

Cumberland Public Libraries
PO Box 220
Amherst, NS
B4H 3Z2



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2022-2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



Message From Library Board Chair



As a frequent patron of public libraries, I am exceptionally pleased by the new Same Page system. The variety of resources available to me are wonderful. And the wait has been drastically shortened. This all leads to better service for everyone in Nova Scotia.

But it has also led to immense costs to ship materials and a lot of staff time. The library is seeing the impact of that on their budget as the cost of everything continues to rise. Balancing these two realities of better service and increased costs is going to be the challenge for the coming year.

I'm also extremely happy with the new library in Pugwash, which has almost double the amount of people coming through the doors than they did in the old location. A huge thank you to the Municipality of Cumberland County for making this new space a reality and to the community fundraisers.

Finally, I wish to thank all the staff at the Cumberland Public Libraries for their excellent service and continued hard work.

Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Chair, Cumberland Regional
Library Board

Cumberland Regional Library Board

Councillor Dale Fawthrop
(Chair)

Municipal Unit: Town of
Amherst

Amanda-Leigh MacLeod
(Treasurer) - until December
2022

Municipal Unit: Province of
Nova Scotia

Councillor Carla Black
Municipal Unit: Town of Oxford

Stephanie Keilhack
Community Board Member

Councillor Fred Gould - until
June 2022
Municipal Unit: Municipality of
Cumberland County

Dale Porter - began June 2022
Municipal Unit: Municipality of
Cumberland County

Vacant (since October 2020)
Municipal Unit: Province of
Nova Scotia

Library Director's Message



Reflecting on the past year, our biggest change was the launch of Same Page NS. Same Page is a partnership of eight regional libraries across Nova Scotia, working together to improve your library experience. It provides Cumberland County residents, and all Nova Scotians, a more equal opportunity to connect to library resources for learning, discovery, and improved quality of life.

In the first year of this initiative, we saw a 56% increase in the amount of items loaned out over pre-pandemic times. That includes all items, print, digital, and renewals. It's truly a shocking increase.

With phenomenal success comes hard work. Staff have had a huge learning curve as we manage sending out substantially more library materials to people all over the province. But it is worth it because patrons are able to access library resources easier and faster.

While library service has enhanced, our physical space has also increased. Through the dedication of volunteer fundraisers, contractors, and passionate community advocates, the Village of Pugwash has realized their dream of having a new library. The new space provides Pugwash an accessible, welcoming environment for community engagement.

I am exceptionally proud of what we have accomplished this year and of the Cumberland Public Libraries staff that made it all happen.

Denise Corey
Library Director, CPL

"You guys are
awesome!
Wonderful to see
such caring support
here!"
-T.B.

Our Team

Headquarters and Amherst Branch Staff:

Library Director - Denise Corey
Deputy Library Director - Chantelle Taylor
Community Engagement Librarian - Charlotte Gallivan
Systems Manager - Steve Weatherbee
Office Manager - Tracy Ott
Library Assistant - Adam Davies
Youth Services Library Assistant - Julie Allison-Savage
Interlibrary Loans Coordinator - Vanessa Sawatzky
Little Readers Coordinator - Sammy Downey, Ellen Antrim
Library Clerk - Lisa Strathearn
Community Technology Trainer - Grace Belliveau-Perry
Borrow by Mail Clerk - Dianna Lawless
Library Clerk - Rhi Arlow
Library Page - Holly McArthur
Shipping & Receiving Clerk/Delivery Driver - Aaron Doy
Summer Students - Lauren Furlong and Zoe Smith

Branch Staff:

Advocate - Leslie Allen
Oxford - Megan McNutt, Rhi Arlow, and Patrick Allaby
Parrsboro - Amber Allard and Cindy Walker
Pugwash - Mary Hartling, Archan Knotz, and Marsha Amanova
River Hebert - Rosemary Ulch
Springhill - Cathy Canning and HenriEtta Stevens

Follow us on social media!



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@cumberland_pl

Year in Review

'We Think You'll Love Your New Library'

After years of planning, Same Page was launched on April 21, 2022.

Same Page is a partnership between eight regional libraries from across Nova Scotia. This partnership allows us to offer a much wider selection of items to borrow, both in-person and online. The Same Page library card provides residents of Nova Scotia with easy access to almost 1,000,000 materials held at over 60 public library branches.



"Can't wait to log in to see what is new"
-B.T.



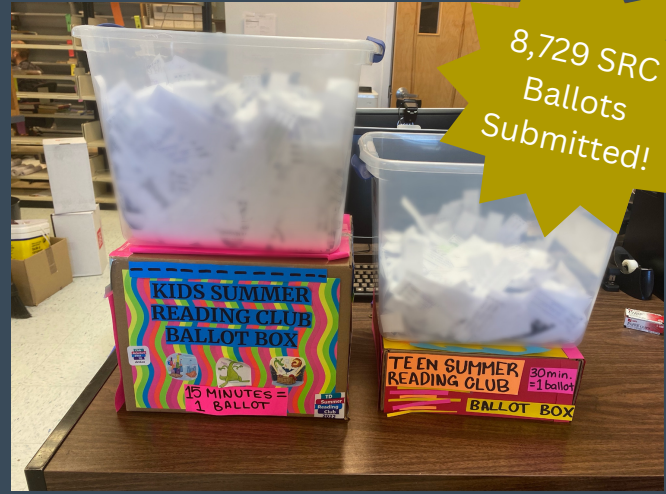
Transformative Spaces

During the month of July, two open houses were held to celebrate the opening of our new Oxford and River Hebert locations.

Patrons were invited to explore the new spaces, enjoy some cookies, and watch official ribbon cutting ceremonies.

These spaces provide accessible library service to rural communities within Cumberland County.





Summer Reading Club 2022

Our Summer Reading Club (SRC) officially kicked off June 13th! For every 15 minutes of reading (30 minutes for teens), SRC participants filled out a ballot to win one of our three major prizes: a Nintendo Switch, LEGO gift card, and a pool party (donated by Super8 Amherst). Programs included a tech tour, puppet shows, LEGO days, scavenger hunts, and much more!

Throughout the summer we held a total of 68 programs, and had 322 people register for our Summer Reading Clubs.

Author Readings Have Returned

After taking a hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, author readings have returned to CPL. In 2022-23 we hosted five author readings, welcoming four amazing authors to the area!

Authors we hosted last year:

- Lesley Crewe
- Sheree Fitch
- Bruce Graham (Apr 2022 & Oct 2022)
- TJ Klune



Pugwash Opens



Years of planning have finally come to fruition... our new Pugwash Library is officially open! The purpose-built library opened on February 6th and patrons are loving the new space.



Work on the 3,900-square foot building began in 2022, when the Municipality of Cumberland announced plans to build the library that will replace the existing facility located in the former Pugwash train station.



With the new space, massive improvements have been made to accessibility and a beautiful programming room has been added to the Village - ensuring the library will be a community hub for Pugwash residents.

"Wow! What a difference! So much space!"

-J.P.

"Can't wait to visit this summer!!"

-J.M.

Photos courtesy of Nova Social Media & Marketing

Free Internet on the Go! All You Need is A Library Card

In February we started offering something a little different - mobile hotspots! This pilot project allows patrons to borrow one of five mobile hotspots for a four-week loaning period.

This initiative was made possible with the support of @NS Community Technology.



March Break 2023

March Break is back in full force! This year, we held 23 programs and had 811 attendants.

Programs offered during March Break:

- Squeegee Canvas Painting,
- Donut Coasters,
- Rainbow Stone Suncatchers,
- Science Day,
- and much more!

March Break programming was funded in part by the Amherst Lioness Lions Club.



Strengthening Communities

We're not just books! This year, our staff gave back to the community through amazing partnerships and programs.

One partnership in particular saw the library work with The Amherst Theater to provide free movies to the community. Donations of non-perishable food items were collected during the event, and were given to the Amherst Food Bank and the After the School Bell Food Program. In total, these events collected over 209 items, raised \$394 dollars, and had 225 people attend!

Throughout the year, we've held a total of **384** programs that were enjoyed by **8,362** people.

Some of the other community events the library participated in include:

- Seedy Saturday,
- Pugwash Farmers Market Wellness Tent,
- OREC Meet the Teacher Night,
- Christmas in July,
- Town of Amherst Scarecrow Stroll,
- Pugwash and Oxford Welcoming Newcomers Events.



Numbers To Know

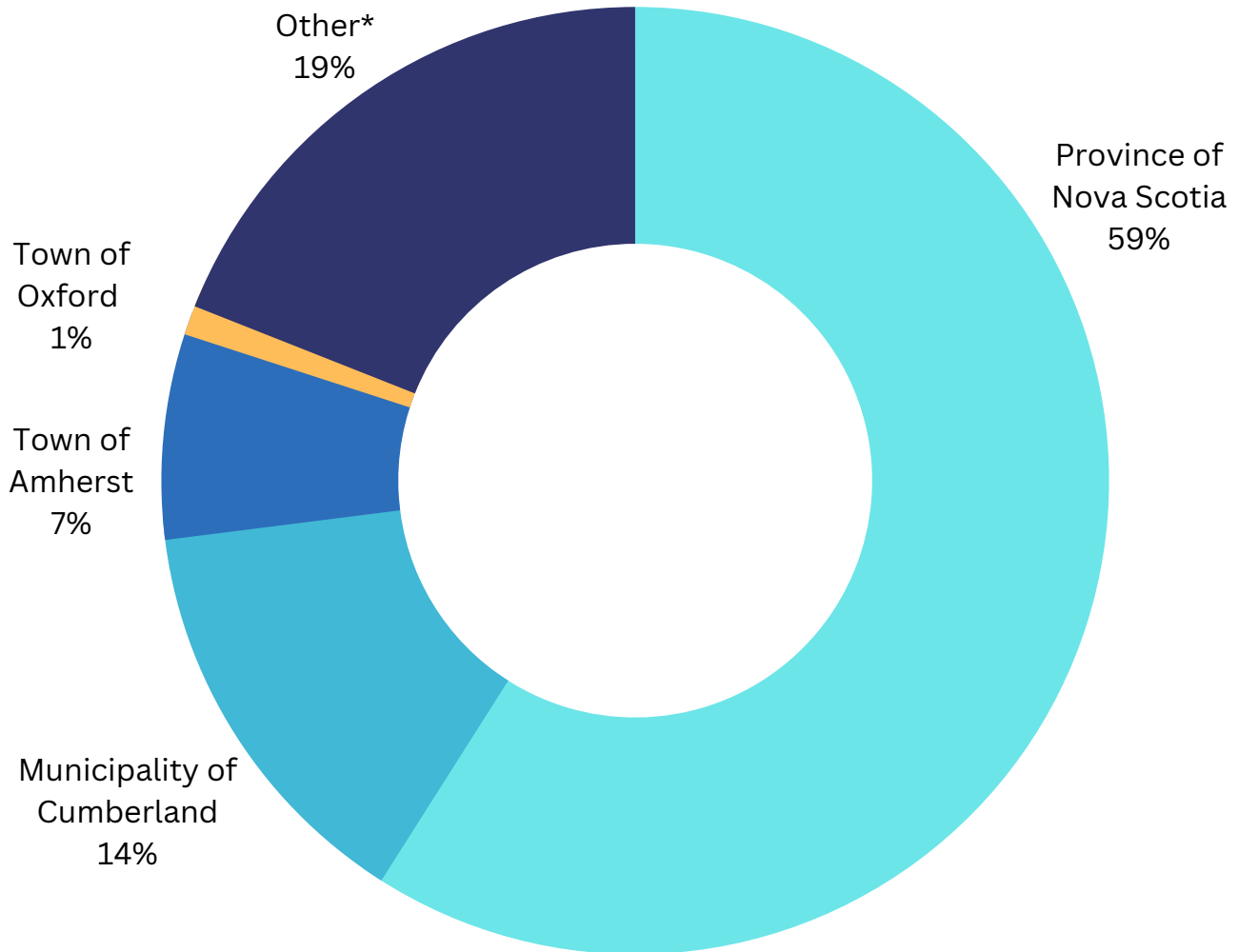


59%
Increase
Over
2021/2022!



Budget

Sources of Funding



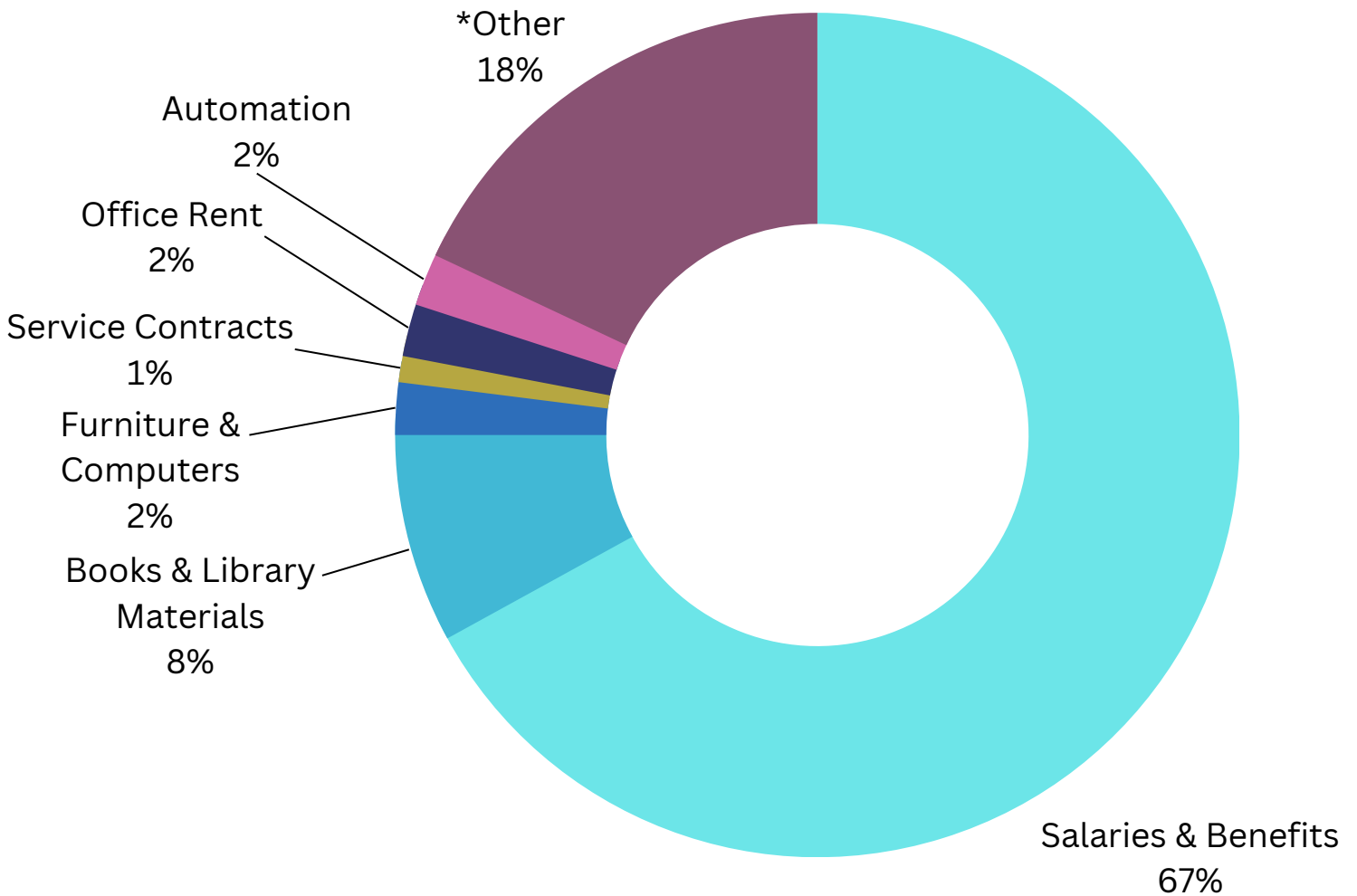
*Other Includes:

- Donations
- Grants
- Fundraising

Province of Nova Scotia	\$775,400
Municipality of Cumberland	\$186,267
Town of Amherst	\$87,299
Town of Oxford	\$10,334
Other*	\$258,077

Total Revenue = \$1,317,377

Expenditures



Salaries & Benefits	\$922,545
Books & Library Materials	\$115,025
Office Rent	\$32,852
Service Contracts	\$18,965
Furniture & Computers	\$28,705
Automation	\$22,843
*Other	\$243,488

Total Expenditures = \$1,384,423**

*Other Includes:

- Programming
- Training
- Insurance
- Vehicle operations
- Phone & Fax
- Advertising
- Accessibility

****\$67,046 was taken from reserve funds to balance our budget**

Thanks!

We Wish to Thank the Following Businesses, Organizations, and Individuals Who Made Donations to the Library During the Past Year:

Ronald Alan & Wendy Webb
Amherst Lioness Lions Club

Sally and James Austin

Diana Bacon

Duncan Beveridge

Bliss Crystal Cafe

Copper Tree Boutique

Blue Cross

Dr. Tom Boran

Kenneth Brogan

Jean Carr

Beth Charlton

David H. Christie

Elizabeth Clarke

Elizabeth Clinton

Irene Coombes

Dale Davis

Dianne Elliot

Carol Flinn

Karen George

Brenda Henry

Donna Hutchinson

Wendy Iler

IODE Tantramar Chapter

Paul Jardine

Gordon Johnson

Keep Garbage Beneficial Inc.

Robert Mann

Dennice and Stephen Leahey

Maureen and Douglas Leahey

Robert McBurney

Thomas McGlone

Judith Milner

Heather J Murray

Gregory Nix

Joyce Nix

Robert Nogler

Bruce Ohearn

Bert Powell

James Raffan

David Rickard

Rotary Club of Amherst

Eric Sparling

Super8 Amherst

Charles Wainwright

Wendy Webb

Greg and Kim West

