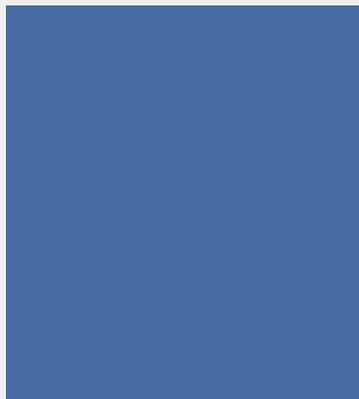
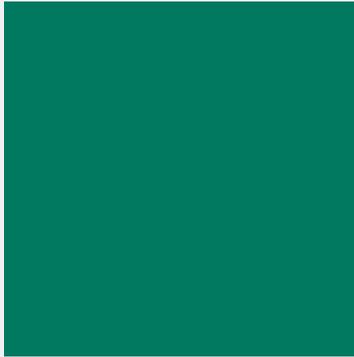


# PEI PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

# Annual Report

## 2025





# Libraries in Prince Edward Island

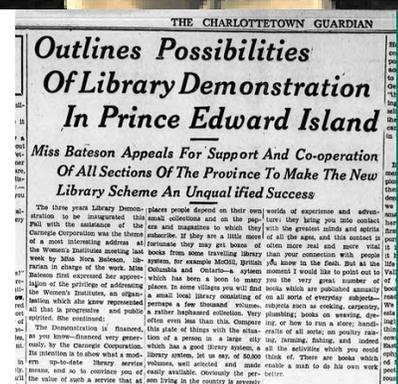
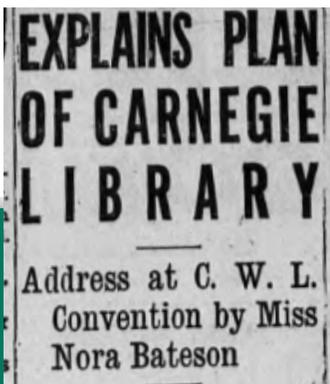
## The Prince Edward Island Library Demonstration

The public library system in Prince Edward Island can trace its origins to 1933, when the Carnegie Corporation of New York announced its commitment to fund a three-year Regional Library Demonstration within the Province.

According to the Carnegie Corporation’s Canadian Library Survey, Prince Edward Island – with its population of around 90,000 and small geographical area – was a “fertile field for [modern] library experiment and demonstration.”<sup>1</sup> Due to its manageable population size and limited land mass, the Carnegie Corporation believed this Library Demonstration in Prince Edward Island could fulfill two ideals; namely, to create the first province-wide library system in Canada, and secondly, to showcase public libraries as a true vehicle for the “democratization of knowledge.”<sup>2</sup>

In June 1933, Nora Bateson was appointed as Director of the Demonstration and she embarked upon a whirlwind of activity. Operating out of the basement of the Prince of Wales College building in Charlottetown, Bateson began the process of ordering books and travelling throughout the Province. She spoke at local Women’s Institutes, church congregations, service clubs, farmer exhibitions, and conventions, advocating the importance of public libraries within communities.

By October of that same year, the first branch library was opened within the community of Montague. When the Demonstration ended in December of 1935, Bateson had established over 20 branches across the Island; thus, establishing the start of Prince Edward Island’s public library system.



<sup>1</sup>H. Bramwell Chandler and J. T. Croteau, A Regional Library and Its Readers: A Study of Five Years of Rural Reading (American Association for Adult Education, 1940, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>H. Bramwell Chandler and J. T. Croteau, A Regional Library and Its Readers: A Study of Five Years of Rural Reading (American Association for Adult Education, 1940, p. 118.



# Overview

## Public Library Service

The PEI Public Library Service consists of 25 branch libraries located across the Province. Of these 25 locations, 4 are situated within schools and 3 are French language libraries. The system also includes an administrative office known as Public Library Service Headquarters.

The Public Library Service in PEI is governed by the *Public Libraries Act* – a piece of provincial legislation that explains the system’s operational structure. As stated by this Act, the library system in PEI operates on a partnership model, whereby the Provincial Government is responsible for staffing and collections, and local municipalities are responsible for providing the facility and any building-related expenditures.

Along with serving the public, the Public Library Service also provides ordering, cataloging and processing services to school libraries within the Province.



## Director’s Message

2025 was another eventful year – not just for PEI Libraries but for the world in general.

In this current climate of uncertainty, people are searching for meaning and connections. At the PEI Public Library Service, we strive each day to provide inclusive, interactive and safe spaces where any Islander can feel part of a larger community. Whether you come to our facilities to use our public computers and WiFi, participate in a program or borrow one of our free resources, we are here to serve you and help you find the information you need.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors and patrons who continue to support public libraries and their ongoing role in Island life.

A white silhouette map of Prince Edward Island is positioned to the left of the signature.  
*Grace Dawson*



# By the Numbers



**744,713** total items borrowed



**175,995** digital items borrowed

**6,223** new library cards



**50,553** library cardholders



**46,880** public computer sessions



**161,200** website visits



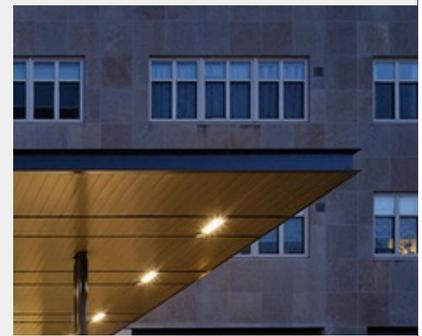
**4,975** library programs offered

**53,747** library program attendees

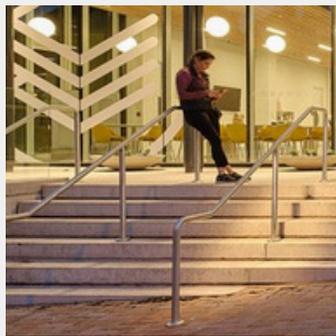


**936,174** online catalogue sessions

**4,624** summer tutoring sessions with PEI Literacy Alliance



**6,144** items borrowed through Early Years Centre Delivery Service



**TD Summer Reading Club**

**827** programs  
**10,821** attendees  
**3,022** Reading Dragons cards/hours read



**7,735** items borrowed through Accessible Library Services

**4,225** items borrowed through Community Care Delivery Service



**1600** tax returns accepted at libraries via Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

\*Statistics cover the 2025 calendar year

# What's New?



The Library is continuously adding new materials and resources for the public to utilize. In 2025, the Library added the following:

## Online Room Booking Software

This platform allows the public to easily reserve the community rooms available at our Charlottetown and Summerside libraries.

## Online Program Calendar

This accessible online calendar allows the public to view, search and filter through the numerous programs offered at all 25 of our public library locations.

## Launchpads

Tablets that are pre-loaded with high-quality, ad-free content just for kids. These tablets contain a variety of educational apps, videos, storybooks, and games. No Wi-Fi required!

## Rubik's Cube Kits

The Rubik's Cube is the world's best known puzzle. Regardless of age, this kit helps users sharpen their spatial awareness and problem-solving skills, improve their memory, and increase pattern recognition.



# What's New?



## Ghost Hunting Kits

Take your paranormal investigations to new heights with our Ghost Hunting Kits! Each kit contains an EMF reader, a Digital Voice Recorder, an infrared thermometer and a variety of paranormal-related books.

## Get Ready for Kindergarten Kits

These kits contain a variety of resources to help children who are preparing to attend Kindergarten for the first time. Made in partnership with the *Department of Education and Early Years*. English and French kits are available.

## Storytime to Go Kits

Each kit consists of books and a booklet with a Storytime plan that includes songs, finger plays and activities. Kits available in English and French.

## Wellness Kits

These kits are provided by the *Charlottetown Library Learning Centre Foundation* through the *Live Well PEI Wellness Grant* program. These kits include *Heart Health* and *Cognitive Care* themed-kits. All kits include a variety of items, books and informational resources.





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village

1596 Route 124, Abrams Village

Located in École Évangéline, the library is open to the public 4 days a week for a total of 20 hours.



#### Key Activities

- **413** active library cardholders
- **170** programs offered, with **394** attendees
- **6,098** items checked out



### Alberton Public Library

11 Railway Street, Alberton

The library is open 4 days a week for a total of 21 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **622** active library cardholders
- **104** programs offered, with **662** attendees
- **7,696** items checked out
- **659** public computer sessions



# Library Branches 2025 Usage

## Borden-Carleton Public Library

244 Borden Avenue, Borden-Carleton

Located in the G.C. Bell Civic Building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

### Key Activities

- **185** active library cardholders
- **92** programs offered, with **364** attendees
- **2,580** items checked out
- **181** public computer sessions



## Breadalbane Public Library

4023 Dixon Road, Breadalbane

Located within the Breadalbane Community Centre, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

### Key Activities

- **101** active library cardholders
- **53** programs offered, with **148** attendees
- **1,460** items checked out





# Library Branches 2025 Usage

## Charlottetown Library Learning Centre

97 Queen Street, Charlottetown

The Charlottetown Library Learning Centre is open 7 days a week for a total of 63.5 hours.

### Key Activities

- **22,440** active library cardholders
- **1,006** programs offered, with **15,351** attendees
- **179,006** items checked out
- **29,263** public computer sessions
- **2,432** room bookings
- **309,337** visitors in 2025



## Bibliothèque publique Dr.- J.-Edmond-Arsenault

5 Acadian Drive, Charlottetown

Located within the Carrefour de L'isle St-Jean and École François-Buote, the library is open to the public 4 days a week for 24.5 hours.

### Key Activities

- **791** active library cardholders
- **218** programs offered, with **3,228** attendees
- **25,783** items checked out
- **166** public computer sessions



# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Cornwall Public Library

115 Mercedes Drive, Cornwall

Located inside the Cornwall Town Hall, the library is open 5 days a week for a total of 38 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **3,696** active library cardholders
- **440** programs offered, with **5,348** attendees
- **49,396** items checked out
- **783** public computer sessions



### Crapaud Public Library

20424 Trans Canada Highway, Crapaud

Located inside the Crapaud Professional Building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 13 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **328** active library cardholders
- **93** programs offered, with **425** attendees
- **6,160** items checked out
- **51** public computer sessions





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Georgetown Genevieve Soloman Memorial Library

47 Kent Street, Georgetown

Located inside the Georgetown Elementary School, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 16 hours.



#### Key Activities

- **177** active library cardholders
- **176** programs offered, with **2,611** attendees
- **3,735** items checked out
- **680** public computer sessions



### Hunter River Memorial Library

19816 Route 2, Hunter River

Located inside the Hunter River Community Centre, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 17 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **719** active library cardholders
- **122** programs offered, with **691** attendees
- **12,060** items checked out
- **79** public computer sessions



# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Kensington Heritage Library

16 Commercial Street, Kensington

The library is open 5 days a week for a total of 36 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **1,082** active library cardholders
- **146** programs offered, with **896** attendees
- **49,182** items checked out
- **163** public computer sessions



### Kinkora Public Library

45 Anderson Road, Kinkora

Located inside the Kinkora Community Hall, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **154** active library cardholders
- **120** programs offered, with **1,036** attendees
- **955** items checked out
- **36** public computer sessions





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Montague Rotary Library

*21 Sullivan Drive, Montague*

Located in the Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre, the Montague Rotary Library is open 6 days a week for a total of 47 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **3,032** active library cardholders
- **279** programs offered, with **3,247** attendees
- **41,239** items checked out
- **4,750** public computer sessions
- **46,837** visitors in 2025



### Morell Public Library

*89 Red Head Road, Morell*

Located within the Provincial Library building, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 15 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **495** active library cardholders
- **90** programs offered, with **516** attendees
- **6,439** items checked out
- **169** public computer sessions





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Mount Stewart Public Library

104 Main Street, Mount Stewart

Located in the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

#### Key Activities

- 257 active library cardholders
- 69 programs offered, with 344 attendees
- 1,953 items checked out
- 97 public computer sessions



### Murray Harbour Public Library

27 Faye Fraser Drive, Murray Harbour

Located in the Murray Harbour Community Centre, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 16 hours.

#### Key Activities

- 278 active library cardholders
- 74 programs offered, with 377 attendees
- 4,277 items checked out





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Murray River Leona Giddings Memorial Library

1066 MacInnis Street, Murray River

The Library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **226** active library cardholders
- **70** programs offered, with **314** attendees
- **3,216** items checked out



### O'Leary Public Library

18 Community Street, O'Leary

Located in the O'Leary Town Complex, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 18 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **667** active library cardholders
- **65** programs offered, with **517** attendees
- **7,416** items checked out
- **272** public computer sessions



# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Souris Public Library

75 Main Street, Souris

Located in the Souris Town Hall, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 19 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **797** active library cardholders
- **92** programs offered, with **609** attendees
- **17,614** items checked out
- **266** public computer sessions



### St. Peters Public Library

1968 Cardigan Road, St. Peters Bay

Located in the Jim MacAulay Complex, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **186** active library cardholders
- **109** programs offered, with **523** attendees
- **2,949** items checked out
- **68** public computer sessions





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Stratford Public Library

25 Hopeton Road, Stratford

The library is open 5 days a week for a total of 46 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **3,948** active library cardholders
- **374** programs offered, with **3,928** attendees
- **47,466** items checked out
- **2,244** public computer sessions



### Summerside Rotary Library

57 Central Street, Summerside

Located in the Inspire Learning Centre, the Summerside Rotary Library is open 7 days a week for a total of 54 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **7,382** active library cardholders
- **727** programs offered, with **8,698** attendees
- **71,301** items checked out
- **6,633** public computer sessions
- **1,295** room bookings
- **91,112** visitors in 2025





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard

5 Maris Stella Avenue, Summerside

Located between the Centre Belle-Alliance and École-sur-Mer, the library is open to the public 4 days a week for a total of 20 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **428** active library cardholders
- **117** programs offered, with **2,063** attendees
- **9,828** items checked out



### Tignish Public Library

103 School Street, Tignish

Located in the Tignish Cultural Centre, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 15 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **499** active library cardholders
- **113** programs offered, with **895** attendees
- **6,186** items checked out
- **258** public computer sessions





# Library Branches

## 2025 Usage

### Tyne Valley Public Library

*19 Allen Road, Tyne Valley*

Located within the Tyne Valley Village Office, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

#### Key Activities

- **254** active library cardholders
- **56** programs offered, with **562** attendees
- **2,001** items checked out

