



2025 Annual Report



Our always agenda:

Community Hub

Empowering Service

Operational Excellence

Growing with our Community

In 2025, the Blue Mountains Public Library stepped fully into its identity as a GLAM institution, reinforcing that this identity is not aspirational, but lived.

**We didn't just celebrate milestones.
We celebrated momentum.**

A community that shows up

54.2% of our residents now hold a BMPL membership, placing us as one of the top-performing libraries of a comparable size.

Celebrating 30 years of impact

We marked our 30th Anniversary with over 300 community members participating in special events, exhibitions, and the launch of a limited-edition Story Tower colouring book created by local artist Beverley Smith.

Leading with integrity in a changing world

The Board introduced new policies on business continuity and the ethical use of AI.

Building toward the future

The Board launched a Space Utilization Study to address long-standing space pressures and guide planning for expanded and modernized community services.

Culture beyond our walls

In partnership with the Town of Blue Mountains, we launched the print Cultural Map and new heritage panels throughout the community.

Provincial recognition and pride

The BMPL was honoured with the “I Partner with My Public Library” Award.

Expanding heritage access

The Craigleith Heritage Depot extended its summer hours, welcoming more visitors into the museum and archive.

Investing in the next generation

We secured over \$22,300 in grant funding to support emerging GLAM professionals and to celebrate Pride in the Town of The Blue Mountains through inclusive, community-building programming.

Community Hub

**BMPL's spaces were full of people,
ideas, and belonging.**



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Growing Engagement Across All Locations

G The Gallery saw visits nearly double in Q4 (6,750 → 12,940), closing the year with consistent strength and high cultural participation.

L The Library remained the community's central gathering hub, with overall growth across 2025 despite washroom renovations and facility constraints.

A ~1000 items of archival information were digitized and made accessible to the public.

M The Museum more than doubled its traffic in Q4 (368 → 889), demonstrating renewed interest and expanded seasonal engagement.

Space Demand Continues to Outpace Capacity

Even with a pause on after-hours bookings, requests for room rentals and in-person visits remained steady.

**The message is clear:
Our current space capacity cannot keep pace with
community demand.**

Advance Space Planning for the Future

A significant milestone was reached with the completion of [the L.E. Shore Space Utilization Study](#), developed through a collaborative RFP process with the Town of Blue Mountain's Purchasing Team.

The Study marked the final step in building the BMPL's case for expanded space, reinforcing the strong social return on investment (SROI) generated by our services.

2025'S DEMAND REAFFIRMED SOMETHING POWERFUL:

This community sees the Library as its hub.
As essential infrastructure for connection, culture, and civic life.

As our community has grown, demand for library
space and services has grown with it.
Today, the Library is operating beyond the space it was designed for.

Our work now is not about imagining future need

—

It is about addressing the needs already here.

Empowering Service

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A Year of Exceptional Program Delivery

BMPL Delivered

671 programs

14,277 participants across adults, seniors, children, teens

Programs included cultural events, lifelong learning, book clubs, after-school meet-ups, musical performances, and one-on-one tech support.

Collection and Tech Supporting Evolving Needs

BMPL's Collection continued to be widely used:

Print collections continued to play an important role in community use, with 51,651 items circulated.

Library of Things Collection grew with the following notable additions: Radon monitors, Meta Quest 3 Virtual Reality Headset, Dash Coding Robot, Royal Ontario Museum passes.

High demand for computers and Wi-Fi continued, reinforcing the Library's role as a key access point for digital connectivity and learning.

159 one-on-one tech help appointments were delivered, supporting community members with troubleshooting, cloud-based tools, identifying spam and scam emails, and navigating the internet safely.

Digital use grew steadily, peaking in Q3 and Q4, with a 41% increase in checkouts.

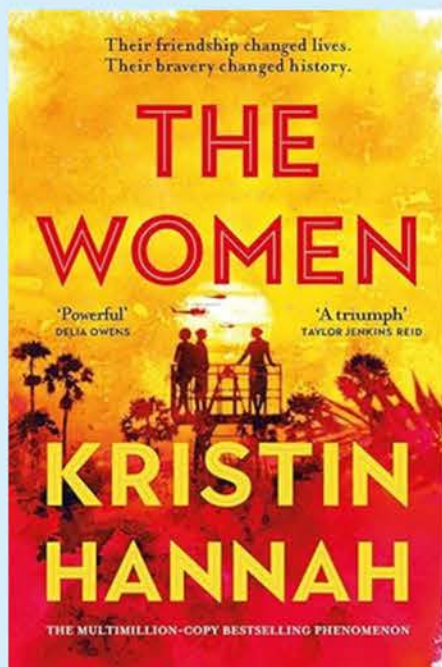
AI and digital literacy education remained a priority. Through initiatives such as Wired Wednesdays and in-person Lunch & Learn sessions at Marsh Street and Georgian Bay Community School.

Top 5 Circulated Library of Things for 2025

- 1 Nintendo Switch
- 2 Ontario Parks Pass 2025
- 3 iPad with Apple Pencil
- 4 Macbook Pro
- 5 Snowshoe Kit

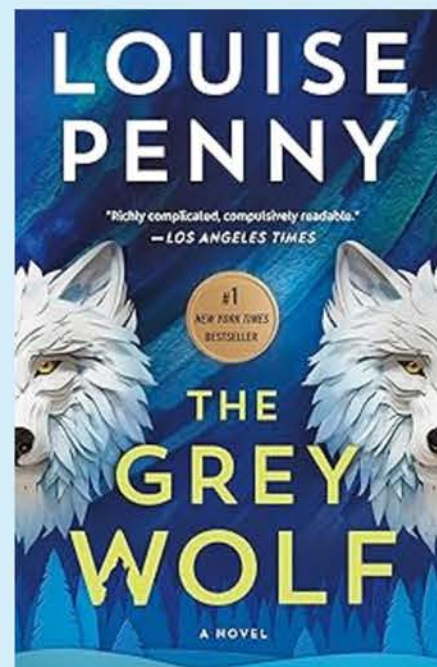


Top 5 Fiction Books of 2025



#1 WITH 204 BORROWS

You took this out because you enjoy emotional torture and thought you were ready. You weren't.



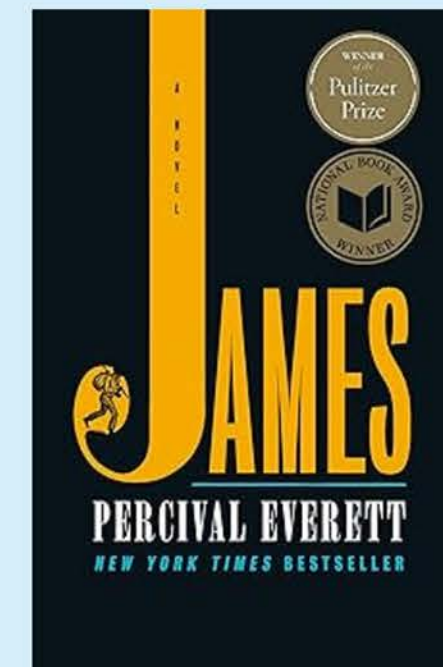
#2 WITH 132 BORROWS

You took this out because you like murders that are polite, with just a hint of personal existential dread.



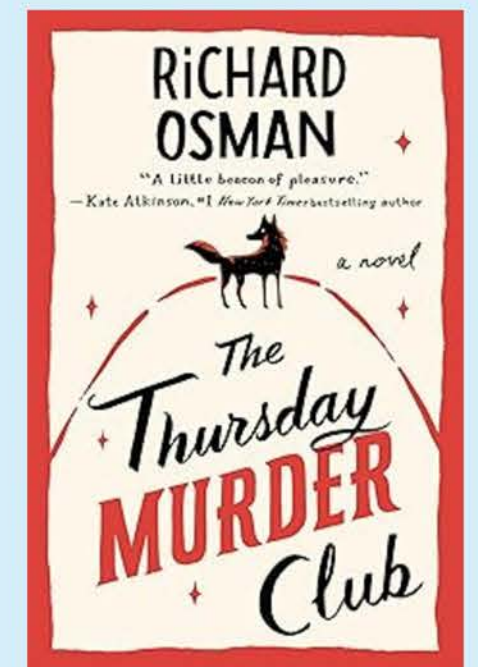
#3 WITH 123 BORROWS

You took this out because you love secrets, drama, and judging people from a safe historical distance.



#4 WITH 111 BORROWS

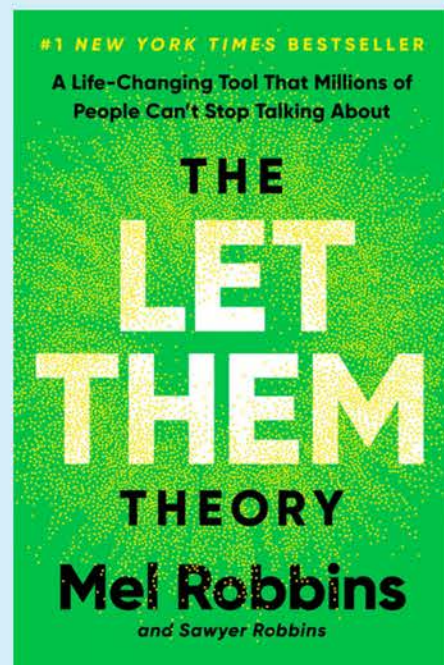
You took this out because you like books that make you think, like A LOT.



#5 WITH 111 BORROWS

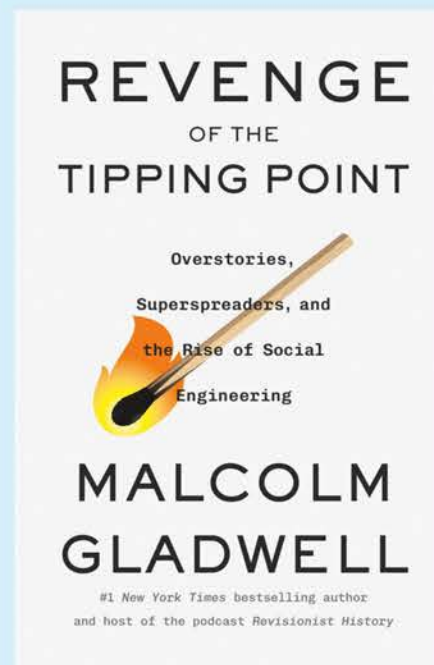
You took this out because retirement is overrated, and plotting murders sounds like excellent fun... we didn't put you on a list.

Top 5 Non-Fiction Books of 2025



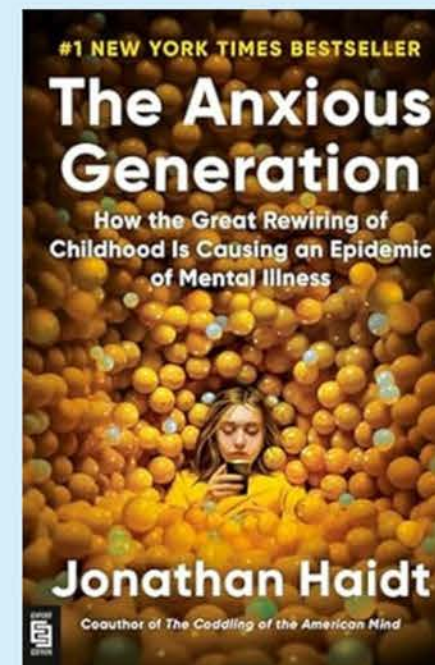
#1 WITH 69 BORROWS

You took this out because you finally decided to stop carrying everyone else's emotional luggage. Good luck with that.



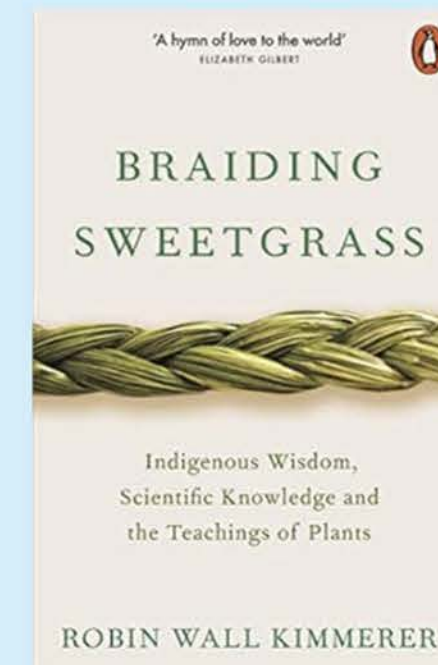
#2 WITH 67 BORROWS

You took this out because you suspected society was being nudged somewhere and wanted receipts.



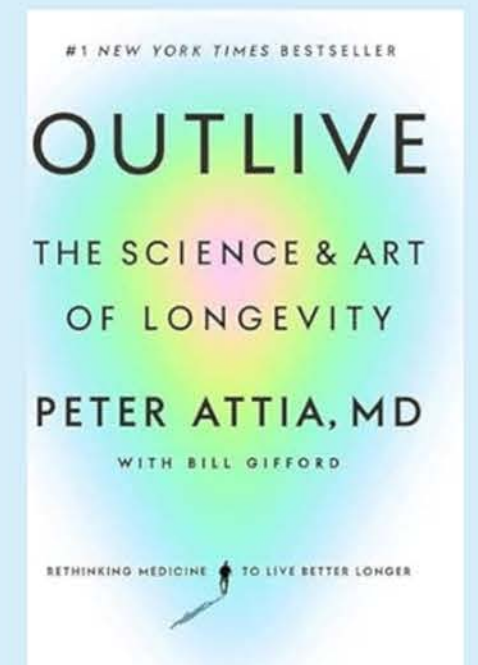
#3 WITH 46 BORROWS

You took this out because you had questions about the kids. Now you have more questions and a lot of feelings.



#4 WITH 29 BORROWS

You took this out because a botanist who talks to plants made more sense than most people you know.



#5 WITH 29 BORROWS

You took this out because living longer sounds great, right up until you read the chapter on exercise.

Community Partnerships Bringing Services to Life

**BMPL's impact was amplified through collaboration.
Partnerships in 2025 included:**

**Grey County
Master
Gardeners
workshops**

**Sustainability
Summit and REEL
History premiere**

**Seniors Fair
with the Town
and
community
networks**

**Film collaborations
and author events**

**Indigenous
markets, Pride
celebrations,
and accessibility
initiatives**

**Arts Walk
programming and
Town surveys**

IDEA and Inclusive Community Building

BMPL put its commitment to inclusion, accessibility, equity, and intellectual freedom into action through cultural programming, including:

A Passover cultural meet-up with the South Georgian Bay Jewish Community, Indigenous astronomy and National Indigenous History Month events, Community Assists Days with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Hear Canada, and the Town's first family-friendly Pride celebration!

2025 By the Numbers

- **92,172** IN-PERSON VISITS
- **54.2%** COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP
- **249** ROOM BOOKINGS
- **671** PROGRAMS DELIVERED
- **14,277** PARTICIPANTS REACHED
- **51651** PHYSICAL BOOKS CIRCULATED; **31682** DIGITAL BOOKS DOWNLOADED
- **720** ITEMS LOANED; **965** ITEMS BORROWED TO/FROM OTHER LIBRARIES
- **41%** GROWTH IN DIGITAL CHECKOUTS SINCE 2021
- **159** ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP SESSIONS
- **420** PARTICIPANTS IN OUTREACH EFFORTS
- **131%** INCREASE IN SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT OVER 2024
- **\$2.54** COMMUNITY VALUE FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED (BASED ON 2024 SROI)

2025'S IMPACT WENT BEYOND NUMBERS:

Residents across generations engaged deeply with programs, technology, and cultural initiatives.

That level of participation is not incidental.

It reflects a community that relies on -and grows- with its Library.

**Access is not optional.
It is foundational.**

Organizational Excellence

BMPL demonstrated strong governance through responsible stewardship and ongoing investment in the people who serve our community.



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Workplace Safety and Respectful Interactions

2025 saw a significant improvement in safety outcomes:

- **Zero workplace injuries** resulting in lost time
- **53% reduction in incidents** of 2024

This reflects the positive impact of enhanced training, protocols, and preparedness.

Staff and the Board participated in key professional development opportunities, including:

- Ontario Library Association workshop on managing challenging patron interactions
- Intellectual Freedom and Censorship training led by Dr. Jim Turk
- Ryan Dowd training on responding to mental health situations
- CMHA SafeTALK suicide prevention training
- Standard First Aid certification
- Review of the Library's Emergency Response Plan in consultation with the local Fire Department
- Representation on the Town's Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)

Ethical Innovation and Policy Leadership

In May, BMPL proactively launched a comprehensive AI Policy that sets expectations for:

- Ethical use
- Strengthening cybersecurity and privacy protections
- Clarifying disclosure requirements

This strengthens staff awareness, reinforces professional standards, and prepares our team to navigate emerging technologies with clarity and confidence.

Leadership, Advocacy, and Municipal Alignment

Throughout the year, the CEO and Board:

- Participated in municipal strategic planning and tourism workshops
- Finalized the 2026 budget narrative in the Town's Budget Book
- Engaged in province-wide advocacy, including opposition to Bill 5 and Bill C-15
- BMPL also secured Council endorsement of the Cultural Map as the official inventory of cultural assets

Active governance and advocacy position BMPL not only as a service provider, but as a strategic partner in shaping the community's future.

30 Years of BMPL: A Milestone Celebration

In 2025, BMPL proudly marked its 30th anniversary, this milestone year featured a range of special events, including:

- Daughters of Aaatenstic Art Opening – a meaningful exhibition honouring Truth and Reconciliation and amplifying Indigenous voices and storytelling through art.
- Author Talk on Censorship and Intellectual Freedom – presented in partnership with Jessica’s Book Nook.
- Evening Soirée with Our First CEO, Ken Haigh – an evening of storytelling and reflection with staff, community members, and key contributors who played pivotal roles in establishing a new library in Thornbury.
- Launch of the Story Tower Colouring Book by local artist Beverley Smith, inspiring creativity across all ages.



The 30th year reflected the deep pride and shared memory of the Thornbury community, while generating renewed momentum for growth, reconciliation, and cultural understanding.

2025 REINFORCED THAT EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE DEPENDS ON ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH.

That strength matters because our community relies on us. It ensures that access, safety, and leadership remain consistent. Even as our municipality grows and changes.

**Trust in public institutions is not assumed.
It is built.**

Growing With Our Community

BMPL is not slowing down.

We are writing the next chapter.

2025 WAS MORE THAN A YEAR OF CELEBRATION... IT CLARIFIED OUR ROLE

BMPL is a vital social, intellectual, and cultural engine for The Town of The Blue Mountains. As our community grows and needs evolve, we will continue to respond and expand to meet them. We've evolved from our roots in Clarksburg, to Main Street in Thornbury, to what we are in 2026: the L.E. Shore Memorial Library & Gallery and the Craigleith Heritage Depot Museum and Archive. Our thriving, growing, and diverse community deserves nothing less than continued progress.

**Our GLAM is not simply a service.
It is where community lives.**

So, what's next?

Enter 2026

With multiple space studies and value reports completed, charitable status advancing, and community engagement at record levels, the BMPL is well-positioned to support the expansion of its spaces and continue delivering strong GLAM services to the community.