

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

"I don't know what I'd do without our libraries. I cannot count the ways the library adds value to my life..."

Our Vision

The Public Library will be an inclusive, safe and welcoming community hub built around trust, understanding and collaboration to meet the community's needs.

Strategic Directions

- Foster a Safe, Clean and Healthy Community
- Challenge Institutional and Systemic Racism
- Cultivate Diversity and Inclusion
- Mitigate the Impact of Homelessness and Poverty
- Encourage Youth Participation
- Contribute to the Economic Recovery of our Community



**Thunder Bay
Public Library**

A Message From the Board Chair & Chief Librarian



2020 was a very special year in the life of Thunder Bay Public Library (TBPL). It was our 50th anniversary year and we had many plans for celebrating along with the City. TBPL was formed in 1970 when the former Fort William Public Library and Port Arthur Public Library were merged as part of the City amalgamation.

2020 was also the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that TBPL had to reset and re-imagine the way that it delivered services to the community. TBPL had to pivot and reinvent itself by offering virtual collections, programs and services. The physical library may have been closed or been more limited in what we could offer in person, but it remained open 24/7 online. Our creative and innovative staff expanded online programming and attracted larger audiences than we would have been able to accommodate in our physical spaces.

Readers advisory also went online. eBooks from our vast cloudLibrary were downloaded

in increasing numbers. Online resources multiplied and some of them were made free to patrons for the first time. Ancestry research proved very popular and the online database was offered to everyone to do research from home. You could also watch world class performances courtesy of the National Theatre in London or on our new streaming TV and movie platform called Kanopy.

Families were kept entertained by regular storytimes and sing-alongs, some on a seasonal theme. Take and Make craft kits were provided for those who wanted to practice their creative skills. And there were lots of online videos to engage children, teens and adults. Most of this content was developed by library staff who learned new technical and creative skills in the process. We also hosted virtual book launches for local authors.

We invested in our library buildings with new modern, mobile low level shelving that creates a fresh look and feel. We also

have new, attractive service desks and mobile technology to improve the patron experience. We also secured external funding to Bridge the Digital Divide and tell Stories of Anishinaabe Resilience. These two innovative programs are detailed in this report.

None of us will forget 2020. TBPL will look back on it as a time of invention and adaptation. We continue on our journey to create vibrant community hubs at our library branches, that are community led, needs based and welcoming and inclusive spaces. We look forward to welcoming you back into your libraries in 2021.

Carol Grieve
Board Chair

John Pateman
CEO/Chief Librarian

Celebrating 50 Years!



On January 1, 2020, Thunder Bay Public Library celebrated 50 years of dedicated library service to our community by permanently ending the practice of charging late fees!

We improved communication with library members with a new, cloud based technology which allows us to easily format emails to share library news and information.

Connect, the Library's newsletter, moved online and we increased the frequency of publication from three times a year to six times a year.



MARY J.L. BLACK



WAVERLEY



BRODIE



COUNTY PARK

I don't know what I'd do without our libraries. I cannot count the ways the library adds value to my life, but I will try.

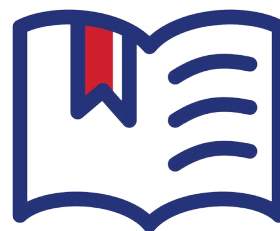
Books. That don't need power to be read, that can be carried and shared and pointed at and referenced. That broaden my life experience, let me walk in others' shoes, keep learning and keep me company in my quieter moments. More books than I could ever afford to buy or house myself. Honestly, I grew up in a household that could not afford to buy and had no space to keep books, to be an avid reader because of libraries. It could not have happened without them. I love the library for many things, but first and foremost for unlimited access to books.

The space the library provides adds such a wealth of security and opportunity to our community.

If I were to try and list all the ways the library has added value to my life, I might never stop. I can't understate it - our libraries are great. They mean the world to me and my family. They are our second homes, a key resource we draw on regularly in our everyday lives.

Build on what you've got in our libraries and you'll get back every penny invested many times over. Thank you for the Thunder Bay Public Library. -- Sincerely Heather M.

Pivot and Reinvent - Collections



Increased online offerings of eBooks and eAudiobooks for all ages - spent \$146,000 compared to \$63,000 in 2019.

3,208 eBooks were added from March to December with a total of 54,193 checkouts - 69 eAudiobooks were added during the same period with a total of 6,073 checkouts.

28 featured shelves were created in cloudLibrary to support local readers' interests.

eMagazine usage was up -12,917 checkouts in 2020 compared to 7,647 in 2019.

69,864 curbside checkouts and renewals were done from June to December.

Thunder Bay Community Foundation provided \$6400 for new eBooks to expand our online offerings. TBPL experienced an incredible jump in the number of eBooks being borrowed in 2020. Access to online eBooks and eAudiobooks are a vital tool for maintaining and improving mental health, particularly in the face of many months of pandemic-related restrictions.

Beyond words

we also loan ...

garden tools walking poles pedometers

energy meters radon meters DVDs

Ontario Parks passes audiobooks

wifi hotspots tablets chromebooks

The Public Library services have been a big part of my life, ever since I began learning the alphabet, the library and having access to thousands of books for free really fueled my passion for reading. Access to the library gave me so many opportunities to learn and indulge in stories that I may never have otherwise had the chance to. Growing up, we struggled when it came to finances, I didn't get the chance to participate in sports or extracurriculars. This didn't stop me from being creative and having a fulfilling childhood though. Thanks to the library, I had the luxury of being able to read fresh content on a daily basis. I don't look back and think about the things that I missed out on, but instead, the wonderful and alternative experiences I had. Libraries, and those who help keep them running, are society's unsung heroes, and I am forever grateful for them.

Thank you -- Zoya R.



Pivot and Reinvent - Collections

Provided local history and genealogy assistance by responding to hundreds of queries.

Provided home access to Ancestry database (normally only available in the Library) - a record of 1,013 sessions with 20,936 searches were made in 2020.

Staff training was provided on diverse authors and Own Voices titles for children. Forty diverse picture books were added to the collection and a picture book database of diverse themes was developed for program use and readers advisory.

Provided interlibrary loans. We fulfilled 2134 requests for materials and loaned out 889 items to other libraries. We borrowed 494 items from other libraries for TBPL patrons.

Sixty Book Butler requests were received in 2020, 52 of which were from March to December. Book Butler makes suggestions for titles tailored to individual needs.

Developed new virtual book bundles for kids form and processed and fulfilled 140+ requests. We circulated over 700 staff-selected books from our collection to young readers and their families.

Explore Your Digital Library: www.tbpl.ca/digitallibrary

42,952
reference questions

133,367
electronic items circulated

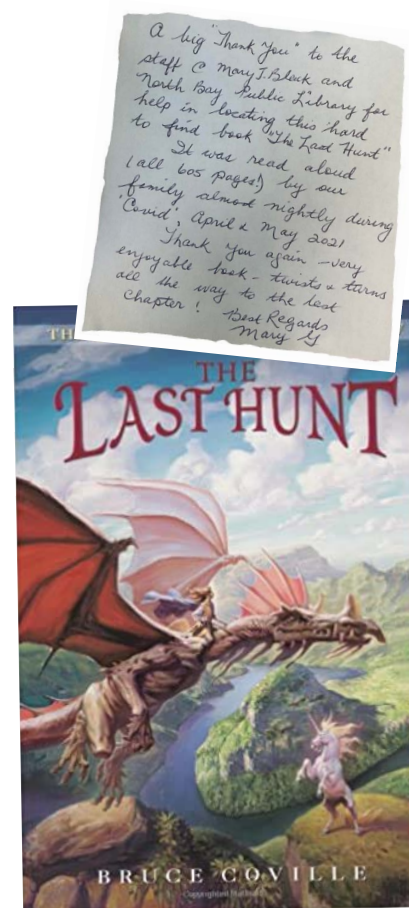


A big "Thank You" to the staff at Mary J.L. Black and North Bay Public Library for help in locating this hard to find book, The Last Hunt.

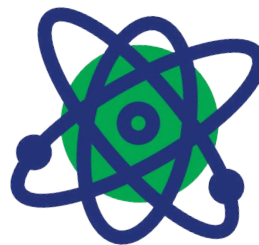
It was read aloud (all 605 pages!) by our family almost nightly during Covid.

Thank you again - very enjoyable book - twists and turns all the way to the last chapter!

Best regards, Mary G.



Pivot and Reinvent - Programs



Virtual programming was an entirely new venture for TBPL in 2020. It began with one person reading a chapter book live on Facebook with an iPhone and progressed to a multi person, green-screen extravaganza with layers of video, puppets, original songs, and more. Staff members have channeled their enthusiasm and talent into this new stream of content, producing over 90 videos. These can be found on our YouTube channel at TbayPL.

Staff were live or taped with choose your own adventure, Sunday storytimes and other chapter book storytimes.

A TBPL Christmas Singalong event with original songs and a coordinating pick-up kit was hugely popular.

Maker Mondays on Facebook debuted with instructions for an at-home STEM activity and engagement with families who took part.

Seven puppet shows, and two seasonal puppet shows celebrating Hallowe'en and Christmas were performed, recorded, edited, and released as videos on Facebook and YouTube.

Book launches for local authors were held virtually for Annette Pateman and Deborah Donohue.

I just wanted to say that you all are amazing. I have a year and a half old. When the pandemic hit we were coming to Baby Time every week and loving it. We miss coming to the library so much. But, being able to request book bundles and still access library resources has been so so important.

I can't wait to be able to visit the library again in person and take advantage of all the amazing services offered and interact with wonderful, helpful, amazing staff. But for now, words do not express how much I appreciate all the work everyone is doing to fulfill my zillions of book requests and help to bring a bit of the big, wide world into my home.

I just wanted to say thank you for continuing to work and provide such wonderful services. -- Lis



715 programs

20,417 attendees

Pivot and Reinvent - Programs



Staff created a new Online Activities web page focused on children and families, but also including topics for adults and seniors. We highlighted special categories for events like Pride and Indigenous History Month.

Take and Make craft kits were available for pick up at all branches for kids.

Take and Make craft programs for adults were offered in October and December.

Staff delivered two sessions of Preschool Storytime and two Tales for Twos programs entirely virtually, with videos and other content directed, recorded, acted, and edited. Staff experimented with virtual classrooms, green screen technology, video editing programs, and many other new technologies to help children develop early literacy skills.

Storytime with Staff was presented each week during the summer for all ages.

TBPL Summer Reading Challenge for Kids was offered using Beanstack, an online program that tracks reading. A version was also offered to families who prefer to participate via Facebook.

A virtual American Sign Language (ASL) School Program was presented to 5 classes over the summer.

Read This Next, a book recommendation video program and podcast was initiated, with twenty four episodes released. Titles and themes were chosen to regularly include diverse and inclusive authors and works.

Drag Queen Storytime was presented as a partnership for Pride Month.



As a parent, the library is my number one partner in literacy for my child. My 3 year old son, Raymond, is always eager to go to the library. Every visit plays out the same: he comes for the toy cars, but he stays for the books and the endless food for curiosity and imagination that he finds within. I credit our many visits to the library for sparking his interest in reading, which I hope will be a lifelong evolution. With the library's doors closed during the pandemic, we have missed our visits but continue to pick up books frequently. Raymond always asks if we can go inside yet. We can't wait until we can! -- Megan C.



*Pictured: Raymond at one year of age
- Photo credit: Stirling McIntosh
(Photo taken prior to Covid)*

Pivot and Reinvent - Programs



Show and Share on social media encouraged patrons to share and comment on each other's posts on different weekly themes including crafts, pets, plants, vacations, and more.

Presented a Winter Stories series with TBPL staff sharing their favourite holiday stories on YouTube.

Indigenous Advisory Council virtual meetings were held monthly.

Partnered with Lakehead University to present a reading and conversation with Anishinaabe storyteller and writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson.

Partnered with the Center for Free Expression to present conversations on topics like Anti-Black Racism and Inequity: What is to be Done? and Anti-Black Racism and the Theatre.

Launched the teen Discord server as a virtual hangout/communications space for interacting and programming.

Youth Advisory Council resumed weekly meetings on Discord with 10 Council members.

Teen DIY Among Us crafts were offered in November and DIY Nordic Gnomes in December.

Launched Beanstack "50 Books To Read Before Graduating" challenge.

TBPL launched the first ever celebration of World Mother Language Day on February 21 at the Waverley Library. This was an initiative of Abu Hazen and his colleagues. It is celebrated in Bangladesh where Bangla as a language was repressed and people advocating for the language to be acknowledged were killed during a protest. Many people participated, including Elder Tim Hardy who opened with a prayer and smudge, the Ojibwe hand drummers, Bengali and Urdu speakers, the Bengali choir, members of the public, City Councillors, Mayor Mauro and other dignitaries.

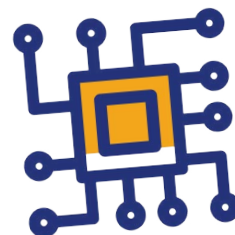
I've given up TV altogether and have replaced it with DVDs from the library's spectacular collection – documentaries, mysteries and other stories from all around the world. It has made my evenings much more enjoyable, and, during the Covid-19 shutdown, it has helped to keep me sane. The service is amazing. During the exchange-only-at-the-door phase, one librarian whom I'd got to know somewhat agreed to make me a little package of audio tapes for a long drive I was about to take. Her choices for my personality were spot on. That was before I learned how to request online. Another librarian who'd given me some tips for going online, phoned soon afterward to add a helpful instruction that she'd missed! Who could ask for more?

Libraries foster thought, learning, knowledge, creativity, and equanimity. Public libraries especially, do so absolutely inclusively. How culturally poor we'd be without them!
-- Marie T.



Photo taken in February 2020 at the World Mother Language Day event.

Pivot and Reinvent - Services



TBPL issued new Library cards and renewed existing memberships, including free memberships for non-residents until December 2021, over the phone and via email.

Patrons could use their cards to pick up holds, borrow electronic books and audiobooks and access our databases. We added new resources and digital offerings every week.

Free, no-contact printing, photocopying, faxing, and scanning services were provided.

Technology coaching (computer or device assistance accessing our resources, especially eBooks and online databases) was available virtually and over the phone.

Readers' Advisory continued over the phone or in-person. We helped people place holds on items for pick up in library or curbside.

We boosted our wifi signal so that patrons could access it outside our locations.



I grew up using the library and am an avid reader, so when I came to Thunder Bay, it was a home away from home. I have now lived here 20+ years and the library remains a part of my life. When my children were young, we spent many hours at the library; some of my kids oldest friends we met at storytime. We all continue to be big library supporters and we're loving the crafts and mystery bundles.

Thank you to TBPL for being an integral part of our community. Because of you, Thunder Bay is made a better place to live.
-- Karen W.

106,637
uses of wifi

42,232
active cardholders

180 days of service in
2020 (curbside or limited in
branch service)

Pivot and Reinvent Bridging the Digital Divide

The Thunder Bay Public Library's project - Working in Partnership to Bridge the Digital Divide, was supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation and the United Way of Thunder Bay in the amount of \$93,000 for two grants.

The goal of the program is to bridge the digital divide separating those who can and can't afford technology by loaning devices (tablets and chromebooks) and rocket hubs (wifi access) to those who need these items the most. The devices can be used to connect people to online health care services, family & friends, job searching, accessing online books and other media, taking part in at-home schooling, counselling, viewing local and international news, and more.

Program partners referred their clients to the loan program to ensure that devices were being loaned to those with the greatest need.

50 tablets

90 chromebooks

100 rocket hubs

www.tbpl.ca/digitaldivide



Program Partners

AETS
Alpha Court
Alzheimers Society of Thunder Bay
Brain Injury Services BISNO
Canadian Mental Health Association
Catholic Family Centre
Community Living Thunder Bay
Crossroads Centre
Dilico Anishinabek Family Services
Family Healing and Wellness Centre
Elevate NWO
Elizabeth Fry Society NWO
Healthy Babies/Healthy Children TBDHU
Hospice Northwest
Injured Workers Support Group and
Speakers School
John Howard Society
Kinna Aweya Legal Clinic
Lakehead Social Planning Council
Lutheran Community Care Centre
March of Dimes
Métis Nation of Thunder Bay
Mindful Makers Collective
North Superior Workforce Planning Board
Northwest Employment Works
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre
NorWest Community Health Centre
Ontario Aboriginal HIV/Aids Strategy
OPTIONS Northwest
Our Kids Count
Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic &
Balmoral Centre
Roots to Harvest
Shkoday
Sister Margaret Smith Centre
St. Joseph's Health Care - Mental Health
Outpatient Program
Three C's Reintroduction Centre
Thunder Bay Children's Centre
Thunder Bay Counselling
Thunder Bay Literacy Group
Thunder Bay Multicultural Association
Thunder Bay Parkinsons Support Group
YES Employment
Youth Inclusion Program - City of Thunder Bay
Maamawi Counselling Centre
TBRHSC Cardiovascular Rehab Program

Stories of Anishinaabe Resilience (SOAR)



The Library received \$38,000 from the Government of Canada Heritage Fund for Commemorating the History and Legacy of Residential Schools, Celebration and Commemoration Program. The goal of the SOAR project is to increase awareness and commemorate the history and legacy of St. Joseph's Residential School while also honouring residential school survivors, their families, and communities.

The SOAR project will increase awareness and commemorate the history and legacy of St. Joseph's Residential School in Thunder Bay by making the truth about the residential schools widely accessible through a research report. Utilizing this research, TBPL engaged an educator to create a unit plan based on the project, tailored for use in Thunder Bay secondary schools.

The SOAR project will also honour residential school survivors, their families and communities by permanently displaying artwork at the library and recording a podcast series to share their stories of resilience.

The Library is working with several community partners to bring this project to life including, the ReImagining Value Action Lab (RiVAL), Dr. Adar Charlton, and Journalists for Human Rights.

It's amazing that people actually want to hear these stories even though some are tragic. I'm excited to see what other projects you put together for the community and our people. -- SOAR participant

Working with TBPL to share my grandmothers life experience through the SOAR project was very humbling and I am appreciative of the way that Robyn was very respectful in all approaches when we spoke. This made sharing her story easier - it has been difficult since she passed away suddenly. I can feel proud that she will be honoured locally. -- SOAR participant, Summer (granddaughter of St. Joseph's Survivor, Dolores Wawia)

SOAR Project

Stories of Anishinaabe Resilience


Did you attend St. Joseph's Residential School?


The Library is looking for St. Joseph's Residential School survivors to participate in the Stories of Anishinaabe Resilience (SOAR) project.

SOAR is a multi-faceted project that aims to increase awareness of the history and legacy of St. Joseph's Residential School while also honouring survivors, their families and communities.


We are looking for St. Joseph's Residential School survivors who would be comfortable having their portrait painted by an Indigenous artist and installed within the Library (as part of our permanent collection of art inventory). Participants will also be interviewed for a podcast. We will be providing an honorarium to survivors as well as a mental health support worker for the podcast interview.

Contact Robyn at rmedicine@tbpl.ca or 345-8275 ext 7252 for more details.





This project is funded by the Government of Canada.

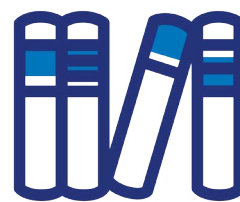


This project is funded by the Government of Canada.

Canada

Community Hubs

New Look & Feel!



New low level, mobile wooden shelving was installed at Waverley Library to improve the presentation of the collection, create a new, modern look and feel, enable flexible use of space and improve staff and patron safety and security. New shelving is being installed at Brodie in 2021.

New mobile desks were ordered for Waverley and Brodie to improve the patron experience, open up spaces and ensure staff and patron health and safety.

Sheridan College Co-Design Furniture Project

See below for a link to a story and video about this inspiring collaboration to create furnishings for the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at the Brodie Library.

[News Story](#)

[Two Minute Video - overview of the project on YouTube](#)



*'A reclamation of the space':
Furniture students help create new
Indigenous Knowledge
Centre in Thunder Bay library.*

Indigenous voices and needs were at the centre of a partnership between the TBPL, members of the Indigenous community, social enterprise Codesign and faculty and students from Sheridan's Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design program that saw participants collaboratively design and create furniture specifically for Indigenous library patrons. Sheridan furniture studio head Peter Fleming, graduate David Lewis and Codesign project facilitator Connie Chisholm recently installed a collection of custom-built birch tables, bookshelves, children's stools, a large coffee table with matching benches and a lectern in the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) of the TBPL's Brodie branch — marking the completion of a project and fulfilling the promise that the Furniture program had made to the library and community.

excerpt from <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/newsroom/articles/community/students-indigenous-furniture-project-thunder-bay>

Lieutenant Governor Visits TBPL

Stories of Sustainability: Thunder Bay Public Library

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario)

An unlikely hero

Fifty years ago, members of the Thunder Bay Public Library would have come to their local branch to read the latest periodicals, discover a new novel, or pore over old maps and newspaper clippings. On a Friday in 2019, the people of Thunder Bay can walk into their public library and be seen by a nurse. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they can meet with a social worker. And on any day of the week, the public can access Indigenous Knowledge Centres.

As is the case in many Ontario communities, Thunder Bay is experiencing change. In particular, as noted in multiple inquiries and reports, the city is facing the challenge of confronting racism and the tragic deaths of young Indigenous students. As residents seek a more open, safe, and inclusive future, the TBPL has made itself central to this reality. In 2018, the library developed an action plan to implement the recommendations from the Seven Youth Inquest into the deaths of seven Indigenous high school students and the Calls to Action from the more recent National Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC).

Indeed, the library has emerged as an “unlikely hero” wrote Tanya Talaga in a March 2019 column in the *Toronto Star*.

A bold plan

The library’s action plan is a strong and bold commitment and acknowledgement to decolonize library policies and services. In the words of John Pateman, the Chief Librarian and CEO of TBPL, “TBPL recognizes, accepts and acknowledges that racism exists in Thunder Bay and at TBPL” and that “a strong anti-racism response is the answer.”

With the support of the library board, newly appointed Indigenous Liaison, Robyn Medicine, the Indigenous Relationships Supervisor, Samantha Martin-Bird, and the TBPL Indigenous Advisory Council, the organization began to transform itself from a place of lending and returning books to a place of connecting, healing, and building community.

Today, each of the TBPL’s four branches has an Indigenous Knowledge Centre—a dedicated section that protects, preserves, and supports Indigenous languages and cultures. The Elders-in-Residence program provides traditional counselling. At the Waverley branch, a partnership was formed to share space and resources with Anishinabek Employment and Training Services. And at the Brodie branch, near City Hall, nursing and social work services are available once a week for library patrons.

Reflections

When I visited the library on New Year’s Eve in 2019, the city was cold and more snow was expected in the forecast. But inside, I found staff and members of the public who were warm, engaging, and passionate about their work.

I often talk about the exceptional diversity and strengths of Ontario, and of how telling stories is key to beginning to understand one another. In the TBPL, these stories have a home. They are there in the leadership who were determined to



Pictured l to r: Carol Grieve, John Pateman, Robyn Medicine, Samantha Martin-Bird, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Councillor Brian Hamilton

change the status quo of the library system and create something more impactful. They are there in the nurses and social workers who leave their traditional offices and come to the library to meet people on their terms.

The same curiosity that drew people to libraries 50 years ago exists today, only now that curiosity is being met with innovation and opportunity. TBPL captures the strength of social cohesion and the potential of economic prosperity by creating a space that welcomes everyone. It was clear to me, as we looked ahead to 2020 in Thunder Bay on New Year’s Eve, that the residents have the tools to create a bright and resilient future and that by going forward together they will get there. The library is a great place to begin this journey.

www.igontario.ca/en/2019/09/06/stories-of-sustainability (edited)

The Library Budget



Thunder Bay Public Library Financial Summary for 2020

Revenue

City of Thunder Bay	6,654,600
Province of Ontario	230,971
One Time Grants	25,757
Fundraising	65,829
Other Revenue	96,197
Total Revenue	7,073,354

Expenditures

Library Materials & Services	812,162
Capital Expenditures	520,215
Staff and Benefits	4,595,040
Facilities	443,122
Administration & Supplies	225,145
Total Expenditures	6,595,684

Breakdown of Wages

Public Services Staff	3,213,274
Facilities Staff	436,040
Administration	945,726
	4,595,040

TBPL is committed to cost containment in recognition of the City's financial challenges. In addition to returning \$250,000 of our 2020 operating budget, TBPL managed vacancies and operated with reduced hours.

TBPL is committed to the safety and well being of its staff and patrons.

We invested \$235,000 in measures to create a safe environment at TBPL during 2020. This includes extra cleaning and security and a whole range of personal protective equipment and safety measures.

TBPL Library Board:

Carol Grieve, Chair
Jane Todd, Vice Chair

Board Directors:

Eleanor Ashe
Joan Duke
Councillor Andrew Foulds
Margaret MacLean
Melanie Mayhew-Hammond
George Saarinen
Richard Togman

Secretary/Treasurer:

John Pateman, CEO/Chief Librarian

Pandemic Response



The TBPL Pandemic Plan was updated and a Phased Service Plan was created.

Safety protocols were established for both staff and the public.

Staff Training for new safety protocols was developed and delivered.

We sourced and ordered personal protective equipment and other safety devices, such as screens.

The branch layouts were updated and staff workstations were relocated to follow new guidelines and best practices for safety of staff and public.

New signage was created to communicate the COVID protocols.

The 'bubble concept' was introduced to lower risks of staff contact between branches.

The cleaning workforce was increased to maintain high standards of sanitization.

We tracked both COVID tests and staff travel for potential contact tracing and accountability.

TBPL took Provincial and local health guidelines into account and provided services as allowed using management's discretion. Staff and community safety was always the top priority.

We provided links to authoritative information about COVID-19 to mitigate misinformation.

During a time when it feels that so many of our freedoms, luxuries and normalcies are being taken away, most of us are finding pleasure and joy in the simplest of things, a walk outdoors, a meal with those who live under the same roof or enjoying a book together. It has been said that a person who reads lives a thousand lives, but a person who never reads lives only one.

*The library is one of our normal outings. It provides us with books that inspire us, educate us and help us to see the world through someone else's eyes. The library is vital to our lives. My family and I thank all those who work in the library, getting our books ready for pick up and researching new ones for purchase - from all of us - Thank you.
-- The Balec Family*



Friends of the Library



The Friends is an arms-length group of community volunteers who are dedicated to promoting and supporting public library service in Thunder Bay. Over the past 34 years, the Friends have supported the Library's collections, programs and services, as well as the renewal of its branches.

Due to the pandemic, many of the Friends normal activities were curtailed. The home service delivery program, where volunteers deliver library materials to members who are unable to visit the Library, operated during January and February.

The Friends is one of the 79 local charities who belong to the Superior Shores Gaming Association. The Friends were able to participate in three bingos in 2020 before bingos were curtailed. We are currently seeking a retail partner for Nevada ticket sales.

Our used book sales were restricted during 2020. The Southside Book Nook, our used bookstore in Victoriaville, closed in March. We are planning for a fall 2021 reopening.

The Friends Executive met most months online, and held a Strategic Planning session to guide future Friends activities. We kept members apprised of our activities via a newsletter and shared Google drive.

The Friends held an AGM in September 2020, and the volunteer of the year award was presented to Janice and Randy Creighton for their exemplary work and assistance at the bookstore.

The Friends elected a new slate of officers at the AGM and these include Fran Duke, President, Janet Robertson, Vice President, Joanne Petrisano, Treasurer, Patrick Peotto, Secretary and Kathie Johnson, Past President.

A huge shout out to the Friends for their amazing support of the Library. Despite the challenges of 2020, the Friends still donated \$16,272 to the Library to purchase collections for the whole community to enjoy.

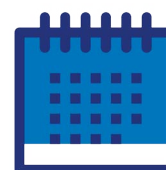
Nancy Angus	Janeen & John Mann
Gary Barney	Mark Mask
Susan Beimer	Donna Mercer
Susanne Bragg	Anne Oliphant
Judith Brown	Pauline Parker
Janice & Randy	Denis Parsons
Creighton	Jennifer Pasiciel
Samantha Creighton	Anthony Peotto
Stewart Creighton	Patrick Peotto
Margaret Curtis	Tom Peotto
John DeBakker	Joanne Petrisano
Peggy Derkacz	Diane Piovesana
Neddie Diakunchak	Maria Piovesana
Frances Duke	Janet Robertson
Tuula Franco	Ellen Skillen
Piroska Golphy	Diana Smith
Maureen Hansen	Sierra Trees-Turner
Allison Hill	Rose Helene Tremblay
Carol Hryczyn	Helen Urquhart
Kathie Johnson	Dan Ventrudo
Barb Koppenhaver	Ron Wakewich
Bonnie Lambert	Mary Lou Warren
Christine Lawrie	Roberta Welbourne
Mary Jane Lewandowski	Linda Wills
Helena Liira	Allan Yahn
Alice MacKay	Randy Zaroski
Deb Maki	



Pictured l to r - Kathie Johnson, Randy & Janice Creighton and Janet Robertson. Randy & Janice were presented the volunteer of the year award.

Thank you, Donors!

Special thanks go out to these 2020 donors for their generosity.
We appreciate your support of Thunder Bay Public Library.



Platinum Donors - \$500+

Maurice & Jacqueline Black
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