

**INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, September 15, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Lakeshore Library – Board Room**

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda (copy & motion)

[Motion #2025. – THAT the agenda of the September 15, 2025 meeting be approved as presented.]

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
None at time of agenda creation
4. Delegations to the Board
a) CFS Counselling + Wellbeing - Amanda Fellows

Consent Agenda

5. Approval of Previous Minutes (copy)
6. Correspondence (copy)
7. Reports for Information
 - a) CEO Report (June, July & August) (copy & information sharing)
 - b) Municipal Council Report (June, July & August) (copy & information sharing)
 - c) Library Board Report (information sharing)
 - d) Board Committee Reports (information sharing)
 - Finance Committee
 - Fundraising Committee
 - Board Strategy Committee
 - Still need minimum of one more volunteer for Committee
 - e) Health & Safety Update (June & July) (copy)
 - f) Library Associations Report (information sharing)



Consent Recommendation

[Motion #2025. – THAT the consent agenda items 5a.01.01 to 7f.01.01, and the recommendations contained therein be approved as presented.]

Agenda

8. Staff & Committee Reports

- a) LIB-10-2025 Q2 2025 Finance Report (copy & motion)

[Motion #2025. – THAT the Committee Report LIB-10-2025 Q2 2025 Finance Report regarding the Q2 2025 Capital and Operating results be received.]

- b) LIB-11-2025 Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update (copy & motion)

[Motion #2025. – THAT the Staff Report LIB-11-2025 Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update be received for information.]

- c) LIB-12-2025 Lakeshore Children's Area Renovation Update (copy & motion)

[Motion #2025. – THAT the Staff Report LIB-12-2025 Lakeshore Children's Area Renovation Update be received for information.]

9. Business Arising

None at time of agenda creation

10. Policies

- a) **OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY** - Children & Youth Services Policy #2025-13
b) **OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY** – Facility Security Policy #2025-14

(copy & motion)



Recommendation

[Motion #2025. – THAT the OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY - Children & Youth Services Policy #2025-13, and the OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY – Facility Security Policy #2025-14 be approved as presented.]

11. Strategic Issues
None at time of agenda creation
12. New Business
None at time of agenda creation
13. Comments and Announcements
a) Calendar of Events (link)
<https://innisfil.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index>
14. In Camera
No in camera at time of agenda creation
15. Adjournment

[Motion #2025. – THAT the meeting be adjourned]

CORRESPONDENCE LIST for September 15, 2025

6a.01.01	<i>DeafBlind Ontario Services</i> , July 22, 2025, email message from Amy Stevenson thanking the Library for being a host location in the annual Yarn Bombing campaign.	copy
6a.02.01	<i>The Walrus</i> , March 2, 2025, article entitled <i>Book Banning in Canada is Quiet, Systemic, and More Effective Than Ever</i> , written by Ira Wells	copy
6a.03.01	<i>Global News</i> , August 11, 2025, online news article entitled <i>St. Albert Public Library's Summer Reading Game Encourages Kids to Read</i> St. Albert Public Library's Summer Reading Game encourages kids to read Watch News Videos Online	link
6a.04.01	Thank You letter to the Elizabeth Fry Society, Simcoe Muskoka for donation.	copy
6a.05.01	<i>CBC.ca</i> , September 1, 2025, online news article entitled <i>Canadian Author Margaret Atwood Takes Another Shot at Alberta's Book Ban with Satirical Story</i> , posted by the Canadian Press, Evan Mitsui, CBC and files from Jack Farrell Canadian author Margaret Atwood takes another shot at Alberta's book ban with satirical story CBC News	link

**INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 23, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Lakeshore Branch – Community Room**

In Attendance: Anne Smith, Rob Nicol, Councillor Jennifer Richardson, Councillor Robert Saunders, Rhonda Flanagan, Raj Grover

Staff in Attendance: Erin Scuccimarri, Jennifer Miyasaki, Shannon Kelly-Robb, Emma Blackwood, Lucia DeFaria-Rodrigues, Marianna Munro, Teresa Meulendyks

Guests: Audrey Webb, Kathleen MacDonald – Town of Innisfil
Andrea Friesen - Mungall Consulting

Regrets: Barb Baguley, Sue Bennett, Cynthia Gordon

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Rhonda Flanagan delivered the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion #2025.37

Moved by: Jennifer Richardson
Seconded by: Rhonda Flanagan

THAT the agenda of the June 23, 2025 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD

- a) 2024 Unaudited Financial Statements – Audrey Webb & Kathleen MacDonald
 - A presentation was shared highlighting the 2024 unaudited financials
- b) Library Services Overview – Shannon Kelly-Robb & Library Services Coordinators Team
 - Shannon, Emma, Lucy, Teresa and Marianna presented on their roles as Library Services Coordinators and their unique areas of focus

- c) Job Evaluation and Compensation Program Update – Andrea Friesen, Mungall Consulting
 - o Andrea Friesen shared a slide presentation regarding the Library's Job Evaluation and Compensation program

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

- No additions or changes

6. Correspondence

- No comments or additions

7. Reports for Information

- CEO Report
 - The CEO highlighted some key items from the report
- Municipal Council Report
 - o No additions or comments
- Library Board Report
 - o Roundtable discussion of upcoming events, events attended and good news stories
- Health & Safety Update
 - o Draft minutes from May meeting included in package

Committee Updates:

- CEO Appraisal Committee
 - o The Committee met just prior to the June 23, 2025 Board meeting to review the appraisal with the CEO.
- Board Strategy Committee
 - o The Committee has been unable to find a time to meet; Jennifer Richardson has offered to step down from the Committee so that another Board member can volunteer
 - o Any member interested in joining the committee should contact the Executive Assistant.

Library Associations Report

- Slides from the Board Assembly meeting on June 5, 2025 were shared in the package.

Motion #2025.38

Moved by: Rob Saunders

Seconded by: Rob Nicol

THAT the consent agenda items 5a.01.01 to 7f.01.01, and the recommendations contained therein be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

AGENDA

8. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Staff Report LIB-08-2025 Outreach Vehicle Implementation Plan
 - o The CEO provided further information about this initiative and plans for the future

Motion #2025.39

Moved by: Jennifer Richardson

Seconded by: Raj Grover

THAT the Staff Report LIB-08-2025 Outreach Vehicle Implementation Plan be received for information.

CARRIED.

- b) Staff Report LIB-09-2025 Compensation Review

Motion #2025.40

Moved by: Rob Nicol

Seconded by: Raj Grover

THAT the Staff Report LIB-09-2025 Compensation Review be received for information and that the recommendations contained therein be accepted.

CARRIED.

9. BUSINESS ARISING

- a) 2024 Unaudited Draft Financial Statements
 - o Draft financials were shared in the package

Motion #2025.41

Moved by: Rhonda Flanagan

Seconded by: Rob Saunders

THAT the 2024 Unaudited Draft Financial Statements be approved as presented and amended.

CARRIED.

b) Operating Deficit

Motion #2025.42

Moved by: Jennifer Richardson

Seconded by: Rhonda Flanagan

THAT the 2024 operating deficit in the amount of \$1,620.00 be funded from the Library's Computer Replacement Reserve.

CARRIED.

10. POLICY

a) **OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY** - Exam Proctoring Policy #2025-12

Motion #2025.43

Moved by: Raj Grover

Seconded by: Rob Nicol

THAT the OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY - Exam Proctoring Policy #2025-12 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

11. STRATEGIC ISSUES

There were no Strategic Issues to discuss this month.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None

13. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Calendar of Events

- A link was provided in the agenda for Library offerings/events.

14. IN CAMERA

No in camera

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #2025.44

Moved by: Jennifer Richardson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CARRIED.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Library Board meeting will be held on
Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Innisfil ideaLAB & Library – Lakeshore Branch – Boardroom

Anne Smith, Board Chair

Erin Scuccimarri, Secretary

From: Amy Stevenson (MES) <a.stevenson@deafblindontario.com>

Sent: July 22, 2025 11:51 AM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] 🧶 You Helped Us Create & Connect Across Ontario (and Beyond!!)



thank you!

Hi amazing Yarn Bombers and wonderful Host Locations,
Get ready for some truly heartwarming news, because YOU made it happen! This year's Yarn Bombing was a spectacular success, and it's all thanks to your incredible talent, dedication, and community spirit!

From the bottom of our yarn-filled hearts, we want to send out a massive, colourful THANK YOU to every single volunteer who crocheted, knitted, stitched, and pom-pommed their way into making this year unforgettable. And a huge shout-out to all the fantastic locations across Ontario that opened their spaces and embraced the vibrant art!

To truly capture the magic, we've put together a special wrap-up video that showcases all the incredible installations and the joy they brought. [Click here to watch the video!](#)

Can you believe it? We yarn-bombed **26 locations** across **5 regions** right here in Ontario!

That's a huge testament to the power of creativity and connection. Think of all those countless squares and pom-poms, each one a tiny thread linking us together. And the monumental effort of stitching all those individual pieces into the magnificent installations we saw – truly a labour of love!

But here's the really magical part: the connections didn't just stop at our provincial borders. Through your art, your stories, and the sheer joy of this project, we truly connected across the province of Ontario, Canada, and even reached out to the world!

You didn't just create beautiful art; you created community. You didn't just connect pieces of yarn; you connected people, ideas, and hearts. You embodied "Create and Connect" in the most wonderful way possible!

Thank you for being such an integral part of Yarn Bombing this year. We're already buzzing with excitement for what we can achieve together next!

With immense gratitude and colourful cheer,
Amy

P.S. [Check out the recap video here!](#)

Amy Stevenson (she/her) | Marketing and Events Specialist

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BOOKS

Book Banning in Canada Is Quiet, Systemic, and More Effective than Ever

Our libraries are being purged in the name of protecting kids

BY IRA WELLS

Updated 0:44, Mar. 2, 2025 | Published 6:30, Mar. 1, 2025

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IN THE SPRING of 2022, the principal of my children’s elementary school told a group of parents gathered to discuss a library audit that she wished she could get rid of “all the old books.” The bulk of the library’s holdings were, from her perspective, too Eurocentric, too male, too heteronormative.

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liberal democratic values that (however shakily) underpin our society.

I wanted to say something but quickly checked myself: Was there not a strong chance my defence of “liberal values” in this context—a children’s library, with its tiny chairs and animal posters—would come off as patently absurd?

Then the moment passed, the meeting broke up, and I was left chewing on my questions: What was so special about a bunch of old books? Were they, in fact, worth defending? Or was my fondness for these antiquated objects a product of my own nostalgia or upbringing—a sign that it was me who was antiquated?

It’s true that I grew up in a bookish household, although I was not a bookish child. There were years of sports, video games, and adolescent hijinks of a tame, middle-class variety, years in which I had no career aspirations beyond making the NHL. Eventually, I found myself yearning for a more literary life, which led to the study of English.

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My job now involves teaching novels and short stories to enthusiastic university students, many of whom are budding bibliophiles; at home, I’ve read aloud to my own children almost every night for more than a decade and will keep doing so until the audience dries up. Many of my friendships were initiated or

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and destruction of literature is so odious and socially corrosive.

It's time to revive and sharpen those arguments. Book censorship is on the rise. We've all seen the news stories—the frequent headlines about book banning in schools or public libraries, about the takeover of school boards, about novels that are no longer teachable on university campuses, publishers pulling or issuing bowdlerized editions of suddenly controversial classics, authors who face cancellation. Not all these phenomena constitute “banning” per se, but they all fall under what we might call the new “censorship consensus,” in which books are called upon to justify their existence through demonstrations of their moral value.

Many people who consider themselves book lovers seem comfortable with the new censorship consensus. Indeed, they no longer need an external authority to tell them which books ought to go. In the summer of 2024, after Andrea Robin Skinner, one of Alice Munro's daughters, came forward with the story of her harrowing sexual assault at the hands of Munro's husband (and Munro's complicity over the years in covering up the abuse), readers took to X to declare that Munro had been expunged from their shelves. “I just can't . . .” one user posted, above a photo of a garbage can filled with Munro's Nobel Prize-winning books.

We've long struggled with questions about how to frame the art of people who do things we abhor, but it was the lack of struggle that seemed notable in this case—at least among those who had decided that Munro's work was now trash.

RELATED LINKS:

- [“Made a Difference to My Whole Existence”: Why Childhood Reading Matters](#)
- [I List Therefore I Am: Letting Go of Reading Goal Anxiety](#)

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BOOKS HAVE ALWAYS been challenged, but the current eruption of censorship feels like something new. “Book Bans Continue to Surge in Public Schools,” went an April 2024 *New York Times* headline, which found that rates of book banning were doubling year over year.

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According to PEN America, thousands of book removals occurred in 2023, in forty-two states, both Democratic and Republican. PEN has now identified more than 10,000 instances of books being removed from US schools but is quick to clarify that the true number is likely much higher. One well-known study conducted by the American Library Association estimated that between 82 percent and 97 percent of all library challenges go unreported. Much of this book banning appears to be fuelled by outright bigotry. “Overwhelmingly, book banners continue to target stories by and about people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals,” PEN notes. “30 percent of the unique titles banned are books about race, racism, or feature characters of color. Meanwhile, 26 percent of unique titles banned have LGBTQ+ characters or themes.”

Book bans are as old as the book itself. In Canada, state-sponsored book censorship began with the passage of the Customs Act in the first session of the Canadian Parliament in 1867. That act prohibited the importation of “books and drawings of an immoral or indecent character”; the criminal code further

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prosecution, and police arrests.

Where book banning once largely involved the legal and disciplinary apparatus of the state, the new censorship consensus works through both state actors and a constellation of special interest groups operating inside and outside of institutions. Their target is libraries: public libraries, in which all taxpayers have a stake, and especially school libraries, which can be uniquely vulnerable due to chronic funding shortages and lack of full-time librarians able to cultivate their collections year over year.

Libraries are natural quarry for anti-government organizations, including Moms for Liberty and No Left Turn in Education. Legal challenges against books, of the sort that once banned *Ulysses* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* from American shelves, are costly and hindered by decades of First Amendment jurisprudence that steadily broadened the sphere of expressive freedom. Libraries, by contrast, are soft targets. Any citizen can mount a challenge. The instructions for doing so are often posted on the library website.

We should be clear on the stakes. When parental rights organizations attack libraries, they are attacking one of the last public institutions committed to intellectual freedom. While it's true that more books are now available online, we court disaster by assuming that the internet—which is volatile and ephemeral and frequently weaponized against users across the globe—has replaced libraries as key intellectual infrastructure for liberal democracies.

Battles over book banning are especially contentious in school libraries, for obvious reasons. We compel children to attend school, and kids are more impressionable, so materials must be “age appropriate”—an inherently debatable category. Those who would cleanse the school library frame their efforts as an appeal to save children from harm.

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about his father's experience as a Holocaust survivor; *Beloved* and *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison's haunting novels of American racial trauma; and countless other texts at the intersection of race and history—is that the banners are fighting for control of our collective past.

At the same time, in seeking control over the narratives that children will carry into adulthood, the banners are also fighting for their vision of the future. Attacks on school libraries are, among much else, future-oriented attacks on liberal democracy and its vital institutions.

AMONG THE MOST influential of the US parents' rights organizations is Moms for Liberty, which the Southern Poverty Law Center characterizes as an anti-government extremist organization given to trafficking in conspiracy propaganda and anti-LGBTQ+ hate. The group's own membership, by contrast, understand their calls to remove library books as empowering parents and defending children from "LGBTQ indoctrination."

Some of their book-banning efforts seem like social media-fuelled spectacles intended to galvanize outrage. Yet parents of a variety of religious backgrounds see their "anti-pornography" advocacy as a sincere expression of faith and as an expression of democratic values; their avowed aim is not to impose their beliefs upon schools or libraries but to free children from beliefs that have been imposed upon them. Their censoriousness arises from opposition to a liberal culture that would "pollute and sexualize our children," in Florida governor Ron DeSantis's phrase.

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Ontario progressives, no less than Florida conservatives, find in “child safety” a warrant to ban books. Greater sensitivity to racially charged language and imagery has resulted in school library challenges to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Of Mice and Men*, and several titles by Dr. Seuss. After some school districts banned from classrooms all books by non-Black authors that contain the N-word, books like *Lord of the Flies* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* went from being mandatory to unteachable.

In the fall of 2023, educators in Ontario’s Peel Region (a municipality just east of Toronto, containing some 257 schools) engaged in an “equity-based book weeding process,” leading some schools to purge thousands of books. These books were, according to the social justice framework that motivated their removal, potential sources of student “harm.”

Because no one involved with efforts to remove books from libraries characterizes their efforts as “book banning” or “censorship,” some conceptual clarity is in order.

Emily Drabinski, former president of the American Library Association, defines a book ban as “the removal of a title from a library because someone considers it harmful or dangerous”—which captures both equity-based and parents’ rights arguments for pulling books from shelves. For PEN America, the definition is slightly broader: “Any action taken against a book based on its content that leads to a previously accessible book being completely removed.”

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protocol. As the American Library Association states, “While weeding is essential to the collection development process, it should not be used as a deselection tool for controversial materials.” The industry standard for weeding is “MUSTIE,” which stands for misleading, ugly (worn out), superseded (by a later edition), trivial, irrelevant, and elsewhere (the item is widely available).

These definitions do not please everyone. The American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, argues that PEN’s definition of book banning is too broad, because even if a book is banned from a school library, it may still be available at a public library or for purchase from online vendors. (A book’s mere existence in another library should console readers who lost the opportunity to read it in theirs and can’t afford to buy it, the AEI seems to believe.)

For others, this definition of banning (i.e., pulling once-available books) is too narrow, as it fails to capture books that weren’t “banned” because they were never ordered in the first place. “Progressive librarians already practice a form of book banning by not ordering books seen as ‘conservative,’” argues writer and podcast host Dave Seminara. Or we might be tempted to consider pre-emptive bans even further upstream in the publishing process. “Random House Canada staff try to ban Jordan Peterson’s new book,” the *Daily Mail* declared in a headline, after the firm received seventy anonymous complaints about publishing *Beyond Order: 12 More Rules for Life*.

The truth is that publishers have always shaped their lists according to their editorial priorities and business practices, just as individual booksellers stock only a tiny fraction of the millions of titles available at any given moment; neither should be conflated with book banning. Similarly, conflicts between the ideals and business imperatives of publishers (and between their employees and paying readership) lie beyond our scope (which is not to say that an illiberal

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But even former ALA president Emily Drabinski's relatively narrow definition of book ban ("the removal of a title from a library because someone considers it harmful or dangerous") leaves an alarming number and range of incidents to consider.

WHEN CONSIDERING THE origins of contemporary book banning, we can point to material causes. We can follow, for example, the hundreds of thousands of dollars that Patriot Mobile, a self-identified Christian cellphone carrier, devoted to promoting Texas school board candidates who were committed to eliminating critical race theory and "LGBTQ indoctrination" from schools. We can point to political causes: Texas governor Greg Abbott's 2021 campaign promise to investigate a list of about 850 books that might cause students "psychological distress because of their race or sex," or legislative efforts in Florida, Utah, and Missouri aimed at removing LGBTQ+ content from school libraries.

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In Canada, we can examine a British Columbia school board's decision to pull *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, *In the Heat of the Night* by John Ball, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee from a grade ten reading curriculum over student safety concerns. But all of this unfolds

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The rise of contemporary book banning presents a paradox. Book banners assign extraordinary power to books at a time when, by objective measures, books and literature seem to matter less and less. One recent survey found that about half of Americans didn't read a single book in 2023. English departments have seen declining enrolments for a generation; increasingly, students arrive at university having never read an entire book in high school. In classrooms across North America, teachers are assigning ever fewer full-length books; instead, they provide summaries and key passages.

This turn away from books ("paywalled dead trees," as the tech bros call them) is becoming educational policy. In 2022, the US National Council of Teachers of English released a clear position statement on media literacy: "The time has come to decenter book reading and essay-writing as the pinnacles of English language arts education." Students, too, seem glad to be rid of books. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Americans between fifteen and nineteen read for personal interest for an average of eight minutes per day; no age group reads less. This at a time when teens are spending a median of almost four and a half hours daily on their smartphones. The typical teen spends more time on their phone each day than they spend reading over an entire month.

At a historical moment in which social media and digital technology occupy an increasingly central role in children's lives, it seems strangely nostalgic to fret about the power of books to, for example, "indoctrinate" children into adopting a queer lifestyle, or, for that matter, to psychologically harm them with non-inclusive narratives. You might think, in short, that parents concerned with saving children from the baleful effects of media would focus their attention upon the forms of media that their children actually consume.

Toward that end, in 2024, eight Ontario school boards and two private schools launched lawsuits, seeking over \$7 billion in damages, against social media

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But that is to presume that book banning is expected to work, and it rarely has. At least, not if we believe that the work of book banning is to eliminate dangerous or harmful or otherwise subversive ideas, however those ideas are defined. But book bans can achieve the opposite of their desired effect, increasing people's desire to read what authorities would prohibit. "Every time a school district bans *THUG*, the sales in that area skyrocket," tweeted *The Hate U Give* author Angie Thomas. Direct action against authors can bring similar results. On Friday, August 12, 2022, Salman Rushdie's novels weren't charting on the Amazon top 100 bestsellers. Then he was stabbed. By the following Tuesday, *The Satanic Verses*—the "blasphemous" novel that had prompted Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to issue the fatwa ordering Rushdie's execution in 1989—had topped several of Amazon's bestseller lists.

Yet there's no denying that censorship has wrought devastating effects. Writing by Ovid, Confucius, Mikhail Lermontov, and countless others may have been censored out of existence; great libraries have been reduced to rubble; writers have been tortured and burned. Missionaries including Diego de Landa destroyed Mayan codices and Inca quipus, part of what is now understood as a broader genocidal campaign aimed at eliminating all cultural traces of pre-Christian North America. Untold monuments to human culture have been permanently lost; many more have failed to materialize under authoritarian regimes in which expressive freedom must fly under the radar of secret police.

If calls to censor Angie Thomas and Salman Rushdie lead to increased sales in the anglosphere, that is because a robust culture of expressive freedom continues to allow for the celebration of challenged books. And it is precisely this culture of expressive freedom that today's book banners erode by normalizing censorship.

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find challenged texts on the internet (at least theoretically—library patrons without the technology, time, or money to source the book elsewhere will disproportionately suffer the effects of book bans). The prospect of eliminating a book's existence, or preventing determined readers from accessing it, has never been more fanciful than for contemporary North Americans.

WHICH BRINGS US to a second paradox of contemporary censorship: in an era where book banning feels less feasible than ever, more and more people are attempting it, which forces us to think again about their goals. The new censorship consensus does not “work” as censorship once did, through pre-publication licences or the efforts of customs officers charged with confiscating and destroying contraband literature.

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Instead, it works as symbolic practice, as means for the book banners to announce what they would extirpate from the library, and not only from the library. Book banning may be a symptom of political impotence, in the sense that it does nothing to alleviate underlying conditions: Peel Region is no less racist for having expunged thousands of pre-2008 library books, and the racialized student who came to school without breakfast before the book purge is still coming to school without breakfast. Banning *All Boys Aren't Blue* from the library won't prevent children's acquaintance with LGBTQ+ ideas, nor will it

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But it may work in other ways, and the “success” of book banning needn’t be understood as zero sum. Today’s book banners may care less about permanently eradicating certain books or ideas than about temporarily limiting access during an impressionable life stage. The effect may be to deprive a queer student of the solace of literary representation at a moment when it was needed most. Regardless of the final availability (or not) of any challenged book, book banning may perform the political work of uniting community members against a perceived threat, of defining group affiliation through opposition to an imagined other. It constitutes a form of symbolic violence, where purged books represent what banners would purge from society itself—and where the act of purging constitutes a rite of belonging.

The parental rights movement’s calls to resist “pornography” and “LGBTQ indoctrination” now enjoys significant political support. When he was running for re-election, Donald Trump inveighed against school board “dictatorships” at the 2024 Moms for Liberty Summit. “Your schools and your children are suffering greatly because they’re going into the classrooms and taking disease,” he warned.

For years, state legislatures have been passing bills that would prohibit teaching sexual or racial concepts in schools. Some of these have been struck down as unconstitutional, and more will be. Regardless, the fate of *Roe v. Wade* serves as a reminder that legal freedoms remain fragile; the return of regressive censorship committees, postal searches, and prosecutions remains a live possibility. Those in favour of such a regime can find inspiration not only in our own recent history but also in the systems of censorship currently thriving in authoritarian regimes around the world.

For now, we fight about schools, about what the children, who read less and less, should read. Contemporary progressive educators from Ontario bear little

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ensorship. Both abide by the new censorship consensus, where the school library is a microcosm of the ideal society, and books are levers of social engineering. In my ideal society, their thinking goes, there will be more of this and less of that: more diversity, less racism.

Both ignore the cyclical nature of censorship, presuming that the new censorship apparatus won't eventually come for them. They deceive themselves.

Excerpted from On Book Banning: Or, How the New Censorship Consensus Trivializes Art and Undermines Democracy by Ira Wells, with permission from Biblioasis. Copyright © Ira Wells, 2025. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher.

[About Ira Wells](#) ([View all articles](#)).

Ira Wells is a professor of literature at Victoria College in the University of Toronto and the president of PEN Canada.

Freedom of perspective, freedom of reporting, free to you

Right now, many of us are thinking where we draw the line for Canada. We're under tough-to-follow tariff threats coming from the



August 29, 2025

Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka
102 Maple Avenue
Barrie, ON L4N 1S4

Attention: Rhonda Leduc

On behalf of the Innisfil Public Library Board and Staff, I would like extend my sincerest thanks for your thoughtful and generous donation.

You and your wonderful staff have our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your kindness and care for your community and your Library. Your generosity benefits countless residents.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Anne Smith
Board Chair
Innisfil ideaLAB & Library

JUNE 2025 CEO REPORT



OPENING THE REMEMBERING GARDEN

Garden Inspired by Indigenous Knowledge Systems

In June, we had the honour of planting a collection of traditional Indigenous plants alongside our partner, Tanya Gluvakov, and a dedicated group of community volunteers. On a rainy June 19, we came together to plant sage, sweetgrass, tobacco, and cedar in our newly designated garden space. Despite the weather, the experience fostered meaningful connection and reflection, as each plant was carefully placed in its new home, rooted in both intention and tradition.



On June 28, we were joined by Storyteller and Cultural Carrier, Tasheena Sarazin from Pikwakanagan First Nation who ceremonially opened the garden with drumming and song. Central to her message was the need to reconnect with the land, a need that the garden will help to facilitate in our community. Our partner was also present to interpret the garden, and provide additional information about the plants.

The event also supported local Indigenous businesses: drinks were provided by the Mohawk Soda Company, and food was served by Sweet Honey Catering. Additionally, cedar saplings were available for attendees to take home with them and plant. These additional elements provided opportunities for attendees to connect, and helped to deepen the experience.





Now that it is in place, the Remembering Garden is a space where traditional Indigenous plants grow, where Indigenous knowledge, principles, and connections to the land are centered. The garden was made possible with support from the [TD Friends of the Environment Fund](#).



Partner Tanya Gluvakov with Cultural Carrier, Tasheena Sarazin.

YARNBOMBED

DeafBlind Awareness Month

In recognition of National DeafBlind Awareness Month this June, the Lakeshore Branch once again served as a yarnbombing location in partnership with DeafBlind Ontario Services. The Simcoe Region team installed the vibrant tactile display during a small media event attended by Mayor Dollin, members of Council, and Sue Bennett from the Library Board.

This global initiative uses yarnbombing, a colourful, touchable form of public art created through knitting and crocheting, as a way to raise awareness about deafblindness. The installation not only highlighted the talents and contributions of individuals who are deafblind but also celebrated the support of community members who helped create the artwork.

This creative and inclusive collaboration provided a visually and texturally rich experience for visitors, while uniting the Library with more than 20 countries worldwide participating in this meaningful awareness campaign.



INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND PRIDE MONTH

Storytime celebrates Indigenous History Month and Pride

This month, drop-in storytime celebrated Indigenous authors, ways of knowing, and the Remembering Garden, the new Indigenous medicine garden, reaching over 84 participants at the Lakeshore branch. This program continued to rotate to the Stroud and Cookstown branches in July where children will experience the picture books of Julie Flett and Monique Gray Smith and other Canadian Indigenous authors. Preschoolers built their own interpretation of the library's Remembering Garden in an age-appropriate paint-and-paste craft.

A gender non-conforming family attended Pride Storytime for the first time, having made the effort to specifically attend this theme and openly celebrate their family in a safe, public place. A preschool activity matching Pride flags was a visual symbol that everyone belongs at the Library.



Pride Month Book Chat & Collection Promotion

As part of Pride Month celebrations, the Library hosted a Pride Book Chat that sparked great conversation around diverse books and meaningful representation. Attendees shared thoughtful reflections, recommended reads, and explored a wide range of 2SLGBTQ+ voices in literature.

We also highlighted the Library's commitment to inclusive reading with 2SLGBTQ+ staff picks and themed displays featured in-branch throughout June, helping patrons discover new authors, genres, and perspectives.

Open UP opportunities to strengthen connection & engagement with our community

COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER

Library Receives Generous Donation from Innisfil Lions Club

We were honoured to receive a \$1,000 donation from the Innisfil Lions Club as part of its annual community support initiative. This donation, alongside contributions to other local organizations, helps to support programs and services for our community. The Library Board extends its sincere thanks to the Innisfil Lions Club for their continued generosity and support of Innisfil's residents.



Innisfil Farmers' Market

Library staff attended the Innisfil Farmers' Market opening day to help kick off its 2025 season. Market-goers were invited to decorate a wooden, laser-cut vegetable that will be added to our *Community Veggie Patch Art Project* to be displayed starting in September. Staff shared information about upcoming programs and events happening at the Library and were also able to highlight the Our Stories Innisfil website and Local History resources available to library card holders. Many people who stopped by the table shared things they loved about the Library, from programs like the various MakeIT programs, social events like Song Circle and Book Clubs, to children's storytimes and Summer Reading Club, with one person sharing, "Innisfil has the best Library in Canada! I love everything you all do!"



Wing Ding

Wing Ding looked a bit different this year. With the field beside the Cookstown branch under construction and the vendors, food trucks, and kid's zone concentrated past the intersection of Hwy 27 and 89, we saw less attendees at the Library for this event compared to previous years. Our busiest time was first thing in the morning while we were still setting up, with most of the interest in the book sale, ideaSHOP items, and Community Veggie Patch Art project. Many people took advantage of the fill a bag for \$10 promotion.



The Library fielded many questions about other Wing Ding locations and what was available, in addition to customers sharing their wish for the event to take place in the field adjacent to the Cookstown branch again in the future.

End-of-School-Year Outreach

The children's team visited nine special events at local schools including, *Welcome to Kindergarten* and year end fun fair celebrations. Staff had over 1000 interactions with families, reaching them at an opportune moment before school ends to promote *TD Summer Reading Club* and summer programming for children of all ages. By the end of the school year, over 200 children registered for TD Summer Reading Club. The registration for July children's programs running at branches adjacent to these schools are nearly full.



At the Innisfil Central End of Year Event, there was one child who approached our table and was fascinated by the *LEGO WeDo* dancing robot and asked if he could make one. Staff explained that in our summer STEAM program, we use the BricQ and SPIKE LEGO kits and he could join. He was so excited and told his mom that he really wanted to join, promising to sign up when they got home.

These outreach events end the school year on a positive note and bridge connections into next year with families, teachers and parent advisory councils and help build continuity in these relationships during the summer pause.



EarlyON Picnic

Staff participated in the EarlyON picnic, an annual gathering of key community organizations supporting early childhood and families in Simcoe County. We presented a collaborative story time performance with the EarlyON Early Literacy Specialist and Barrie Public Library. Because we were physically present in the space, we were able to connect face-to-face with a key local community partner, Simcoe County Community Action Program for Children, that we have been communicating with by email since May. As families visited our table many commented about being excited to borrow Yoto cards, one of our newer collections.



Sandycove Acres Coffee Chats

Library staff were invited to *Coffee Chats* at Sandycove Acres, which runs quarterly, to share updates about the Holds Locker and summer programming. There was a very positive reception to the how-to-use the Holds Locker presentation, with residents looking forward to when it would be operational. There were a few questions about how to set the locker as their pickup location, the days and times the locker would be available, and what was needed to get a library card. We also promoted *Tech Help* programs that are available at all three branches, the *Library of Things* collection, and the library mobile app, which one person showed that they were already using! The Parkbridge staff thanked the library for all the resources and programs we offer.



FOSTERING EARLY LITERACY

Baby Bookworms Fosters Early Literacy and Social Connection

Baby Bookworms at Lakeshore and Stroud continues to be a well-attended registered program for babies 0-12 months and their caregivers. It is an invaluable support to post-partum parents. One programmer commented that after each program caregivers stay in the children's area and socialize, building new support networks. Staff shared that "they encourage one another, share stories, tips, and struggles."

A new local partner, Samantha Ranta (MSW, RSW, Psychotherapist) of Collaborative Wellness Counselling, visited the Baby Bookworms program to talk about transitions and challenges families go through after having a baby. New mothers, even ones that had been introverted throughout the program, shared personal experiences and vulnerabilities which validated their feelings and fostered a sense of social connection during what can be an isolating phase of life. Samantha left the group with a one-pager of resources to reduce barriers that participants may face in finding mental health support. We look forward to connecting with her again in the fall for continued support to this vulnerable group in our community.



Stroud Collection Update

Paperbacks have now been integrated into the regular Fiction collection at Stroud. The spinner racks have been removed and all adult fiction, various genre paperbacks, and young adult collection are found on the fiction shelves.

Young adult graphic novels will no longer be available in Stroud. Titles from this collection will be redistributed to other branches to better support demand and circulation.

Raise UP the Library's identity as an innovative hub

TECH TALKS SPECIAL GUESTS

March of Dimes

In the month of June, March of Dimes attended one of the weekly *Tech Talk* programs at the Lakeshore Branch. March of Dimes is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities through advocacy, education, and a wide range of community-based services. During the session, Library Staff and customers were able to gain valuable insight into the programs and services offered by this organization to promote independence and accessibility. The presenter also offered Library Staff several practical accessibility tips that can be applied to future tech programs, helping to create a more inclusive and engaging experience for our community. Starting in July, the *Tech Talk* programs will also be offered at the Stroud Branch on Thursday afternoons. The hope is to allow more people to attend the program and learn key digital literacy skills to keep them safe online and effectively use their phones, tablets and other devices.

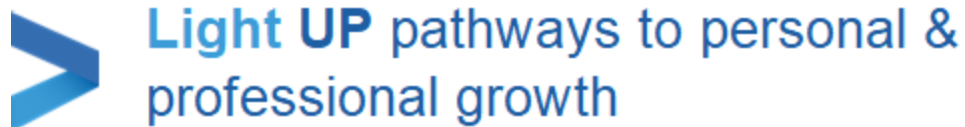
NEW RESOURCE PAGE

New Canadian Citizenship Resources Page

The Library has launched a new Canadian Citizenship Resources webpage to support individuals preparing for the citizenship process. This page offers easy access to official study guides, practice tests, and settlement services. This webpage reflects our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and supporting newcomers in their journey to becoming Canadian citizens.

Visit: <https://www.innisfilidealab.ca/canadian-citizenship-resources/>





GOOD READS, FUNNY STORIES, & AUTHOR INSIGHTS

Author Talk with Drew Taylor Hayden

We welcomed acclaimed author and playwright Drew Hayden Taylor for an engaging and insightful author talk. The event drew an audience of 50 attendees and provided a powerful platform for conversations around Indigenous storytelling, identity, and the role of humor in healing and resilience.

With warmth and authenticity, Drew spoke about the transformative power of literature to foster understanding across cultures. He shared personal stories and reflections on how humor can serve as a meaningful tool for navigating complex histories and lived experiences, inviting both laughter and deeper reflection. The event was a memorable and impactful experience for all in attendance, underscoring the importance of diverse voices and stories in our community.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

First Aid Training with Action First Aid

Seventeen staff members successfully completed Standard First Aid with CPR/AED Level A through Action First Aid. This blended training program consisted of two parts: an online module followed by a full-day, in-person session. The training ensured staff were well-equipped with up-to-date lifesaving skills and knowledge, contributing to a safer environment for both coworkers and community members. For some, this was a recertification, while others completed the training for the first time. Staff participants represented a wide range of departments and roles across the organization. This cohort follows similar training groups from last year and the year before, as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring we always have staff certified in First Aid.



ONLand: Ontario's Land Registry Portal

On June 18 the Community Librarian – Local History participated in a full-day workshop presented by the Brown Homestead to learn how to use ONLand, the Ontario Land Property Records Portal. The province closed all 54 Land Registry Offices in October 2020 to switch to a digital-only service model, which makes the portal a critical tool for anyone conducting property research.

The workshop provided the guidance necessary to navigate this complex portal so that the Community Librarian – Local History can better assist Innisfil residents who request help gathering historical information about their own properties. Between the Our Stories database, the printed and typewritten resources in the Local History collection, and guidance with using this portal, residents will now be able to access a wealth of information about their homes and properties as well as deepen their connection to the community.

APPENDIX A:

Level UP! Communications Insights

Media Outreach & Social Media Response

DATE PUBLISHED	NEWS OUTLET	TITLE
June 3, 2025	Barrie 360	Automated speed enforcement cameras move to new locations in the Town of Innisfil
June 3, 2025	Barrie Today	New speed camera added in Innisfil will rotate throughout town
June 5, 2025	CTV Barrie	'Yarn Bomb' creations coming to Innisfil for good cause
June 5, 2025	FM101 Milton	Town of Innisfil and local library announce National Indigenous History Month events
June 5, 2025	Innisfil Today	'Deals and steals': Cookstown Wing Ding returns with yard sales, food and kids zones
June 6, 2025	Innisfil Today	Honour summer solstice, help open Remembering Garden during Indigenous History Month
June 6, 2025	Innisfil Today	'Like its own little family': Innisfil Farmers' Market opens for season
June 6, 2025	Nation Talk	Honour summer solstice, help open Remembering Garden during Indigenous History Month
June 11, 2025	Innisfil Today	Good morning, Innisfil! Here's today's weather!
June 12, 2025	Innisfil Today	Hooked on this project: For 5th straight year, yarn bombing invades Innisfil library
June 13, 2025	Innisfil Today	Innisfil library showing its Pride with variety of events
June 17, 2025	Innisfil Today	Innisfil library rolls out ideaLAB on the Go outreach vehicle
June 19, 2025	Bradford Today	Seven events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend

June 19, 2025	Innisfil Today	Sunrise ceremony, sacred fire and food build 'connection, accountability' at Innisfil Beach Park
June 21, 2025	Barrie 360	Town of Innisfil urges residents to prepare for extreme heat as temperatures climb
June 27, 2025	Innisfil Today	Five events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
June 28, 2025	Innisfil Today	Innisfil Remembering Garden blooming with cultural significance

Facebook Insights (June 1 to 30, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL IMPRESSIONS
4,122 Followers	31 during this period	2,543 engagements. 574 reactions.	Posts earned 56.7K impressions over this period (number of times our posts have entered a person's screen)

Top Organic Post (based on reach):

June 19, 2025 3K Reach, 5K Views



Innisfil Idealab & Library

Published by Later



June 19 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

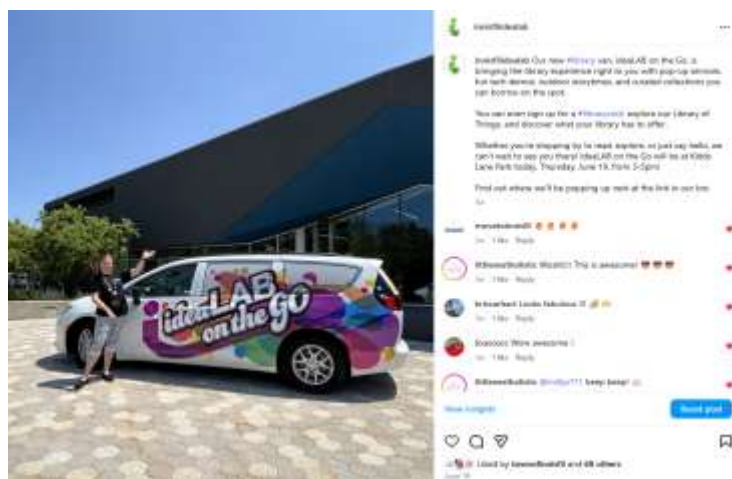
Our new library van, ideaLAB on the Go, is bringing the library experience right to you with pop-up services, fun tech demos, outdoor storytimes, and curated collection... [See more](#)



Instagram Insights (June 1 to 30, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL LIKES & REACH	TOTAL COMMENTS
2,967	31 during this period	6,787 accounts reached. 622 likes.	23 comments in total on content posted during this period

Top Post (based on engagement): June 19, 2025, 1.0K Reach



Top Reel (based on engagement): June 25, 2025, 1.9K Reach



JULY 2025 CEO REPORT



Speak UP for diversity & inclusion

DRAG ME TO THE LIBRARY

Drag Storytime and Pride Celebration

Queens Jemm and Naomi of *The Haus of Devereux* brought storytime to life with books, songs, and a joyful, colourful dance parade through the library. The Queens shared empowering books about friendship, belonging, LGBTQ identities, celebrating who you are, and taking care of yourself and each other. Drag Storytime attracts a wide audience, including supportive adults and families with young children.

After storytime, the Queens answered audience questions about their drag journeys, how they deal with adversity, and what their favourite ice cream flavours are. Everyone was very excited to get photos after the event, and there were several pride-themed craft activities set up around the space for people to enjoy throughout the afternoon. There were gender nonconforming children and adults who participated, and it was a joy to know that the library creates a space where people feel safe, seen, and celebrated. The library looks forward to future Drag Storytimes and Pride Celebrations to continue to create these spaces for growth and representation.



Open UP opportunities to strengthen connection & engagement with our community

ART ON THE PATIO

with the Sandycove Acres Art Club

The Sandycove Acres Art Club held their annual show & sale at the front of the Lakeshore branch. In previous years, the event was hosted in the Reading Garden, but this year the club chose a more visible location to attract passersby. Artists were very appreciative of the space, and it was great to see local talent on display.

The event created opportunities for community connection and engagement, while encouraging visitors to support local senior artists.

AROUND TOWN

ideaLAB on the Go

The new Library van hit the road this summer with visits to a variety of neighbourhood parks, beaches, and events. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, ideaLAB on the Go offered pop-up library services, fun tech demos, and curated collections around town. A few families joined our Travelling Storytimes each Wednesday, at different parks across Innisfil. One family shared that the program introduced them to a variety of different play areas to enjoy with their children and also gave them the chance to explore the community alongside the Library. The Yoto players, Envoy Connect Players, and Ozobot robots have been a highlight for visitors, providing a great opportunity to showcase the resources available with their Library card. Many visitors have also decorated a laser-cut wooden vegetable for our Community Veggie Patch art project while learning more about Library programs and services. We issued Library cards, registered children for the TD Summer Reading Club, and partnered with the Mobile Seniors Active Living Centre and the Mobile Youth Centre to further share Library resources.

A safety recall has been issued for the outreach van's make and model. To ensure the safety of all drivers and passengers, the van will remain out of service until the manufacturer completes the required repair. Despite the loss of the van, Library Staff continue to deliver engaging outreach opportunities across Innisfil.



Build UP our reputation as a trusted community asset

LET'S CHAT

Romance Book Chat

Our recent *Romance Book Chat* sparked a lively and engaging discussion among the eight attendees, representing a range of ages and perspectives. Conversation flowed from the portrayal of heroines in classic romance novels to the evolution of today's smarter, more independent female protagonists. Adding to the richness of the discussion, one participant was a self-published romance author, offering unique insights into the genre from a writer's point of view, and the typical recipe for romance writing. The program offered Reader's Advisory guidance to help attendees, including newcomers to the genre, discover where to begin. Book Chats are an informal opportunity for book lovers to share the titles they are passionate about and to discover new reads from Staff and community.

EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

Building Literacy, Confidence, and Relationships at Preschool Programs

Summer is a season when the library focuses a great deal of energy on school-aged children, keeping them engaged and reading with the *TD Summer Reading Club* and a wide range of program offerings. At the same time, all the early years' programs for children from birth to kindergarten continue alongside, fostering early literacy skills and connections in our community.



Recent comments from Staff and caregivers continue to demonstrate the value and high impact of our preschool programs: "It's great how close the families have become, happily chatting and hanging out when they arrive and staying long after the program ends. A few moms were talking about how grateful they are for library programs. One mom enrolled her daughter in *Ready, Set, School* for the first time and said the difference she's seen in her [child's] confidence from week one to now has been incredible."

Another programmer connected with a mom of two who said "the library felt like a great first outing alone with the two kids, with my newborn only being two weeks old." The programmer reflected, "It's nice to see that even with big life changes happening, families take comfort in the routines and relationships they've established from coming to library programs."

Raise UP the Library's identity as an innovative hub

MAKING MOVES

HackLAB Growing at Stroud

In response to the growing popularity of HackLAB programming at the Stroud Branch, Staff have relocated all makerspace equipment to the Stroud meeting room. This move enhances the functionality and accessibility of the space for both individual users and program participants. The meeting room also offers better access to power outlets and a larger work surface, supporting a wider range of projects and Tinkershops. Staff and customers report that moving the space has made it more welcoming and better suited to user needs.



NEW TECH INITIATIVE

Drop-in Tech Table

Throughout July, we introduced a new initiative: *Drop-in Tech Table*, designed to display the diverse range of technology available at the library and to foster hands-on engagement with our community. During the program's first week, Staff highlighted a display featuring various assistive technologies, including language translation pens, Yoto players, and online digital resources. Customers were encouraged to explore the devices, ask questions, and try them out in a welcoming, informal setting. While initial foot traffic was slow, the impact of the program was meaningful with four pieces of assistive technology borrowed directly from the display. One visitor remarked, "I didn't know you had these (referring to the Yoto players). I'm excited to try them out with my family!"

MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Fresh Air Flicks is Back

Our first Fresh Air Flicks event of the season was a tremendous success, drawing over 400 attendees to Innisfil Beach Park for a fun-filled evening of outdoor entertainment and community spirit.

We were thrilled to welcome Rosehaven Homes as a new film sponsor and expand our list of community partners. Innisfil Lions Club provided snow cones, Susan Dixon Realtor & the Osgoode Team provided chips and sweets while InnServices joined us again with their much-loved Quench Buggy, offering free, cold drinking water throughout the night. We had live music by The 4 Pops which added to the event atmosphere. The library continued its Fresh Air Flicks tradition with a giant community colouring sheet and interactive activity designed in the HackLAB, which attracted visitors of all ages. Throughout the night, visitors shared how much they love this event, calling it “so well organized” and “one of their favourite summer traditions.”



The strong turnout, positive feedback, and new partnerships reflect the continued value and impact of this signature community event.



MOVIN' & GROOVIN'

Team T & J and J's Magical Show Wows Crowds

Families were moving and grooving to the upbeat tunes of Team T&J, the children's entertainment duo known for their songs that celebrate diversity, individuality, and coming together as team. More than 70 participants registered, with even more joining in to fill the main area at the Lakeshore Branch. The energy was high as children danced, jumped, and sang along for a full hour of fun. This is not the first time we've hosted Team T&J at the Library; one family who attended their show five years ago returned and asked T&J to help them recreate the picture they took when their children were toddlers. With careful attention to angles and poses, the family was delighted to capture this special memory all over again. This special event was a memorable start to a busy summer season for children at the Library.



The Cookstown Branch saw a special visit from J to perform his Magical Show. Kids and families were delighted by J's magic tricks and showmanship. One family has travelled to see the show more than 20 times because their son wants to be a magician. J was happy to stay back and chat with families afterwards, a few of them got to see the tricks up close and take some photos. Both T and J shared how much they enjoy coming to perform at the Library and that they would love to come again soon.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

Paint with Us (En Plein Air)

The library took one of its programs outdoors with a series of painting & drawing sessions at Innisfil Beach Park. Participants were invited to capture the beauty of the natural landscape.

During the first session, participants enjoyed a lovely afternoon sketching and drawing at the beach, overlooking the water, bridge, dock, and trees. Using pencils, pencil crayons, oil pastels and acrylic paint pens, they brought their view to life on paper. The second session was moved indoors due to air quality concerns, but the group happily returned outdoors for the final session. Engagement in the program series was very high, with one participant sharing, "Oh I just had a great time, I loved it!"



Lessons from Allandale Station Park: Finding Your Place in EcoActivism

In this program, attendees were able to learn about how a grassroots group set in motion the victory-in-progress of Allandale Station Park. From Pollinate Barrie, Ashley Hammel and Kelly Gingrich took attendees through the process and tactics used to advocate against the development of Allandale Station Park, and how those actions tie into larger movements through history. Attendees found out more about the different levels of action, and how it is important to include self-care in your approach to standing up for issues that are important to you.



Light UP pathways to personal & professional growth

SUMMERTIME FUN

Staff Summer Social

Staff gathered for a shortened summer meeting followed by an hour of fun and games. Using Library equipment and our collection of board games, team members engaged in friendly competition with the Nintendo Switch console, trivia in the ThinkLAB using the Library's Jackbox subscription, and even a few classic card games. Some learned to crochet, while others made new connections across departments. The event offered a great opportunity for team building.



COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Celebrating UPlift Black's 5 Year Anniversary

The Community Librarian and Director of Community Development and Advocacy attended the celebration event for the 5 year anniversary of the founding of UPlift Black. The Library's partnership with UPlift Black has been integral to our EDI work, both as a partner in training, and delivering community programming. UPlift Black is a social service agency working to uplift the complete wellbeing of Black people who live in Simcoe Muskoka. Their work is culturally based and anchored in 2SLGBTQPNIA+ inclusivity striving to achieve the ultimate goal of racial equity through a conscious community.



APPENDIX A:

Level UP! Communications Insights

Media Outreach & Social Media Response

DATE PUBLISHED	NEWS OUTLET	TITLE
July 3, 2025	Innisfil Today	Summer season sizzling with activities at Innisfil library
July 4, 2025	Innisfil Today	Four events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
July 8, 2025	CTV Barrie	Innisfil library hits the road
July 11, 2025	Innisfil Today	Four events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
July 18, 2025	Bradford Today	Four events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
July 21, 2025	Barrie Today	Innisfil library offering free family fun with Fresh Air Flicks
July 25, 2025	Innisfil Today	Four events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
July 28, 2025	Innisfil Today	Innisfil Indian Association hosting award-winning author for free talk

Facebook Insights (July 1 to 31, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL IMPRESSIONS
4,160 Followers 3,401 Page Likes	40 posts during this period	2,866 engagements. 583 reactions.	Posts earned 70.3K impressions over this period (number of times our posts have entered a person's screen)

Top Organic Post (based on reach):

July 21, 2025. 9.1K Reach, 19.2K Views



Innisfil Idealab & Library

Published by Later · July 21 at 3:00 PM ·

Join us for a despicably fun night under the stars with Despicable Me 4 at Innisfil Beach Park on Friday, July 25!

Festivities kick off at 7pm with music and family-friendly activities

🎬 Movie begins at dusk, don't forget your lawn chairs & blankets!

👉 Admission is FREE

🍱 Bring a non-perishable food item for the Troy Scott Community Fridge

Let's make it a night to remember with laughter, community, and minions!

Thank you to our movie sponsor, Rosehaven Homes and to our treat sponsors, Susan Dixon and Osborne Goddard Team!



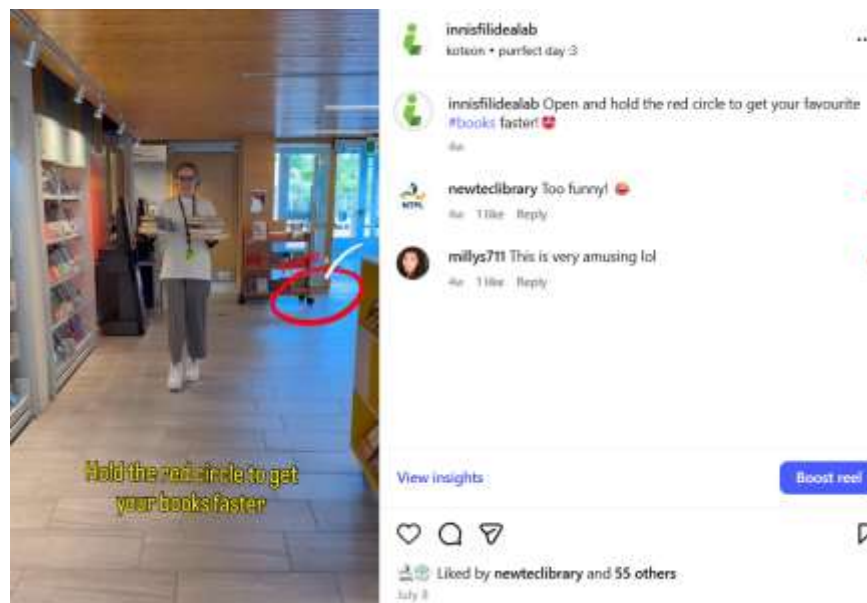
Instagram Insights (July 1 to 31, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL LIKES & REACH	TOTAL COMMENTS
3,004	40 posts during this period	10.9K accounts reached. 908 likes.	14 comments in total on content posted during this period

Top Post (based on reach): July 8, 2025, 2.5K Reach



Top Reel (based on reach): July 8, 2025, 5.7K Reach



AUGUST 2025 CEO REPORT



Speak UP for diversity & inclusion

MEDICINE GARDEN THRIVING

Indigenous Medicine Garden

The Remembering Garden, the Library's Indigenous medicine garden, is thriving despite this summer's drought, standing as a vibrant symbol of resilience and tradition. Filled with plants that hold deep cultural and medicinal significance, the garden offers a living space for reflection, learning, and connection. Plans are underway for a fall harvest, along with upcoming opportunities for the community to engage in hands-on learning about Indigenous knowledge, medicine plants, and seasonal cycles.





Open UP opportunities to strengthen connection & engagement with our community

ART IN THE LIBRARY

The end of August brings the final rotation of art by local artists to the walls of our Library Branches, with items remaining on display from September to December.

The Lakeshore Branch is currently hosting new pieces by Selina Pizza, an Alcona-based artist whose work was featured at Town Hall earlier this year.



Artist Selina Pizza with her artwork.

Marziya Nazarova, a miniature artist originally from Tajikistan who now lives in Innisfil, has some of her eye-catching miniatures displayed at the Stroud Branch.

Marziya Nazarova miniatures artwork.



And finally, local artist Prabhneet Kaur has several of her colourful pieces on display at the Cookstown Branch.



AROUND THE TOWN

YMCA SWIS Community Day

On Thursday, August 14, staff attended the YMCA Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) Community Day. This program provides service for new Canadian children and youth throughout local schools in the County of Simcoe, and the Community Day was an opportunity to connect with a variety of social service providers, community groups, and support networks throughout the County. Even though the event was held in Barrie, we talked to families from Innisfil, Alliston, and Bradford, and were able to answer questions about the reciprocal borrowing agreement and how to sign up for a Library card. There was a lot of interest in the Library of Things display with the Daisy player, Envoy Connect, and the Yoto player keeping visitors engaged.



ideaLAB on the Go

Over the summer, the ideaLAB on the Go visited 16 different locations and talked to over 900 people. From large events like the Innisfil Farmer's Market and the EarlyOn Picnic, to the Citizen Police Academy at Sandycove Acres, Lefroy Family Fun Day, and more, the Yoto players and Ozobots drew a lot of interest to our Library of Things selections, while the Community Veggie Patch art project got everyone's creativity flowing with around 500 laser cut veggies decorated and returned to the Library. People visiting ideaLAB on the Go were interested in learning more about programs available at the library, and we were able to share how to download the Library Mobile App to help patrons view the catalogue, place holds and register for programs. At some of these events, people shared, "There is always something fun going on with the library!" and "Your library is the most community focused I've ever seen. There's always something going on, I've seen the music circle, so many kid's programs, computer classes, and so much more. It's amazing!"

Dinner in White

Staff attended Dinner in White, a fundraising event hosted by the Innisfil Arts Council & Heritage and the Innisfil Rotary Club. Our table was adorned with creative library-themed décor. Showcasing our HackLAB's innovative possibilities was custom-designed chair coverings and a donated live auction item. Guests were curious and engaged as staff shared how the HackLAB empowers community members to explore laser cutting and design. The evening also provided excellent networking opportunities with community partners and leaders, strengthening relationships and raising awareness of the Library as a hub of creativity, innovation, and collaboration.



Build UP our reputation as a trusted community asset

SANDYCOVE HOLDS LOCKER

Holds Locker Launch

Holds can now be picked up at The Wheel in Sandycove. The new Library Holds Locker offers a variety of services to residents of Sandycove including holds pick-ups, browsing and returning. Holds can be requested in the online catalogue by choosing Holds Locker as a pick-up location and a notification is sent by email or phone when the hold is ready. Residents have one week to pick-up holds and can retrieve them by scanning their Library card or using the digital card on the Mobile App. Items will automatically check-out to their account when the door opens. The Locker also includes a Browse & Borrow collection which displays ten items that can easily be checked out and will regularly be refreshed by sSaff who visit the locker twice a week. Items from any branch can be conveniently returned to the Locker using the Returns bin. The Holds Locker extends the coverage and accessibility of Library services to this new area of the community.



On Thursday, August 21, staff held an information session for Sandycove residents at the Holds Locker location. There was an informative demonstration of how to pick up and return items using the Holds locker, as well as questions answered about how often it will be stocked, how to download the Mobile Library App and place a hold to be picked up at the Locker, and what other items were holdable in addition to books. There was a display of accessibility devices and CELA equipment that can be borrowed with a Library card, with ten customers signing up for new Library cards, four existing cards renewed, and three patrons were able to pick up their items from the Holds Locker.

Taylor Jenkins Reid Book Chat

The Library's Taylor Jenkins Reid Book Chat was a great success, drawing enthusiastic readers together for an engaging evening of conversation. While the focus was on her latest novel, *Atmosphere*, the discussion also explored Reid's earlier works and the themes that connect them. Participants shared insights on her storytelling style and character development, and the conversation branched out to include read-a-like recommendations for those seeking other novels with a similar vibe. The lively exchange left attendees with fresh perspectives and plenty of new titles to add to their reading lists.

Raise UP the Library's identity as an innovative hub

SUMMER FUN

HackLAB Summer Programming

This summer, the HackLAB was a hub of creativity and learning, with the MakeIT series of programs drawing full registrations across all age groups. From *Mini MakeIT* to *Seniors MakeIT* participants gained essential digital literacy skills while exploring a wide range of software and equipment in the HackLAB. These programs, designed to be hands-on and engaging, empowered users to confidently navigate tools like Inkscape, Cricut Design Space and TinkerCAD. Notably, Staff observed a significant improvement in the *Seniors MakeIT* group, where participants demonstrated increased proficiency in using computers and successfully completing design tasks in Inkscape independently.



At the Stroud Branch, HackLAB programs continued to thrive, consistently reaching capacity and generating waitlists. Customers appreciated the quieter environment and the personalized attention they received during sessions, which enhanced their learning experience. With the success and positive feedback from summer programming, the HackLAB space at Stroud will now be open two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), offering a wide array of programs tailored to community needs.

Canva Connections: Business

The *Canva Connections: Business* program provided a dynamic and supportive space for small business owners to engage with library resources while building essential digital literacy skills. Through a series of hands-on programs, participants were guided through the process of designing their own logos, creating professional business cards, and crafting eye-catching social media posts using the online platform Canva. This program also served as a bridge to other library services, helping small business owners discover tools and supports available in the Library and HackLAB. With a diverse group of attendees spanning various age groups and experience levels, the sessions were thoughtfully tailored to meet individual needs ensuring that everyone, from tech-savvy youth to seasoned business owners, could confidently learn to develop their brand identity and digital presence.

Fresh Air Flicks – Cookstown & Stroud

After rain postponed the original date, the Fresh Air Flicks & Cookstown Library Open House brought the community together for a memorable summer event. This was the first time we combined an open house with Fresh Air Flicks, giving families the chance to explore the Library and enjoy an outdoor movie on the same night.

Inside, visitors took part in button making, keychain creating, a scavenger hunt, and a prize draw for anyone showing or signing up for a library card. The green screen activity had kids excited to learn about editing while building anticipation for the movie. A surprise butterfly release added a special touch to the evening and provided an opportunity to share information about the butterfly program and their life cycle. A highlight was a great chat with a family newly arrived from Toronto who shared how impressed they were by the services offered and how the Cookstown Branch was welcoming and felt like the central hub of the community.

Outside, guests enjoyed live music, tasty treats, and time to connect with neighbours before settling in for the movie.

The Cookstown event was made possible thanks to the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign, with a portion of the funds raised supporting the evening's activities, along with generous support from Susan Dixon, the Osborne Goddard Team, the Innisfil Lions Club, and Mad Hatter's Table, as well as contributions from Landmark Bus Lines, Kool FM, and InnServices. This evening highlighted the Library's important role as a place where people can discover resources, enjoy programs, and connect with their community.



The last Fresh Air Flicks of the season took place in Stroud wrapping up another successful season of Fresh Air Flicks. This year's Stroud's event was generously sponsored by Foodland Stroud; the store's new franchisee was thrilled to be a part of this event. Additional support from Sold by Shaun, Innisfil Lions Club, and Ref's Pizza & Ice Cream Stroud offering up free popcorn, snow cones and pizza. Families enjoyed live performances from Patty McLaughlin & Friends, activities from the Library's Summer Team, and face painting by Colour Inspired, sponsored by Foodland Stroud. We are grateful to our community partners Kool FM Barrie, InnServices Utilities Inc., and Tesla.

Families shared their appreciation, noting, “It’s wonderful to have events like this right in our community,” “The whole evening was very family-friendly and welcoming. It was great to connect with other neighbours,” and “I can’t believe this was all free, so well put together.” Planning is already underway for next summer, and we are actively seeking sponsors to help keep this free, family-favourite tradition thriving.



Garden Party with the Innisfil Seed Library

The Garden Party with the Innisfil Seed Library was a lively, well-attended event that reached maximum capacity and attracted avid gardeners from across the community. Guests mingled and chatted over lunch and tea while enjoying engaging talks about the herbs grown in the patio garden containers, along with creative recipe ideas to make the most of them. Presenters also shared timely advice on caring for herbs and gardens during a drought, given the lack of rainfall in August, making the event both social and informative.





Light UP pathways to personal & professional growth

SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club

This summer we registered 510 children who read a cumulative 6442 books! If you took all these books and stacked them in one big pile, it would be as tall as the Eiffel Tower. Ooh la la - how a propos for our 2025 theme of Around the World!

Acting Out Performance and Finale

At the end of August, 11 young thespians took the stage at the Lakeshore branch to perform two short plays for the audience of family, friends, and fans. The Acting Out program has been preparing for this performance all summer long, memorizing lines, making costumes, and building confidence.

Adult Summer Programs

This summer, our adult programs received an extra boost of energy and activity through our Adult Services Summer Student! They worked through several program areas over the summer, including adult socials, civic engagement, and local history. On the lighter side, this month, they ran a Game Night in which participants came out and enjoyed card games and board games. Most participants were members of a pre-existing club which plays board and card games together on Tuesdays, but one attendee was new to the group. The group invited the new person to return on Tuesdays with them, to which they enthusiastically agreed. Everyone left seemingly having made a new friend. With our summer students' background in Fine Art, other programs including painting and drawing to approach mindfulness or community building.

Additionally, the *Our Stories Innisfil* digital archive is set to receive several important contributions to its oral history collection thanks to the success of the *What's Your Innisfil Story?* drop-in program. Making use of different spaces in the Lakeshore Branch throughout the summer, our summer student and Community Librarian filmed fifteen different members of the community of varying ages and backgrounds to share their favourite memories and stories from living in Innisfil. Some of our younger patrons expressed their love of the Library and visiting Innisfil Beach Park while older patrons mentioned how welcoming the Innisfil community has been to them through organizations like the Horticultural Club as well as their neighbours in Sandycove and Lakeside Retirement Residence. Our summer student even participated in an interview themselves after encouraging their grandparents to share their memories of living in Stroud for over twenty years! These captured memories represent an important snapshot of changes in Innisfil for our local history collection while also strengthening each participant's sense of community and belonging.



Interviewees from Lakeside Retirement Residence sharing fond memories

In terms of our regular adult programming, a library programmer ran a very successful series of our Paint with Us: Watercolour Series, which capitalized on some crossover with a concurrent program at Cookstown. The program started with the regularly registered attendees, then two parents who had just dropped off their kids at Tween MakeIT stumbled into the watercolour painting group! They were ecstatic that there was something they could do while they waited for their kids. This was a great opportunity to have the more senior program attendees interact with the newer participants, allowing them all to find a common point of connection through the program.

APPENDIX A:Level UP! Communications Insights

Media Outreach & Social Media Response

DATE PUBLISHED	NEWS OUTLET	TITLE
Aug. 3, 2025	Barrie Today	Innisfil Indian Association hosting award-winning author for free talk
Aug. 7, 2025	Simcoe.com	Events this weekend in the Simcoe County area from Aug. 8 to 10
Aug. 8, 2025	Innisfil Today	Library cancels tonight's Open House, Fresh Air Flicks due to damp ground
Aug. 14, 2025	Simcoe.com	Events this weekend in the Simcoe County area from Aug. 15 to 17
Aug. 15, 2025	Innisfil Today	Four events you have to check out in South Simcoe this weekend
Aug. 21, 2025	Innisfil Today	Innisfil library begins new chapter for Sandycove Acres residents
Aug. 28, 2025	Simcoe.com	Events this weekend in the Simcoe County area from Aug. 29 to 31
Aug. 29, 2025	Barrie Today	Celebrate Swift-Kelce engagement today at Innisfil library
Aug. 29, 2025	Innisfil Today	Five events you have to check out in South Simcoe this long weekend

Facebook Insights (Aug. 1 to 31, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL IMPRESSIONS
4,188 (Followers) 3,420 Page Likes	35 during this period	3,647 engagements. 709 reactions.	Posts earned 71.5K impressions over this period (number of times our posts have entered a person's screen)
Top Organic Post (based on reach): August 27, 2025 - 8.8K Reach, 14.8K Views  Innisfil Idealab & Library Published by Later · August 27 at 2:00 PM · You're Invited! Come celebrate your english teacher and gym teacher getting married with an unforgettable party full of fun, friendship, and fabulous activities, including: ○ Make friendship bracelets. ○ Design your dream ring. ○ Build a bouquet. ○ Colour on our Love Wall. ○ Make a custom tote bag in the HackLAB (\$2) Come dressed up, bring your best Swiftie sparkle, and get ready to party like it's a true fairy-tale romance! *No registration required. 			

Instagram Insights (Aug. 1 to 31, 2025)

FOLLOWERS	# OF POSTS	TOTAL LIKES & REACH	TOTAL COMMENTS
3,067	35 during this period	7,576 accounts reached. 992 likes.	19 comments in total on content posted during this period

Top Post (based on engagement): August 30, 2025, 4.6K Reach



Top Reel (based on engagement): August 20, 2025, 1.6K Reach



Municipal Council Report

June 4, 2025 Special Council Meeting

- [Watch the Meeting](#)
- During a special meeting of council June 4, a Community Permit Planning System (CPPS) application was approved to allow for the construction of a new two-storey dwelling at 650 Cedarvale Dr. and the relocation and reconstruction of an existing boathouse.

June 11, 2025 Council Meeting

- [Watch the meeting.](#)
- Council accepted Town staff recommendations to maintain the Town's current procurement practices, which already strongly support Canadian businesses. New clauses have been added to help manage the impact of U.S. tariffs, requiring contractors to provide proof of added costs.
- Council directed Town staff to proceed with the sale of 19 Queen Street, former Cookstown library, noting the significant investment required to restore the aging building while supporting the relocation of current tenants.
- 6800 Yonge Street (6th Line Cemetery) was officially designated as a property of cultural heritage value under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- The Town updated its [social media policy](#). The Library's community social media policy will be reviewed in November, 2025.
- Council received several updates, including progress on the Building Safer Communities Project, a review of winter road operations for 2024–2025, and the [latest developments on The Orbit](#).

June 25, 2025 Special & Regular Council Meeting

- [Watch the meeting.](#)
- Council adopted the 2025-2029 South Simcoe Community Safety and Well-Being Plan which guides how local government, South Simcoe Police Service, and community partners address the health and well-being issues that affect our community.
- Council endorsed a recommendation to expand the settlement boundaries of Alcona and Stroud to align with existing and planned infrastructure in those communities.
- Town staff were directed to explore the possibility of using a licensing system to proactively regulate short-term accommodations in town. Residents will be able to provide comments through an upcoming public information session.
- Council adopted a Community Planning Permit System for the shoreline and Alcona areas. This new process will help reduce redundancies in the planning application process, streamline the development process, and respond to a changing economy.
- Temporary signalization will be added to the Big Bay Point Road and 20th Sideroad intersection in 2025, ahead of the Big Bay Point Road reconstruction project planned for 2028.

Municipal Council Report

News from the Community

- [Why the next term of Innisfil council could be getting a pay raise - Innisfil News](#)
- [Chief 'proud' of South Simcoe police efforts in annual report - Innisfil News](#)
- ['A lot of money, no doubt': Innisfil had nearly \\$1M surplus at end of 2024 - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Buy local' and support growers, entrepreneurs at Innisfil Farmers' Market - Innisfil News](#)
- [Speed cameras moving and expanding in Innisfil](#)
- [New off-leash dog park opens at Innisfil Beach Park - Innisfil News](#)
- [South Simcoe police continue to see 'steady increase' in service demand - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Powerful snapshot': Innisfil's 7th Line sits atop CAA Worst Roads list - Barrie News](#)
- [Innisfil rec complex set to reopen after May fire](#)
- [Alcona Glen's 25th anniversary was a 'truly special celebration' \(12 photos\) - Innisfil News](#)
- [Amid trade war, Innisfil to keep status quo on social-media, purchasing policies - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Incredible generosity': Innisfil mayor's golf tourney raises \\$90K - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil's 'effective' response to flooding, ice storm cost \\$664K - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil to sell former Cookstown library, which is deemed a heritage structure - Innisfil News](#)
- [Sunrise ceremony, sacred fire and food build 'connection, accountability' at Innisfil Beach Park - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Thrilled': Town extends partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University's DMZ - Innisfil News](#)
- [Construction closes northern Innisfil Beach Park entrance until end of July - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Top priority': Why bollards have returned to several Innisfil roadways - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil residents urged to download potentially life-saving app - Innisfil News](#)

News from around the County:

- [BEYOND LOCAL: Margaret Atwood captivates audience during Ontario gala - Innisfil News](#)
- [County hosting 'empowering' Workforce Connect Conference this month - Innisfil News](#)
- [County of Simcoe opens nominations for age-friendly awards - Innisfil News](#)
- [Partial reopening of Simcoe County Museum set for Monday - Innisfil News](#)
- [Barrie, Innisfil and county recognized with 'very special' award - Barrie News](#)
- [Simcoe County's employment survey pilot project continues this summer - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Sticker shock': Size of Barrie's next south-end library reduced - Innisfil News](#)
- [Barrie South-Innisfil MP gets new role with Conservative leadership team - Barrie News](#)
- ['We must do more': Public school board passes anti-Black racism motion - Innisfil News](#)
- [Township mayors divided on value of reducing county council's size - Innisfil News](#)
- [Lengthy road closures expected in Innisfil this summer for culvert replacement project](#)
- ['Real celebration': County's AED program has saved 74 lives since 2005 - Barrie News](#)

Municipal Council Report

Library News from the Province and Beyond

- [Province launches award to recognize veterans for community service - Barrie News](#)
- [Library staff facing security issues, including verbal abuse, drug use in branches](#)
- [What's at stake if Alberta removes certain books from its school libraries?](#)
- [Inside CBC North's Indigenous Language Archives project](#)
- [A book prescription for mental health?](#)
- [Who's Afraid of Students Reading about Sex?](#)
- [No data on how often 'sexually explicit' books accessed by Alberta students: minister](#)
- [New Kitchener library branch opens in city's growing southwest end](#)
- [Alert Bay librarian turns 100, entering a new chapter with no plans to quit](#)
- [Library gearing up to fundraise for 'generational' overhaul, CEO says](#)
- ['Sticker shock': Size of Barrie next south-end library reduced](#)
- [Neil Young, Sarah Harmer, Jill Barber Sign Open Letter Opposing Peterborough Library Staff Cuts](#)
- [Orillia library shares 2024 successes, challenges with city council](#)
- [City of Peterborough 'pauses' planned staff cuts at the Peterborough Public Library](#)
- [City pauses plans to reduce staffing at Peterborough Public Library](#)
- [2 eastern P.E.I. libraries to close temporarily this summer for maintenance, upgrades](#)
- [Toronto Public Library Board appoints Moe Hosseini-Ara as new City Librarian](#)
- [BEYOND LOCAL: 'What we're doing is important': How this drag performer finds purpose in storytime - Innisfil News](#)

Municipal Council Report

No Council Meetings this Month

News from the Community

- [Town tuning up for return of Music in the Park series](#)
- [Development plans for Stroud would keep 'Barrie at bay,' says councillor](#)
- [Have a 'great time' digging for treasures at Innisfil's Biggest Garage Sale](#)
- [Sunny skies and smiling faces mark Canada Day in Sandy Cove Acres](#)
- ['Quite a shock': School board cancels credit for popular Nantyr Shores music program](#)
- [Ontario sends \\$35M flowing into Innisfil wastewater plant expansion, rehab](#)
- [South Simcoe police putting in 'extra effort' to get job done: deputy chief](#)
- [Innisfil council accelerates lights for 'major' Big Bay Point Road intersection](#)
- [Jiu-jitsu coach turns childhood love of Ninja Turtles, Power Rangers into booming club](#)
- [Mobile youth centre returns with fun activities for kids](#)
- [COLUMN: Innisfil Beach Park purchase was sound investment for town - Barrie News](#)
- [Circle the date: Roundabout construction to begin on major Yonge Street intersection - Bradford News](#)
- [Thank a farmer: Province opens nominations for Excellence in Agriculture awards - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Turning up the volume': Gussapolooza expands wellness, kids zones - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Strategic' Churchill development moving forward, heritage home saved - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil takes home \\$2.3M payment for hosting Gateway casino - Innisfil News](#)
- [Construction set to start on Innisfil's 'first fully inclusive playground' - Innisfil News](#)
- ['He never gave up': Friends remember ex-Innisfil Lions president, police board chair - Innisfil News](#)
- ['It was humbling': Innisfil councillor honoured with Community Development Award - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil's Margaretta Park will soon be a place of 'joy, inclusion and connection' - Innisfil News](#)
- [Town 'pleased' as province approves MZO for new Innisfil casino - Innisfil News](#)
- [They tossed for a cause: Innisfil Cornhole Classic raises \\$115K for RVH campaign - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil Indian Association hosting award-winning author for free talk - Innisfil News](#)
- [Home-based businesses 'play an important role in Innisfil's economy' - Innisfil News](#)
- [This 1.3-million-square-foot warehousing facility is about to open in Innisfil - Innisfil News](#)
- [Innisfil receives \\$45K to update 'critical' emergency radio system - Innisfil News](#)

News from around the County:

- [Twenty years after conception, Wiidookdaadiwin Lookout officially opens](#)
- ['End of its useful life': What's closing part of Innisfil's 10th Sideroad for months?](#)
- [New RVH program supports Indigenous patients through self-identification](#)
- ['Incredible': Writing a book amid pandemic united local women - Innisfil News](#)
- [Simcoe County exceeds affordable housing goals ahead of schedule - Innisfil News](#)

Municipal Council Report

- [Deadline approaching to submit input for county's transit review - Innisfil News](#)
- [New child care strategy aims to double affordable spaces in Simcoe County - Innisfil News](#)

Library News from the Province and Beyond

- [Windsor Public Library bookmobile returns](#)
- [Alberta's Book Ban Is a Blatant Act of Cultural Vandalism | The Walrus](#)
- [Essex County Library Board to put agreements of service in place with municipalities it serves – The Lakeshore News](#)
- [Could your beach reads actually be therapeutic? Bibliotherapy suggests they might | CBC News](#)
- [Elbows up, even when you're holding a book – Winnipeg Free Press](#)
- [Beaumont Library holds grand reopening, still seeking larger space | La Nouvelle Beaumont News](#)
- [A look at new rules for school library books and what won't be allowed on shelves | Entertainment News | thecanadianpressnews.ca](#)
- [Alberta bans school library books it deems sexually explicit | CBC News](#)
- [Ontario libraries encourage summer reading to keep kids sharp for school | NorfolkToday.ca](#)
- [Will Anne of Green Gables soon be banned in Alberta schools? - Alberta Politics](#)

Municipal Council Report

August 13, 2025 Council Meeting

- [Watch the meeting.](#)
- Council approved the use of internet and telephone voting for the 2026 municipal election. Residents will also be able to vote in person using these methods at facilities across town. Staff were directed to develop the 2026 Election Work Plan based on Internet and telephone voting methods only for the 2026 Municipal Election
- The Town will move forward with energy-efficiency upgrades to six facilities, as recommended in the Facilities Greenhouse Gas Reduction Pathway Feasibility Study. Staff will also explore further opportunities identified in the plan to achieve deeper long-term emission reductions.
- Funding was approved to support a community request for temporary traffic signals at Big Bay Point Road and 20th Sideroad. The signals will remain in place until a permanent solution is implemented as part of the Big Bay Point Road reconstruction project.
- Council reviewed Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments that would facilitate a beach precinct, hotel, and additional amenities at Friday Harbour. The application was referred back to staff, with direction to report at a future meeting on potential amendments to the project, including a six-storey height limit for the proposed hotel, a two-stage phasing plan, a minimum of 200 guest rooms, and minimal development on environmental protection lands.

News from the Community

- [Town of Innisfil launches new transit voucher program - Innisfil News](#)
- [Massive \\$200M warehouse near Hwy. 400 in Innisfil now open](#)
- [Fire danger rating in the high to extreme range across the region, several burn bans in effect](#)
- [Police 'flagged down' after suspected road-rage incident involving baseball bat - Innisfil News](#)
- [Home-based businesses 'play important role' in local economy - Barrie News](#)
- [New Alcona elementary school still in 'design ... approvals' stage - Innisfil News](#)
- [A phalanx mentality: Innisfil Spartans bring new vision, culture to the rink - Innisfil News](#)
- [Sunset Speedway operators, owners wave the checkered flag on 'incredible journey' - Innisfil News](#)
- [Food bank gets \\$78K in funding to help families 'start the school year strong' - Innisfil News](#)
- [Gilford Community Hall a labour of love for more than a century - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Pressing need': Is a 'significant' seniors campus coming to Innisfil Beach Road? - Innisfil News](#)
- [These 3 text scams are making the rounds among Bradford, Innisfil residents - Innisfil News](#)
- [Traffic lights at Big Bay Point Road, 20th Sideroad should click on this fall - Innisfil News](#)

Municipal Council Report

- [Pharmacy care clinic to open at Innisfil Shoppers Drug Mart - Innisfil News](#)
- ['So many issues': Friday Harbour hotel proposal sent back to staff - Innisfil News](#)
- [Internet, phone voting returning for Innisfil's 2026 municipal election - Innisfil News](#)

News from around the County:

- [Health records from Barrie hospital now available on Apple devices - Innisfil News](#)
- [Honey of a deal: Province, feds give \\$1.7M to Ontario's beekeeping industry - Innisfil News](#)
- [Dangerous illicit drug combination circulating in local supply: health unit - Innisfil News](#)
- [Simcoe County Archives reopens after major renovations - Innisfil News](#)
- ['Residents are hurting': County councillors debate tax hike amid economic concerns - Innisfil News](#)
- [Ontario investing \\$7.7 million to support residential school survivors - Innisfil News](#)

Library News from the Province and Beyond

- [Beyond books: The varied, and perhaps unexpected, free offerings at the library - Innisfil News](#)



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JHSC Meeting Agenda

MEETING DATE: Thursday June 19, 2025

TIME: 1:10PM

LOCATION: Ops Meeting Room 2 and Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Management Co-Chair – Eric Chudzinski
Worker Co-Chair – Elishia LaRose

MINUTES: Sierra Warren

ATTENDANCE: Paul Anyia, Brendan Bone, Wes Chancey, Eric Chudzinski, Tom Ehlers, Vivian Lough, Kristi Prentice, Jennifer Sheremeto, Barrie Vickers, Sierra Warren

GUEST(S):

REGRETS:

Item	Agenda Item	Lead	Item Details	ACTION & NOTES
1.	<u>Call Meeting to Order</u>	Co-Chair	Time – opened	- Meeting started at 1:15pm
2.	<u>Approval of Previous Minutes</u>	Co-Chair	2025.05.15 JHSC Meeting Agenda Minutes Draft.docx	- Vivian motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. - Seconded by Jennifer - All in favour; Motion Carried.
3.	<u>JHSC members</u>	Co-Chair	2025.05.02 JHSC Members List.docx	- No changes. - August meeting cancelled due to Eric and Sierra being away. - ACTION: Sierra to cancel August meeting. - .
4.	<u>Workplace Inspections WHIMIS LOTO</u>	All Members	Roundtable discussions - Findings worth sharing? - Additional action needed? - Repeat findings? - Changes to the schedule, or support needed?	Jen – Ec. Dev. – no deficiencies to report. Rizzardo – eyewash station in the community kitchen is new but has not been inspected since March. Ticket has been created for Facilities to inspect it. Town Square – collected 10 alcoholic and food cans from property that had been smashed. Ladder was not secured property and leaning against the electrical panel. Alarm was going off while she was in the Zamboni room – advised the supervisor of the alarm but could not determine where it was coming from. Multiple wood boards were missing from benches. Numerous large boulders were smashed under the slide and bike station and the debris was left on the pavement. Accessibility signs pushed over on the pathway. There was also a pile of boxes in front of the door inside the electrical room

				that was over 6ft tall. This was obstructing the doorway and could easily fall over. Centennial Park – not yet complete. Wes will attend this inspection alongside Jen. ACTION: Wes to speak to Facilities regarding outstanding work that needs to be completed in Centennial Park. Kristi – Town Hall – there were concerns of a mouse trap in one of the cubicles in Planning (trap with chemicals). ACTION: Eric to pull up SDS for mouse traps. There were concerns that the cleaners are not cleaning desks. There was a light out in a hallway right outside the P&T offices. Sierra – Operations – Lunchroom requires housekeeping, dryer vents are not being cleaned out, trip hazard in the sign shop as there was no clear path around a skid of u-channels and it's packaging. The wash bay had loose gravel and sand on the floor posing a slipping hazard. A can of Spray Nine cleaner was left out and was not entered into MySDS. Churchill CC – panels were blocked in the supply room and the mechanical room. There was also a fridge left outside on the patio on its side with the glass door open. Knock CC – lights and fire extinguisher were blocked in the basement. A cord was on the floor at the bottom of the stairs that poses a tripping hazard. There also appeared to be a bird and/or nest in the roof of the building as there was bird dropping and feathers on the side of the building, on the accessibility ramp and the handrail. There is a visible spot to where you can see where the bird is entering. ACTION: Eric and Paul to discuss taking over Churchill or Knock Inspections. Elishia – Salt Dome – Skid was blocking the doorway, but this has since been rectified. Lefroy Arena - Propane and gas were stored in the same cage at the back of the building and was not labeled. Due to the renovations on the floor, the mechanical room is now a storage room as the panels are blocked. There are still open work orders from previous month. Stroud Arena – no new deficiencies to report, but there are still outstanding work orders from previous months that are still open. Vivian – Stroud – staff door is not latching. Will only close if you pull it closed. No other deficiencies to report at the other locations. Lakeshore – there will be planned construction in the children's area in September.
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				Tom – Fleet – housekeeping required. Lots of items have been moved in the mezzanine due to GovDeals bidding and purchases and there is a lot of garbage that is required to be thrown out. There are concerns with birds inside the Fleet shop and there has been an incident with a bird flying into the fan. The sink near the office is constantly leaking onto the counter. Brendan – IBP – plugs are still overloaded in the kitchen. IRC – The heater has been fixed, but skids are still on their sides in the compressor room. Barrie – will complete an inspection at Town Hall with Kristi when time allows. Wes – no items to report. Eric – No items to report.
5.	<u>SOP's Corporate Policies</u>	Co-Chair	1. Any updates for discussion?	- Four policies under the WSIB Safety Excellence Program have been completed. - o H&S Communication Policy - o First Aid - o H&S Responsibilities - o H&S Participation. - These policies and supporting evidence will be submitted to the WSIB for approval. Appreciate everyone's work on assistance in getting these completed and continued support.
6.	<u>Workplace Incidents & Accidents</u>	Co-Chair	1. Report on accidents since last meeting (May 2025)	- There was a tick incident within the Operations department. - It's been noted that there has been a higher activity of ticks in the Innisfil area this year. - Parks and Roads now have tick removal kits. - There was one incident regarding poison ivy within the Operations department. Corrective actions being investigated further. - Discussed creating an SOP, and mapping for known hazard areas. - There was one equipment incident where a tire fell off that was not torqued properly on one of the mowers.
7.	<u>Budget & Training</u>	Co-Chair	1. Budget 2. Training	- This year's BBQ costs were cheaper than anticipated. - Members have been signed up to complete part 1 of their JHSC Certification. - ACTION: Eric to discuss training with Barrie.
8.	<u>JHSC Other Business</u>	All Members	1. JHSC BBQ Discussion 2. Town De-escalation Training	- Discussion was made on this year's JHSC BBQ. - Discussed what went well and what we could improve on. - Turn out was great this year – appeared that more people attended compared to previous years.

			3. Employee Feedback Survey – Safety Aspect 4. Round Table	- There will be a training provider we can utilize next year for Town De-escalation training. - Reviewed and discussed the Town's Employee Feedback Survey results. - Overall, for the Town, the safety category received positive results, with opportunity for improvement, such as: - o Responding to hazards or safety concerns. - o Regularly monitoring employees working safely. - o Positive recognition for working safely. - Elishia – requested to add the agenda topic of winter vehicle cleaning in the September JHSC meeting. - ACTION: Sierra to add winter vehicle cleaning as a topic in the September JHSC Meeting agenda. - Vivian – there are a lot of new students and employees at the Library – they introduced themselves and ensured they new about the JHSC. - Brendan – gave a shout out to everyone for the BBQ! -
9.	<u>ACTION ITEMS</u> <u>Follow up</u>	Co-Chair	Review of Action items from May 15, 2025 meeting minutes.	ACTION: Eric to review/update opioid risk assessment based on potential risk and need for Naloxone kits and training. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to schedule incident investigation training for the committee. – In Progress – Eric to assign the online course to committee members. ACTION: Eric to inquire with Roads Supervisors regarding the process for managing storage and disposal of hazardous waste found roadside. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to rework the language on the inspection form for ergonomics. – In Progress ACTION: Sierra to cancel August meeting. ACTION: Wes to speak to Facilities regarding outstanding work that needs to be completed in Centennial Park. ACTION: Eric to pull up SDS for mouse traps. ACTION: Eric and Paul to discuss taking over Churchill or Knock Inspections. ACTION: Eric to discuss training with Barrie.
10.	Close Meeting	Co-Chair	Time – closed	The meeting closed at 2:53pm.

JHSC Meeting Agenda

MEETING DATE: Thursday July 17, 2025

TIME: 1:00pm

LOCATION: Ops Meeting Room 2 and Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Management Co-Chair – Eric Chudzinski
Worker Co-Chair – Elishia LaRose

MINUTES: Sierra Warren

ATTENDANCE: Paul Anyia, Brendan Bone, Wes Chancey, Tom Ehlers, Elishia LaRose, Vivian Lough, Kristi Prentice, Barrie Vickers, Sierra Warren

GUEST(S):

REGRETS: Eric Chudzinski, Jennifer Sheremeto

Item	Agenda Item	Lead	Item Details	ACTION & NOTES
1.	<u>Call Meeting to Order</u>	Co-Chair	Time – opened	- Meeting started at 1:12pm
2.	<u>Approval of Previous Minutes</u>	Co-Chair	2025.06.19 JHSC Meeting Agenda Minutes Draft.docx	- Vivian motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. - Seconded by Wes - All in favour; Motion Carried.
3.	<u>JHSC members</u>	Co-Chair	2025.05.02 JHSC Members List.docx	- Status quo.
4.	<u>Workplace Inspections WHIMIS LOTO</u>	All Members	Roundtable discussions - Findings worth sharing? - Additional action needed? - Repeat findings? - Changes to the schedule, or support needed.	Jen – Inspections not completed yet due to other priorities and staff vacations. Will have inspections completed by the end of the month. Kristi – No deficiencies to report at Town Hall. Sierra – Operations – Pump & Spray cleaner missing from MySDS. Large container of paint on floor beside flammable cabinet. Determined that it will not fit in the cabinet. Churchill CC – ladder was found in the mechanical room beside electrical panel and not secured. Knock CC – mat was lying in front of eye wash station posing a tripping hazard. Elishia – Lefroy Arena – Propane and gas still stored in the same cage and not labeled.

				Salt Dome – truck was emptied which left gas and equipment placed on walkway and bench. Extension cord missing cover posing trip hazard. Stroud Arena – railings at Stroud have yet to be fixed. Vivian – Stroud – thermostat keeps changing on its own. Wasn't sure if this is something on the library's side or on the Town's. The door is not latching properly. Cookstown and Lakeshore – no deficiencies to report other than hydrant at Town Square covered with grass. Tom – Fleet – no deficiencies to report. Noted that there is a nest on top of the heater in Fleet. Brendan – IRC – leak in the compressor room – they are currently building ice so unsure if it is from the glycol tank or pipes sweating. Outstanding items not complete. Few lights out in the stands at Gold. IBP – plug is not overloaded anymore. The coffee machine is at the top of the cabinets. Paul – no items to report. Barrie – no items to report. Wes – no items to report. Eric – absent.
5.	<u>SOP's Corporate Policies</u>	Co-Chair	1. Any updates for discussion?	-
6.	<u>Workplace Incidents & Accidents</u>	Co-Chair	1. Report on accidents since last meeting (June 2025)	- YTD – incidents are less frequent compared to last year. - Lost time incident due to poison ivy from cutting grass. - Injury – no first aid required – staff slipped off the path at IBP and injured their shin.
7.	<u>Budget & Training</u>	Co-Chair	1. Budget 2. Training	- New Liquid Fuels Handling Training is now on Saba. - Awaiting new fueling system to be installed prior to sending out training to Town staff. - Working at Heights and Elevated Work Platforms training has been booked for Ops staff. - Brendan and Tom completed their first JHSC certification.
8.	<u>JHSC Other Business</u>	All Members	1. Round Table	- Kristi – mentioned she does not have access to some rooms in Town Hall. - Discussions were made regarding access to Town facilities. - ACTION: Wes to investigate mechanical room access for on-call staff at Operations. - Vivian – stated that there are signs on the ladders for fire suppression. Asked if this is required. Elishia

				stated that this is required. Vivian stated that staff and contractors don't use them or take them out. Vivian will tell staff that these are necessary but will ask Eric when he arrives.
9.	<u>ACTION ITEMS</u> <u>Follow up</u>	Co-Chair	Review of Action items from June 19, 2025, meeting minutes.	ACTION: Eric to review/update opioid risk assessment based on potential risk and need for Naloxone kits and training. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to schedule incident investigation training for the committee. – In Progress – Eric to assign the online course to committee members. ACTION: Eric to inquire with Roads Supervisors regarding the process for managing storage and disposal of hazardous waste found roadside. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to rework the language on the inspection form for ergonomics. – In Progress ACTION: Wes to speak to Facilities regarding outstanding work that needs to be completed in Centennial Park. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to pull up SDS for mouse traps. – In Progress ACTION: Eric and Paul to discuss taking over Churchill or Knock Inspections. – In Progress ACTION: Eric to discuss training with Barrie. – In Progress ACTION: Wes to investigate mechanical room access for on-call staff at Operations.
10.	Close Meeting	Co-Chair	Time – closed	The meeting closed at 2:32pm



INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT NO.: LIB-10-2025

DATE: September 16, 2025

TO: Innisfil Public Library Board

FROM: Finance Committee

SUBJECT: 2025 Q2 Operating & Capital Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Committee Report LIB-10-2025 regarding the 2025 Q2 Update dated September 16, 2025 be received.

Background:

On January 29, 2025, through Council Resolution #2025.01.15-CR-02, Town Council approved the Library Board's 2025 Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,366,874, and the 2025 Capital Budget in the amount of \$485,784. Finalized Operating and Capital results to March 31, 2025, are included in this report.

Financial Results – Operating

The Operating budget provides for expenses that cover day-to-day expenditures and activities including utilities, insurance, staff wages and benefits, program supplies, collections, and facility maintenance. It includes revenues expected to be received from fees, room rentals, grants, and other miscellaneous sources, as well as the contribution from the Town of Innisfil.

As of June 30, 2025, the total operating budget was at 67% of total budgeted revenues, and 49% of total budgeted expenses. Overall, the Q2 results show that the Library is at 48% of the overall budget.

Appendix A provides a detailed financial report of the Q2 Operating Results.

Overview of Revenues

Registration & Facility Fees: Hall rentals are trending lower at 34% of total budgeted amount; registration fees are doing well at 70%.

User Fees & Licenses: On target at 47% of budget.

Grants: At the end of Q2, the Library received funding from the Town through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) Federal grant (not reflected in our financials at this time) and just under \$35k from the County of Simcoe for the Human Navigator pilot project.

*Note – The only grant the Library has a budget for is the Provincial Operating Grant, which is a set amount each year and is typically received in Q3.

Donations: Notable donations received include Tim Horton's Smile Cookie campaign and Lion's Club.

Overview of Expenditures

Wages & Benefits: On target at 48%.

Materials & Supplies: Slightly overspent at 56%.

Other Expenditures: Utilities on target; Contracts trending lower; Rents & financials trending lower.

Facility Related expenses: On target at 48%.

Financial Results – Capital

The 2025 approved capital budget consists of funding requests for planned capital expenditures expected to occur in the upcoming years that are required to undertake or complete capital initiatives. In addition to the 2025 approved capital projects, the Library Board has carried over projects approved in previous years.

- Year to date spending for capital projects is \$177,356, related to projects LIB37, LIB5, LIB52, LIB66, LIB67 and LIB70.
- LIB42 deferred to 2026.

Appendix B provides a detailed financial report of the Q2 Capital Results.

Financial Consideration:

Since it is early in the year, it is difficult to forecast how the year will unfold and the resulting financial impacts. Staff will continue to monitor the operating financial results to ensure that the year-end results are in-line with the approved budget. We do however recognize that the budget estimates are developed with the best information known at the time, and that there are numerous factors that can impact the final results. Accordingly, Staff will employ cost mitigating strategies when required, and will keep the Library Board's Finance Committee and the Library Board informed of progress through the financial quarterly reports.

Conclusion:

This report provides information to the Library Board regarding the operating and capital activities that occurred during the second quarter of 2025.

PREPARED BY:

Erin Scuccimarri, CEO

APPROVED BY:

Finance Committee: Anne Smith, Rob Nicol, Sue Bennett & Rhonda Flanagan

Appendix A

 Corporation of the Town of Innisfil Budget to Actual Variance Report - Operating For the Period Ended June 2025 Library				
	Year to	YTD Actual as	2025	
	Date	a Percent	Approved	Notes/Comments
	Actuals	of Budget	Budget	
Revenue				
Registration & Facility Fees				
Facility Rental				
4438 Hall Rental	-4,115	34%	(12,000)	
Total Facility Rental	-4,115	34%	(12,000)	
Registration Fees				
4464 Programming	-19,645	70%	(28,000)	
Total Registration Fees	-19,645	70%	(28,000)	
Total Registration & Facility Fees	-23,760	59%	(40,000)	
User Fees, Licences and Fines				
User Fees				
4447 Misc. Revenue	-6,689	27%	(25,000)	
4490 Photocopy Etc.	-10,700	71%	(15,000)	
4491 Books	-3,301	66%	(5,000)	
4492 ideaSHOP sales	-1,700	68%	(2,500)	
Total User Fees	-22,390	47%	(47,500)	
Total User Fees, Licences and Fines	-22,390	47%	(47,500)	
Other				
Government Grants				
4100 Grants - Ontario	-34,483	75%	(45,922)	County's Navigator grant receive mthly \$5,833, \$45K PLOG Grant expected Q4
4200 Grants - Federal	0	0%	-	BSCF funding expected - (\$65k for the yr)
Total Government Grants	-34,483	75%	(45,922)	
Other Revenue				
4760 Donations	-8,380	0%	-	
Total Other Revenue	-8,380	0%	-	
Total Other	-42,863	93%	(45,922)	
Total Revenue	-89,013	67%	(133,422)	
Expenditures				
Wages & Benefits				
Total Wages & Benefits	1,747,589	48%	3,661,197	
Materials & Supplies				
Facility/Park Maintenance				
7080 Cleaning Supplies	5,333	59%	9,000	
Total Facility/Park Maintenance	5,333	59%	9,000	
Advertising & Publicity				
7020 Advertising & Publicity	2,064	23%	8,865	
Total Advertising & Publicity	2,064	23%	8,865	
Clothing				
5210 Clothing/PPE	0	0%	675	
Total Clothing		0%	675	
Education, Seminars & Memberships				
5230 Education & Development	15,302	70%	22,000	
7300 Prof. Dues & Memberships	4,031	135%	2,993	
Total Education, Seminars & Memberships	19,345	77%	24,993	
Equipment Maintenance				
7140 Equipment Maintenance	43	2%	2,200	
Total Equipment Maintenance	43	2%	2,200	
Office, Printing & Postage				
7360 Office Supplies	4,555	49%	9,296	
7400 Photocopy	5,669	57%	10,000	
7440 Postage	262	26%	1,000	
7460 Printing	308	4%	7,240	
Total Office, Printing & Postage	10,794	39%	27,536	
Materials				
7029 Electronic Collections	34,670	31%	113,077	
7041 Physical Collections	78,589	52%	152,460	
7280 Material	12,867	58%	22,000	
7283 Technology Supplies	18,746	96%	19,500	Offset by program revenue
7284 ideaSHOP Supplies	115	23%	500	
Total Materials	144,987	47%	307,537	
Other Expenses				



Corporation of the Town of Innisfil
Budget to Actual Variance Report - Operating
For the Period Ended June 2025
Library

	Year to	YTD Actual as	2025	
	Date	a Percent	Approved	Notes/Comments
	Actuals	of Budget	Budget	
5120 Board&Committee /Non-payroll	0	0%	4,000	
7285 Meals & Beverages	2,422	0%	-	
7320 Mileage	3,758	38%	9,858	
7389 Culture Engagement	6,373	20%	32,500	
7470 Programming - Children	9,557	67%	14,260	
7545 Project Expense	35,650	0%	-	expenses related to grants
Total Other Expenses	57,760	95%	60,618	
Public Relations				
7485 Public Relations	6,536	87%	7,503	Typically go overbudget, this is offset by misc revenues
Total Public Relations	6,536	87%	7,503	
Software Maintenance and Licencing				
7580 Software Annual Maint. Fees	43,180	63%	68,399	
Total Software Maintenance and Licencing	43,180	63%	68,399	
Total Materials & Supplies	290,042	56%	517,326	
Utilities				
Telephone and Utilities				
7600 Telephone	2,188	40%	5,508	
Total Telephone and Utilities	2,188	40%	5,508	
Total Utilities	2,188	40%	5,508	
Contracted Services				
Audit Fees				
8080 Audit	2,861	50%	5,723	
Total Audit Fees	2,861	50%	5,723	
Contracts				
8290 Contracts	854	6%	14,021	
Total Contracts	854	6%	14,021	
Other Contracted Services				
8781 Recruitment Services	2,638	0%	-	
Total Other Contracted Services	2,638	0%	-	
External Legal Costs				
8640 Legal	1,980	20%	10,000	
Total External Legal Costs	1,980	20%	10,000	
Total Contracted Services	8,333	28%	29,744	
Rents & Financial				
Service Charges				
9110 Debit/Visa Charges	541	12%	4,481	
Total Service Charges	541	12%	4,481	
Total Rents & Financial	541	12%	4,481	
Library Fleet				
Expenditures				
Materials & Supplies				
Fuel				
7200 Fuel	0	0%	1,846	
Total Fuel		0%	1,846	
Insurance				
7220 Insurance	0	0%	950	
Total Insurance		0%	950	
Purchased Services				
7380 Purchased Services	132	18%	751	
Total Purchased Services	132	18%	751	
Total Materials & Supplies	132	4%	3,547	
Total Expenditures	132	4%	3,547	
Total Library Fleet	132	4%	3,547	
Stroud Branch				
Expenditures				
Materials & Supplies				
Facility/Park Maintenance				
7180 Facility/Parks Maintenance	1,336	29%	4,550	
Total Facility/Park Maintenance	1,336	29%	4,550	
Insurance				
7220 Insurance	1,021	39%	2,600	
Total Insurance	1,021	39%	2,600	



Corporation of the Town of Innisfil
Budget to Actual Variance Report - Operating
For the Period Ended June 2025
Library

	Year to Date Actuals	YTD Actual as a Percent of Budget	2025 Approved Budget	Notes/Comments
Total Materials & Supplies	2,357	33%	7,150	
Utilities				
Telephone and Utilities				
7600 Telephone	646	35%	1,855	
Total Telephone and Utilities	646	35%	1,855	
Total Utilities	646	35%	1,855	
Contracted Services				
Cleaning Contract				
8185 Cleaning Contract	5,580	47%	11,990	
Total Cleaning Contract	5,580	47%	11,990	
Total Contracted Services	5,580	47%	11,990	
Internal Recoveries/Transfers				
Internal Rental Expenditure(Revenue)				
9610 Facility rental expenditures(I	13,148	50%	26,300	
Total Internal Rental Expenditure(Revenue)	13,148	50%	26,300	
Total Internal Recoveries/Transfers	13,148	50%	26,300	
Total Expenditures	21,731	46%	47,294	
Total Stroud Branch	21,731	46%	47,294	
Churchill Branch				
Revenue				
Registration & Facility Fees				
4538 Rental Income	-5,352	25%	(21,407)	
4541 M.I.T Income	-4,467	42%	(10,757)	
Total Registration & Facility Fees	-5,352	17%	(32,164)	
Expenditures				
Materials & Supplies				
Facility/Park Maintenance				
7180 Facility/Parks Maintenance	548	22%	2,500	
Total Facility/Park Maintenance	548	22%	2,500	
Insurance				
7220 Insurance	1,503	40%	3,800	
Total Insurance	1,503	40%	3,800	
Total Materials & Supplies	2,051	33%	6,300	
Utilities				
Telephone and Utilities				
7660 Utilities - Hydro	62	0%	-	
7680 Utilities - Natural Gas	16	0%	-	
7700 Utilities - Water/Sewer	24	0%	-	
Total Telephone and Utilities	102	0%	-	
Total Utilities	102	0%	-	
Internal Recoveries/Transfers				
Internal Transfers				
9681 Snow Clearing - Expenditures	1,783	76%	2,350	
9365 Property Taxes	0	0%	5,842	
Total Internal Transfers	1,783	22%	8,192	
Total Internal Recoveries/Transfers	1,783	22%	8,192	
Total Expenditures	3,936	27%	14,492	
Total Churchill Branch	-5,883	33%	(17,672)	
Cookstown Branch				
Expenditures				
Materials & Supplies				
Facility/Park Maintenance				
7180 Facility/Parks Maintenance	16,707	83%	20,018	
Total Facility/Park Maintenance	16,707	83%	20,018	
Insurance				
7220 Insurance	6,426	38%	16,700	
Total Insurance	6,426	38%	16,700	
Total Materials & Supplies	23,133	63%	36,718	
Utilities				
Telephone and Utilities				
7600 Telephone	826	41%	2,000	
7660 Utilities - Hydro	13,377	47%	28,500	



Corporation of the Town of Innisfil
Budget to Actual Variance Report - Operating
For the Period Ended June 2025
Library

	Year to	YTD Actual as	2025	
	Date	a Percent	Approved	Notes/Comments
	Actuals	of Budget	Budget	
7680 Utilities - Natural Gas	3,046	122%	2,500	Meter issues - under review
7700 Utilities - Water/Sewer	876	41%	2,138	
Total Telephone and Utilities	18,125	52%	35,138	
Total Utilities	18,125	52%	35,138	
Contracted Services				
Cleaning Contract				
8185 Cleaning Contract	2,793	18%	15,895	
Total Cleaning Contract	2,793	18%	15,895	
Contracts				
8850 Snow Removal	12,352	68%	18,242	
Total Contracts	12,352	68%	18,242	
Total Contracted Services	15,145	44%	34,137	
Internal Recoveries/Transfers				
Internal Rental Expenditure(Revenue)				
9600 Facility rental revenue(Intern	-14,498	50%	(29,000)	
Total Internal Rental Expenditure(Revenue)	-14,498	50%	(29,000)	
Total Internal Recoveries/Transfers	-14,498	50%	(29,000)	
Total Expenditures	126,032	52%	243,382	
Total Cookstown Branch	41,905	54%	76,993	
Lakeshore Branch				
Expenditures				
Materials & Supplies				
Facility/Park Maintenance				
7180 Facility/Parks Maintenance	16,307	53%	30,535	
Total Facility/Park Maintenance	16,307	53%	30,535	
Insurance				
7220 Insurance	13,162	28%	47,300	
Total Insurance	13,162	28%	47,300	
Total Materials & Supplies	29,469	38%	77,835	
Utilities				
Telephone and Utilities				
7600 Telephone	723	20%	3,700	
7660 Utilities - Hydro	11,489	32%	35,495	
7680 Utilities - Natural Gas	10,979	86%	12,795	
7700 Utilities - Water/Sewer	2,805	65%	4,290	
Total Telephone and Utilities	25,996	46%	56,280	
Total Utilities	25,996	46%	56,280	
Contracted Services				
Cleaning Contract				
8185 Cleaning Contract	7,031	41%	17,335	
Total Cleaning Contract	7,031	41%	17,335	
Contracts				
8325 Contracts - Grass Cutting		0%	-	
8850 Snow Removal	12,759	62%	20,427	
Total Contracts	12,759	62%	20,427	
Total Contracted Services	19,790	52%	37,762	
Total Expenditures	75,255	44%	171,877	
Total Lakeshore Branch	75,255	44%	171,877	
Total Facilities	111,277	48%	231,198	
Total Library	2,092,820	48%	4,366,874	

Appendix B

	Total	Actual	Variance	
	Approved	Spent to	2025 Planned	Additional
	Budget	Date	Spend to Actual	Comments
Library				
LIB37 Cookstown Facility Assessment & Repairs	37,215	26,787	10,428	<i>project to be completed by year end</i>
LIB39 Job Evaluation/Job Description/Pay Equity	2,574		2,574	<i>project completed Q3</i>
LIB4 RFID	36,903		36,903	
LIB42 Design / Preparation for ideaLAB & Library with Recreation	550,000			<i>deferred to 2026</i>
LIB45 Updated Needs Assessment Study	40,000		40,000	
LIB49 Lakeshore Facility Assessment & Repairs	75,000		75,000	<i>assesment of needs is underway</i>
LIB5 Electronic Equipment - All Branches	80,784	25,957	54,827	
LIB52 Replacement Furnishings	80,000	4,115	75,885	
LIB65 Marketing Kiosks	76,393		76,393	
LIB66 Mobile Outreach Unit (InnMotion)	78,000	56,451	21,549	
LIB67 Space Planning	7,388	7,496	-108	<i>project is closed out</i>
LIB70 ideaLAB & Library Mobile Kiosk	150,000	56,550	93,450	<i>holds locker installation - phase 2 projected for 2026</i>
LIB71 Lakeshore Children's Area Expansion	250,000		250,000	<i>project underway</i>
Total Library	1,464,257	177,356	736,900	
% of Capital Spend Achieved at Q2		24%		



INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF REPORT

STAFF REPORT NO. LIB-11-2025

DATE: September 15, 2025

TO: Innisfil Public Library Board

FROM: Erin Scuccimarri, CEO

SUBJECT: Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Staff Report LIB-11-2025 regarding the Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update be received; and

That the Library Board direct Staff to proceed with developing a Capital Project proposal to be included in the Town's 2026 Budget Refresh.

BACKGROUND:

"Our Stories Innisfil" is the Library's digital archive platform for preserving and providing access to local history resources. This valuable community asset, which includes over 11,000 photographs, documents, vital statistics, and oral history recordings, supports education, research, and cultural preservation. Additionally, this unique collection is the result of an ongoing partnership with the Innisfil Historical Society (IHS) to make Innisfil's history accessible to the public online. The website also serves as the Innisfil Historical Society's online presence, providing information about the Society's meetings and publications, and hosting its collection of current and archived monthly newsletters.

STAFF REPORT #LIB-11-2025 – Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update

The digital archive is currently built on *Islandora*, a free, open-source framework that integrates *Drupal 7* (a free website management system) with *Fedora Commons* (a digital storage system for large collections). While this setup was cost-effective and provided a flexible foundation at the time of launch, both *Islandora* and *Drupal 7* are now outdated. In particular, *Drupal 7* reached end-of-life in January 2025 and no longer receives security updates or support from its developer community.

ANALYSIS/CONSIDERATION:

The current infrastructure poses several challenges:

- **Security Risks:** The outdated *Drupal 7* platform is no longer supported, meaning it no longer receives critical security patches. This leaves the Library vulnerable to data breaches and system failures.
- **Lack of Internal Expertise:** Maintaining an open-source system like *Islandora* requires specialized technical skills. Staff no longer possess the advanced *Drupal* and *Fedora* systems knowledge needed to safely maintain the archive's back-end infrastructure.
- **Increased Maintenance Burden:** Routine updates, troubleshooting, and system enhancements are becoming increasingly difficult and time-consuming without dedicated technical support.

A review of peer institutions and sector best practices indicates that many libraries and archives are moving toward externally hosted, proprietary solutions for digital heritage collections. These systems offer enhanced security, scalability, support, and accessibility, allowing staff to focus on content curation and community engagement rather than infrastructure management.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:

1. Maintain Current System (Status Quo)

Pros: No immediate costs; familiar platform.

Cons: High risk due to security vulnerabilities; unsustainable without internal expertise; poor long-term viability.

2. Rebuild Islandora on Updated Drupal (Open Source Model)

Pros: Continued use of open-source tools.

Cons: High development and migration costs (\$100k); requires specialized consultants or staff hires; risk of similar sustainability issues in the future.

STAFF REPORT #LIB-11-2025 – Our Stories Innisfil – Digital Archive Infrastructure and Hosting Model Update

3. Migrate to a Proprietary, Externally Hosted Platform (Recommended)

Pros: Professional support; secure hosting; modern, user-friendly interface; reduced internal IT burden.

Cons: Ongoing annual hosting/licensing fees; data must be migrated and remapped.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Preliminary estimates indicate that upgrading the Library's digital archive infrastructure will require both one-time implementation costs and ongoing annual operating fees.

- **Implementation:** Costs for platform set-up, migration, and system configuration are projected in the range of \$20,000 to \$100,000, depending on vendor and scope.
- **Data Extraction:** In some cases included, in others charged separately. Where fees apply, they are estimated at up to \$10,000.
- **Ongoing Annual Fees:** Hosting, storage, and support costs are anticipated in the range of \$7,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Taken together, the project is expected to fall in the mid-range of these estimates at approximately \$60,000 for implementation and migration.

In order to advance the staff recommended action, the Library Board will need to submit a new Capital Project for inclusion in the 2026 budget cycle. The Town plans to present a 2026 Budget refresh to Council later this year, providing the appropriate opportunity for submission and consideration. Additional operating costs would be considered in subsequent operating budget planning cycles.

CONCLUSION:

"Our Stories Innisfil" is an important public-facing platform that preserves and shares the stories of our community and demonstrates the value of working in partnership with the Innisfil Historical Society. However, the current technical foundation is no longer secure or sustainable. Migrating the digital archive to a professionally hosted, proprietary solution will ensure long-term security, stability, and usability. This change will allow Library staff to continue growing the archive's content and connecting with the community while minimizing technical risk and maintenance challenges.



INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF REPORT

STAFF REPORT NO.: LIB-12-2025

DATE: September 16, 2025

TO: INNISFIL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM: Erin Scuccimarri, CEO

SUBJECT: Lakeshore Children's Area Renovation Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Staff Report LIB-12-2025 regarding an update to the Lakeshore Children's Area Project be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

The Lakeshore Branch is undergoing a renovation to address the increasing demands for children's and family spaces within the library. The project involves the conversion of an underused 'secret/exploration room' and slight expansion into the main library area, aimed at increasing space efficiency and enhancing user engagement. The renovations are guided by the 2022 Facility Master Plan's recommendations for a safer, more interactive environment equipped with improved collection organization.

ANALYSIS/CONSIDERATIONS:

Timeline & Overview

The renovation project is scheduled to commence at the end of September, with an anticipated completion in the New Year. Contractors have been selected via the Town's cooperative procurement system, Kinetic, to oversee the entire project, including essential tasks like purchasing and installing furniture, fixtures, and shelving (FF&E). The contractors have begun preliminary designs, and permits have been submitted. Construction activities will primarily occur outside library operating hours to minimize disruptions, with proper hoarding installed to ensure public safety during the renovation.

Collections Relocation

Children's books and materials will be temporarily relocated, primarily to the Community Room, to ensure continued access. DVDs, the large program table known as the "Lego Table", and the piano will also move accordingly. The Early Literacy Stations will be permanently removed post-renovation. Comprehensive signage and staff support will assist patrons in navigating the library during these changes.

Programming Impact

Due to construction, some children's programs will be conducted in alternate areas such as the Community Room, Open Main Space, and Board Room, possibly affecting capacity. Patrons are encouraged to utilize the Cookstown and Stroud branches for uninterrupted participation. These changes might also affect partner programs as the library prioritizes its programming needs during the renovation.

Construction Impacts

Some noise and disruptions are expected; efforts are underway to confine noisy activities to non-operating hours. Patrons seeking quieter environments can visit the Cookstown or Stroud branches.

Associated Fundraising Campaign: "Buy a Shelf, Build a Future"

In addition to the renovations, we are launching a fundraiser titled "Buy a Shelf, Build a Future," designed to engage the community and bolster the renovation efforts. This initiative invites individuals, families, and businesses to sponsor shelving units in the new children's area for a \$250 contribution. This support will fund key infrastructure improvements, fostering a more welcoming and accessible environment for children. Each sponsorship includes a personalized name plaque on a shelving bay, offering a unique opportunity for recognition and community engagement.

The goal is to raise \$12,500 by offering sponsorships for 50 shelves, adjustable based on space and need. Each sponsored shelf will feature a nameplate with a dedication, allowing for personal or business acknowledgments up to 75 characters, fostering community pride and long-term donor relationships.

CONCLUSION:

The renovation project at the Lakeshore Branch is a pivotal step towards ensuring that our library continues to meet the growing needs of children and families in Innisfil. By enhancing the children's area, we are not only improving the physical infrastructure and accessibility of our services but also reinforcing our commitment to fostering a community space that supports literacy, learning, and discovery. The associated "Buy a Shelf, Build a Future" fundraising campaign further engages the community, allowing members to take an active role in shaping the future of their library.

We are dedicated to managing this project efficiently and effectively within the approved budget. Staff will diligently monitor the progress and impact of the renovations, and any unexpected changes will be communicated to the Library Board.

Future updates on the project's progress and any necessary adjustments will be provided to keep the Board informed and engaged. By working together, we aim to create a dynamic library environment that serves as a cornerstone for community development and engagement.

Policy Changes Summary

10a.01.01 OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY - Children & Youth Services Policy #2025-13

- Wording and format changes
- Addition of definitions for “Parent” and “Guardian”
- Addition of Roles and Responsibilities
- Consolidating the guidelines for Spaces for Children and Spaces for Youth
- Addition of Caregiver responsibilities during programs
- Addition of clarification regarding employees enforcement of the Rules of Conduct
- Clarity around age minimums for unattended children in our spaces

10b.01.01 OPERATING & TECHNOLOGY – Facility Security Policy #2025-14

- Minor wording and format changes
- Removal of Record of Key/Fob Access form; it is not required, as everything is recorded in the door software system
- Removal of procedural text regarding fob/key access



SUBJECT: CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Policy No: 2025-13

Date: September 15, 2025

Revision Date: September 2029

Pages: 5

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Library's criteria and guidelines for providing high-quality services to children and youth. All programs, events, and services will provide age-appropriate content and experiences, honouring the diverse intellectual, cultural, and recreational needs of Innisfil's children and youth.

POLICY:

General

Library services for children and youth are a vital part of the Library's mandate. They support growth and development by promoting lifelong learning, literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving in a technology-rich environment. As highlighted in the Library's *Position Statement on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility*, Libraries have a responsibility to create an environment and contribute to a culture that respects individual dignity, ideas, and beliefs, and ensures all can maximize their potential.

Children and Youth Services encompass collections, programs, partnerships, and spaces, delivered by skilled employees in services for children, youth, and families.

Application

This policy applies to all Library Employees, and to anyone using Library spaces, including children and youth, their caregivers, and program partners.

Definitions

- **Parent:** A natural, adoptive, or foster parent of a child or youth.
- **Guardian:** A legal custodian responsible for the care of a child or youth.
- **Caregiver:** Any person aged 12 years or older, including parents and guardians, responsible for the direct care of a child using the Library or services.
- **Children:** Individuals aged 0-11, until their 12th birthday.
- **Youth:** Individuals aged 12-17, until their 18th birthday.
- **Employee:** All Library staff, including full-time, part-time, contract, seasonal, casual, student/co-op employees, long-term volunteers, and Board Members.

Administration

The Innisfil Public Library Board is committed to quality services for children and youth and endorses the *Children's Rights in the Public Library* statement, the OLA's statement on *Teen's Rights in the Public Library*, and the Canadian Federation of Library Association's *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*. (see Appendices)

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Caregivers:** Responsible for the supervision, safety, behaviour, and material choices of children and youth in their care, including internet use.
- **Employees:** Provide access to collections, technology, and programs, and enforce Library policies. Employees are trained to deliver safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate services, but do not act as caregivers.
- **Visitors:** All visitors, including children and youth, must adhere to the Library's Rules of Conduct policy.

Guidelines

Space for Children and Youth

The Library is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for children and youth, with designated areas where possible, to support learning, exploration, and social connection. Compliance with the Library's Rules of Conduct is required at all times.

Collections, Reference & Readers Advisory

A broad range of materials is provided to meet the needs of children and youth, maintained through continuous evaluation as per the Collection Management Policy. Employees will assist users with requests for resources, books and information, confidentially and respectfully, and by engaging in meaningful and age-appropriate conversations. Caregivers determine the suitability of library materials and oversee children's use of digital devices.

Library employees do not act as caregivers and will neither censor nor restrict access to any materials within the collection. The responsibility to assess the suitability of library materials for children and youth resides with caregivers, not library employees. As outlined in the Membership & Borrowing Policy, caregivers are accountable for the materials that children and youth in their care access or borrow from the Library.

In alignment with the Public Internet and Technology Use Policy, the Library provides unfiltered Internet access for all. Caregivers are responsible for supervising the usage of digital devices and services by children and youth, including managing potential risks such as damage or loss, as well as restricting access to inappropriate online materials.

Programming

The Library is committed to delivering a wide range of activities, events, and programs that enrich the lives of children and youth. These offerings are specifically designed to spark curiosity, stimulate imagination, and support lifelong learning and literacy. By incorporating the latest insights from early childhood research and educational trends, these programs reflect best practices and innovative approaches.

All programs for children, youth, and families are developed according to the Program Policy, ensuring inclusive, supportive environments. Library employees work closely with caregivers to maximize participation, providing expertise to align program choices with individual developmental needs. Employees are equipped to recommend appropriate programs, suggesting alternatives when another option may better serve a child's or youth's unique requirements.

Caregiver Responsibilities During Programs

- Programs are classified as either supervised, where a caregiver attends alongside the child, or independent, allowing the child to engage without direct supervision.
- During independent programs, caregivers are required to stay within the Library premises and must return to the program space promptly when the session concludes.
- Caregivers must always be available to assist their child upon staff request, for situations such as washroom breaks, sickness or injury, behavioral issues, or emergencies.

Advocacy & Outreach

Employees focused on Children & Youth Services play an essential role in advocacy by:

- Partnering with municipal departments, local agencies, schools, and childcare centers to promote early literacy and lifelong learning, thereby boosting the well-being of children and youth in Innisfil.
- Actively pursuing support from community organizations, seeking partnerships, and encouraging fundraising efforts to enhance services for children and youth.
- Connecting with other service providers on local, provincial, and broader levels to share best practices and improve service delivery.
- Maintaining communication with education professionals like principals and teachers, fostering joint initiatives that support educational and developmental goals.

Through these activities, Library employees help build robust community support systems that prioritize the growth and development of children and youth, ensuring broad access to vital resources and opportunities.

Volunteering

The Library offers a variety of youth volunteering opportunities for students living and/or attending school in Innisfil. Volunteer hours are offered to those students who apply on an as needed basis.

Conduct and Behaviour

All visitors must follow the Library's Rules of Conduct Policy. Responsibility for the behaviour and well-being of children and youth using the Library lies with caregivers. Employees may enforce rules through excluding an individual or group from Library property for the remainder of the day, banning or trespassing for a set period of time, or requiring guardian accompaniment when accessing library facilities or services.

Unattended Children and Youth

The Library cannot assume responsibility for children left unattended. Caregivers are responsible for supervision, safety, and behaviour while they are on Library property.

- Children age 11 years and younger must be supervised at all times while visiting the Library.
- Youth aged 12 and up may use the Library independently, with caregivers remaining accountable for their behaviour as outlined in applicable Library policies.

Reporting Abuse and Neglect

As per the *Ontario Child, Youth and Family Services Act* (Section 125), library employees are mandated to report any suspicions of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, neglect, or risk of harm involving children and youth under 16 to Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions. For concerns involving 16 or 17-year-olds, employees may report suspected abuse or neglect to Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions as well. While reporting for this age group is not mandatory, the agency is obliged to assess the information provided and determine the necessary actions. Employees must notify the CEO or designate of all reports made to Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions regarding abuse and neglect.

Appendix #1 – Ontario Library Association Position on Children’s Rights in the Library, Adopted 1998***Appendix #2 – Ontario Library Association Teen’s Rights In the Library, Adopted 2010******Appendix #3 – Canadian Federation of Library Associations Statement on the Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, Adopted 1974*****RELATED POLICIES:**

Collection Management Policy

Membership and Borrowing Policy

Program Policy

Public Internet and Technology Use Policy

Rules of Conduct Policy

Volunteer Policy

Approved by the Innisfil Public Library Board, September 15, 2025, Motion Number: 2025.XX

Supersedes Policy #2024-20, approved October 21, 2024; and Policy #2020-26, approved October 19, 2020, Motion #2020.78; and Policy #2016-16, approved October 17, 2016, Motion #2016.80 & Policy #2013-21, approved December 9, 2013, Motion #2013.110; & Policy #2010-11, approved May 17, 2010, Motion #2010.40; & Policy #2005-09, approved November 14, 2005, Motion #2005.54; & Policy #2001-12, approved November 9, 1998, Motion #98.40.

Appendix 1

THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION POSITION ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE LIBRARY

Children in public libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom.
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association
Annual General Meeting
November 1998

Appendix 2



∴ ontario library association

Teen's rights in the Public Library

Goals for Library Services for Teens:

Young people are valuable members of our library community who deserve the same respect, dignity and human rights as all library members. This document provides a framework for developing library services to teens that meet the educational, informational, and cultural and leisure needs of young people in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Each public library has a different community to serve and therefore different priorities and needs.

Although specific services for teens have not been well established in all libraries, these goals are created in the belief that young adulthood is a unique life stage and that young adults are entitled to the same quality of library services offered to other age groups in the population.

(Adapted from the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults, 2006 and the YALSA Guidelines for Library Services to Teens, Ages 12-18, 2006.)

The goal of library services for teens is to assist with the transition from children's services to adult services and to provide access to both resources and an environment that meets the needs of young people for intellectual, emotional and social development. Specifically these needs are based on the unique seven developmental needs of adolescents and the five core values of quality service to teens:

7 Developmental Needs of Teens	5 Core Values of service to teens
• Physical activity, • Competence and achievement, • Self definition, • Creative expression, • Positive social Interaction with Peers and Adults, • Structure and Clear Limits, • Meaningful Participation	• Respecting and responding to unique YA needs, • Providing equal access, • Empowering Youth through participation, • Engaging Teens in active collaboration, • Supporting healthy youth development.
Excerpted from: Dorman, G. (1981). The Middle Grades Assessment Program: User's Manual. Carrboro, NC: Center for Early Adolescence.	Core Values excerpted from Jones, P. (2002). <i>New directions for library service to young adults</i>. Chicago: American Library Association.

Teens in Ontario Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom

The library establishes clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by young adults to library resources and information sources; and respect for the rights of young adults to select materials appropriate to their needs without censorship. The library's teen collection, policies and services should be consistent with the concepts of intellectual freedom defined by the CLA, OLA and Ontario Human Rights code.

2. Equal access to the full range of materials, services, and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their unique needs.

The Library integrates library service to teens into the overall plan, budget and service program for the library. Library service to teens is integrated with those offered to other user groups.

3. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.

The Library incorporates funding for materials and services for teens in the library operating budget and ensures there is equitable distribution of resources to support programs and services for young adults.

4. Collections that specifically meet the needs of teens

The Library provides a wide spectrum of current materials of interest to young adults to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development. The library endeavors to develop collections that encourage leisure reading, support homework and school success and responds to gender and cultural diversity. The library provides unfettered access to technology including social networking, licensed databases, and other online library resources for teens.

5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.

The Library provides identifiable spaces for teens that are separate from children's spaces where possible, reflects their lifestyle and allows for teens to use this library space for leisure or study, either independently or in groups.

6. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service at every service point.

The Library promotes friendly, positive, non-biased customer interactions with teens, providing staff development and training and ensures that services for teens embrace cultural and gender diversity and economic differences. Library staff will endeavor to respect the teen's need for privacy and nonjudgmental service and assist young adults in acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information literate.

7. Library Programs and Services appropriate for Teens

The Library fosters youth development by providing programs for teens that contribute to literacy, life-long learning and healthy youth development. The library endeavors to provide volunteer opportunities for helping others through community service hours including participating on Library Advisory Boards, and other projects that help develop a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The library's teen services initiatives are effectively managed according to best practices in the field of Youth Services.

8. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in teen services.

Library staff is knowledgeable about adolescent development and age appropriate resources for young adults inclusive of those with special needs. The library provides services by teen specialists as well as by others who are trained to serve teens.)

9. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of teen services.

The Library works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

10. Library policies are written to include the needs of the youth.

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting June 2010.

Appendix 3



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Approval History: ~ CLA: June 27, 1974. Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 27, 2015. CFLA-FCAB:
Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

You can find CFLA-FCAB's Position on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Library Meetings Rooms and Facilities: An Interpretation of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries [here](#)



SUBJECT: FACILITY SECURITY POLICY

Policy No: 2025-14

Date: September 15, 2025

Review Date: September 2029

Pages: 4

PURPOSE

This policy establishes operational standards for the physical security of public and employee areas, systems, and documents containing sensitive information, as well as personnel, to minimize the loss and damage to library assets.

POLICY

General

This policy:

- Ensures adequate building security for both people and property by controlling key fob authorization and managing the issuance of keys, pass codes, or combinations;
- Ensures appropriate access to work areas for library employees and grants access to selected maintenance personnel, other contracted employees, and Emergency Services (police and fire), for reasons of security, safety, and health.

Application

This policy is applicable to all employees and anyone visiting or working in buildings owned or operated by the Innisfil Public Library Board.

Definitions

Contractor/Vendor: Refers to a provider of goods and/or services.

Electronic Locking Devices: Programmable locks that allow access through a security token, such as a key fob.

Facility: Any building owned, leased, or operated by the Innisfil Public Library Board.

I.T.: Information Technology employees.

Key Fob: A security token, a small hardware device with built-in authentication.

Master Key: A key that opens all door locks, including Electronic Locking Devices, in a specific facility.

Visitor: The general public; any person who has not been provided building access permissions.

Guidelines

SECURITY CONTROL MEASURES

The Library relies on all employees to ensure the safety and security of library facilities and spaces, as well as the safeguarding of sensitive data and information.

Denial of Access

In the event of a Declared State of Emergency, or if facility security is deemed at risk, the CEO or their designate has the authority to revoke or temporarily suspend access to any or all facilities controlled by the Library.

Safeguarding Information and Assets

Employees must take necessary measures to safeguard library information and assets, as well as protect sensitive information under their control, including:

- Restricting access to monitors by positioning them to prevent others from reading the display, logging off, or locking computers when leaving workstations, and regularly changing pass codes.
- Locking office assets and file drawers when not in use and ensuring they are secure prior to leaving the Library at the end of a shift.
- Complying with all closing procedures and ensuring that all doors and windows are locked when entering or leaving a facility outside normal business hours.
- Protecting all pass codes, key fobs, keys, and combinations from unauthorized use, and reporting any loss or breach immediately. Failure to do so may lead to disciplinary action.

FACILITIES WITH ELECTRONIC SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS

Alarm Response

- The CEO or designate is responsible for ensuring that each facility has an up-to-date, accurate, prioritized on-call contact list comprising a minimum of three persons, which is provided to the appropriate alarm monitoring service. This list is included in the facility's Fire Plan;
- In the event of an alarm, employees are contacted in a pre-determined, prioritized order;
- Employees responding to a security alarm call should not enter the building unless accompanied by personnel from the Police or Fire Services;
- Major security alarm incidents, such as forced entry, must be reported to the CEO and the Board as soon as possible.

Security Alarm Pass Codes

All full-time staff and those assigned opening/closing responsibilities will be provided with a personal security alarm pass code after the completion of their probationary period. Employees holding positions at or above the level of Manager, and others such as Library Custodians, may receive their codes at the time of hire if authorized by the CEO or designate.

Library Employees who are on-call for alarm response for a specific facility will have security alarm pass codes for all controlled areas on a 24 hour/7-day basis. All other staff may have limited access to align with facility operating hours, depending on their role and responsibilities.

FACILITIES WITH ELECTRONIC LOCKING DEVICES

General

Library employees are issued a key fob at the beginning of their employment, with access permissions tailored to their specific roles. While student employees may only receive internal access and might use a shared fob that remains on-site, other staff members will be granted access to both internal office areas and external entryways as necessary for their duties. Each key fob is assigned a unique ID by the I.T. department, and the CEO or designate reviews the conditions of use periodically. Access to additional controlled areas requires approval from the CEO or the relevant Director/Manager. External partners or contracted agencies may be granted access to necessary areas on a case-by-case basis, balancing security with operational needs.

MASTER KEYS

Master keys for all facilities are provided to the CEO, I.T. staff, Custodial staff, and may be provided to Fire and Police Services for emergency entry. Additionally, specific

master keys may be issued to Directors and Managers.

AUTHORIZED CONTRACTORS AND VISITORS

All authorized contractors and visitors must sign in and obtain a “Visitor” badge before entering employee areas. Upon departure, they must sign out and return their identification badge. Visitor logbooks are retained according to the Library’s Records Retention Policy. Employees share responsibility for questioning unescorted visitors and must report unauthorized personnel to management.

CORPORATE RECORDS STORAGE AREA

Access to the combination for the storage area is limited to the CEO and designated senior employees.

SERVER ROOMS AND LAN CLOSETS

Keys and/or pass codes for all server rooms and LAN closets are held by the CEO or designate and designated IT staff. A spare key is secured in a secure location.

SAFES

Safe combinations are provided to the CEO or designate and changed as needed by managers. A list of those with safe access is maintained by the relevant Director.

NOTIFICATION

Library Administration (CEO, Director, Manager, or designate) must notify I.T. Services before any change in employment status (start date, level change, leave of absence, disability, or last working day) so that access to security systems can be updated promptly. They must also arrange the collection of all library property from departing employees.

FAILURE TO RETURN LIBRARY PROPERTY

If a departing employee fails to return library property, they will be contacted by registered letter, requesting the return of specific items. If unreturned within two weeks, a second letter will be sent, and legal action may be pursued if necessary.

Related Policies

Video Surveillance Policy

Approved by Innisfil Public Library Board, September 15, 2025

Motion Number: 2025.XX

Supersedes Policy #2021-16, approved September 20, 2021, Motion #2021.71;
Policy #2017-14, approved September 18, 2017, Motion #2017.64 &
Policy #2013-13, approved October 21, 2013, Motion #2013.92; &
Policy #2009-06, approved March 9, 2009, Motion #2009.25; &
Policy #2006-21, approved June 12, 2006, Motion #2006.60.