

# A YEAR IN REVIEW



Ah-Ha!

## Maker Space program at Discovery Branch

Customize Your Water Bottle  
with Stickers

**G!**  
Georgina  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Message from the Board Chair

2024 was another year of significant growth and accomplishment at Georgina Public Library. In February, we welcomed two new Library Board members, Kathy Coates and Alicia Braund, completing our dedicated team. Guided by our 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, we delivered impactful programs, engaging services, and memorable events designed specifically for our community’s evolving needs.

One of the year’s highlights was the grand opening of the Discovery Branch on March 2nd. This achievement marked a major milestone—reflecting years of hard work, thoughtful planning, advocacy, and unwavering support from Board members, Town Council, and the community. By year’s end, the Discovery Branch was thriving, with patrons making enthusiastic use of quiet study rooms, outdoor seating areas, flexible community spaces, and our state-of-the-art Maker Space. Programming at this new location expanded significantly, offering hands-on opportunities including 3D printing, laser cutting and engraving, vinyl cutting, large-format printing, 3D pens, button making, and a digital media studio complete with green screen technology.

We were delighted to see attendance at library programs increase, underscoring GPL’s essential role in fostering lifelong learning, creativity, and connection.

A significant achievement this year was welcoming Joseph Moncada as our new CEO and Director of Library Services in October. Joseph joined GPL after more than five successful years at Oakville Public Library, bringing a wealth of experience, creativity, and leadership. His positive influence has already enhanced our strategic initiatives and strengthened our partnership with the Town of Georgina.

As we look forward to another exciting year, we remain grateful for the ongoing support from our staff, volunteers, patrons, and community partners. Together, we continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative library system that enriches the lives of everyone in Georgina.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a welcoming and dynamic space for all.

**Bobbi Sabatini** (Board Chair)

## 2024 Library Board

Bobbi Sabatini, Chair

Nancy Rodrigues, Vice-Chair

Naomi Davison, Regional Councillor

Dave Neeson, Council Representative

Leslie Johnstone

Rita Beechey

Madalyn Calzavara

Kathy Coates

Alicia Braund

## 2024 Management Team

Joseph Moncada, CEO/Director of Library Services

Amy Butcher, Manager, Library Community Engagement

Karolina Roussakis, Manager, Library Collections

Becky George, Manager, Library eServices

Lori Puckett, Supervisor, Library Branches

## 2024 Staff

Our branches are staffed by:

17 Full-time staff

12 Part-time staff

17 Students

with the support of:

9 Casual staff





# Key Accomplishments

## OPENING OF THE DISCOVERY BRANCH

With a grand opening on March 2, 2024, the Discovery Branch has become a lively hub for creativity and connection. Visitors embraced its welcoming spaces for studying, socializing, and relaxing, while the Maker Space emerged as a standout feature. This new branch welcomed over 52,000 community members in 2024, sparking curiosity and learning for all ages.

## LAUNCH OF THE MAKER SPACE

At the heart of the Discovery Branch is our new Maker Space, a vibrant hub of innovation, creativity, and collaboration. Community members now have access to cutting-edge technologies, including 3D printers, a laser engraver, a fully equipped digital media studio, vinyl cutters, and more. This unique space positions Georgina Public Library as a leader in creativity, technology, and lifelong learning.

## RECORD-BREAKING LIBRARY VISITS

In 2024, library branches welcomed an incredible 472,654 visits—an increase of 61% from 2023. This significant growth demonstrates GPL’s vital role as welcoming community hubs where residents gather, engage, learn, and connect, regardless of library membership status.



# Collections Highlights

## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

### Playaways

GPL introduced Playaways, portable, pre-loaded audio players that provide convenient access to audiobooks without the need for additional devices or internet access.

### C-Pens

Our collection now includes C-Pens: portable scanning pens designed to read text aloud, providing valuable support for individuals with reading challenges or those seeking language assistance.

## ENHANCED RESOURCES

### Launchpads

We expanded our selection of Launchpads—durable tablets pre-loaded with educational apps and games—to enhance interactive learning experiences for children aged 3 to 10.

### Nature Backpacks

Our new Nature Backpacks offer tools like magnifying glasses, compasses, and binoculars, along with nature-themed books and activities, promoting outdoor exploration and learning for all ages.



## Infrastructure and Technology Updates

### EXPANDING DIGITAL ACCESS

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#### Creativebug

In early 2024, Georgina Public Library introduced Creativebug, an online resource offering high-quality art and craft instruction. With unlimited access to thousands of professionally filmed classes for all skill levels, Creativebug quickly became a popular tool for community members eager to learn, create, and explore. By year-end, 102 active users had engaged with 81 different classes and collectively viewed 285 videos, showcasing strong community interest.

### FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS

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#### Improved Spaces for Families

At Pefferlaw Branch, new shelving was added to the children's area, creating a more inviting and accessible space for young readers and families.

#### Optimized Collections

A system-wide shelf-shifting initiative enhanced the organization and accessibility of our collections, while standardizing resources across branches to ensure consistent patron experiences.

#### Enhanced Accessibility and Navigation

New signage was installed across our branches to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards, significantly improving navigation and accessibility for all visitors.

#### Upgraded Outdoor Spaces

During the summer, the Sutton Branch parking lot and sidewalks were resurfaced and redesigned, greatly improving accessibility and effectively serving both library visitors and the neighbouring school community.

#### New Security and Visitor Analytics

The Keswick and Pefferlaw Branches received modern electro-magnetic (EM) security gates equipped with advanced patron-counting capabilities. This upgrade provides detailed visitor traffic insights, helping GPL better understand and respond to community needs.





## Programming Highlights

### SUPPORTING SENIORS WITH THE COMMUNITY GRANT

GPL was proud to be a recipient of the 2024-2025 Seniors Community Grant. This funding allowed the library to purchase eight C-Pens—assistive reading devices designed to enhance accessibility for patrons with reading difficulties. Additionally, specialized Maker Space programming tailored to seniors, such as 3D printing (2024), woodworking, and leatherworking (planned for 2025), was introduced, alongside an anticipated author visit by Darryl Cheng, author of *The New Plant Parent*, scheduled for February 2025.

### EXPANDING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

#### Craft Swap

In May 2024, the Sutton Branch successfully hosted our first-ever Craft Swap, enabling 30 community members to exchange craft supplies, promoting sustainable consumption and creativity.

#### Gift Walk Program

December 2024 saw the launch of our inaugural Gift Walk initiative, where local teens earned volunteer hours by helping children select gently used, donated gifts for family and friends. Over 200 donations were collected, allowing more than 50 local children to choose thoughtful holiday gifts—an impactful way to encourage reuse, community connection, and volunteerism.

### RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER READING AND LEARNING CLUB LAUNCH

The Summer Reading and Learning Club (SRLC) Launch Party achieved record attendance, drawing 167 participants—significantly up from 113 in 2023. Hosting the event at our new Discovery Branch and within the innovative Maker Space proved to be highly engaging for local families, further establishing the branch as a vibrant community hub.

### CELEBRATING LOCAL TALENT

#### Author Showcase

GPL proudly hosted its first-ever Local Author Showcase, featuring 17 local authors who engaged with the community, shared their creative processes, and inspired attendees. With 224 community members in attendance, this successful event highlighted GPL's commitment to supporting local authors and nurturing community pride.

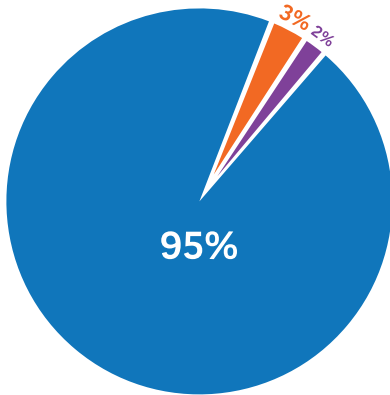


## 2024 Partnerships

	Town of Georgina
	Friends of the Library
	Routes Connecting Communities
	Good Food Collective
	York Region Food Network
	Hospice Georgina
	York Region Police
	Community Legal Clinic of York Region
	Chippewas of Georgina Island
	Connors Music
	York Region
	Lake Simcoe Gardeners
	Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives
	Georgina Historical Society

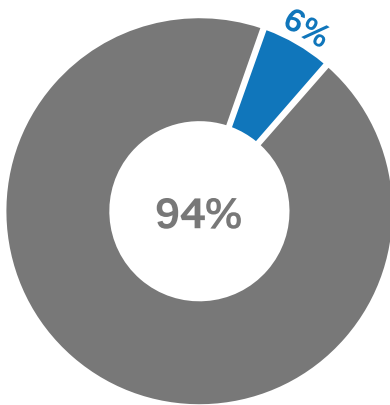


## Financial Summary



### 2024 Funding Sources

- Town of Georgina (95%)
- User fees, lease, and rental (3%)
- Donations and grants (2%)



### Town of Georgina 2024 Budget

- Georgina Public Library (6%)
- Other Town Services (94%)



## Library Statistics



21,605

Program attendance

↑ 14% from 2023



2,619

New cardholders registered

↑ 29% from 2023



211,852

Physical borrows

↓ 12.5% from 2023



86,644

Digital borrows

↑ 15% from 2023



2,156

Interlibrary Loans

↑ 30% from 2023



597,411

Database searches

↑ 15.5% from 2023



17,846

WiFi uses

↑ 38% from 2023



8,607

Public Access Computer Sessions

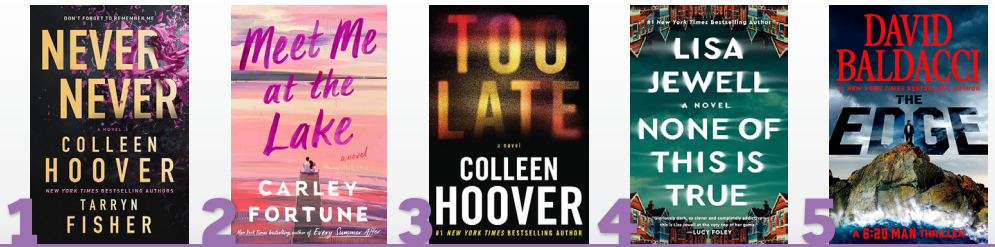
↑ 55% from 2023





# Most Popular Checkouts of 2024

## TOP 5 ADULT FICTION



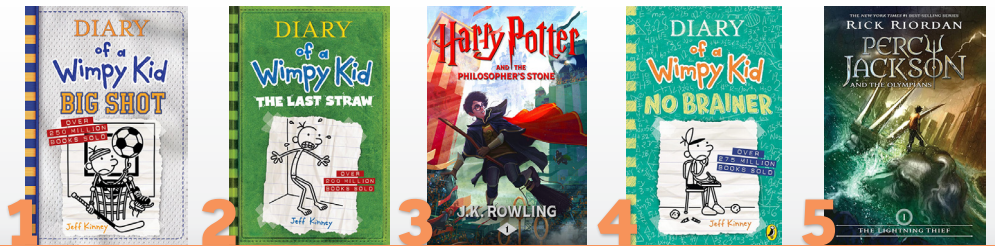
## TOP 5 ADULT NONFICTION



## TOP 5 ADULT MOVIES



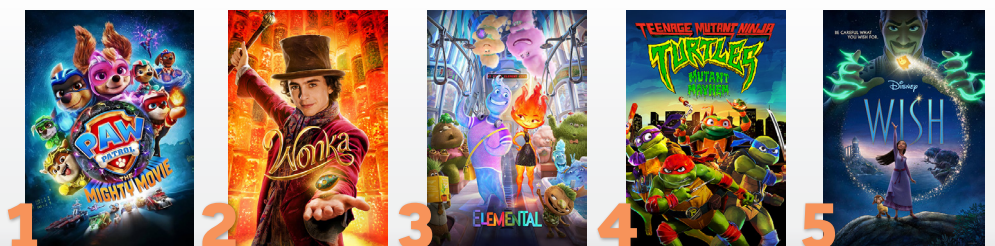
## TOP 5 KIDS FICTION



## TOP 5 KIDS NONFICTION



## TOP 5 KIDS MOVIES





 @georginalibrary

 GeorginaPL

[georginalibrary.ca](http://georginalibrary.ca)

**Keswick Branch**

90 Wexford Drive  
Keswick, ON L4P 3P7  
Phone: 905-476-5762

**Discovery Branch**

261 Garrett Styles Drive  
Keswick, ON L4P 0T4  
Phone: 905-989-3000 ext. 2

**Peter Gzowski (Sutton) Branch**

5279 Black River Road  
P.O. Box 338  
Sutton, ON L0E 1R0  
Phone: 905-722-5702

**Pefferlaw Branch**

76 Pete's Lane  
P.O. Box 220  
Pefferlaw, ON L0E 1N0  
Phone: 705-437-1514