

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



The
PERTH COUNTY
INFORMATION
NETWORK



five libraries

one library card

PCIN is a not-for-profit organization that provides the residents of Perth County with seamless access to the resources of all five library systems within Perth County: Perth East, North Perth, St. Marys, Stratford, and West Perth. PCIN was launched in 1999 to achieve economies of scale and has become fully a collaborative and productive partnership that provides superior library services that enrich each community and the county as a whole.

Perth County Information Network
www.pcin.on.ca

2017 by the numbers



2,551
new library
cards issued

7,305
library cards
renewed

20,653

library cards were used in the
past 2 years

total circulation

667,382

14%

of checkouts
were digital

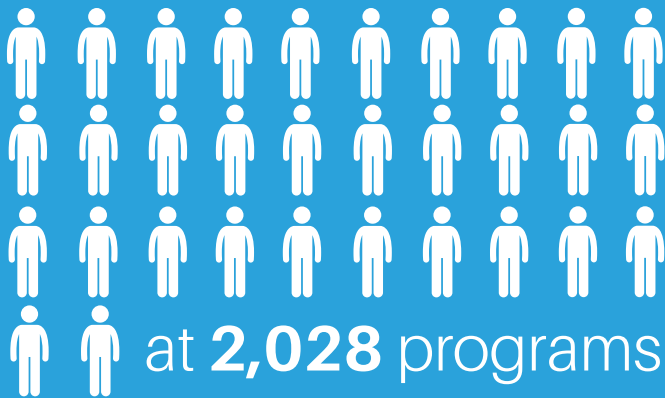
86% were physical

68,518

items were
shared
between the
5 libraries

Program attendees

32,041



170,691
computer
sessions

25,151
wireless
connections
were made

over
530,600
research
database
searches
performed

138,190
genealogy
searches in
Ancestry

325,157

People walked through library doors

19,120

items were added to
library collections

Total print collection size is
217,512

collectively
open
281
hours each
week

2017 at a glance

Board Chair, Heather Melnychuk

2017 saw a number of technological advancements for PCIN:

- After an open tender, we transitioned our Library software from an internally managed system to a cloud-based platform.
- We began exploring the use of Mobile Circulation which allows us to lend of materials while we are out in the community.
- We launched SMS text messaging which alerts customers about their holds on their mobile devices.

PCIN continues to mature as a consortium, updating policies, refining bylaws and defining best practices and workflows. In 2018 we look forward to continuing to expand the reach of library services throughout the county.

North Perth Public Library CEO, Rebecca Dechert-Sage

It was a busy year at the North Perth Public Library with over 74,544 in-person visits in 2017. A big draw to our Library is the programming for all ages, including Preschool Storytimes, Slime Days, Books Clubs, class visits from local schools, and robotics programs with our new Ozobots.

It was a busy year for those visiting the Library online as well. Our ebooks and audiobooks continue to gain in popularity with over 18,000 checkouts from the downloadLibrary in 2017 (a 42% increase from 2016). We also introduced a new digital resource called Flipster. Now library users can read e-magazines on any device!

Perth East Public Library CEO, Kendra Roth

In 2017 Perth East Public Library introduced exciting new programs, such as Baby Time run in partnership with the Perth District Health Unit, After School Adventures which encourages exploration through STEM activities, as well as new book clubs and book kits which were graciously funded by Friends of the Library fundraisers. PEPL patrons benefited from many partnerships such as the Conestoga Career Centre and the Stratford House of Blessing.

Thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs grant, we were able to hire two summer students to run the TD Summer Reading Club. Additionally with the aid of the ILDS Grant received in 2017, PEPL will open its MakerSpace in May of 2018. Lots is going on and there's lots more to come!

VALUE

The Perth County Information Network provides the technological infrastructure to enhance each library's ability to support its mission.

- Operate and maintain a library system in a secure environment
- Provide seamless integration of electronic and print resources
- Share the libraries' physical collections through daily delivery services
- Provide 24/7 technical support to members
- Provide email and web hosting for member libraries

St. Marys Public Library CEO, Matthew Corbett

The St. Marys Public Library saw 7,387 people attend a wide variety of programs offered for all ages throughout 2017.

There were a number of technological upgrades to our workstations, which in turn enhanced the overall experience for patrons within our catchment.

2018 promises to be a strong year for the Library, as we are gearing up for enhancements to our facility, to our services and to our technologies. This has already begun by way of increased database access for patrons, and more upgrades to our public access computers. Finally, we are looking forward to our Digital Media Lab which will be opened early this summer!



Stratford Public Library CEO, Julia Merritt

2017 was an exciting year for SPL as we made our spaces more creative, dynamic, and safer. The front entrance is now finished and we have a great open view and more accessible stairs. The MakerSpace is up and running and keeping everyone enthralled, and lastly the auditorium was completely renovated and is now a bright modern facility for everyone to use. We thank each and every one of you for your patience and support during the construction.

In 2018, we look forward to a strategic planning process that will refresh our mission and give us new goals to aim towards.

West Perth Public Library CEO, Caroline Shewburg

In 2017 West Perth Public Library focused on increasing the number and variety of special programs and events for library patrons of all ages including Mother Goose programs for babies, resumé writing classes for teens, painting classes and Safe Driving workshop for seniors.

The library was fortunate to be the recipient of generous financial contributions from local service clubs as well as from our hard-working Friends of the Library group and we are very appreciative of the kindness of all our community partners.

For more information
about PCIN and
partnership opportunities
you can reach us at:

www.pcin.on.ca

Rebecca Dechert-Sage
PCIN Management Chair
519-291-4321