

OSHAWA  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES



# 2025 Annual Report



# Message from the Board Chair



As Chair of the Oshawa Public Library Board, I am proud to reflect on another year of meaningful impact in our community. From more than one million items borrowed annually to thousands of weekly digital connections and more than 40,000 program participants, the library remains an essential driver of learning, inclusion, and social wellbeing.

As operating realities continue to evolve, our library team remains steadfast in delivering exceptional programs, innovative services, and welcoming spaces that support discovery and connection for residents of all ages and backgrounds. From early literacy initiatives to lifelong learning opportunities, the dedication of our staff and leadership ensures we consistently rise to meet community needs with creativity and care, strengthening the library's role as a vital community hub.

As we enter the final year of the current Board's term, I am proud of the progress we have made together and confident in the strong foundation in place for the future. I encourage members of our library community who are passionate about literacy, governance, and public service to consider serving as a trustee. Sitting at the board table is an opportunity to help shape Oshawa's cultural and community future. Fresh perspectives and broad representation will help ensure the library continues to thrive.

On behalf of all trustees, I offer my sincere thanks to our library users, staff, volunteers, and supporters for your ongoing commitment. Together, we will continue building a strong, connected, and informed community.

*"These books transport me to another world, and I don't know what I'd do without them."*

-Visiting Library Services customer

# Message from the CEO



I am incredibly proud of the wide range of programs and services we offer the community. Beyond providing reading materials, our libraries play a vital role in strengthening local social infrastructure. In a recent national survey of library users and non-users, even those who do not use the library recognized its importance as a cornerstone of the community.

We calculated our social return on investment and determined that for each municipal dollar invested in the Library, the social return on investment is \$5.48. This was measured in terms of education, entertainment and leisure, cultural vitality, economic development, civic engagement, inclusion and well-being, and public spaces.

In 2025, we continued to enhance our services. We launched PressReader, a digital newspaper and magazine service, improved accessibility by beginning the replacement of the front steps and ramp at the McLaughlin Branch, and expanded partnerships to strengthen our capacity.

As Oshawa continues to grow, the library remains an essential resource for learning, recreation, and community connection. Last year, more than 10,000 new members joined, bringing our total number of active users to nearly 60,000.

Thank you to our Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, community partners, donors, and our dedicated staff for their ongoing commitment to providing exceptional library service.

## Oshawa Public Library Board of Trustees

Eric Guernsey, Chair

Elizabeth Jamischak, Vice-Chair

Mark Ashcroft

James (Jim) Clapp

Sacha Fabry

Andrew Holmes

Kathryn McMillan

Marco Osso

Alexander Parkin

Carolyne Willoughby

Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri

# What's New

**4,000** analog  
to digital

The Memory Lab was used to convert over **4,000** analog units to digital.

The most popular items digitized were photos, with slides in second place, and VHS tapes in third.

- **PressReader** gives Library users online access to a wide variety of newspapers and magazines.
- Expanded our **Museum Pass Lending Program** to include the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) and the Village at Black Creek.
- Added four more episodes to our **Past Forward: Oshawa's Forgotten History** podcast.
- Began replacing the **Front Steps and Accessibility Ramp** at the McLaughlin Branch.

- Expanded accessible services to include **10 Envoy Connect Audiobook Players**, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
- Added **Ukuleles** to borrow.
- Installed a **New Service Desk** at the Delpark Branch.
- Converted a room at the John Aker Northview Branch into a **Study Space** with nearly 1,000 bookings in 2025.



*Memory Lab at the McLaughlin Branch*



*Front steps and ramp replacement project at the McLaughlin Branch*

# Fun at the Library!

- Family Music and Movement program in partnership with Early ON.
- STEAM Saturdays drop-in programs.
- Community Champions Story Time.
- **Sensory Zone** programs were made possible through the Friends of the Library sponsorship and partnerships with Autism Ontario and KINARC Child & Family Resources.
- Coronation Public School won the junior and intermediate divisions of Oshawa's **Battle of the Books**, placing first in the intermediate regionals and third in the junior regionals.
- Partnered with Oshawa Animal Services on **Reading with Rabbits**.



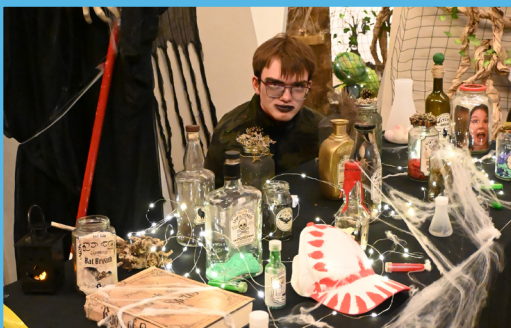
*Child reading to rabbit*

# 600

participants joined the fun at our special March Break programs.



*Coronation Public School at Battle of the Books*



*2025 TAG Haunted Forest program*

# 230



people braved the Haunted Forest Halloween program hosted by our Teen Advisory Group (TAG).

# Read, Learn, and Grow

490



tax returns filed for low-income families and individuals, generating an estimated economic benefit of **\$2,651,884.96** for the community.

- Almost 600 people attended the **Local History Speaker Series**, in partnership with the Oshawa Museum.
- We hosted a **Library Plant Exchange** with the Oshawa Garden Club.
- **Math Buddies** launched in January 2025.
- **Author readings** with Bryn Turnbull, Steve Burrows, Michelle Good, and Gwen Tuinman. Partnered with Art Your Service for virtual author readings.



*Author Gwen Tuinman reading from her book at the McLaughlin Branch*

- **Climate Action Week** was marked by special events including:
  - ↳ **Repair Café** to encourage waste reduction by giving household items a second life.
  - ↳ **Scientists in School** program for children focused on earth science.
  - ↳ **Climate change resources** via online booklists and displays, and story times with crafts using recycled or reusable materials.



*Toy Repair Café at the Delpark Branch*



*Library Plant Exchange program at the John Aker Northview Branch*

# Supporting Culture and Diversity



*Drag Queen Storytime*

- **Indigenous Puppet Show:** Rabbit and Bear Paws – The Way.
- **Annual Seniors Art Competition**, in partnership with the RMG and the OSCC55+.
- Annual **Drag Queen Storytime** kicked off Pride Month in June.
- The Isshin Daiko Drumming program celebrated **Asian Heritage Month**.
- **Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF)** hosted a film screening event.

- Celebrated **Islamic History Month** with Muslim Women of Durham Region.
- Contributed curated books for the launch of **Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships** by Ekow Nimako in partnership with the Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG).
- **Indigenous Cultural Celebration**
- **Indigenous Reads Challenge**



*Lorrie Priddle, Winner in the Open Category, Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition*

**Garba dance workshop with Darshini of ViBeat Dance showcased folk dance from Gujarat, India.**



# Out and About in the Community

## School Visits



Library Staff visited  
**73** classrooms.

**62** classes came to  
visit the Library.



*Author Steve Burrows leading  
our birdwatching walk program*

- **Oshawa Celebrates New Year's Eve** at Delpark event featured magic shows, and activities in the Library
- Participated in Durham District School Board community event **CTRL+ALT+EDUCATE**, designed to support families in navigating the digital world.
- Partnered with the Better Beginnings Initiative for **Welcome to Kindergarten** (WTK).
- Partnered with the Durham Community Health Centre for the **Ready for School** program.

- Visits to **Denise House** supported families in crisis.
- **Paint program** for adults from the Brain Injury Association.
- Handed out candy provided by Oshawa Tourism at the **Boo Bash** event.
- **Family Fun Day** with EarlyON.
- **Durham Children's Watershed Festival**.
- Promoted Library services at the Oshawa Centre **Farmers Market**.
- Joined the fun at **Children's Safety Village** visits for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas.



*Library Lending Machine at the Civic Rec Centre*



*At the Farmer's Market, Oshawa Centre*

# Out and About in the Community

- Offered special programs at **Simcoe Hall Settlement House** and collected donations for Operation Backpack.
- Conducted monthly visits to **The Refuge Outreach Centre**.
- Staffed a table at **Camp Rainbow Phoenix**, run by PFLAG Canada, PFLAG Durham Region, and the AIDS Committee of Durham Region.
- Promoted the Library at the **Convergence Street Festival**.
- Provided musical entertainment during the **Bright and Merry Market**.
- Attended the Child & Youth Family Program event at **Lakeridge Health**.
- Honoured for our partnership with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio. The **"I Partner With My Local Library"** Awards recognizes innovative partnerships between public libraries and other organizations across Canada and the United States.



*Book Sale at the McLaughlin Branch*



*Mary Krohnert from the LivingRoom Community Art Studio*

**1,257** **↑** 11%

Visiting Library Service (VLS) visits to long term care facilities and home delivery service.



*French Conversation Circle at the Delpark Branch*

# Revenue and Expenses

## Revenue

City of Oshawa Grant	\$	9,549,800
Ontario Provincial Grant	\$	215,441
Other (fees, donations)	\$	414,161
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$	<b>10,179,402</b>

## Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$	7,603,823
Library Materials	\$	1,025,828
Other Operating	\$	1,549,751
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$	<b>10,179,402</b>



Thank you to our Friends of the Library for their continued support in 2025, including:

- Multilingual Children’s Books
- Baby Book Club
- Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Envoy Connect Audiobook Players
- Memory Lab equipment updates
- Special event and programming support



Winner of the TDSRC Grand Prize bike!

Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting special Library initiatives throughout 2025.

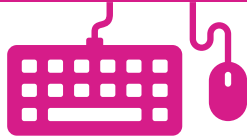


A special thank you to our individual donors for their support.

# 2025 Snapshot

**670,176**

Visits to  
oshawalibrary.ca



**696,176**

Visits to OPL  
Branches

**1,036,557**

Items Borrowed:

Physical: 739,570

Digital: 296,987



**↑ 67%**

Library Lending

Machine Loans: 1,409



WiFi Hotspot &

Connect Kit loans: 767



Museum Pass loans: 871



**66,449**

Computer  
Sessions

**196,938**

WiFi Logins



**87,909**

eLearning  
Sessions

**1,768**

Programs Delivered

**44,895**

Program  
Attendance



**↑ 14%**

**10,361**

New Members

**59,565**

Active Members



**28,776**

Reference Questions  
Answered

# Locations

**McLaughlin Branch**  
65 Debwewin Miikan

**John Aker Northview Branch**  
250 Beatrice St. E.

**Jess Hann Branch**  
199 Wentworth St. W.

**Delpark Homes Centre Branch**  
1661 Harmony Rd. N.

**Library Lending Machine**  
Civic Community Centre  
99 Thornton Rd. S.

