

CEO Report – March 12, 2024 Board Meeting

| February usage | February 2024 | February 2023 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Circulation, Library Visits, Reference Services, Programming | 4,475 | 4,166 |
| Internet Usage (<i>databases, Overdrive, Wi-Fi, public computers</i>) & Online engagement (<i>social media, website</i>) | 3,089 | 2,247 |
| Grand total of all usage | 7,564 | 6,413 |

| Total patrons | February 2024 | February 2023 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| New patrons | 14 | 6 |
| Active patrons | 1,692 | 1,698 |
| BV | 1,134 | 1,144 |
| NAW | 485 | 77 |
| Killaloe | 27 | 27 |
| Admaston/Bromley | 14 | 12 |
| Non-resident | 32 | 38 |

Reflection on February usage:

Circulation, Reference Services, Programming:

- Circulation was good for February, with 1,745 checkouts.
- We welcomed 14 new members this month, and currently have 1,692 active cardholders.
- Library visits were at 1,393, including 57 between 6 and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Our busiest days continue to be Wednesdays.

Internet Usage (*databases, Overdrive, Wi-Fi, public computers*) & Online engagement (*social media, website*):

- Wi-Fi usage in February was as expected, and higher than January, with 205 unique clients. The average number of clients per day was 29. The highest traffic days were the 22nd, 23rd, and 29th.
- The website had 750 unique visitors in February, with 2,894 page views, which is good for this time of year, and for a short month. The busiest days were the 7th, 22nd, and 28th.

- There were 407 Public Access Computer sessions in February, which is good. Usage was highest on Wednesdays, and on the 7th, 21st, and 28th (all Wednesdays).
- Overdrive (eBooks, eAudiobooks, and magazines) use continues to be high, with 717 checkouts in February. This includes an all-time high of 223 magazines.
- Database usage showed some action in February, with 6 citations for Ancestry.

Collections Development

- Materials by date added to the BUPL collection (February 1 – February 29, 2024): 84 items, \$1,611.99 total.

| Material Type | Items Added | Value Added |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| ADULT Fiction | 19 | \$432.53 |
| ADULT Non-Fiction | 4 | \$105.55 |
| BOARD BOOK | 5 | \$48.91 |
| GRAPHIC NOVEL | 7 | \$101.43 |
| JUNIOR Fiction | 2 | \$30.78 |
| LARGE PRINT | 10 | \$355.30 |
| MAGAZINES | 15 | \$127.31 |
| PICTURE BOOK | 14 | \$248.93 |
| PRE-TEEN FICTION | 1 | \$8.74 |
| TELEVISION SERIES | 1 | \$5.59 |
| VIDEO GAME | 2 | \$79.96 |
| YOUNG ADULT Fiction | 4 | \$66.96 |

Programs

- Game Night continues on Tuesday evenings, still with very low attendance. We are open until 8 anyway, so just offer the opportunity to play games.
- Youth Night continues to be popular on Wednesday evenings. We have an average of 18 youth each week.
- Chronicles of Yarnia is every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Attendance in February was a bit higher than January, averaging 5 people each week.
- We continue with a self-led craft on Saturdays in the Makerspace. Bee and/or Maddy organize a different craft each week and have the supplies and instructions prepared.
- The Homeschool Group winter session ended on February 23. Bee, Laura, and the children had a Valentine's party the week before, so the session ended with a

show-and-tell and we had a cat in the library again. The next, and final, session will start the first week of April, and they will be working on dioramas.

- We welcomed Marc Audet to the library on Friday, February 9 for his “Forgotten Memories of the Ottawa Valley: a Folk Show” performance. We had 39 people in attendance for this interesting, entertaining, and informative show. We all learned a lot about the history of the Ottawa Valley, with primarily original music by Marc, and beautiful slides as an accompaniment. There was tea, coffee, juice, and lots of delicious food. For this event, we tried to be waste-free, while saving money. We had enough reusable (glass and crockery) plates, bowls, glasses, and mugs and used bamboo cutlery. A dedicated volunteer helped us wash up afterwards. This was more of an event than a fundraiser, although we did make \$200 from ticket sales (40 at \$10 each, and \$200 to Marc Audet).

DEVELOP LITERACY AND ENABLE LEARNING

- The book club, *Book Ends*, meets at the library on the last Tuesday of the month. In February there were 8 people here for another very lively conversation. Now that Fifth Chute Coffee is open again, the book club will go back to that location for the monthly meetings.
- The books on display in February were part of our annual “Blind Date with a Book” program. Staff members choose some of their favourite (or otherwise) books, which each get wrapped in brown paper, and have just the catalogue number on the back. Patrons are encouraged to borrow one of these books in case they find their new favourite! There is no pressure to read the whole book.
- As part of Freedom to Read Week (February 18 to 24 in Canada), we showcased banned and challenged books that are in our collection. These books include fiction, non-fiction, Graphic Novels, young adult books, and pictures books. Each book contained an insert explaining why it was challenged, and we wrapped some of these books in black paper, similar to the Blind Date books. The staff also had some eye-catching displays for this annual event.
- February was Black History month and we had information and a display of books at the front of the library.
- We also had a display of the 2024 Canada Reads books in anticipation of the debates the first week of March.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/ENCOURAGE RECREATION

- Bee continues to go to Fairfield’s with books every two weeks. The residents making use of this service are very appreciative, and there were an average of 8 people taking advantage of this service each time in February. We also continue

with outreach to a couple of patrons who are unable to come to the library themselves. Staff and volunteers choose books every few weeks to deliver, and pick up books to return.

- The photography club continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month.
- We had a 3D printer workshop in the library on February 3. A volunteer helps with this, and we made pendant initials and hearts, other items requested by patrons, and did some 3D printer maintenance for another young patron's printer.
- We are adding to our Library of Things utilizing funds from the Commonwell LEAF Grant (which has all now been spent), including an EMF (Electro Magnetic Frequency) Reader, 2 C-Pen Readers (a portable pen-like device that reads text aloud when it is scanned across words), 2 Launch Pads (preloaded educational tablet for youngsters), and a cordless drill with accessories

STRENGTHEN OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATION

- Laura Kewin, the Bachelor of Education student from Nipissing University, is still here at BUPL and will finish her 60 hours over March Break.
- Now that the fireplace wall is finished, we have our first art installation as part of the Artist Nook initiative. This is where we will showcase a local artist every three to four months on the wall above the fireplace. The art will be for sale with a percentage of the sales going to the library as a donation; the percentage amount will be agreed upon between the library and the artist, with a minimum amount of 10%. The first artist, who is our trial artist and is working with us to ensure that the procedures we have in place are working well, is Kathryn Stuart. She has a collection of acrylic-on-canvas works in a *Winter's Trees* theme. In the first week of the exhibition, 5 paintings were already sold. We have an application form that will be up on our website for other interested artists to apply to have their work exhibited. We are very excited for this partnership, and happy to have beautiful art in the library.
- The Makerspace is being used more and more these last two months, with more than double the amount of people using it than any month last year. One day, there were 4 separate groups/people using it for a total of 15 people. This includes social worker meetings, a guitar instructor, various garden groups, an EA with a special needs student, the photography club, some people needing a quiet, private place for a Zoom meeting, and others, but does not include the Homeschool Group or Board Meetings, for example.