



Mississippi Mills
Public Library

MISSISSIPPI MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

**MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIR**

In a year marked by closings, partial services, partial openings and re-openings, the Mississippi Mills Public Library and its staff and Board were able to accomplish a remarkable amount. Flexibility and creativity were key requirements in providing library service in 2021 and the results demonstrate the value and necessity of libraries, especially in difficult times.

Our focus has been improving open and equitable access to information and library service. 2021 saw the elimination of non-resident library user fees, new reciprocal borrowing agreements, increased digital presence and resources and innovative program delivery. Library staff found ways to provide story hours, book clubs, tech tutoring and STEM programming online. Books, craft kits and other materials were selected and delivered for curbside pick-up.

A Space Needs Assessment report for the Almonte Branch was completed at the end of 2020 by Big Thinking. Thanks to all the local citizens and library staff who contributed their thoughts and ideas to the compilation of this report. Once approved by Council, it is the Board's expectation that we will be able to begin a dedicated fundraising drive for an expansion project in the near future.

Our amazing Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library group carried out several fundraising initiatives that continue to support the library and its programs. Thanks must also be given to the Men's Shed for its ongoing contributions of wonderful handcrafted items. Other library volunteers work to deliver books with the Visiting Library Service. We are so fortunate and thankful to have such keen supporters.

The support of Council has been paramount in allowing the library to survive and thrive through a trying year. The Library Board recognizes that Council has had to make some difficult decisions on the Library's behalf and we appreciate all their efforts in the goal to meet the needs of all residents. The Board aims to continue building a strong relationship with Council in that quest.

Cathy Peacock, Chair

Mississippi Mills Public Library Board

MISSISSIPPI MILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

MESSAGE FROM
THE CEO

Working on this annual report offers time to reflect on the past year and I am amazed at what has been accomplished. Though we are still working through the pandemic, we have experienced so many proud moments. Our success is thanks to the efforts of our creative, dedicated and inspired staff and Board members. It is an honour to be surrounded by such determination to serve the community in innovative ways.

Innovation is apparent in our excellent service levels and new ventures. While in-person visits to the library were limited, we continued to serve residents through online programs, curbside pick-up and expanded online resources. Throughout the pandemic there was never a period when we weren't serving patrons in some fashion. Our new ventures included free loanable Wi-Fi hotspots, radon detector kits, an expanded book club set collection and online French collection, to name a few. In addition to maintaining strong community partnerships with the Elizabeth Kelly Library Foundation, Almonte Horticultural Society, Mississippi Mills Youth Centre, Carebride Community Support, Learning in Almonte and Early ON, we also formed new ties with Home Hospice North Lanark, SchoolBox North and Puppets-Up.

This report highlights evidence supporting the library's mission to inspire lifelong learning, provide equitable access to information, advance knowledge and strengthen our community.

It feels like spring in more ways than just the date on the calendar. We feel hopeful that the dark, cold days are truly in the past and there is renewed excitement for the future.

Christine Row, CEO / Chief Librarian

Mississippi Mills Public Library



MMPL **MISSION & VISION**

Mission

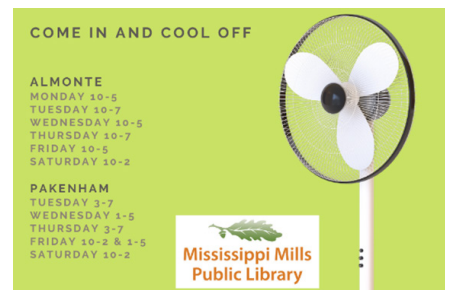
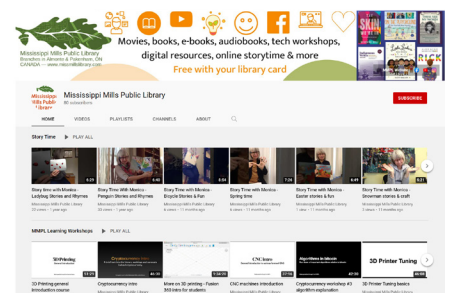
To inspire lifelong learning, provide equitable access to information, advance knowledge and strengthen our community.

Vision

An informed, engaged, creative & connected community.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Eliminated non-resident fees** for Lanark County library patrons
- Created a **YouTube channel**
- Installed **new mobile and accessible shelving** in the children's area
- Partnership with **SchoolBox North** – helping to raise funds for the Kiizhik School and Library Project in Kenora Ontario/Treaty 3 Canada
- Free vaccine receipt printing
- Hosted **Cooling Centres**
- Free loanable **Wi-Fi Hotspots** (added to our Library of Things)
- **Ontario by Bike partner** – both branches
- **Home Hospice North Lanark** partnership
- **Radon Detection** Program
- New **drop-off and pick-up location in Appleton**
- **Karen Kiddey** retired but is fortunately still a member of the Mississippi Mills Public Library family



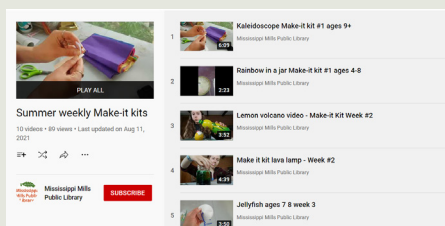
2021 PROGRAMS

CREATED AND DISTRIBUTED
OVER 3000 ACTIVITY KITS
FOR ALL AGES



CRAFT KITS

Kids & Teens = 1835
Seniors = 875
Pre-school = 480



Videos:

MMPL Learning Workshops

Teens:

Revitalized the Teen Advisory Group

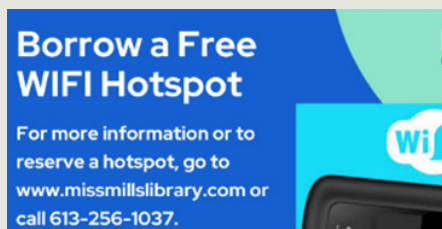


Storytime:

Hosted online Storytime and Babytime outside

STEM:

Hosted 83 STEM programs with 389 participants



Technology:

Hosted 8736 internet connections

Helped 540 people (one-on-one) with technology

VISITING LIBRARY SERVICE

Made 155 visits

***Delivering 924 items
to residents at home***



2021 STATISTICS

- Circulation of physical library material = 71, 196 (69,315 in 2020)
- Streaming and downloading of eBooks, downloadable audiobooks & videos = 24,543 (21,830 in 2020)
- TOTAL CIRCULATION = 95,739 (91,145 in 2020)
- 1325 followers on Facebook
- 6 active Facebook groups

Quantity of Use	Library Services	Value of Service
71,196	Print / DVDs / audiobooks / magazines / library of things	\$1,779,900
24,543	eTitles – eBooks / audio / video	\$613,575
8,736	Internet Access	\$43,680
3,544	Program attendance – includes STEM, summer, literacy, activity kits, etc.	\$88,600
540	Technology tutoring	\$16,200
TOTAL		\$2,541,955

PATRON FEEDBACK



“

Thank you so much for hosting the baby group!
It really made me feel part of a community when I felt isolated as a new mom. You are so great at it, and it is an invaluable group for so many, I'm sure.

“

Thank you so very much for offering this service. I don't know if I'll ever be able to relay to you how amazing it has been to still be able to borrow reading material, when the rest of the world seems to be falling apart this last year. We appreciate you all so much!

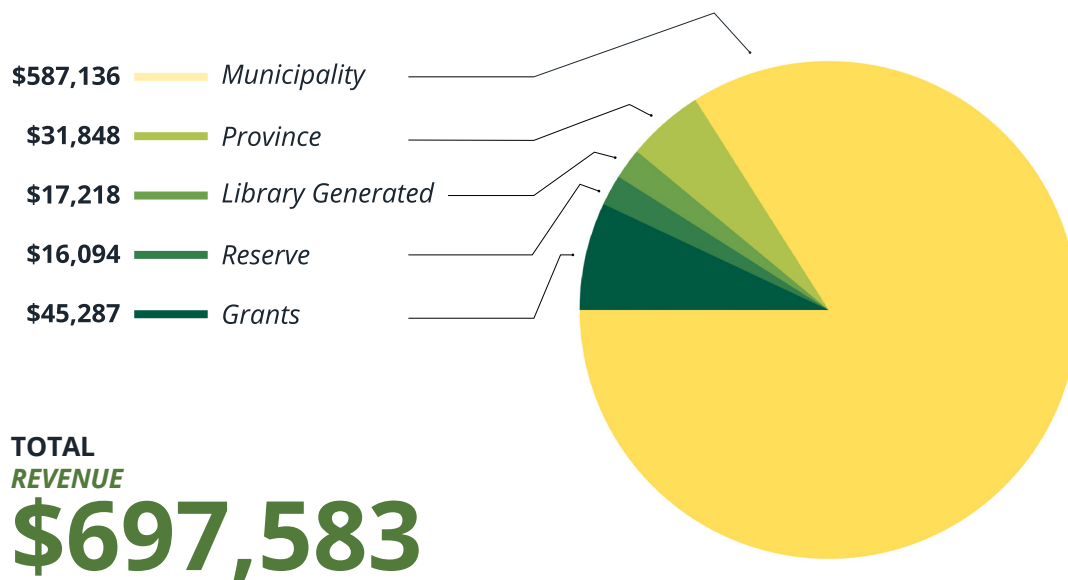
“

I watched the entire "LEARN TO 3D PRINT" stream on June 8 and I want to provide you some feedback (as a retired IT professional). What a brilliant idea for the library to purchase a 3D printer. And what's next? a talk on Cryptocurrency!! As an active investor, I feel I know a lot about crypto. I can't wait for Austin's talk on crypto where he teaches me stuff I thought I knew. I am just so impressed by this young man.

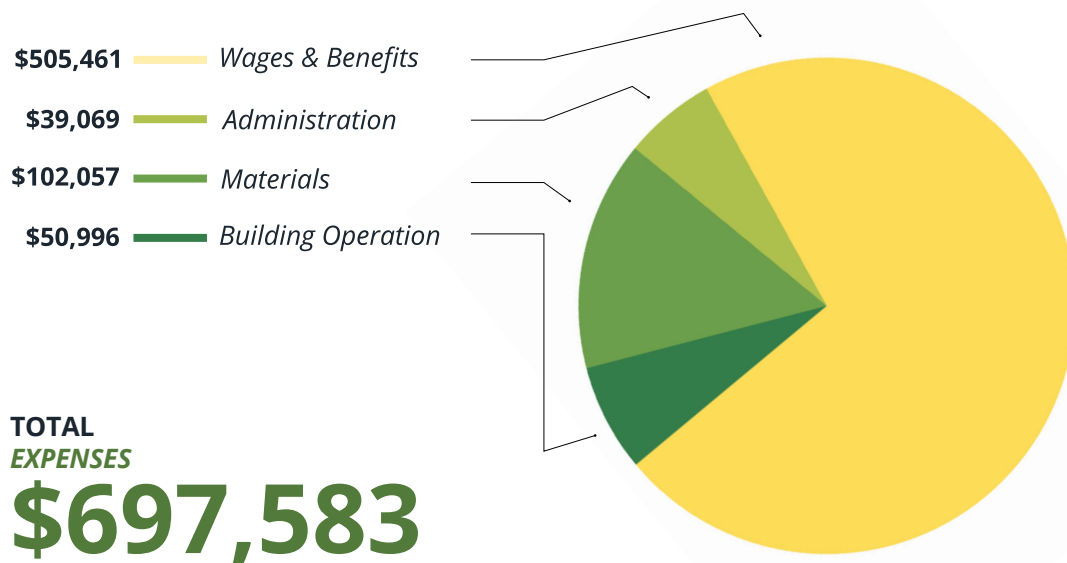
“

I love the Almonte library it's fantastic. I rented one of your Knit Kits to learn knitting and now I'm on my way to making a little blanket! I also was able to pick up some gardening seeds a few weeks ago as well and am waiting to plant them. Your team seems very innovative and creative during these weird times - you're helping keep me active and engaged and try new things :) Your children & youth offerings are so incredible!

2021 REVENUE



2021 EXPENSES





2021 **PARTNERSHIPS**

- Elizabeth Kelly Library Foundation
- Learning in Almonte
- Mill Street Books
- Carebridge Community Support
- Mississippi Mills Youth Centre
- Early ON
- The Neighbourhood Tomato
- The Almonte & District Horticultural Society
- Mississippi Mills Township
- MMPL Volunteers
- The Corridor Gallery - Carell Farmer & Ingrid Kadoke



2021 ADMINISTRATION

STAFF

CEO/Chief Librarian: Christine Row

Deputy Librarian: Monica Blackburn

Circulation staff:

Margo Hay-Goodings

Berta Madrigal Abaroa

Jill McCubbin

Brenda Woodhall

Sheila Robertson

Brenda Donnelly

Melanie Girdwood-Brunton

Judi Bowe

Cleaner:

Bev Guay, Almonte

Courier:

Rick Waddell

Tech Assistant:

Greg Young

Student Assistants:

Kali Latham, Alyson Murray & Claire Smith

2019-2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Cathy Peacock, **Chair**

Leanne Czerwinski, **Vice Chair**

Micheline Boucher

Barbara Button

Jeff Fraser

Jan Maydan, Council Representative

Warren Thorngate

Marie Traversy

