

FORT FRANCES PUBLIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

2023

Annual Report



(Image taken to celebrate the renewal of Service Agreement between the Township of Alberton and the Fort Frances Public Library Board)

Message from the Chair

A Public Library Board is a governing body, and a legal corporation under the Ontario Public Libraries Act. The Board is responsible for the governance of the library. Members are appointed by the municipal council. Currently the Fort Frances Public Library Board is composed of two Town of Fort Frances councillors and five community volunteers. 2023 was the first full year of a 4-year term. This required a culture of learning – about Board duties, about Library functioning, and about relationship between the Library & the Town.

The Fort Frances Public Library Board and the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre connects people to a wide-range of resources in a friendly, safe, and welcoming environment. The Board influences decision-making, policy creation, and strategic plans. This framework guides the staff in their day-to-day operations. The library's most valuable asset is the people who work for it.

The staff complement consists of 1 full-time CEO, 4 full-time, 1 part-time, and several casual staff members. 2023 saw a significant changeover in a number of staff. During this year of transformation the staff were resilient and dedicated in maintaining public service. Challenges included extensive periods of staff position vacancy and considerable training. In August we welcomed a new CEO, Richard Bee.

Libraries enrich the community by offering access to information and connection with others. Access to technology prevents people from being left behind. We can help in setting up an email address and use of computers. Regardless of socio-economic status, we provide no-cost admission – to learning, to high speed internet, to activities for all ages. In winter, we offer a welcome respite from the cold. In summer, a comfortable place out of the heat. Our spaces host free programs such as concerts, local author book launches, and Science/ Technology/ Engineering/ Mathematics programs. The value of being an equalizer for access to service cannot be overstated. People visit without concern about cost, age, or accessibility.

Libraries need community commitment to succeed. We have been the recipient of generous support from multiple people and organizations. They give of their precious volunteer hours, enthusiasm, expertise, money, and book donations. They share on public media. They partner & collaborate with us. We welcome fundraising from Friends of the Library. The Town of Fort Frances provides the majority of our funding and offers in-kind services, with other significant Library revenue generated by rental of the Shaw Community Hub and contracted library service to the Township of Alberton. We are only limited by material & human resources.

The Library Board's 2024 goals include creating our 2024 – 2028 strategic plan. We continue to support the CEO and all library staff. The Library will apply for renewal of our accreditation with the Ontario Public Library Monitoring & Accreditation Council. We will continue to offer exceptional services and inspire endless opportunities.

Our future is bright !!!

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS - 2023

Sheri De Gagné, Chair

Janet Lambert (until September, 2023)

Robin Dennis, Vice-Chair

Ken Kellar (as of November, 2023)

Michael Behan, Town of Fort Frances Councillor

Hue Eldridge

Mandi Olson, Town of Fort Frances Councillor

Tanis Fretter

Andrew Hallikas, Town of Fort Frances Mayor
(ex-officio)

Total Circulation

Children's Collection Total Circulation:	10,044
Teen Collection Total Circulation:	946
Adult Collection Total Circulation:	11,508
DVD Collection Total Circulation:	6,359
Video Game Collection Total Circulation:	380
Ebook Total Circulation:	9,738
Eaudiobook Total Circulation:	5,691
Emagazine Total Circulation:	1,418

Total Programming & Services Attendance

Total number of programs offered:	351
Total number of attendees:	6,980
Total number of Tech Help sessions:	124
Total number of Genealogy sessions:	48

Additional Statistics

Total Number of Library Members:	2,430
Total Public Computer Uses:	50,000
Total WiFi Connections:	6,000
Total Uses of Bookable Rooms:	722
Total Visits to the Library:	54,300

Revenue	
Library Generated	\$33,465
Donations	\$10,591
Grants	\$29,891
Transfer from Library Reserve	\$87,076
Municipal	\$600,800
Total Revenue	\$761,823

Expenses	
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$551,532
Contracted Services	\$6,442
Facility & Utilities	\$103,047
Library Services	\$64,698
Supplies & Materials	\$9,837
Rents & Services	\$25,197
Financial Services	\$1,069
Total Expenses	\$761,822

2023 Social Return on Investment

In 2023 the Ontario Library Services and NORDIK Institute created the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) as a way to quantify the social return of investment (SROI) public libraries generate for their communities.

The VOLT bases the value of public libraries around seven distinct categories of impact on their respective communities: Education, Inclusion & Well Being, Economic Development, Space, Civic Engagement, Entertainment & Leisure, and Culture.

Using data that the Library compiles on an annual basis and using the Library's annual financial information, the VOLT is able to generate a dollar amount to demonstrate the Library's SROI for the Fort Frances Community.

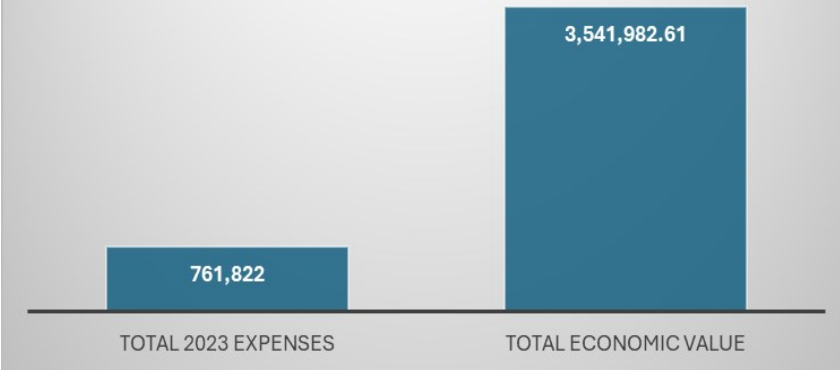
The Annual Report will highlight four specific values that demonstrate the significant financial value the Library provides:

- **Total Economic Value of the Library in 2023:** the total real dollar value generated over all seven categories of impact by the Library on Fort Frances.
- **Economic Benefit of an Open Hour of the Library:** the amount of value generated for each hour the Library is open for public use.
- **Per Capita SROI:** the amount of financial value each person in Fort Frances receives by having access to the Library.
- **Municipal Return on Investment:** the amount of value generated for every \$1 contributed to the Library by the Town of Fort Frances.

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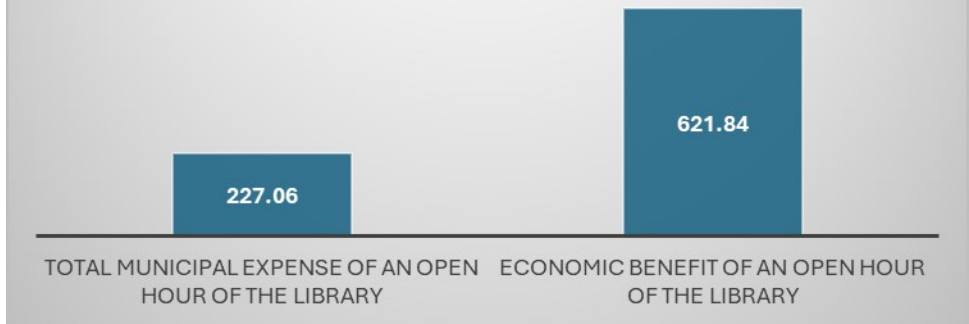
Total 2023 Expenses vs. Total Economic Value

While the Library spent \$761,822 in 2023, we generated over \$3.5 million in economic value for Fort Frances by being open and providing our various services!



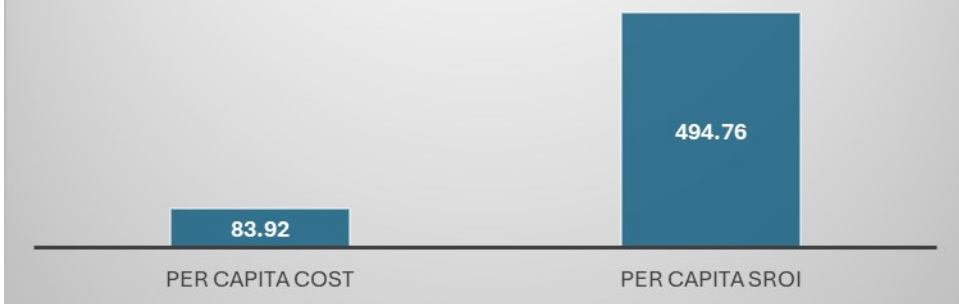
The Library was open for a total of 2,646 hours in 2023. The Town spent \$227.06/hour to the Library to be open but in turn Fort Frances received \$621.84/hour!

Total 2023 Municipal Expenses vs. Total Economic Benefit per Hour Open to the Public (\$)



2023 Per Capita Cost vs. Per Capita Social Return on Investment (SROI)

In 2023 each resident of Fort Frances spent through their municipal taxes \$83.92 to have public library service. In return each person received \$494.76 in social and economic benefit from the library!

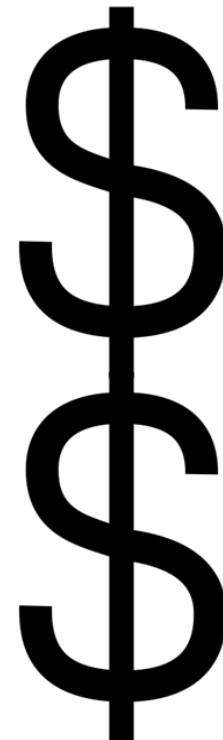
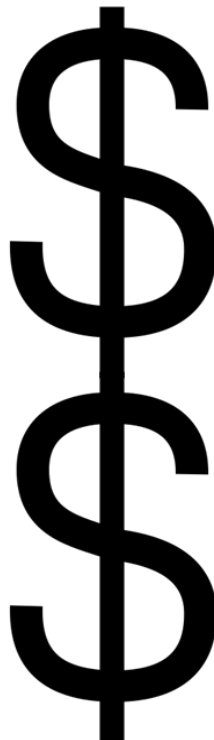
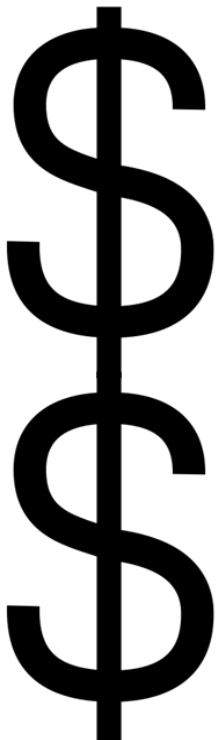


Municipal Return on Investment

For everyone **\$1** spent by the Town of Fort Frances to the Fort Frances Public Library



The Town of Fort Frances receives **\$6.07** in
return



Volunteer Acknowledgement

The Library is very fortunate to have many people and organizations eager to assist the Library! For those who help with library programs and events, such as the Teddy Bear's Picnic, to those who help to keep the Library grounds vibrant and full of colour, the Library wishes to give our deepest appreciation to each and every person!

The Library also wishes to give special acknowledgement to the Friends of the Fort Frances Public Library. This group of dedicated volunteers have been critical with supporting the Library and library programming/ services for decades. The Library is very fortunate to have such a strong group of Friends!



(Image taken from 2023 Friends of the Fort Frances Public Library Annual Book Sale)

Donation and Grant Recognition

The Library was the recipient of many generous financial donations during the 2023 financial year, including an especially generous donation through the Cunningham Estate.

These donations are used by the Library to not only support core operations beyond what our operational budget is able to fund (i.e. purchasing books, programming expenses), but are primarily used for capital purchases related to the Library building, library furniture, and IT equipment.

In 2023 the Library was the successful recipient of multiple grants, including the Moffat Family Fund, Canada Summer Jobs, Young Canada Works grants, and the annual funding grants through Ontario Library Services and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture.



(Images taken during beading workshops held at the Library in 2023, in partnership with NWO Métis Child & Family Services, and funded through the Moffat Family Fund grant)





Science North



STEM Saturdays



Displays
Left: Red Dress Day
Right: Borderland Pride

