" — M.G.

"I'm delighted that you've added the adult French books" — E.O.

"The [brain fitness] exercise class always makes me laugh. We do crazy things." — I.C.

"We really enjoy coming on Saturdays to play and look at books at our own pace." — D.M.

"It's so great that the Library is a place our kids can just hang out. We really appreciate it." — J.H.

"The trains are always a big hit. We're always happy there are so many good things for the kids at the Library." — J.C.

"This library is great for homeschoolers. I could teach so much from what's on your shelves." — B.P.

"Thank you for reading to us. It makes me happy when you come to our school." - letter from Gr. 1 student re: class visits.

"As soon as the grandkids arrive in the driveway, they're already talking about the Story Trail. They run for the next page – even if they've read the story before". — T.S.

"This library is so handy and has such a nice atmosphere. It's quite unique." — P.R.

The Library is for All Ages

The Library offers a variety of programs for kids. These include literacy-based programs:

- a weekly **StoryTime** to develop pre-literacy and school readiness skills through stories, songs, rhythm instruments & crafts
- a **French language StoryTime** offered during the 2023-2024 school year in partnership with École Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys and the school board (CECCE)
- the **TD Summer Reading Club** for school-aged kids.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) was another focus of our youth programming in 2024, and the theme of our **March Break** activities. Summer programs focused on space and ecology, and included a kids' **Chess Club** (led by **William & James**).

Arts activities included music programs for preschool & primary students led by **Anya Perry (Maple Music Studios)** and by **James Clugston**; and an **Art4Youth** painting workshop by local artist **David Brent** for teens & tweens. Thank you to our local artists and musicians for volunteering their time to lead these programs.



Art4Youth Painting Workshop with local artist & teacher **David Brent**

*In 2024, our children's programs were funded by donations in memory of **Liz Wallace***



Putting our egg landing capsules to the test!



March Break Science Experiments



Drones in the Library!

The **TD Summer Reading Club** combines our very popular Prize Draw (kids earn tickets by reading books) with weekly activities. This year's theme was "To The Stars" and included space-themed STEAM activities—including making egg landing capsules, marble runs, light-up solar systems, bottle rockets, plus a drone presentation (thank you **Marc Bergeron**).

Reading programs help keep up literacy skills and prevent summer learning loss. Youth circulation nearly doubles during the summer. We were pleased to have **over 100 kids** in our target 6-12 age group in 2024. We look forward to new literacy support programming with the **Lions Club** in 2025.

Popular Services!

The Library's eCollections — sponsored by the Friends of the Library — remained popular in 2024. Members love their convenience and wide selection.

OverDrive

The Library's **OverDrive** eBook collection saw an increase in regular users and in the use of eAudiobooks.

Over 10,000 e-items circulated in 2024.

Visit: odmc.overdrive.com



Kanopy Film Collection

Use of our **Kanopy** film streaming collection continued to grow in 2024. Kanopy includes 30,000+ indie, foreign and award-winning films, documentaries, and children's content.

Visit: merrickvillelibrary.kanopy.com



Museum Passes & MAPsacks!

The Library partners with area museums to lend family passes to the community.

- Agriculture Museum
- Canadian Museum of History
- Museum of Nature
- National Gallery of Canada
- Space & Aviation Museum
- Science & Technology Museum
- War Museum
- Upper Canada Village ***NEW**



The Library lends **MAPsack** (Movement And Play) backpacks with stories, nature guides & more - plus a family park pass - to encourage families to go outside, explore and move! This award-winning initiative of the Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Healthy Community Partnership **promotes healthy living.**



Accessible Services

The Library partners with the **Centre for Equitable Library Access** to provide materials for members with print disabilities.

@ Your Library

- Books - for all ages!
- AudioBooks
- eBooks & eAudiobooks
- Magazines & eMagazines
- DVDs
- Kanopy Film Streaming
- eResources
- Large Print Books
- CELA Talking Books
- Accessible Services
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Genealogy
- Local History
- InterLibrary Loan
- Meeting Room
- Museum Passes
- MAPsacks
- High-speed Internet
- Computers & MS Office
- Wireless access 24/7
- Zoom Meetings
- Print / Scan / Copy / Fax
- Radon Detectors

A Little Help from Our Friends!



The **Friends of the Library** continued their fundraising efforts in 2024 with an extremely successful (and delicious) Louise Penny dinner (inspired by the popular mystery series) and silent auction, as well as their plant sale, and used book sales.

The Friends contributed **over \$6,000** to the Library in 2024 to update the adult non-fiction collection, as well as sponsoring our ebook collection, film streaming service, reference e-resources, DVD pool, adult programs, a new vacuum, & more.



The Board thanks the Friends for all they do to support the Library!

Thank You Volunteers!



A huge thank you to our many dedicated volunteers who donate their time every week for a variety of essential tasks - such as processing, repairing and shelving books, packaging interlibrary loans, scanning genealogy records, setting up displays and assisting in many ways.

Their contribution allows the Library to provide our current high level of service without additional staff.



Our Volunteers

- Kathy Brown
- Nancy Cain
- Kirsten Finstad
- Maureen Gross
- Scott Luke
- Diana McCavera
- Alice Mills
- Brenda Reid
- Liz Sinclair
- Mary Small
- Gyn Wylie

Thank You to the Merrickville & District (MaD) Gardeners for their dedicated plant care all through the summer

Thank You Donors!

The Board is very grateful to those who donate to the Library. Many donations are used directly to sponsor books, programs, supplies and equipment or other administrative needs.

The Library has received large donations from one very generous donor. The Board is using the majority of these funds, as well as other direct donations, to build the Library's term endowment reserve fund (administered by the **Ottawa Community Foundation**) to provide supplementary funding for future library projects.



*The Library Board
sincerely thanks all our
donors for their support*



Provincial Funding

The Library receives the annual Provincial Library Operating Grant and funding for our Internet connection and InterLibrary Loan costs from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Library Operating Grant	\$5,096
Internet Funding	\$1,619
InterLibrary Loan Postage	\$1,156



Thank you to local kids' author **Graham Annable** and his publisher **First Second** for donating graphic novels. They are a very popular format and a great addition to our shelves!



NEW! French Pool

Thanks to a donation from a local Francophone resident, the Library co-created a French language pool in 2024. Our Library now gets a new block of adult French books quarterly.

This pool allows us to offer a specialized collection that is regularly refreshed at an affordable cost.

Library Board Moves Forward in 2024

The Board is pleased to have moved forward with their plans in 2024. The Board completed its review of Library policies, as well as some needed building work, including replacing the furnace and enlisting **Park View Homes'** support for repairs to the Library's porch.

The Board was also pleased to wrap up negotiations with the municipality regarding the library lease and capital building maintenance, and would like to thank **CAO Darlene Plumley** for all that she did to facilitate this agreement.

In the fall, the Board began work on a new strategic plan to ensure that the Library continues to evolve to meet the needs of the Merrickville-Wolford and Montague Township communities as they continue to grow and change. The Board looks forward to completing the process and launching the new plan in 2025.

*The Library Board
would like to thank
the Councils of
Merrickville-Wolford
and Montague Township
for their ongoing support*

The Board has also been active in developing the 2025 budget and in overseeing Library operations to ensure staff provide **excellent customer service and quality library services to support the well-being of the community.** This contributes to Merrickville-Wolford's strategic goal of **Efficient, Effective Services and Civic Engagement** and to Montague's mission to **work together to provide services to build and support the community.**



**Library
Board
2024-2025**

Kaitlyn Brady, Board Chair
Jane Coghlan
Cindi Delcorde
Amelia Wilding
Margaret Gural, Council Representative
Olivia Enns, Montague Representative

And Your Staff ...

Mary Kate Laphen, CEO
Linda Purvis-Carriveau

The Library Makes a Difference

"While [recovering from surgery], the Library was very important to us. You are doing good things here. It makes a big difference." — R.S.

Visitors always love our Library

"This is a beautiful library. Congratulations. It's most enticing."

"We're thinking of moving here and the woman down the street told us we should check out the Library."

"This is a great place. It looks like a really fun library."

"We love your library. We always drop by when we pass through Merrickville."

"By the way, this is a really, really nice library." — new Merrick Prep student

"This library is so inviting. Every library should be like this." — new user



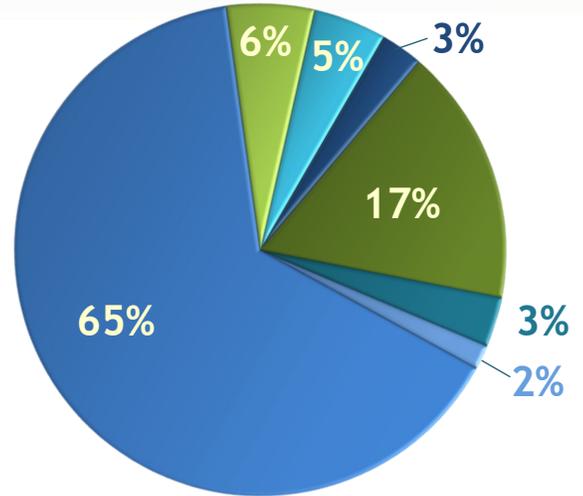
Merrickville Public Library 2024 Financial Summary

Note: Financial data is not yet audited

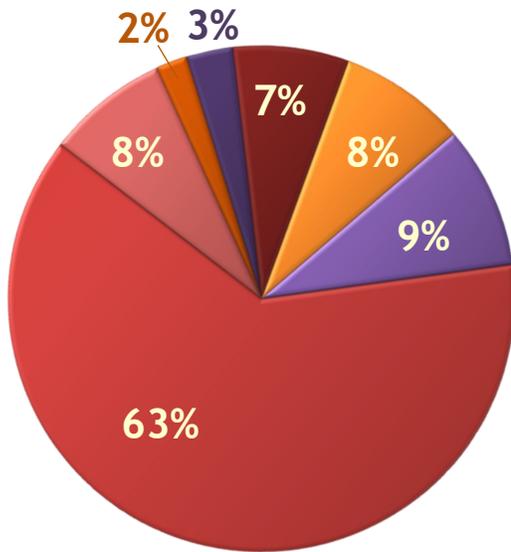
Operating Revenue

Merrickville-Wolford Grant	\$106,000	(65%)
Montague Grant	\$ 9,400	(6%)
Provincial Grants (see p7) (Operating grant, Internet & ILL funding)	\$ 7,871	(5%)
Revenue from Term Endowment (OCF)	\$ 4,542	(3%)
Donations & Special Grants (incl Friends of Library)	\$ 27,737	(17%)
In-Library Revenue (incl bank interest)	\$ 5,370	(3%)
Transfer from Reserved Funds (2023)	\$ 2,570	(2%)
TOTAL Revenue	\$163,490	

Where the Money Comes From



Where the Money Goes



Operating Expenses

Staffing (includes professional development)	\$96,633	(63%)
Facilities (utilities, cleaning, maintenance)	\$14,083	(9%)
Collections (books, e-resources, pools)	\$12,543	(8%)
Administration, Supplies, etc.	\$11,431	(7%)
Computer/Internet (includes equipment & IT support)	\$ 4,619	(3%)
Programs (includes Seed Library & Story Trail)	\$ 3,074	(2%)
Transferred to Term Endowment:	\$12,000	(8%)

TOTAL Expenses	\$154,383
Surplus/Deficit	\$9,017

Capital Revenue

Municipal Building Grant	\$3,000
Library Surplus	\$1,337
Total Capital Revenue	\$4,367

Capital Expenses

Bldg Exterior - Porch Staining	\$427
Bldg Int-Mech - Furnace	\$3,940
Total Capital Expenses	\$4,367

Term Endowment Reserve (OCF)

Balance January 2024	\$107,345
Donations 2023 (Direct)	\$ 3,380
Transfer from Library Operating	\$ 12,000
Year End Balance, 2024	\$122,725