



ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Updates from the CEO and Board Chair

2024-25 continued to be a busy year at the Library – in fact, Summer Reading Club 2024 was our busiest ever, with over 2,000 participants and over 2 million minutes read! And over 2,500 new cardholders registered this past year, a 10% increase that means over 25,000 Valley residents are active library members.

As we look forward into the future, it's also helpful to check in with the past. From 2009-2024, book checkouts in the Valley have increased 30%, while the population has increased by 10% over the same period. It's thanks to you, the public, for continuing to make AVRL such a vibrant place. In 2025 we are looking forward to renewed funding support from the Province and municipalities so that we can continue to support our communities with improved services and programs.

Stay tuned for what comes next!

Julia Merritt, Chief Executive Officer



AVRL is a reflection of the changing times we are all experiencing. Following the provincial election in November, AVRL Board welcomed 5 new municipal appointees, all of whom bring a wealth of knowledge and interest in the issues that affect their municipalities and the role AVRL plays in the lives of the people in their communities.

Over 800 people contributed to AVRL's 2024 Community Consultation, strongly reinforcing that our libraries are community hubs where people go with hope to improve their lives; where welcoming, safe and accessible spaces bring people together; where everyone has access to reliable and accurate information, staff to help navigate questions; and where entertainment, lifelong learning opportunities, early literacy development happens. The Board looks forward to implementing a renewed strategic plan in 2025 to grow the services that our communities are asking of us.

Janet Ness, Chair

NEW USERS

3,723



ACTIVE USERS

25,529

TOTAL PROGRAMS

1,465

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

8,698





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Highlights

- Over 800 people contributed to the Community Consultation in Fall 2024. This feedback will form the basis of the Library's new strategic plan in 2025.
- Summer Reading Club was a banner year, with 2,315,459 minutes read and 2,095 registered participants, both numbers more than double the amount in 2023. Programs took place in all 11 branches equitably.
- 25,529 active members means almost 1 in 4 residents in the Annapolis Valley are actively using their library card.
- In 2024, AVRL eliminated the 5-6:30pm closures for continuous service on open days. This increased the hours at Bridgetown, Lawrencetown, Middleton, and Port Williams.
- The Wolfville Branch community fundraising kicked off with 3 sold-out performances of *Murder By The Book*, a community theatre play.

DIGITAL ITEMS BORROWED

130,397

TOTAL ITEMS BORROWED

759,399

PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCESS (HOURS)

20,820

WIRELESS USAGE (HOURS)

213,579