



EAST GWILLIMBURY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

EGL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

By the numbers

The numbers below represent the increases we saw in 2023 compared with 2022. They tell a story of growth, engagement, and the power of shared experiences.

Borrowing



+456%

Seed Library



+171.4%

Special Items



+59%

Circulating Technology



+53.9%

Digital Magazines



+19.9%

Audiobooks



+39.7%

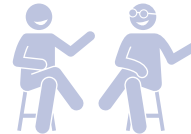
Digital Music



+11.7%

Books

Programs



+54.5%

Adult Program
Attendance



+29.9%

Children's Program
Attendance



+88.3%

Food Pantry
Visits

Branch



+76.7%

Public Internet Uses



+17.9%

Reference
Requests



+32.2%

In-person
Visits



+28.3%

Online Memberships



8934

Active Users

Message from the Library Board Chair and CEO



2023 was another impressive year for East Gwillimbury Public Library. Early in the year we formed a new Library Board, consisting of six returning members and seven new members. The engagement and energy this group brought to the table helped shape a successful and memorable year. This new Library Board got to work early, and in September EGLP officially launched its 2023–2026 Strategic Plan. The new plan is centered around literacy, inclusion, connection, curiosity, and sustainability, core values that form the foundation to serving our community. We hold the vision of “empowering people, enriching lives.”

We continue to evolve and evaluate our programs, services, and collection to create more ways to access information, develop your interests, and to cultivate a connected and curious community. Our services in 2023 included educational displays, open public use of the Cricut equipment at both branches, Forestry Kits, and a variety of new things to borrow, including a telescope, birding kits, and a portable charger and jump starter. It’s evident that our residents are accessing the Library for things to borrow as circulation of physical items rose 15% over 2022, and is 30% higher than pre-pandemic.

The continuous hard work and creative ideas that our employees share with the community is recognized and appreciated. This year the Library ran over 900 programs with over 13,400 participants. Some memorable programs from the year include the 30th anniversary of our Write On Contest, Paw Patrol storytime, Repair Café, Cricut & Coffee, Pride programming, Halloween costume and Winter Clothing swap, and Winter Solstice outdoor program in collaboration with Tiiu Strutt and Haley Williams of the Chippewa’s of Georgina Island First Nation. We received praise from many community members and teachers throughout the year for our efforts in programming and service excellence:

- “We would like to acknowledge the great service received today by all staff members, especially Sarah, she went above and beyond her functions. It is great to know we can count on our Public Library in our time of need. Great work!”
- “My 11-year-old daughter has done many programs with Jessica. Over Easter weekend she spent hours on Scratch making her own video game; my husband was impressed with her coding and problem-solving errors in the code and he said “This is thanks to Jessica’s programs!””
- “1) Thank you for your services. Our family is grateful for the friendly staff and resources you offer at the library. 2) We currently have the telescope. The moon looked incredible last night! Thank you for the opportunity to use the device.”

We would like to pay a special thank you to our partners, including the Town of East Gwillimbury, the Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library, and the hundreds of individual and community groups who donated to the Library and the Holland Landing Food Pantry. 2023 was a successful year because of you. It has been a pleasure to inspire literacy, discovery, and connection within our community. We look forward to another exciting year in 2024.

Christine Glenn, Library Board Chair

Angela Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer

2023 Highlights

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Clothing Swap Programs

The Library offered two new programs, a Halloween costume swap and a winter clothing swap, which allowed many residents to get new to them clothing while diverting items from local landfills. These events build upon the Library's foundation of a circular economy through borrowing and support the Library's commitment to sustainability and inclusion.

Reading Buddies

The Library relaunched its Reading Buddies program after a break during the pandemic. The program pairs volunteers with children to work on reading skills through books and literacy games, and provides a much sought after experience that is enriching for both participants.

Community Collaboration

Partnerships with Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association, Newmarket, ACCES Employment, and Pflag were strengthened to provide meaningful programming that supports literacy and discovery. By collaborating with community partners, the Library aims to promote inclusion and contribute to a healthy and curious community through diverse and accessible learning opportunities.



➤ 2023 Highlights

EXPAND ACCESS

Public Makerspace Access

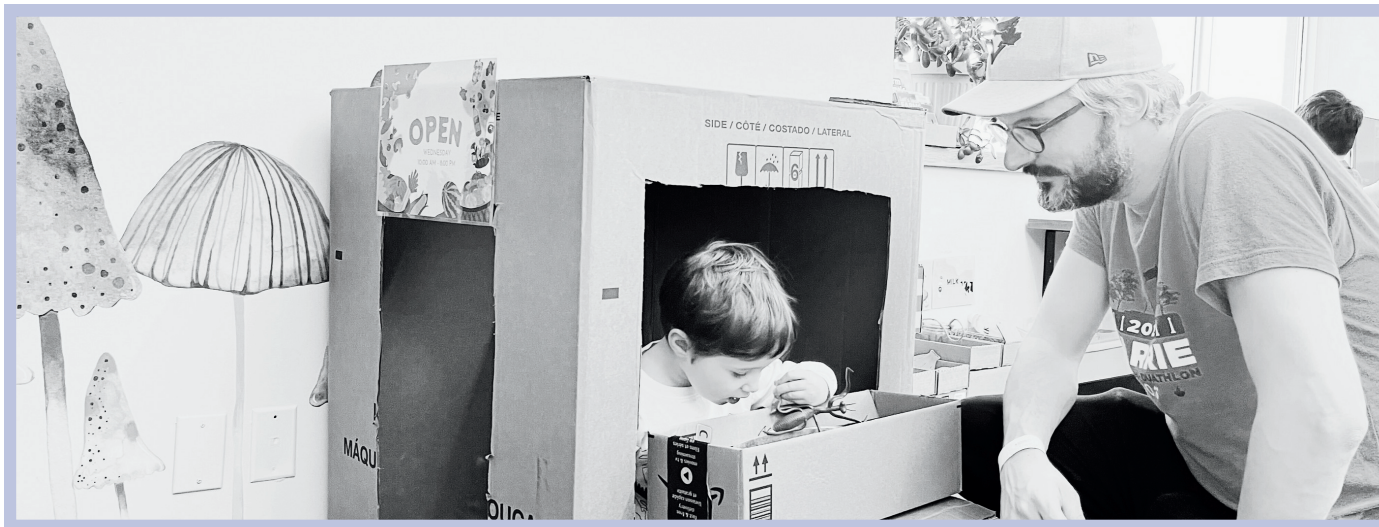
Using our Cricuts became easier than ever with permanent Maker Corners established at both branches, the launch of Cricut and Coffee, as well as open Cricut hours, allowing the community to express their creativity before the launch of our dedicated Makerspace in Queensville.

Library of Things

The Library expanded its Library of Things, offering an even wider array of non-traditional items for our community to discover and borrow. New items include a pickleball set, bongo drums, board games and C-Pens, which allow an individual to hear words or text read aloud.

Branch Refresh

Our Holland Landing Branch received a refresh featuring new paint, modern shelving, updated upholstery and a dedicated children's art gallery space. These enhancements aim to create a more inviting and inspiring space for our community to enjoy and explore.



2023 Highlights

PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

New Website Development

The Library successfully secured a contract for a new website focused on ease of use and accessibility. Staff completed the design and development process, and launched the new website early in 2024.

More Makerspace Technology

The Library modernized its STEM program offerings with new LEGO Spike Prime Kits and MicroBits kits, providing new and easier to use ways to learn basic programming and robotics technology.

Employee Engagement Strategy

The Library introduced a new Employee Engagement Strategy designed to foster a positive work culture and enhance the overall employee experience. This initiative aims to reaffirm our Library as an employer of choice, ensuring a supportive and motivating environment where staff can thrive and feel valued.



Empowering People, Enriching Lives.

Strategic Plan 2023–2026

VISION

Empowering People, enriching Lives.

MISSION

Igniting our communities through literacy, discovery, and connection.

OUR PRIORITIES

Build Healthy Communities

We see our role in cultivating a connected and curious community. We aim to promote a healthy community through civic engagement, enriching experiences, social supports, and new opportunities.

Expand Access

Grounded in our commitment to promote literacy in all its forms, we will create more ways for you to access information and develop your interests. We will provide safe spaces and remove barriers, because we want everyone to enjoy spending time here.

Provide Exceptional Experiences

The Library is a space where everyone belongs. We are deeply committed to providing positive and empowering experiences and will strengthen internal and external relationships and engage with our community to ensure we're doing the best we can.





Donations and grants made so many new experiences and programs possible in 2023.



IN APPRECIATION TO

- EG Gardeners for their ongoing maintenance of the Literacy Garden in Holland Landing
- Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library for their ongoing support and financial donation
- Community members and local groups who donated to the Holland Landing Food Pantry and Library literacy programs
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture, & Sport Public Library Operating Grant
- Canada Summer Jobs Grant to hire two students for the TD Summer Reading Program
- Ontario Library Service Inter Library Loan Rebate
- Ontario Library Service, Connectivity Grant
- Youth & Community Initiatives Fund
- Town of East Gwillimbury Council, staff, and residents for their on-going support

DONATIONS (\$500+)

- Friends of the East Gwillimbury Library
- Library Board, Book Sale
- Sharon-Hope United Church
- York Regional Police Association
- East Gwillimbury Gardeners
- RTO/ERO District 24
- Crystal Star Nursery





Library Board

Christine Glenn, Chair

Kayla Crone, Vice Chair

Tara Roy-DiClemente, Council Liaison

Loralea Carruthers, Council Liaison

Stephen Gill

Timothy Houlahan

Srihari Karu

Janelle Ng

Lars Opalinski

Catherine Rae

Diana Robichaud

Lena Singh

Lynda Young

Library Leadership Team

Angela Ramsey, Chief Executive Officer

Heather Alblas, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Ben Van Gorp, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Manager
IT & Digital Experience

Raymond Bach, Manager, Programs & Community
Engagement

Lyndsay Irvine, Manager, Customer Experience

Laura Lambert, Manager, Collections & Resources



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