





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The second year of the pandemic was a challenging time for Aurora Public Library as we continued to adjust services as COVID precautions and the Town Square construction project permitted.

When Ontario went into a province-wide lockdown on December 26, 2020, libraries were still able to offer curbside pickup. Due to the Town's construction project, the Library could not resume pickup of holds until January 20, 2021 when a new temporary window for holds pickup was installed at the south end of the building on Church Street. For the convenience of our customers, a new return slot was installed at the same location.

Although it wasn't until July 2021 that we welcomed customers back with in-library computer use, study tables and browsing collections, we continued to adapt as the landscape evolved. Convenient and accessible virtual programming was well-received and will be continued as we resume in-library programming.

APL recognized the impact the pandemic was having on our community and after assessing a pilot project of suspending late fees, they were eliminated effective June 2021 to reduce barriers so that every member of our community can use the Library with dignity and without fear of overdue fines.

Throughout a year when life was dramatically altered, APL adapted services with resourceful and innovative approaches to the realities presented by the pandemic and the construction project. The Board and staff thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to providing new opportunities that will engage, enrich and empower our community.

Aurora Public Library Board 2018-2022

Tom Connor (Chair), Adam Mobbs (Vice Chair), John Clement, Marie Rankel, Ken Turriff
Councillor Sandra Humfries, Councillor Harold Kim (2018 - 2021), Councillor John Gallo (2021 -)
Bruce Gorman (Secretary/Treasurer & CEO)

In accordance with the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P.44, Aurora Public Library is governed by its Public Library Board.

We are proud
to report that
in 2021:

Circulation
increased

6.8%

Online followers
increased

9.5%

Programming
increased

21.4%

Program
attendance
increased

15%

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- A multicultural and newcomer survey and report on APL services, collections and programming was completed.
- Expanded volunteer opportunities for youth included virtual school help for elementary students.
- Black History Month featured a conversation with academic, author and public speaker, Dr. Cheryl Thompson.
- Earth Day was celebrated with a presentation on building for sustainability with Chris Ballard, Passive House Canada.
- Entrepreneurs-in-Residence featured four local entrepreneurs on keeping afloat in the time of COVID.
- APL partnered with The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and created a series of video interviews for their comic book, Heroes of the Hall.
- Literary highlights included author visits with Plum Johnson, Farzana Doctor, Drew Hayden Taylor and Anna Yin.
- APL's first Editor-in-Residence supported emerging and published authors through workshops and manuscript evaluations.
- A screening and discussion on the documentary Call Me Human was held in partnership with the Aurora Film Circuit.
- Civic engagement was encouraged through a virtual Meet the Candidates event with candidates seeking seats in the federal election.
- A new APL-branded return bin was installed at the Go Station.
- Reading challenges for all ages were expanded through Beanstack and included prizes from local businesses.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

Town of Aurora **\$3,896,100 (97.98%)**

Grants **\$45,422 (1.14%)**

Own **\$35,084 (0.88%)**

TOTAL \$3,976,606

EXPENDITURES

Staffing **\$2,693,155 (67.72%)**

Collection & Processing **\$482,965 (12.15%)**

Operation & Supplies **\$670,486 (16.86%)**

Investment in Reserves **\$130,000 (3.27%)**

TOTAL \$3,976,606



APL'S 2021 PROGRAMS

Aurora Public Library offered programs for all ages and interests.

Featured Author Visits



Anna Yin



Dr. Cheryl Thompson



Plum Johnson



Farzana Doctor



Drew Hayden Taylor

Programs – Virtual & Live



Summer Reading Club



Take & Makes



Virtual Programming

I must thank you for the thousands of hours of reading pleasure that I have had over past two years. Especially over this pandemic, reading has been a great source of entertainment, distraction and escape. The ebooks have been a godsend... through lockdowns and quarantines.

That was just incredible! I have felt as if my spirit has been cracking with exhaustion and that just filled me up. It was a beautiful way to learn about a beautiful culture.

I feel so fortunate to live in a town with such a great public library that nurtures peoples' souls.

Being able to reserve books and get them at the window/curbside pickup has been an exceptional service. I have never used the library more than during COVID. Thank you for offering this service. It has truly been appreciated during a very difficult time. Way to go Aurora. Great use of tax money!

[The] public library plays an important role by weaving our community together, especially during the pandemic.

COMMENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

You just keep making APL the best place on the planet.