



Whitby Public Library **Annual Report 2022**



Whitby Public Library | doorway to discovery

A Message from the **Library Board Chair**



In 2022 Whitby Public Library was, as always, a vital community hub. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, our community embraced the Library as a place to gather, learn, and connect. The Library Board and staff fostered community connections and addressed evolving community needs.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we promoted public health and supported the well-being of our community. Durham Region Health expanded their vaccination clinics into our spaces to reach people where they are. With support from the Red Cross at Home: Stop the Spread and Stay Safe program, we distributed thousands of masks and rapid antigen tests. We made carbon dioxide monitors available for community members to borrow to assess and improve the air quality in their homes.

Summer reading clubs and programs were popular with kids, teens and families looking for a break from screens. We moved beyond the library walls to bring stories and activities to the Town of Whitby's Summer Playground Program, Rotary Club of Whitby's Kidfest at Ribfest, and the Whitby and Brooklin Farmers' Markets. We partnered with Durham public libraries, Durham Children's Aid Society, and Youth Pride Durham to offer a fun and fabulous Drag Queen Storytime during Pride Month. The York and Durham libraries collaborated to host an inspiring and informative summer program for children with astronaut Chris Hadfield.

One of our strategic priorities is to engage with our community. Community input was crucial to our makerspace project planning. We are grateful to those who generously shared their time and thoughtful and creative ideas through focus groups and surveys to help us create the vision for our Discovery Zones. We also worked to connect people with each other and with opportunities to access information, programs and services. After two years online, WhitCAF, our Whitby Comic Arts Festival, returned in-person with over 400 attendees. Creators and readers welcomed the chance to come together to share in a variety of activities. We shone a spotlight on local authors and illustrators with the launch of our Durham Indie Collection, and welcomed new and diverse artists and community groups in our display and exhibit spaces. Our "Meet the Candidates" series offered a forum for civic participation and engagement prior to the municipal election and allowed Whitby residents to make well-informed voting decisions. We expanded partnerships with local social service agencies to provide essential support to individuals and families in need. By working collaboratively, we ensured that vulnerable community members had access to resources and services necessary for their well-being and empowerment.

As we enter the final year of our five-year strategic plan, we look forward to fully realizing our vision of being the heart of the community and a vibrant place of possibility.

Geoff Anderson Board Chair

"Amazing!!! This is such a positive step in guarding the health of our residents. I applaud you for this initiative."



"Awesome event! Our family attended and had a wonderful time. We're so glad Whitby Library has prioritized an inclusive positive experience for our kids."



"Thank you Whitby Library... for the wonderful event. It was such a joy to see it live again!"



"Every public library should have a CO2 monitor lending program. Households need the tools to determine their risk."



Half sisters Lynn and Krista stopped by the Central Library today and we had to take a photo because you see, Lynn wrote one of the titles in our Durham Indie Collection and Krista illustrated it!



Discover titles and library programs you didn't know about!



Have you heard?

Doorway To Discovery is the official podcast of the Whitby Public Library.

Follow us and discover your next great read!

Meet the Candidates
Whitby's October 24 municipal election

"It's exciting to know that my library is discussing vital social issues and putting it out into the world."

"Thank you to @whitbylibrary for hosting a meet and greet for west ward residents to meet candidates! Very enjoyable interactions!"

Financial Summary for 2022

Revenue

Town of Whitby	\$6,657,992
Province of Ontario	\$99,982
Other Revenue	\$152,926
Total Revenue	\$6,910,900

Expenditures

Library Materials	\$1,086,316
Capital Expenditures and Technology	\$423,527
Staff and Benefits	\$4,235,823
Facilities and Utilities	\$613,567
Administration and Supplies	\$334,825
Total Expenditures	\$6,694,058

Branch Locations

Central Library

405 Dundas Street West
905-668-6531

Brooklin Branch

8 Vipond Road
905-655-3191

Rossland Branch

701 Rossland Road East
905-668-1886

Virtual Branch

whitbylibrary.ca

Contact us:

admin@whitbylibrary.ca

2022 Whitby Public Library Board

Geoff Anderson Chair

Lorraine Gray Vice-Chair

Councillor Maleeha Shahid Mayor's Designate

Michael Emm (January–October)

Janet Georgieff

Jenn Maddigan (January–September)

Art Maki

Fannie Mann

Liam Nichols

John Stafford