

# North Kawartha Public Library

## 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan

# Strategic Plan

## Table of Contents

<a href="#"><u>Message From The Chair</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Message From The Library Staff</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>4.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>North Kawartha Public Library Information</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>5.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mission Statement</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Values</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Strategic Priorities</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>7.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>2024 Strategic Plan Accomplishments</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9.</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>2025 Goals &amp; Objectives</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10.</u></a>

## **Message from the Chair 2025**

As we enter our third year of this board term we are looking back on 2024 as a year full of ongoing and new program planning. We were able to expand the level of programming due to an increase in hours for the Programming Coordinator. Lisa Mace joined our staff in January and she and Kim Tucker, our Technology and Program Manager, have developed a very comprehensive calendar of activities within and beyond the physical structure of the library. By year end we had accepted the resignation of the librarian assistant in our Woodview Branch. Thank you, Janet Grice, for your many years of service and best wishes for your retirement plans. Kim Lefebvre will be joining the staff team providing service at the Woodview branch as we start 2025. We love our beautiful physical space at Woodview and Apsley Branches, but the biggest asset of our library is the staff team led by our CEO, Debbie Hall.

This year we were able to purchase another outdoor table, with the assistance of the McIlmoyl family. This has provided support for programming and patrons using the library Wi-Fi beyond business hours. Staff also have decorated our bollard posts with delightful seasonal artwork.

Our biggest fundraiser, the July book sale, was a great success. We once again accomplished our financial goal and the community's support with book donations and purchases was tremendous. The Board thanks the many people who helped that weekend.

As we mentioned before, our programming was outstanding in the past year. The March Break biggest activity was held at the NKCC to accommodate over 200 people attending. The Eyrie, a local Birds of Prey centre provided an exciting educational program of live raptors. Many other programs went beyond the boundaries of our library with art and information programming such as mushroom foraging and garden tours. Lisa created a spectacular immersive experience, "Seas the Day" created by over 200 children in the community. The programming room was transformed into a black lit underwater environment for a week. Many other in-house programs for children and adults were continued or created. Seedy Sunday had its second anniversary and adults joined facilitators for cooking and sewing sessions. One of our strategic goals for this term was to enhance our work with teens and pre-teens and Lisa has accomplished this in her summer and winter programs.

Our library is thriving through our traditional collections and technology services but also through bringing community members together for learning, discussion and hands-on experiences.

Cathie Leard, Board Chair

## 2023-2026 Library Board



L to R: Jim O'Shea, Sharon Sidaros, RuthAnne McIlmoyl, Catherine Leard - Chair,  
Sue Leeson – Vice Chair

### *Message from the Library Staff*

The Library staff is a group of dedicated, qualified individuals that pride themselves in the delivery of services at our Libraries. We are fortunate to have two facilities with up-to-date technology to meet the needs of our community.

The strategic planning process is very beneficial for the Library Board and staff. The Strategic Plan provides a clear outline and direction for what we wish to accomplish.

Debbie Hall, CEO/Librarian  
[d.hall@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:d.hall@northkawarthlibrary.com)

Kim Tucker, Technical Services & Programming  
Manager  
[k.tucker@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:k.tucker@northkawarthlibrary.com)

Kim Lefebvre, Woodview Librarian  
[k.lefebvre@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:k.lefebvre@northkawarthlibrary.com)

Lisa Mace, Programming Coordinator  
[l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com](mailto:l.mace@northkawarthlibrary.com)

Linda Fierheller, Clerk

## North Kawartha Public Library Information

Library service came to our area in the 1930's thanks to the dedication and hard work of the local Women's Institute. Today the North Kawartha Public Library has two branches to serve the needs of our residents. The main branch is in Apsley at 175 Burleigh Street. It is open year-round, 5 days a week. The Woodview branch, located at 66 Northey's Bay Rd in the southern part of our Township, is open year-round, 3 days a week. Both locations offer free, unlimited wireless access, a very popular service for both our year-round and seasonal residents. Another very beneficial service is the library's annual publication of the "North Kawartha Community Directory". Widely distributed throughout our Township, this is a valuable resource of contact information for local businesses, services and organizations, as well as current events and activities. For more information, please visit [www.northkawarthalibrary.com](http://www.northkawarthalibrary.com).



The North Kawartha Public Libraries offer books for all ages, e-Books, digital and print magazines, online reference databases including Ancestry.com, DVD's from the classics to current hits and documentaries, books on CD, public internet access, free wireless access, one to one computer training, programming and special events.

Membership to the North Kawartha Library is free and available to all. You do not have to be a resident of North Kawartha.

The North Kawartha Public Library is very proud to have achieved accreditation in 2012.

# **Strategic Plan North Kawartha Public Library 2022-2026**

## **Mission Statement**

The library provides equitable access to social, cultural and community resources, empowering the community to meet, learn and be inspired.

## **Values**

Learning and Culture

Equity and Inclusion

Innovation and Creativity

Intellectual Freedom

Courtesy and Respect

Sustainability

Accountability (public stewardship including fiscal, ethical and environmental responsibility)

Integrity: open, transparent and honest in all our interactions

Service Excellence

Community & Collaboration

## **Strategic Priorities**

### **Organizational Sustainability**

Transforming the Library - physical spaces will be kept up to date, remodeled and repurposed to promote flexible and new programming and fundraising needs

Staff, volunteers and board members will be supported to ensure retention, succession, programming development and acquiring skills relevant to the needs of the library

Assist Library Board members in advocating for the library in the community and with Council

Stay current on new funding opportunities including governmental and community based

Maintain Accreditation through the Ontario Public Library Guidelines (OPLG)

### **Services and Programming**

Expansion of non-print collections and programs to promote digital and hands on, experiential activities

Introducing patrons to new and exciting advancements in technology

Coaching in everyday best practices and uses of modern-day tech

### **Connecting the Community**

Engage and partner with community members, organizations and businesses to explore their needs and create opportunities to meet these needs within the activities of the library. We acknowledge that this will require a responsive and flexible approach to planning services.

## **Heritage and Culture**

The library will celebrate and support local cultural traditions, new endeavours and heritage collections

Explore opportunities with First Nations to promote understanding and knowledge of the Truth and Reconciliation process

# 2024 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

## 1. Organizational Sustainability

- Purchased some furniture for Woodview Branch
- Woodview Librarian retired and hired new Woodview Librarian
- Applied for a Trillium Grant (Unsuccessful)
- Received a significant donation to help with updates to the Apsley Branch building
- Investigated website companies as ours is at end-of-life and decided to stay with our current company

## 2. Services & Programming

- Started a monthly teen club and book club
- Offered special interest workshops eg. Sewing, Self Defence, Cooking
- Held 2nd annual “Seedy Sunday”
- Continued to hold Kniterary and Garden group, adjusted frequency of Plein Air Painting and Ukulele group
- Series of evening lectures and speakers in the summer
- Held 1<sup>st</sup> annual “Tomato Tasting Social”

## 3. Connecting the Community

- Conducted an informal programming survey accessed by QR code.
- Continued monthly meetings with several community groups eg. Community Care, Legion, Lions, Apsley Central School, Municipal Councillor, ABC Seniors etc.

## 4. Heritage and Culture

- Held the “Seas the Day” children’s art show
- Started an Art Salon monthly meeting with area Artists

## 2025 Goals & Objectives

### 1. Organizational Sustainability

- Prepare Trillium grant for Library Signage at the Apsley Branch
- Prioritize building cupboards and moving the Historical Collection to the Business Hub to free up more storage space for programming in the programming room
- More new furniture for Woodview Branch
- Implement migration of website from icreate to GHD digital
- Improve accessibility in bathrooms, sensor lights and lower handles on stall doors
- Bring in more volunteers

### 2. Services & Programming

- Develop programming in Woodview in collaboration with Woodview Librarian
- Expand children's library programming to include Stem and technology
- Offer more programming to children ages 1-5 as required
- Investigate AI programming
- Continue to offer hands-on learning opportunities to adults eg. Fix it workshops

### 3. Connecting the Community

- Maintain and build ongoing connections within the community between the library and community members as well as community groups
- Continue to gather community feedback to help inform future decisions. Conduct formal and informal surveys on collections, programming, technology and facilities.
- Create e-newsletter

### 4. Heritage and Culture

- Develop cultural programming in partnership with area artists and musicians and community members
- Incorporate programming to educate and learn about Indigenous issues, diversity and inclusion for staff and public
- Lay groundwork for 2026 lecture series. Apply for Seniors Grant to cover the cost of lecturers, projector & screen and seating