



BURLINGTON
**Public
Library**

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ALWAYS OPEN.



Another year of reinvention.


The pandemic continued to throw curve balls as we adjusted to revolving closures, reopenings, and restrictions. We capitalized on the chance to reinvent how we serve the community. Here are a few of our great news stories of 2021.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORIES AND FUTURES

The rich history, heritage, and literary talents of Black people were celebrated online in February. Acclaimed beat-box artist Sean Mauricette a.k.a. SUBLIMINAL shared powerful stories on Black excellence throughout history. Lisa Meecham explored the deep connection between Black heritage in early Atlantic Canada and the craft of traditional rug hooking.

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

To help support local residents in need, our Aldershot Branch became Burlington's first community fridge location. Twice weekly, Food for Life volunteers stock the fridge with nutritious food for neighbourhood residents to take when they need it.



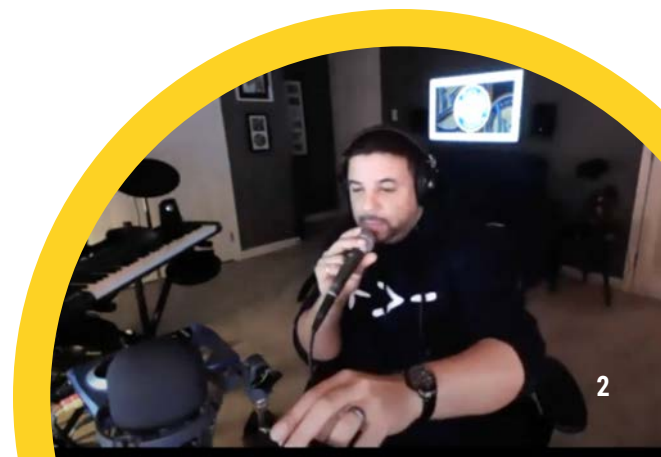
"There are so many kids and teens who will see this and feel a little more loved and a little more accepted in our community."

STORYWALKS

We launched six StoryWalks in spring 2021, together with the City of Burlington's Recreation, Community and Culture department. Situated in six community parks, these beautifully illustrated poster-size picture books can be enjoyed by everyone as readers travel from sign to sign to read an engaging story.

PRIDE ON DISPLAY

We transformed Central's Great Hall windows into a bold and bright, super-sized Pride flag for June, and partnered with PFlag Halton to encourage 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and allies to Show Your Pride online. As well, Luna M. Ferguson's book *Me, Myself, They: Life Beyond the Binary* was featured at a book club talk hosted by Halton Equity & Diversity Roundtable and the four public libraries in Halton Region.



"I honestly get a bit moved every time I read that a new library has partnered with BPL and I can borrow books from them!"

EVEN MORE TO BORROW

London and Ottawa Public Libraries joined our OverDrive digital partnership with Mississauga Library and Hamilton Public Library (HPL), bringing our total digital collection to 330,000+ titles. And in June, BPL members got full borrowing privileges of HPL's print books, movies, music, magazines, video games and more!

WRITING THE ROLLERCOASTER

Local authors Sylvia McNicol and Lynda Simmons generously brought Burlington and BPL along for their *Writing the Rollercoaster* project. They helped residents write about their pandemic experiences—and what a ride that was! The contributions evolved into a published book, and free copies were available for anyone to pick up at our branches.

TANSLEY WOODS TURNS 25

A BIG thank you to our valued northeast community for your patronage of Tansley Woods Branch. When this special location opened in 1996, it was BPL's first new branch in nearly 30 years.

"Managed to tune in and ask a few questions and got great answers. Love these events. Thanks #BurlLitFest!"



BURLINGTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

Booklovers and writers of all ages revelled in a month-long celebration of literature when BPL launched the first annual Burlington Literary Festival in November. We welcomed authors, celebrated books, and (virtually) visited with local and national literary treasures. Nearly 1000 people registered to attend, making our inaugural festival a rousing success!

HALTON CLIMATE COLLECTIVE READS

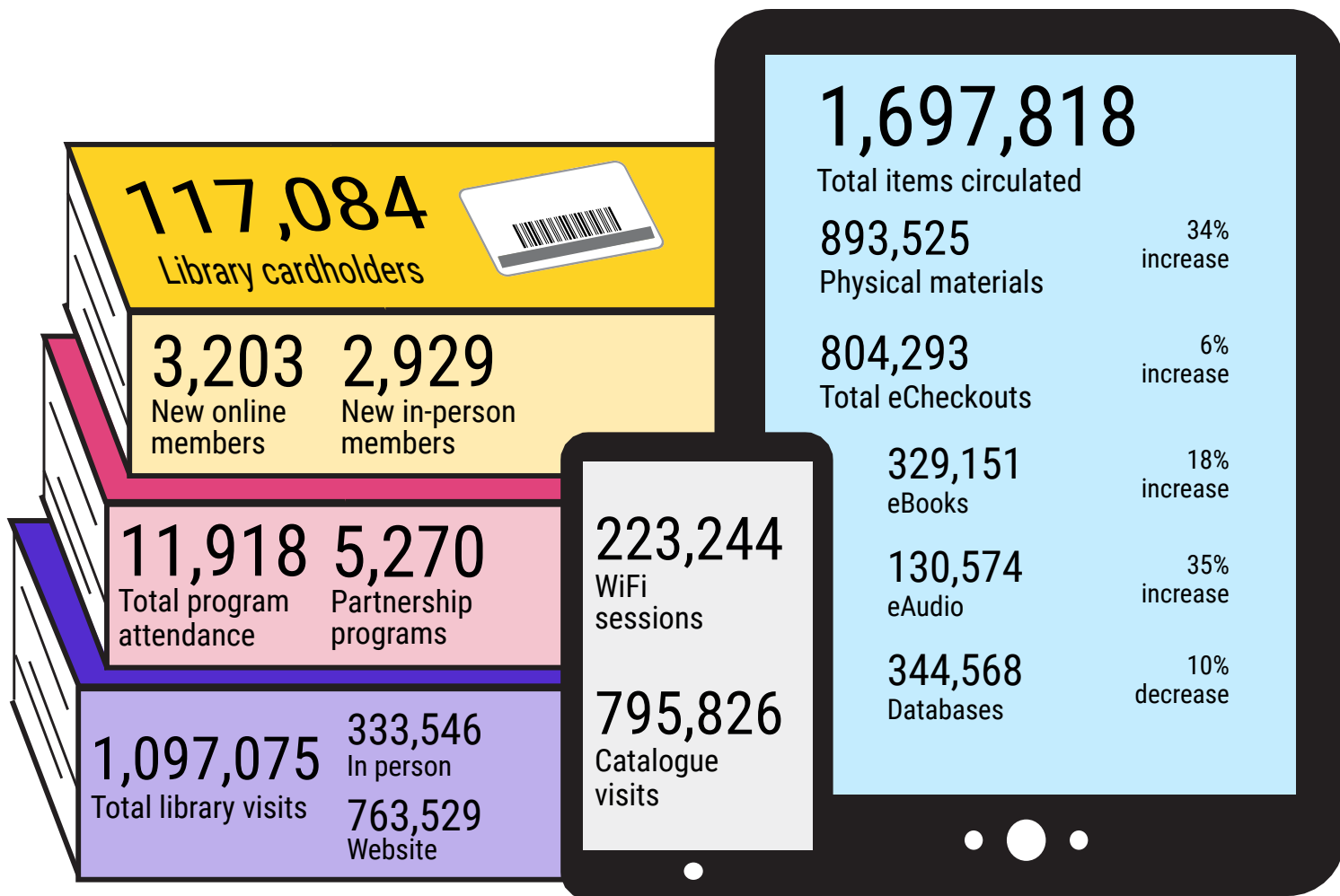
We spotlighted the complex issues of climate change during Halton Climate Collective Reads. This informative talk featured Katharine Hayhoe, climate scientist and author of *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. She inspired her audience to take climate action to the next level.

HIDDEN GEMS

We capped off the year with a battle royale among BPL's best hidden treasures of 2021. Our librarians selected top picks that readers might have missed and championed them in a virtual head-to-head tournament. An enthusiastic audience of over 300 social media followers selected the winners in each—and heard all about 16 fantastic books to read!

"Got our books today and the process went smoothly and safely. Thank you for staying open. We need the books!"





REVENUE

Municipal contribution: \$11,873,663

Provincial grant: \$229,403

Internally generated: \$162,110

EXPENDITURES

Employee costs: \$7,613,495

Amortization: \$1,379,569

Building costs: \$847,206

Operating costs: \$299,974

Automated systems: \$434,805

Digital materials & processing: \$654,867

Annual surplus: \$1,035,260

Burlington Public Library created over **\$52 million** in total economic impact to the City of Burlington for a **394%** return on investment. For each Burlington resident, the Library provided **\$279** in economic value in 2021.

Burlington Public Library is a registered charitable organization that gratefully accepts donations. For more information, please visit www.bpl.on.ca/about/donations