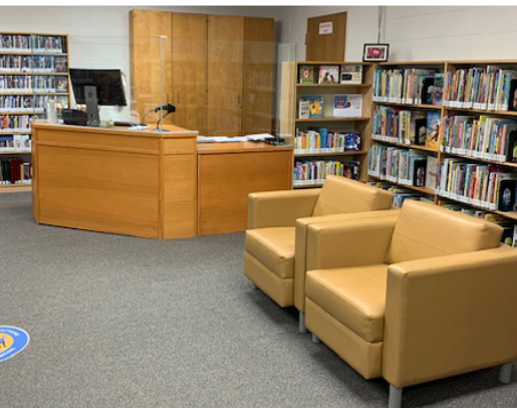


HURON COUNTY LIBRARY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





“ It has been 2 years since I have set foot in a library and I am SO EXCITED to be here!”



2022 Annual Report

Huron County Library

The Huron County Library is a county-wide library system with 12 convenient locations serving residents throughout the County. The Library serves as an inclusive and vibrant community hub that offers the traditional library services with new and innovative offerings to meet the changing needs of our diverse communities.

The Library has adopted the following vision, mission and values statements as guiding principles to delivering Library services in Huron County.

Vision

Huron County Library is an inclusive and vibrant community hub. It builds community, enriches lives and fosters creativity by providing access to information, skills and ideas.

Mission

Huron County Library provides the community with inviting and accessible facilities, engaging virtual spaces, comprehensive collections and user-friendly technology. Welcoming and knowledgeable staff and volunteers provide innovative services and programs that contribute to community vitality.

Values

- Inclusive and equitable access for all
- Literacy and lifelong learning
- Intellectual freedom and protection of privacy
- Customer services
- Community focus
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Accountability, integrity and teamwork
- Balancing tradition and innovation
- Embracing a changing world

2022 IN NUMBERS...

17,157

Library card
holders

250,742

Items
circulated

34,173

Catalogue
visits



Thanks for many years of being able to access such a wonderful building with caring & knowledgeable staff. I will miss this place greatly.



Beth Rumble
*County Librarian and
Director of Cultural
Services*

A Message from the Director

Huron County Library started 2022 off with a bang by joining the ranks of libraries around the world to permanently eliminate fines on overdue materials. There is almost no better way the library could live its value of equitable access to all than by eliminating this barrier to library usage. And we do want our community to use the library because, in 2022, we had so many reasons to engage with the library.

We were so very grateful to be able to engage with our patrons in a variety of ways. This year saw the continuation of popular virtual programs as well as the return of in-person programming. We were all blown away by the volume of activity in the branches and were reminded of the joy of noise and commotion. We saw our branches open more hours. Hours that were designed to better meet the needs of each individual community. We also launched a new, beautiful website that acts as our virtual branch.

Beyond the excitement of near normal daily activities, Huron County Library achieved multiple local and provincial awards of recognition. All of these are a result of the phenomenal staff that make up Huron County Library. Their passion and dedication to the work that is done each and every day is truly what makes this team such a pleasure to be a part of.

I am excited for you to take a look back at the wonderful year that we have had together.

A Message from the Board Chair

2022 was a year that the Huron County Library was able to get back to more normal branch activities, even though we all realize that it will be a new normal. As we look ahead to 2023, we know that our Branches are ready to adapt as they continue to welcome patrons back for in-person visits.

It is with great pleasure that all 12 branches received accreditation, demonstrating the exceptional library system we have available for the people of Huron County. Going ahead we know that with the leadership library staff give the board, we will be able to adapt and achieve the vision, mission and values of the Huron County Library. The Library Board is ready to work with staff and our County Librarian to deal with challenges ahead.



Doug Harding
*Huron County Library
Board Chair*

2022 IN NUMBERS...

59,698

Adult Fiction
checkouts

26,287

Adult Non-
fiction checkouts

31,533

Picture book
checkouts



Coming to the library is one of the things I love most about my retirement!

Huron County Library is now **FINE FREE!**



The Huron County Library values inclusive and equitable access to information and was very pleased to announce that it would no longer charge fines on overdue materials.

While the collection of overdue fines had been temporarily halted since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Huron County Library Board voted unanimously to permanently end this practice, further removing barriers for Huron County residents to access valuable library services.

All outstanding overdue fines were forgiven effective Jan. 1, 2022 and since going fine free, more than 300 patrons have regained access to valuable library services.

2022 IN NUMBERS...

95,339

Audio & E-book
checkouts

14,503

Music streamed

6,198

Movies & TV
streamed

“It’s so great that you’ve gone fine free...Anything that can reduce barriers is the way to go.”

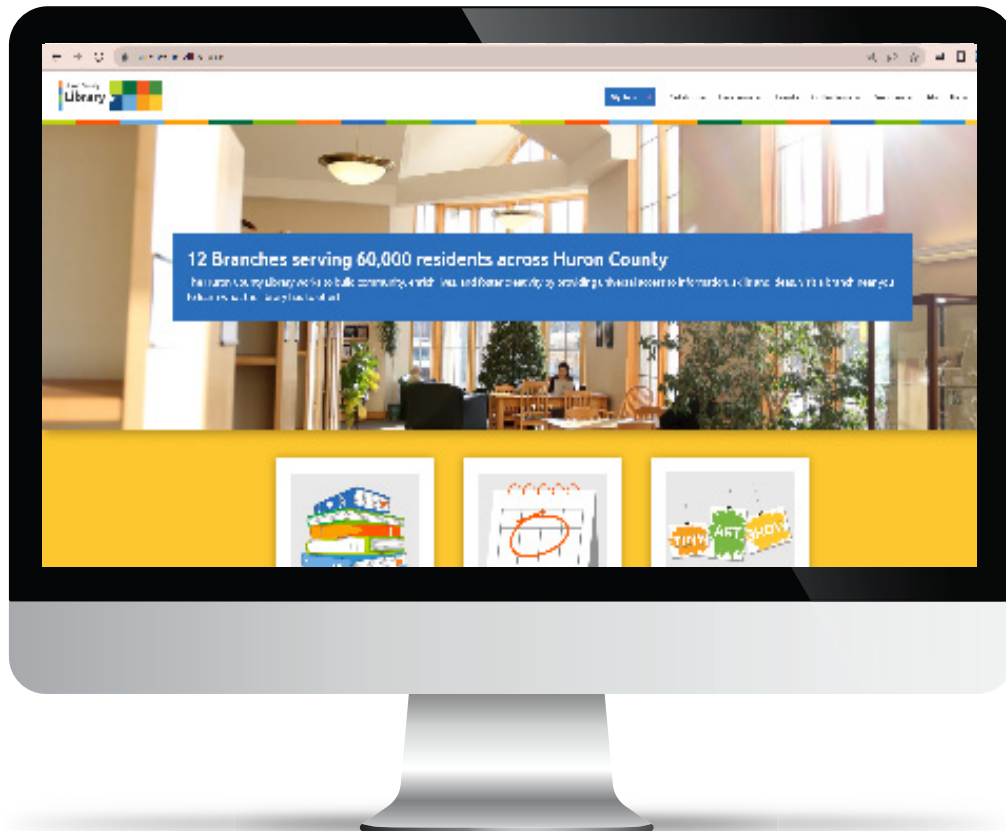
Improving our online presence

The Huron County Library announced the launch of a new and improved website in January, 2022.

Located at HuronCountyLibrary.ca, the new site features a fresh new look and feel that fully reflects the vibrant community spaces patrons find in our 12 branches located throughout Huron County.

Some key highlights of the new website include:

- A seamless online browsing experience between the website and the new online catalogue
- Improved navigation for easier access to the Library's branches, services and collections
- An online events calendar to quickly find upcoming programs and events
- A new blog written by Library staff on a variety of topics to keep patrons better informed
- A mobile-friendly interface that allows for easier site navigation from any device
- An accessible platform that is welcoming and inclusive for all site visitors



2022 IN NUMBERS...

3,751

Facebook
followers

1,016

Instagram
followers

195,574

Website
page views

“

Thank you for this online experience! ...I don't have to leave my fireplace, lounge chair & steaming coffee to complete library business.



Celebrating our successes

The Huron County Library received the Ontario Library Association's Archival and Preservation Achievement Award for the Huron County Digitized Newspaper project.

From the beginning in 2014, the digitization project has been a collaboration between the Library, Huron County Museum, the County of Huron, and the local community, resulting in the digitization of more than 545,000 local newspaper and magazine pages from microfilm and hard copies. This collection preserves more than a century's worth of local history from communities across the County.

In 2022, the library was also presented with:

- The Huron County Accessibility Award of Merit for its efforts throughout the pandemic to ensure library services and resources were made available while branches were closed to the public.
- Reaccreditation from the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council. Huron County Library achieved an overall score of 98.3 per cent, demonstrating that Huron County has an exceptional library system.

2022 IN NUMBERS...

18,234

Digitized
Newspaper page
views

1,222

Internet hub
checkouts

20,403

DVD
checkouts

“Huron is so
fortunate to have
such an amazing
digital resource!
Thank you!”



Returning to in-person programming

After two years of closures and restrictions on gatherings, in-person programming was able to make a big return in 2022. Staff recognized, though, that not everyone was comfortable with meeting in person and continued to offer a selection on virtual programs.

Some highlights of programming offered through the year:

- Patrons were invited to get their spice on in 2022 with the virtual Spice Club. Participants picked up a new spice and recipe each month from their local branch and met virtually to learn more about the spice and to share their experiences cooking with it.
- Exeter Branch hosted Seedy Saturday which featured a seed swap and promotion of the library's Seed Library, plant give-aways, activities for kids, and guest speakers.
- In partnership with Ontario's West Coast, the library hosted Bird Bingo and a Nature Photography contest to encourage outdoor winter activities for locals.
- Building on the success of Ontario's West Coast's In Your Backyard tourism program that ran through the pandemic, staff offered a virtual tour of the County by highlighting Huron's hidden gems. To further encourage locals to get out and explore what's in their backyard, a summer giveaway was developed in partnership with the County of Huron's Economic Development department.
- Branches began offering some old favourites for their patrons, including storytimes, book clubs, games, tech support, and more.

2022 IN NUMBERS...

1,026

Virtual
& in-person
programs

17,295

Program
participants

201

Tech tutoring
participants



Thank you so much
for the computer
help, I can't believe
you help people
for free!



Celebrating diversity

Each year, staff work hard to find unique ways to help make people feel welcomed and supported, and we were pleased to continue this work through 2022. To celebrate the diversity in our communities, staff frequently shared reading recommendations to help expand our understanding of one another. Highlights from our collection were shared to honour Black History Month, Pride Month, Asian History Month, Disability Pride Month, National Indigenous History Month, and more.

Some highlights of supporting our diverse communities:

- Through the Respectful Subject Headings Project, the Huron County Library took steps to update catalogue subject headings to be respectful and inclusive to all members of society. This project was spurred on by the social need for improved representation in library catalogues for Indigenous peoples.
- In the response to Russia's war against Ukraine, library branches became drop-off locations for locals to donate valuable medical supplies. Community information sessions were hosted in partnership with Huron Immigration Partnership to support Ukrainian refugees in Huron County.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was honoured on Sept. 30. Staff commemorated the day by wearing orange shirts to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools and distributing Every Child Matters buttons.
- Library staff supported the return of the Huron Multicultural Festival during Newcomer Welcoming Week in September. The event celebrates the customs and traditions of Canada's diverse populations.

2022 IN NUMBERS...

431

Newcomer
outreach
participants

19,055

Large print
checkouts

251

Accessible
resource
checkouts

“

Thank you so much for providing me with a Dutch language section. It is so nice to be able to read in my first language.



Improving our services

With the full reopening of our branches in 2022, we were able to update hours of operation to better serve our communities. Branch hours became more consistent and accessible for our patrons.

Service improvements also included:

- The implementation of an automatic renewal system. When life gets busy, we know renewing library items can easily get forgotten, so we implemented a system that would automatically renew eligible items for patrons.
- A refresh of the Goderich Branch to improve the space. Improvements included a fresh coat of paint, the relocation of the children's area to the main floor, and upgrades to the Young Adult Lounge, a dedicated space for youth ages 12-18.
- A new delivery van branded in the library's new colours. Watch for it to roll through your community as it travels across Huron County several times a week delivering library materials to each branch.

2022 IN NUMBERS...

59,280

Kilometres
driven by van

97,950

In-branch visits

18,952

Hours of service

“ I love the new
library hours!

12 Branches serving Huron County

Alice Munro Branch

Address: 281 Edward St., Wingham
Phone: 519-357-3312
Email:
WinghamLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Bayfield Branch

Address: 18 Main St., Bayfield
Phone: 519-565-2886
Email:
BayfieldLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Blyth Branch

Address: 392 Queen St., Blyth
Phone: 519-523-4400
Email:
BlythLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Brussels Branch

Address: 402 Turnberry St.,
Brussels
Phone: 519-887-6448
Email:
BrusselsLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Clinton Branch

Address: 27 Albert St. S., Clinton
Phone: 519-482-3673
Email:
ClintonLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Exeter Branch

Address: 330 Main St. S., Exeter
Phone: 519-235-1890
Email:
ExeterLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Goderich Branch

Address: 52 Montreal St., Goderich
Phone: 519-524-9261
Email:
GoderichLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Hensall Branch

Address: 108 King St., Hensall
Phone: 519-262-2445
Email:
HensallLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Howick Branch

Address: 45088 Harriston Rd., RR 1
Gorrie
Phone: 519-335-6899
Email:
HowickLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Kirkton Branch

Address: 70497 Perth Road 164,
RR 1 Kirkton
Phone: 519-229-8854
Email:
KirktonLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Seaforth Branch

Address: 108 Main St. S., Seaforth
Phone: 519-527-1430
Email:
SeaforthLibrary@HuronCounty.ca

Zurich Branch

Address: 10 Goshen St. N., Zurich
Phone: 519-236-4965
Email:
ZurichLibrary@HuronCounty.ca



www.HuronCountyLibrary.ca

77722B London Rd, RR5 Clinton, ON

Phone: 519-482-5457

Email: libraryadmin@huroncounty.ca



@HuronCountyLibrary