



# HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE BOARD CHAIR**  
David Purchase

**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
Annual Milestones

**TOP 10 LISTS**  
Most Popular Items of 2022



# Message From the Board Chair

David Purchase, 2022 Library Board Chair

This report aims to summarize the term of the present board from the beginning in 2019 to its end of office in 2022. In other words, where we have been, where we are and where we are going.

There is an apocryphal saying, “may you live in interesting times.” The last four years have been, if nothing else, interesting. As a board we have faced serious existential crises with staffing, the state of the building, and public health. The focus and energy of this library board has, of necessity, been on just keeping the library going in some form. Other matters like advocacy, fund raising, planning and growth have been put aside. One hopes that the next four years will allow for time and energy to be spent on these and other matters.

While the library board has had to concentrate on just keeping things operational over the past four years, both the community itself and library use have been evolving. The population has grown by over 6% but is still older than the Ontario average with fewer people under 14 years and more over 65 years. Seasonal residences comprise over 20% of the dwellings in the municipality. There is a significant gap in income between low incomes and high incomes with over 5% of the population officially below the poverty line. While the population remains heavily anglophone in language and origin there are growing pockets of different cultures in the community, noticeably of Asian origin. As well there are over 500 persons identifying as indigenous.

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– Youth Services Librarian, Amber McNair with Decodable Books purchased with International Dyslexia Association Ontario Grant

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“To whom it may concern, I just want to say thank you for your very prompt response to my request to have the book “Perfect Astonishment “ in the library. It was the librarian’s suggestion, after I inquired if you had it already. What a wonderful gift the Huntsville Library is to me and this town.”

- Patron regarding a purchase suggestion.

# Message From the Board Chair

## David Purchase, 2022 Library Board Chair

The survey carried out in 2022 revealed marked differences in how sections of the community used the library. Children and seniors are the two age groups that most use the library with the age group from 18 to 34 years as the least likely to use the library. Most of the library uses come from the town core with limited usage from the municipality outskirts. While a large majority of the respondents were happy with the programs and service provided by the library there were a noticeable number of requests for the library to be open more days and hours. Hours of operation are basically a budget issue. The most frequent suggestion for expansion was for an outdoor space as part of the library premises. Almost every responder was happy with the service provided by the library staff.

Where then should we go? The immediate goals of the new library board should focus on the orientation of new members and the construction of a new four-year strategic plan. What directions should this strategic plan take? One is to focus more time and energy on advocacy and long-term planning including changing the physical space of the library. However, the old standards no longer apply as technology and community use of libraries evolve.

This report marks the end of my lifespan as a board trustee. We now appear to have capable and stable staff under solid and knowledgeable leadership along with a clarified relationship with the Town under the expanded memorandum of understanding. The current board is in capable hands, and it has been a pleasure working with everyone over my 12 years and I hope that everyone, staff, and trustees alike, have a positive and productive new term.

**David Purchase**  
**2022 Board Chair**

“Thanks for everything and for always  
welcoming my students with open arms.

Have a great summer!”

*- Grade 4 Teacher from HPS who brought her  
students for regular class visits.*







*– Fall Into Reading, children’s event in partnership with  
Community Living and SMILE*



# Activity Report

## Annual Milestones

				
Visitors to the Library (2022) <b>57161</b>	Active Card Holders in 2021-2022 <b>3659</b>	New Card Holders (2022) <b>1002</b>	Questions Answered By Staff (2022) <b>5113</b>	WiFi Connections (2022) <b>47690</b>
(2021 Sept. to Dec.) <b>25139</b>	(2020-2021) <b>4652</b>	(2021) <b>666</b>	(2021) <b>4311</b>	(2021) <b>16094</b>



– *The Very Hungry Caterpillar at the Muskoka Heritage Place Great Pumpkin Trail, Halloween 2022*



# Activity Report

## Annual Milestones



Activities  
Offered  
(2022)  
**418**

(2021)  
**351**



People  
Attended  
Activities  
(2022)  
**5927**

(2021)  
**4690**



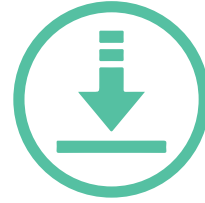
Items  
Checked  
Out  
(2022)  
**106811**

(2021)  
**57294**



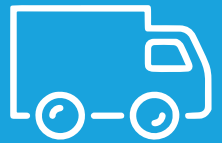
Items  
Added to  
Collection  
(2022)  
**5015**

(2021)  
**6165**



Items  
Borrowed  
(2022)  
**39296**

(2021)  
**39034**



Outreach  
Visits  
(2022)  
**168**

(2021)  
**85**

### Orange Shirt Day - Sept. 30, 2022





# Top 10 Lists

## Most Popular Items of 2022



### – Top 10 Adult Fiction of 2022

“I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help in resolving a brick wall that had me stumped for over a year! I am most grateful!”

- Email from a person living in England looking for a relative in Huntsville, after receiving help finding an obituary of his great aunt.

### – Top 10 Adult Non-Fiction of 2022

“Thank you for coming to our school and telling us about the summer reading. From: UE!!”

-Card from Muskoka Montessori School Upper Elementary (Grade 4-6)



### – Top 10 Picture Books of 2022

“Hi Amber, I just wanted to say thank you for the book bundles. I was happy to see the service was still available when I didn’t have time to stop and do the choosing of books myself. The boys were excited to see everything you picked out. Some great choices!”

- Patron



# Top 10 Lists

## Most Popular Items of 2022



– Top 10 Children's Fiction of 2022

“Thank you again for Once Upon a Hero! The kids had a total blast! If there is another one again, we will absolutely come!”  
– Patron who attended event with their children

## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library continues to provide financial fundraising support to the Huntsville Public Library. They have contributed by paying for virtual children's performances during March Break and Summer, book bags for the TD Summer Reading Club and supplies for Summer Pop-Ups. We are grateful for all their hard work and contribution to the library.



## Acknowledgements

The Library Board and Staff would like to thank the Friends of the Library, donors, and partners for their generosity and support. You all help us to achieve our goals and meet the needs of users.

### VISION

A vital centre to collaborate, connect and explore the world in which we live.

### MISSION

To provide accessible services, programs, collections and spaces designed to inspire and enrich the community.

### VALUES

Intellectual Freedom  
Equitable Access  
Sustainability | Respect  
Innovation | Accountability  
Leadership | Community  
Life Long Learning | Creativity