



ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH SHORE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 2018 -2019

Chair's Message

It's my pleasure to be invited to bring greetings in this year's annual report on behalf of the members of the South Shore Public Libraries Board of Directors.

The past year has been an exciting time for South Shore Public Libraries, highlighted last July by the opening of our new Lunenburg Branch space at the Lunenburg Academy. The remarkable amount of time, planning, care, consideration, and vision shown by the board, staff, our patrons, and our partners over the past number of years as the Academy project moved forward was nothing short of marvellous.

I applaud each of you for your role in making this happen and allowing us the opportunity to breathe new life into a beautiful, historic building for years to come.

On a day-to-day basis, our staff, led by Chief Librarian Troy Myers, continues to work wonders within the constraints of often challenging financial circumstances.

We have been buoyed by the knowledge that after more than a decade of our funding being frozen, there are finally changes coming to the provincial/municipal formula, which will see our region receive additional new financial support in the years to come.

This, in turn, will be reinvested in our community by offering improved programming and collections, and we will continue to grow the library as a space that can be used to the benefit of all, across all demographics and backgrounds, in our communities.

On a personal level, it continues to be a pleasure to have the opportunity to work alongside such remarkable and dedicated people, both board members and staff. Truly, these are individuals who understand the important role of the library as an institution in our greater Lunenburg and Queens counties communities, and they are each to be commended for their relentless work.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Hirtle".

Patrick Hirtle
SSPL Chairperson

Chief's Message

In my report last year, I discussed delays to the Lunenburg Library's move to the Academy. Refurbishing an old building always presents challenges and we had plenty of obstacles to deal with on the Lunenburg Academy project. That said, we got it done! On a sunny day last summer, July 28, 2018, South Shore Public Libraries Board and Staff were proud to be part of a grand community celebration of new social infrastructure for the region that saw over five hundred people visit the new Lunenburg Library on opening day!

What is social infrastructure and why should we celebrate it?

According to Eric Klinenberg in his book "Palaces for the People", social infrastructure is the interdependent mix of facilities, places, spaces, programs, projects, services and networks that maintain and improve the standard of living and quality of life in a community. It is the glue that holds community together. Klinenberg shows many examples of how public libraries foster community connections and encourage the growth of healthier, happier communities. This comes as no surprise to anyone who has visited our new space in Lunenburg. As John DeMont described it, "this space isn't much bigger than the old one, but the hallways give it an expansive feel. And the different rooms – the library on Pelham Street was a single large rectangle – make it easy to carry on a variety of activities at the same time."

As DeMont says, it seems to be working. Circulation is up by almost thirty percent and the demand for library cards has increased over two hundred percent! I encourage you to review all the data included in this annual report. You will see the people of Lunenburg and Queens Counties are enjoying our services more and more. Not just in Lunenburg but everywhere. For many folks on the South Shore, a visit to one of our branch libraries, or dropping in to see Dave and Crystal on our bus, has become a part of their routine.

This increase in demand for public library services has not gone unnoticed. Our principal funding partner, the Nova Scotia Government, has been working with all public library boards in the province to create a new, sustainable funding formula. While we are not quite there yet, I am pleased to report we have made great progress and we should soon hear the details of this new funding agreement between the municipalities we serve and the Province. I believe we will see a long overdue increase in funding which will allow us to keep pace with this growing demand for library services. On behalf of the SSPL Board, I want to thank our municipal and provincial partners for supporting our efforts to build community. Going forward, we will work together to make Nova Scotia better. We have much more to do, including replacing our aging Book Mobile, and an increase in our funding will ensure we get it all done. Stay tuned!

The SSPL Board knows our best resource and the reason for our success is our wonderful, dedicated staff. We are continually impressed by the work ethic and commitment of the people we have the pleasure to work with at South Shore Public Libraries. Well-designed buildings and mobile branches may attract visitors but it is the skilled staff who connect daily with people that keep them coming back. Excellent library service requires excellent people to deliver it and South Shore Public Libraries is blessed to have some of the best library people anywhere.

Sadly, though, they do move on. Eric Pottie – our Liverpool Branch Manager and Emerging Opportunities Librarian – has taken a new job in Alberta. Eric only worked for us a short time, but he achieved much while he was here. We look forward to seeing his career develop. Best of luck Eric! While we said goodbye to Eric, we have welcomed a new Writer-in-Residence. Chris Benjamin started a year-long residency with us in March. Chris is here to help you tell better stories. For more information on our Writer-in-Residence programming, please check out our website southshorepubliclibraries.ca

Lastly, I want to thank all of the people of Lunenburg and Queens Counties who consider a visit to the public library part of their regular routine. We look forward to seeing you soon. As always, if you have questions, comments, or complaints you can find me at: troymyers@southshorepubliclibraries.ca

See you at the Library!



Troy Myers
Chief Librarian and CEO



MISSION

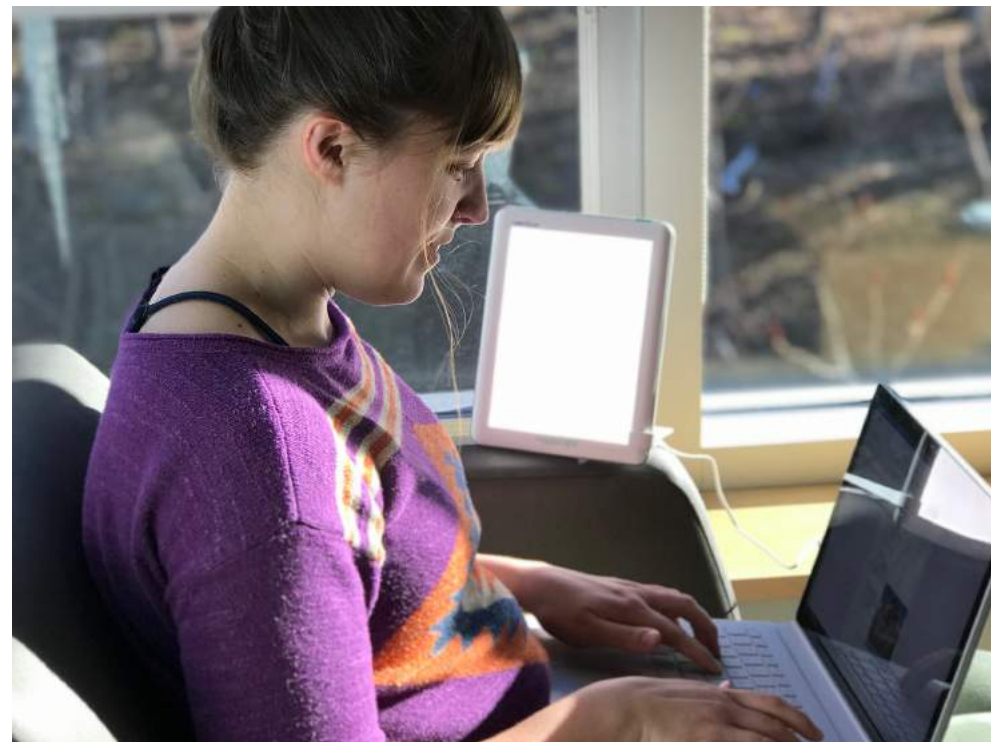
Our Libraries Celebrate
Reading • Discovering • Learning • Sharing

VISION

South Shore Public Libraries is a vital centre of the community, sharing a robust collection and innovative technology, that inspires lifelong learning and literacy in a positive, welcoming environment.

VALUES

Literacy • Innovation • Inclusion •
Intellectual Freedom • Collaboration • Community





Alean Freeman Library, Greenfield

It was another busy year in Greenfield!

In addition to the usual stuff (summer craziness, new books, weeding), we had some highlights this year that I would like to touch on.

In February we hosted a “Paint Like Maud Lewis” workshop, where participants had the chance to recreate one of Maud’s famous works. It was a huge success! We had 11 patrons in attendance. Some even came from Bridgewater, and it is now our most successful program to date!

Also in February, we hosted Harry Potter Night, which is celebrated around the world on February 7th (we celebrated on the 6th). We were one of only 2 locations in Nova Scotia to host an official event and we had 7 kids come out. We had trivia, house sorting, and even potion making! Everyone had a lot of fun and we are already making plans for next year’s event!

Throughout the later part of 2018 and continuing in to 2019 we have seen an increase in the number of local youth who have been making use of the branch. This is very exciting, as in the past there have been very few youth using this branch, despite the number of young people in the area. Hopefully, the number will continue to grow as more youth discover all the great things we have to offer.

Once again this year we must say a huge THANK YOU to our fantastic volunteers! With our programs gaining popularity the volunteers are absolutely invaluable to the smooth running of this branch.

Charity Fraser,
Greenfield Branch Supervisor

Mobile Library

It was a very active year for the Mobile Library.

Some stops are seeing a resurgence of circulation due to new families moving into the area. The Petite stop has perked up, and the Chester and Mahone Bay stops are always busier with the return of summer residents.

The Mobile provides titles and support to six book clubs. This year we had six keen readers complete the 2019 SSPL Reading Challenge. Our thanks to staff member Charity, who is also a Mobile Library substitute driver and clerk, for designing the Reading Challenge.

We have had a few changes and challenges this year. Due to renovations at the New Ross Family Resource Centre the book drop has been relocated to the Ross Farm Museum. Karen Cook had an extended leave this winter which allowed me to touch base with patrons in stops I otherwise don't visit on a regular basis. I enjoyed hearing and seeing the perspective of patrons from Mill Village, Port Mouton and Blandford.

Patrons again were very generous during the Buy-A-Book fund raiser. The Mobile also did some fund raising for the New Mobile campaign by offering a T-shirt for a \$20.00 donation.

The Mobile is much beloved by our loyal patrons. One of our Mahone Bay borrowers, an accomplished artist, completed a portrait of our driver Dave White and I working on the bus. We were displayed on the wall of the Saltbox Brewery in Mahone Bay all winter.

We lost some dear patrons over the year, but were also blessed with the arrival of many new little patrons.

Crystal E. Madill,
Branch Coordinator



Margaret Hennigar Public Library, Bridgewater

We're breaking stereotypes about libraries at the Margaret Hennigar Public Library. We won't ask you to be quiet, but if you'd like to study, take part in a webinar or have a quiet place to read we're happy to let use our quiet program room. We encourage you to drink your hot beverage and curl up in one of our comfy chairs and read a magazine. Pack your lunch, stay for the day. We want you to enjoy your time here. This is your space, your library. Bring your family, play, learn, have fun. Take a break and let the kids play with the toys we provide. This is a place for everyone and we strive to provide the best customized service to every patron that enters this community space.

This year we continue to grow our programs to fit the needs of our patrons. From baby group to tech training programs for seniors. We have regular programs such as story time, baby group, a writer's group, a book club for kids and adults, and much more. We are always open to patron's suggestions, so please do not hesitate to mention a program you would like to see us host.

A new program this year was our Monarch Butterfly project. It all began from a patron's suggestion. For five months we housed butterflies from egg to butterfly, and then released them. We will continue this project and encourage you to come in and check it out. Other new programs this year included painting and cooking classes for ages 2-5, S.T.E.A.M exploration and various health related talks such as Ayurveda, Ketogenic and Reiki.

We are always updating our technology and love to provide all of our patrons with new and exciting experiences. We have virtual reality, 3D printers, computers and tablets all accessible to the public. Radon kits have been very popular, and new this year are happy lights, which are used to help with seasonal affective disorder.

We are now into our fourth year of displaying art at the library. We encourage everyone to come see the art, which changes monthly. We feature very unique local groups and artists. If you are interested in displaying your art please fill out an application available at Margaret Hennigar Public Library.

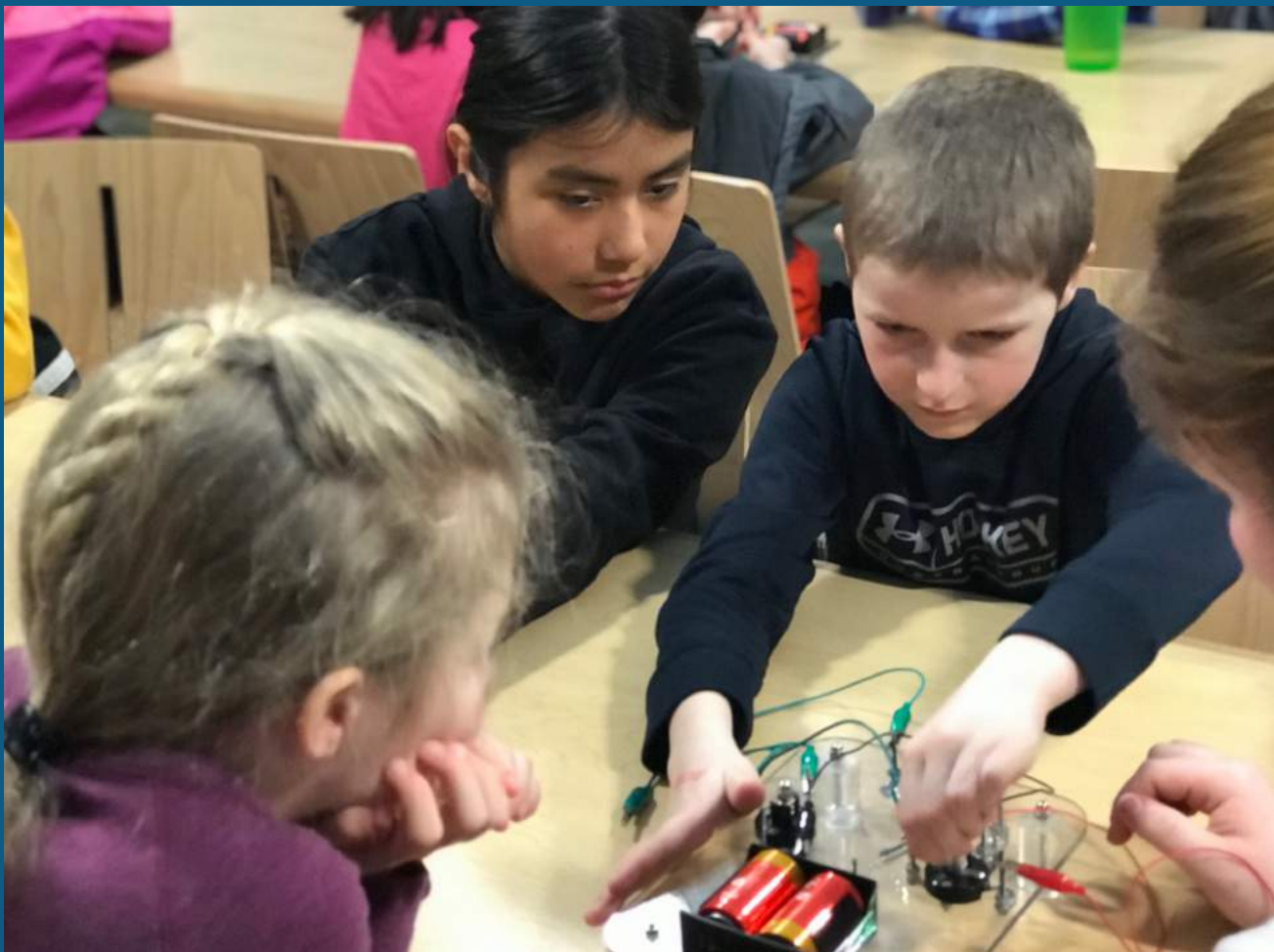
The Seed Library is also in its fourth year. Milk weed seeds were added to the collection this year to support the monarch butterfly program. We've been working closely with Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute on this project and are planning a butterfly garden together.

The staff at Margaret Hennigar Library truly value each and every one of our patrons. We love listening to your stories and book reviews, we enjoy helping you find the perfect book to read. We appreciate the questions you ask us, and love the challenge of finding a book that you can't quite remember the title or author. Working at a library is exciting; every day is different from the next.

Thank you to our hard-working volunteers and all of our patrons. We have had a fantastic year and look forward to the coming year.

Katherine Sharp,
Branch Coordinator







Thomas H. Raddall Library, Liverpool

It's been another exciting year at the Thomas H. Raddall Library, as we've continued to offer the best service for the people of Liverpool and Queens County. The staff here is dedicated to making sure we're always ready to meet the needs of the patrons and to assist them in their quests for information. Last year we had some great summer students and temporary staff come through the door and work on a variety of tasks, projects, and programs.

We had some great classes and programs for patrons last year. Highlights included our monthly trivia night, Canadian National Film Day movie screening, making cookie cutters with the 3D printer, and even a flu shot clinic. We also had many presentations including a returning talk from the current ambassador to Thailand; BMO spoke about ways to save money; we learned how to better recycle from Waste Nova Scotia; Housing Nova Scotia came and spoke about home owner grants, and more!

Not everything was geared towards adults though, as we offered many programs for kids. A few of these included, snow globe making workshop, science experiments, slime making, a literacy club, lego robotics, musical performances, scavenger hunts and more! We also "altered" some of our furniture in the kids section. By painting a table top with special paint we turned a regular table into a chalk board table for kids to draw and play on. We also used some of that same paint on a book shelf side to make a height chart.

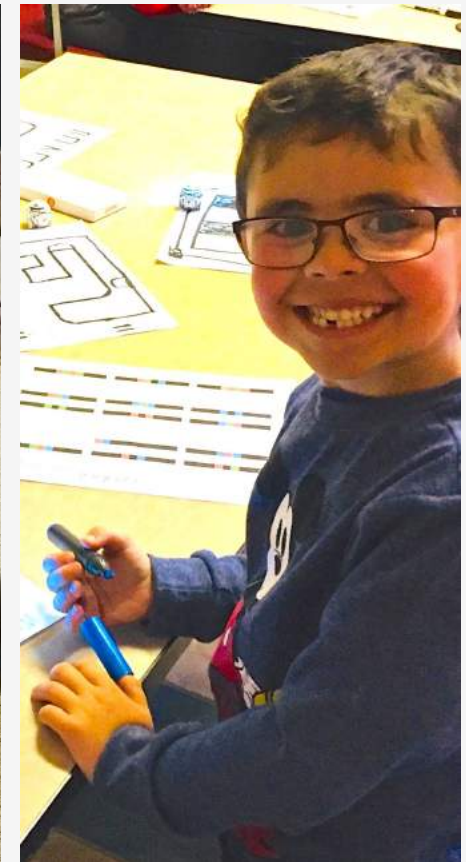
It would be a shame not to bring up what a great March Break we had this year! In four days we had 400 participants! We had new programs like "Escape Room" where we had families and groups of friends come and solve a series of puzzles. We made homemade ice cream, had SuperNOVA come to teach kids about coding, and a fort making night/story time. All in all it was a great week!

We got out of the library quite a bit too. We took our pop up tent out for privateer days; did story time at the Family Resource Centre, made it out to North Queens School to talk about services and sign kids up for the summer reading program, and to South Queens Middle School with our Virtual Reality.

The Thomas H. Raddall Library has also welcomed the community into our building. We've hosted a volunteer coordination meeting and income tax help; have opened our class room for education groups, hosted the monthly meeting of the local garden club and have been a meeting space for other not for profit organizations in Liverpool.

It's been great year at the Thomas H. Raddall Library and I would like to thank the staff, the volunteers who give up their free time to help, the support from the other branches in the system, and of course all the patrons that come in and make working here so enjoyable.

Eric Pottie
Emerging Opportunities Librarian and Branch Manager



Lunenburg Library

We finally moved! After a lot of conversation, planning, designing, and construction, the Lunenburg Library made the move up the hill to its new space in the Lunenburg Academy. The first part of the big move was a wonderful “book brigade”, with nearly 200 community members and schoolchildren lined up along Kaulbach Street to pass books hand-to-hand from the shelves of the old library to their new home at the Academy. Two weeks later, on July 28, the big day finally arrived! Over 400 people joined us to celebrate the grand opening and get their first good look at the new modern library in Lunenburg’s beloved “Castle on the Hill”. I’m happy to report that the wait was well worth it – our new location is beautiful, we are able to serve the community in newer and better ways than ever before, and the feedback from the public both on service and the library’s design has been fantastic. If you haven’t been in yet, what are you waiting for?

While the move did pull a lot of focus over the year, we didn’t let it stop us from maintaining a high level of customer service and running great programs for everyone to enjoy. We had a wide range of activities and programs this year - some of the highlights include: performances from Symphony Nova Scotia and actor Rhys Bevan-John; science workshops from SuperNova; a Rumi poetry reading and philosophical discussion (with a live harpist and painter!); book launches and readings by Elizabeth Bailey, Michael Peterman and Tom Webb; and two new regularly-occurring kids’ programs - Musical Story Time (in conjunction with the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance) and Sound Circle.

Our third annual Lunenburg Lit Festival once again was a great success, with a great range of Canadian literary talents on display. Friday began with comedian/author Jay Malone entertaining a school-age crowd with a reading from his children’s book, and then warming up the evening audience with his brand of stand-up comedy. After a great set, Jonathan Torrens & Jeremy Taggart took the stage to share their unique take on what it means to be Canadian. Laughter filled the room the whole night! Saturday’s non-fiction panel featured local photographer and author Peter Barsz talking about his experiences documenting the life of South Shore, retired Senator Wilfred Moore regaling us with tales of sober second thought from the “Red Chamber”, and journalist Lezlie Lowe rounded out the afternoon with her offbeat but intriguing look at the difficulties you might encounter while searching for a public toilet! Saturday evening began with a raucous reading by Donna Morrissey, thoughtful and moving musings from Genevieve Graham, and some deep thoughts from Timothy Taylor. Each year the festival is great, each year it gets even better, and we’re already working on a terrific lineup for year 4!

Jeff Mercer,
Deputy Chief Librarian





Community Engagement

Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members — be they library users or not, to address issues for the betterment of the community.

As champions of lifelong learning, libraries are a place to pique curiosity, access technology, and explore new ideas, hobbies, and careers. Libraries also offer people a welcoming space to meet their neighbours to discuss and resolve important issues.

Working with community partners has allowed us to lend things that many people wouldn't think you could borrow at the library. Did you know that you can borrow a radon testing kit, seasonal affective disorder lamp, day pass to the Fisheries Museum, or Greens Fee Pass to Aspotogan Ridge Golf Course?

Our Pop Up Library also travels the roads of Lunenburg and Queens Counties from June to September. We visit Farmers Markets, Museums and even have a few beach days. During our road trips we promote the library, reach out to community members who haven't heard about our services, and excite patrons who have been using the library for years.

We continue to do numerous school visits throughout the year where we showcase library services and encourage teachers and students alike to come to the library.

Volunteers have a huge impact on our organization, whether they are leading the French conversation group in Liverpool, facilitating Virtual Reality in Bridgewater, shelving books in Greenfield or setting up chairs for the Lunenburg Lit Festival. Their efforts enable us to do more. Your gift of time is much appreciated. Thank you for your philanthropy.

A highlight from the fall was working with our many community partners and hosting the 3rd annual Lunenburg Lit Festival in late September. We had a great lineup of writers from all across Canada. Plans are well underway for this fall so be sure to save the date September 27-29.

A new initiative we've worked on this year is eliminating the use of plastic bags. We're getting rid of them at our libraries by partnering with South Shore Boomerang Bags (SSBB) to provide our borrowers with cloth bags. We get fresh supplies of bags from SSBB when we run out. We've also had several library users volunteer to make bags for the branches and we hope to host bag making events at our libraries in the near future.

It's been an enjoyable and fruitful year. We will continue to build connections in the community and will work to meet new and ongoing needs in the year to come.

Christina Pottie,
Community Engagement Coordinator

WHAT ARE OUR BORROWERS SAYING?

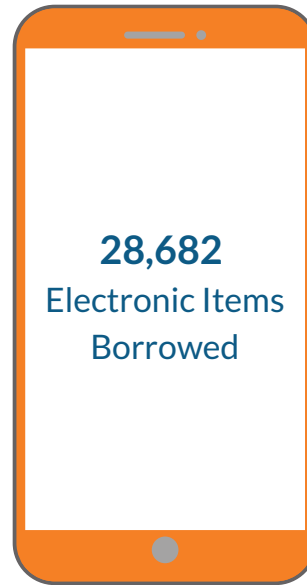
"As a new mom struggling with postpartum depression and anxiety, getting out into the world was so important for my wellbeing. At the Library Baby Group, I get to spend hours with the most amazing women and moms. I'm so glad this program is available to us, with no judgement, or time constraints!"

"I start with Libby. If I can't get the digital edition, I search my local library and put a hold on a physical book. If my local library doesn't have it, 99.74% of the time an inter-library loan will. And it's ALL FREE!!"

"I love my public libraries to the moon and back. I donate \$ every month because they are the best and bravest for demonstrating civic engagement, learning, curiosity, and tolerance, and we need so much of those things right now."

The Numbers

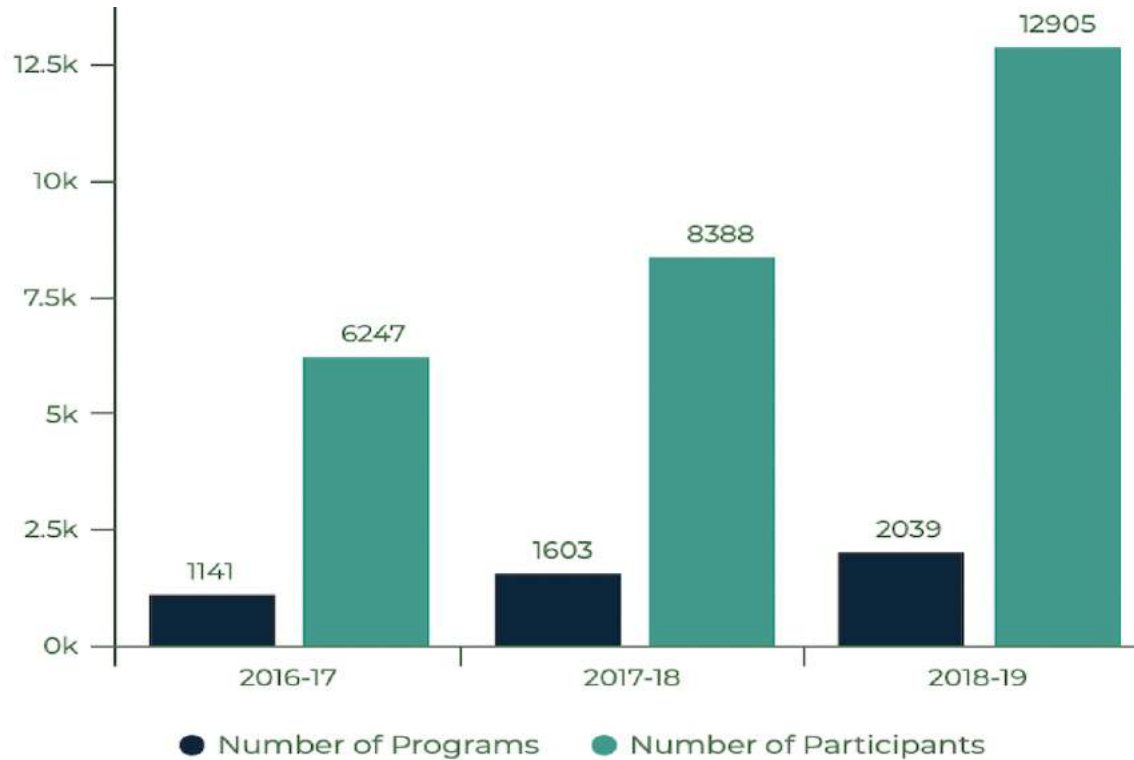
Online



In Person



Program Numbers



38
Volunteers



2650 Hours
Volunteered

6478
New Items



320
Donors



\$15,000
Donated

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

135 North Park Street
Bridgewater NS
B4V 9B3

902-543-2548

LUNENBURG LIBRARY

97 Kaulbach Street
Lunenburg NS
B0J 2C0

902-634-8008

MOBILE LIBRARY

135 North Park Street
Bridgewater, NS
B4V 9B3

902-543-2548

WEBSITE

<https://southshorepubliclibraries.ca>

FACEBOOK

<https://facebook.com/southshorepubliclibraries>

ALEAN FREEMAN LIBRARY

5060 Highway 210
Greenfield, NS
B0T 1E0

902-685-5400

MARGARET HENNIGAR LIBRARY

135 North Park Street
Bridgewater, NS
B4V 9B3

902-543-9222

THOMAS H. RADDALL LIBRARY

145 Old Bridge Street
Liverpool, NS
B0T 1K0

902-354-5270

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<https://instagram.com/south.shore>

TWITTER

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Special thanks to South Shore Public Libraries 2018 funders, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, Municipality of Chester, Region of Queens, Town of Bridgewater, Town of Lunenburg, Town of Mahone Bay, the Province of Nova Scotia and our Donors for your ongoing support.

