



Newmarket Library Report to the Community 2023

Anything and Everywhere

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newmarket
library

www.newmarketpl.ca

An amazing year of exciting firsts



Darryl Gray
Board Chair



Kelly Broome
Vice Chair

A library is full of stories.

They are places of knowledge, exploration and ideas. Where inquiry comes alive and where the spark of curiosity is lit.

Libraries are inclusive and welcoming and for everyone. They are the very foundation upon which an equitable and just society is built. But for Newmarket Library, our library isn't just a place. It's a movement.

A movement to bring people together, build community, share passion and ignite our shared and common commitment to contributing to the creation of the Newmarket of today, and of tomorrow.

Last year was a transitional one for the Library, with its new branding and slogan *Anything and Everywhere*. As you'll see in these pages, it was an exciting year of firsts. Events were held at the Library and in the community that truly lived up to the new slogan.

So, when we say: *Anything and Everywhere*, we mean it. We are your Newmarket Library. Where you need it, when you need it. And in our 2023 Community Report, you will see what we mean.

The 2023 Community Report is filled with stories of your Newmarket Library breaking free of the old notion that Libraries are merely a collection of books, and instead you will find examples of how our library is a place that brings people together to gain knowledge, explore new ideas, meet with others to share common interests, and gain insight into diverse cultures.

As I said, a Library is full of stories. Those you bring with you when you visit, and those you take with you when you leave. But most of all we hope that you will see you. For the story of Newmarket Library is your story.

So, on behalf of the Board of Directors and our amazing staff, please join us in celebrating the wonderful and inspiring stories we have written together this year at your Newmarket Library.

Sincerely,

Darryl Gray, Chair and Kelly Broome, Vice-Chair
Newmarket Public Library Board of Directors

Newmarket Library Board

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Darryl Gray

VICE CHAIR

Councillor Kelly Broome

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Promoting literacy in creative ways

Storywalks® provide family friendly outdoor reading experiences

Two wonderful outdoor reading activities took place last year. The Library and the Newmarket Downtown BIA once again invited people to participate in the annual TD Summer Reading Club StoryWalk® to read the children's book *Treasure* page by page in the windows of businesses and community agencies downtown.

Last summer also saw the launch of Newmarket Library's Storywalk®, another great outdoor reading activity. People enjoyed sunshine and fresh air strolling through Town parks while reading *Kate and the Dragon* page by page, a charming children's book.

During the summer, the *Kate and the Dragon* Storywalk® was moved from Frank Stronach Park, to Paul Semple Park, and finally Environmental Park.

On specific days staff from the Library held outdoor storytimes at each of the parks, with storytelling, crafts and games.

Watch for more Storywalks® this year as the Library provides these enjoyable family outings combining literacy and exercise.

Pictures top to bottom: Storytime and activities at the Environmental Park Storywalk; one of the Storywalk pages along the scenic trail at Paul Semple Park; Library staff leading Storytime at Environmental Park.



Providing inclusive programming

Library introduces Drag Queen Storytimes

One of the Library's key values is to provide the community with a welcoming place for all. Last year Drag Queen Storytimes were held for the first time, inclusive events that provided age-appropriate 2SLGBTQ+ stories, crafts and lots of fun for all. The first event was during Pride Month with E'Claire and Athena from the Haus of Devereaux. It was so popular that a second event with the two popular drag queens took place in the fall.

In partnership with PJ Library, the Library also presented a Chanukah Drag Queen Storytime with Jewish Drag Queen Superstar, Gila Munster. It was another wonderful time with classic children's Chanukah stories and open to all families.



Drag queens E'Claire and Athena take turns reading stories during one of their events.



Gila Munster leads everyone in a singalong during the Chanukah Drag Queen Storytime.



E'Claire and Athena talk to participants during one of their storytimes.



Craft making for children was part of the fun at the storytimes, with assistance from parents.



New 9 a.m. opening times

It was time for a change...a time change, that is. Starting October 10, 2023, Newmarket Library began opening to the public a half-hour earlier. With the Library now open 9 a.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays, visitors can now enjoy spending more time at the Library.

Initiating special programming events

Library holds family storytimes for community at Upper Canada Mall



Library staff member, Dora, leads a seasonal storytime at Upper Canada Mall.

Taking the Library experience out into the community more often was one of last year's goals, and the result was a partnership with Upper Canada Mall to hold storytimes for families. The first took place in October at Laura Court in the mall for Halloween, with staff from the Library's children's department. It was a great time for children and families, who enjoyed stories, crafts, guessing games, Halloween buttons and candy.

In December, staff from the Library returned for a seasonal storytime that took place near Market and Co., with a cozy background created by mall management. There was a great turnout for both events, and all in attendance had a wonderful time.



Left to right: Susan, Head of the Library's Children's Services, reads at the Halloween storytime; two children dressed for Halloween at the event; children and families enjoying the storytime experience.

Providing over 16,000 online courses

Last year the Library introduced LinkedInLearning, with over 16,000 online courses. All are accessible with a Newmarket Library card, and are instructor-led professional video courses in Business, Creative and Technology categories. Create an account at <https://bit.ly/linkedinpl>



Making connections in the community

Outreach efforts reach more people than ever before

We want everyone to know about the Library and all it has to offer. That's why outreach efforts were increased significantly last year. Library staff were at many different places and events, including Town facilities, community events, schools, retirement homes, the hospital, Farmer's Market, the Home & Lifestyle Show, and local parks.

Staff enjoyed taking the time to meet with people and inform them about the benefits of being a Library member. Some people were quick to sign up for a library card when they found out there was a Maker Hub, with a 3D printer and other equipment. Others wanted a card so they could borrow items from The Lendery, with its tools, board games and more. Reasons for wanting to become a member were as varied as the services the Library offers.

By meeting with people face-to-face, Library staff had engaging conversations that convinced hundreds of people to get a library card. Keep an eye out this year for our outreach staff, and when you see them stop by to say hello.

Pictures, top to bottom: Library staff were at outdoor events like the NewMarket Maker Festival, at several Town facilities, and in public places such as Upper Canada Mall.



New, enhanced catalogue

This year saw the launch of our new catalogue, with more accurate search results, and greater integration with eBooks and audiobooks. Plus more readers advisory features, and the ability for patrons to build their own virtual bookshelves. It's more user-friendly on mobile devices as well.

What our members and residents say



" I love the library because you offer so much and the kids love it. I'm just so happy that you're here."

" This space is colourful. You have the 3D printer running which is a cool thing to watch when someone comes in."

" Library staff are always so helpful, that's why I come here."

" I am loving participating in the Cookbook Club, staff at the Library are amazing!"

"I'm really impressed by The Lendery and all the different items it has like sports equipment and tools."

" I love the Hoopla service with its digital content. I used it to listen to audiobooks on my trip to the Maritimes and back."

"We were really happy to discover the Library's PressReader service has digital copies of Chinese newspapers."

Overdue fines now part of the past

Overdue items? No worries. Last year the Library stopped charging late fees to provide a more inclusive, welcoming experience for all library users. We ask only that items be returned on time for others to enjoy. There will still be a charge for lost books. Many happy returns!



Creating engaging community events

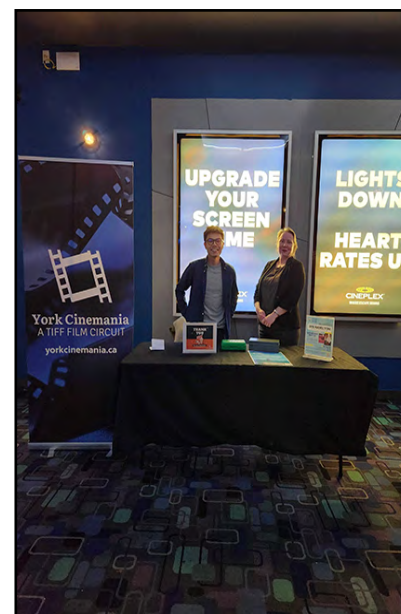
Library brings people together to make connections and share common interests

As a community hub, the Library creates events that will appeal to people with common interests. Last year, we were so excited to provide exposure for talented authors at our Local Author Showcase and Marketplace. All the authors who participated were from Newmarket and York Region. People enjoyed listening to book readings and chatting with the authors afterwards. The authors themselves felt it was a great way to make connections with their fellow writers.



Our annual Plant Swap was enjoyed by plant enthusiasts, who came to the event to swap their garden or houseplants and/or cuttings with others.

York Cinemania was another event in partnership with East Gwillimbury Public Library. As in previous years, movies that played TIFF were brought to SilverCity Newmarket Cinemas during the year for film buffs to enjoy.



Clockwise from top: Local Author Showcase and Marketplace; staff welcome people at a York Cinemania showing; author Hyacinthe M. Miller at the Local Author Showcase.



Are you up for a reading challenge?

Last year the Library introduced online reading challenges for adults, teens, children, and parents with young ones. They can be found on our Beanstack platform, with new challenges added regularly. Post reviews of the books you read. Find them today at <https://bit.ly/TD2023npl>

2023

BY THE NUMBERS



5,357

Number of new Library members



160,916

Visits to the Library website



156,913

In-person visits to the Library



460,195

Items borrowed from the Library



2,205

Items borrowed from The Lendery

9,356

Number of people attending programs



693

New subscribers to our e-newsletter



23,421

Hoopla digital items borrowed



96,683

Overdrive digital items borrowed



8,912

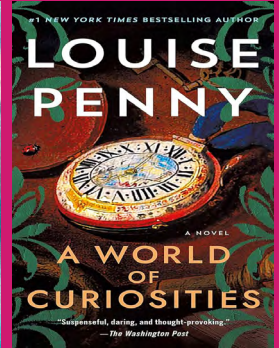
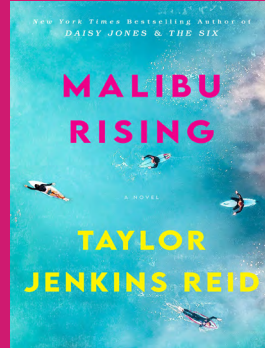
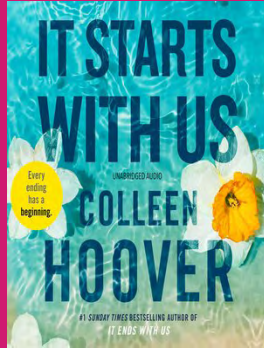
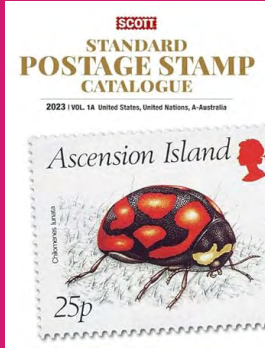
Reference questions answered by staff



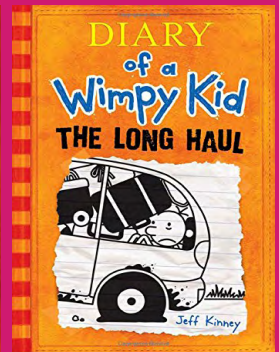
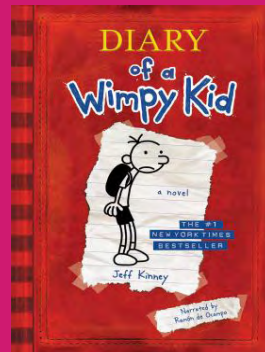
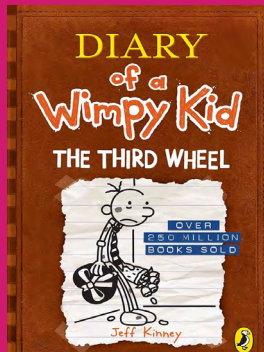
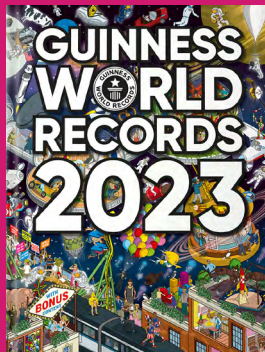
Top Checkouts In 2023

The most popular books and movies/TV series borrowed from the Library during the year.

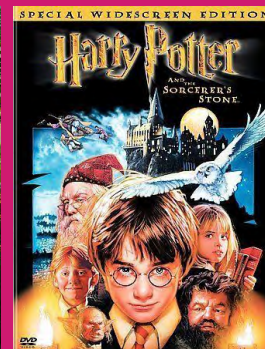
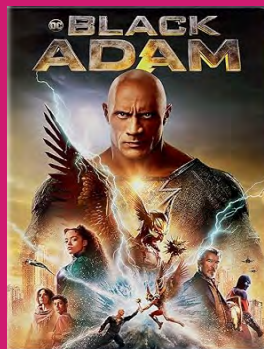
TOP ADULT BOOKS



TOP CHILDREN'S BOOKS



TOP TV SERIES & DVDS



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