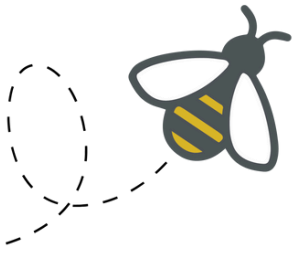


2024

Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD CHAIR



Sarah Douglas-Murray

CEO and Chief Librarian

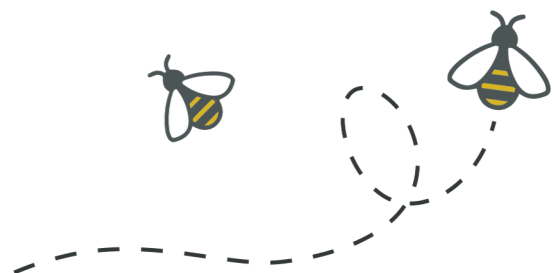
2024 was a landmark year for Milton Public Library. We welcomed 10,000+ new cardholders, logged 1.5 million online visits, and greeted 637,000 in-person visitors, proof of the library's central place in Milton life. More than 3,000 programs drew a record 104,757 participants, spanning everything from Battle of the Books and Baby Bee's First Reads to Creative Connections and the Red Scarf Project. We broadened access through the Library of Things, the inaugural Tea Fest, robust reciprocal lending, and 2.4 million mobile-app interactions. Storytelling took centre stage with our first Indigenous author for One Book, One Milton, while the new 2025–2029 Strategic Master Plan charts the road ahead. In 2025 we'll add hold lockers, expand New Horizons for Seniors and unveil OBOM 2025. We would like to thank our patrons, the Town of Milton, partners, and library staff, for helping us in making MPL a true hive of inspiration.



Sana Malik

Board Chair

As Chair of the Milton Public Library Board, I'm proud to report that 2024 set the stage for MPL's future. Alongside strong community engagement, we launched the 2025–2029 Strategic Master Plan shaped by extensive consultation to ensure the library grows with Milton. Centered on telling our story, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding equitable access, the plan envisions MPL as a vibrant hub where everyone can Read, Learn, Innovate, and Connect. Thank you to our community, Town Council, and library team for helping us build a library system that reflects Milton's heart and future.



OUR MISSION

MPL empowers the community to:
Read. Learn. Innovate. Connect.

OUR VISION

To inspire through discovery,
collaboration, creation, and innovation.



OUR VALUES

Intellectual Freedom

Supporting the principles of free thought, belief, and expression.

Inclusivity

Empowering Milton's diverse community.

Accessibility

Providing free and equitable access.

Exceptional Public Service

Ensuring responsive customer service.

Lifelong Learning

Promoting literacy, discovery, and creativity.

Accountability

Prioritizing transparency and fiscal responsibility in decision-making.

LIBRARY USAGE AND REACH



In-person
Visits

637,232

25%
increase
from 2023



Total
Cardholders

61,571

43%
of Milton's
population were
active cardholders



10,878

New Cardholders
24% increase



760,978

Total Physical Circulation
0.7% increase



617,200

Total E-resources Usage
22% increase



1,493,718

Total Online Visits
52% increase



106,153

Reference Queries
6.8% decrease



85,958

E-resources Circulation
0.2% increase

Percentage change from 2023

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Revenue:

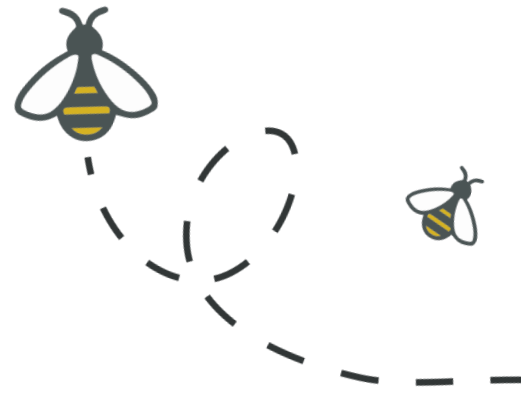
- Town of Milton: \$6,122,411
- Other Grants: \$103,126
- Other revenue: \$174,014
- *Total Revenue: \$6,399,551*

Expenses:

- Salaries and Benefits: \$3,819,667
- Administrative: \$56,467
- Financial: \$6,232
- Purchased Goods: \$476,869
- Purchased Services: \$1,375,849
- Transfer to Town of Milton: \$26,240
- Amortization: \$606,422
- *Total Expenses: \$6,367,746*
- *Annual Surplus: - \$31,805*

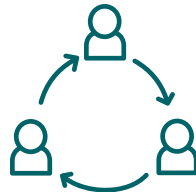


PROGRAM AND EVENT PARTICIPATION



3,078

Total
Programs Offered
68% increase



104,757

Total
Participation
183% increase

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



1,774

Total Programs Offered
79% increase



77,057

Total Participation
170% increase

"I always bring both my girls for storytime every Saturday. My family gets so much value out of this program. I feel blessed to have such a good library, programs, and staff in Milton. Thank you so much."
MPL Patron

Highlights: Mandarin Storytime, Baby Bee's First Reads program, Battle of the Books, Build Your Own Video Games with Bloxels, Code a 3D Space Invaders Game, Kids and Me.

Percentage change from 2023

TEEN PROGRAMS



383

Total Programs Offered
25% increase



7,358

Total Participation
110% increase



"My daughter and her friends absolutely loved it! The activities were well planned out and very engaging. And the girls got to take home some cool crafts. Thank you".
MPL Patron

Highlights: Teen Advisory Group (TAG), Welcome to Camp Half-Blood, the White Pine Book Club, Garden Volunteers, Project Pen Pal, Find Your Formalwear, The Red Scarf Project for Teens, Put Pen to Paper Contest.

ADULT PROGRAMS



921

Total Programs Offered
71% increase



20,342

Total Participation
306% increase

Highlights: Triple M: Movement, Memory and Mindfulness, Artists in Residence, Tech Collect & Tech Fair, Artisan Fair, Advent Calendar, Creative Connections, Intergenerational Sewing, Job Fair.

"Wanted to give a huge shout-out to the amazing organizers at Milton Public Library's Sherwood Branch! The Tech Fair was an incredible experience thanks to your hard work and dedication."
MPL Patron



WEBSITE AND APP USAGE



318,648

Total Unique
Website Visitors

28% increase



11,518

Total
Mobile App Users

29% increase



3,063,916

Mobile App Interactions

26% increase



627,799

Website Views

14% increase



"This was the best library that I have ever been to in my life. The services were absolutely delightful and the librarians were so good and gave me great book options to read from."
MPL Patron

Percentage change from 2023

BRANCH IMPROVEMENTS



Library of Things

MPL expanded its Library of Things collection in 2024, offering patrons access to a broader range of non-traditional items, including musical instruments, technology kits, and household tools. By expanding what a library can offer, this collection encourages creativity, hands-on learning, and exploration beyond books.



AWE Tablets

Milton Public Library introduced AWE tablets, preloaded with over 75 educational programs designed to make learning fun and engaging for young children. Tablets are available at all MPL locations, while desktop AWE stations can be found at the Main Library.

Laptop Kiosk at Main Library

A self-serve laptop kiosk was introduced at the Main Library in 2024. This convenient service allows patrons to simply scan their library card to borrow Dell and MacBook laptops, iPads, and power banks for in-library use, enhancing access to technology and supporting on-the-go learning and productivity.



Main Library Children's Area Refresh

A new designated Children's area was created at the Main Library, offering a more engaging environment for kids and parents. The refresh included new play tables, a computer table with updated desktops, AWE tablets, and new furniture to better support the needs of our youngest patrons.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

in 2024 by borrowing
physical items.



Community Support

Milton Public Library acknowledges the Government of Canada for their generous support through the Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works grants, which enabled us to onboard several summer students. MPL was also the recipient of a New Horizons for Seniors grant from the Government of Canada through which seniors helped translate library materials into six languages for newcomers.



Volunteers

A total of 367 students contributed 2,138 community service hours. Of these, 518 hours were dedicated to supporting the Medicine Learning Garden, reflecting strong youth engagement in both environmental stewardship and community involvement.

Partnerships

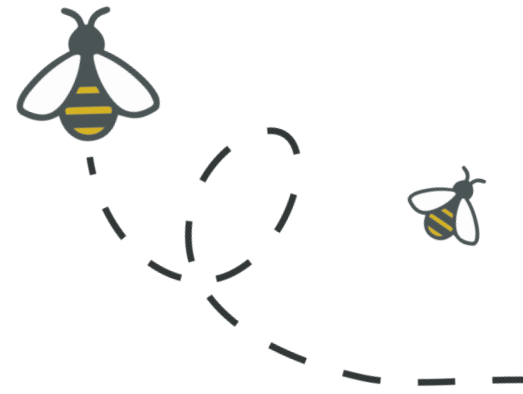
Throughout 2024, Milton Public Library leveraged impactful partnerships with various community organizations. We launched Baby Bee's First Reads with Halton Healthcare and MCRC, promoting early literacy through kits for new parents; partnered with MCRC on the Summer Giving and Fill a Crib campaigns to support local families; and proudly took part in the PRISM Halton Pride Parade, reinforcing our commitment to inclusion. We also partnered with Milton Transit to offer free youth transit through Read and Ride, and donated 550 lbs of food during our Diwali drive with Festive India. Thank you to all of our partners!



Formal Wear Donation Campaign

In April 2024, MPL hosted a Formal Wear Donation Campaign across all branches, collecting gently used prom and formal attire. The initiative culminated in a giveaway event on May 15 and 16 at the Sherwood Branch, allowing teens to select outfits for special occasions at no cost, promoting inclusivity and community support.

OTHER INITIATIVES



2025-2029 Library Strategic Master Plan

MPL completed its Library Strategic Master Plan (LSMP) for 2025–2029, setting a visionary course for library services amidst Milton's rapid growth. The LSMP emphasizes adaptability, inclusivity, and innovation, ensuring that MPL continues to meet the evolving needs of our diverse community. The plan outlines strategic directions to enhance service delivery, community engagement, and technological integration.



Annual Book Sale

MPL's Annual Book Sale returned from November 9 to 15, at the Main Library. With over 9,000 titles available, the event offered affordable reading options and helped support library programs, raising over \$4,200 through proceeds.

One Book, One Milton 2024

MPL's 2024 One Book, One Milton program featured "Moon of the Turning Leaves" by Waubgeshig Rice. The initiative included community-wide discussions on Indigenous culture and resilience, aligning with MPL's commitment to truth and reconciliation.

"It was truly one of the highlights of my life meeting Waub!" MPL Patron



Tea Fest

MPL's inaugural Tea Fest took place on May 4, at the Sherwood Community Centre. The event celebrated tea culture with over 30 vendors, workshops, and demonstrations, attracting tea enthusiasts from across the region and promoting cultural appreciation and community engagement.

Job Fairs

MPL hosted a successful job fair at the Sherwood Community Centre with over 500 attendees and also participated in another at Landscape Ontario, helping connect job seekers with local opportunities.





Main Library

1010 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario L9T 6H7

Sherwood Branch

6355 Main Street West, Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y1

Beaty Branch

945 Fourth Line, Milton, Ontario L9T 6P8



Phone:

(905) 875-2665

Website:

www.beinspired.ca

Text:

(289) 778-3621

