

[Home](#) > [Your Library](#) > [News & Media Releases](#) > [Bruce County Public Library Releases 2024 Annual1](#)

# Bruce County Public Library Releases 2024 Annual Report

April 02, 2025

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Bruce County Public Library has wrapped up 2024 with the release of its [Annual Report](#). The report opens with a letter from Library Board Chair, Mark Goetz, reflecting on the successes of the year, including the opening of the new Paisley Branch, an accessible and welcoming space for the community. The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program assisted low-income households, filing 480 tax returns and resulting in over \$1.6 million in benefits and refunds. All 17 Branches and the Bookmobile were designated Dementia-Friendly Community Supporters, aligning with BCPL's vision of being a trusted community connector.

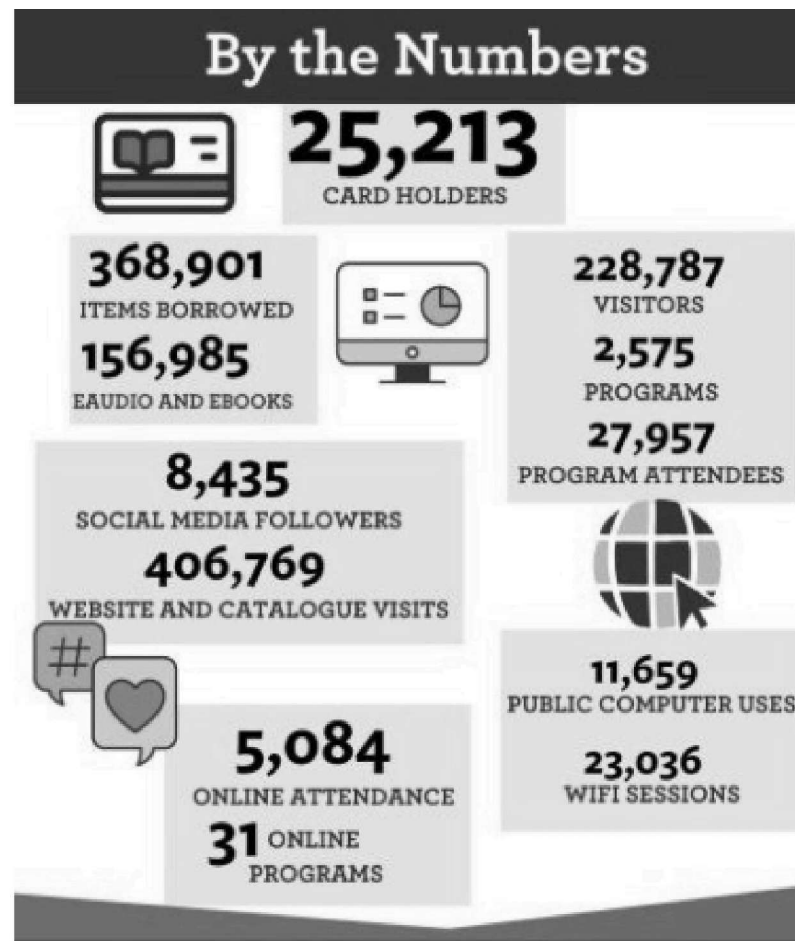
**“Our annual report illustrates a year of meaningful progress and growth. As we look ahead to 2025, we remain dedicated to advancing library services across Bruce County, and strengthening community engagement,” said Board Chair Mark Goetz.**

The report's breakdown of Community, Collections, and Programming, highlights significant accomplishments, including going fine free. This change ensures that everyone has access to library resources and optimizes our collections. We also saw increased participation in our Summer Reading Club, which saw 826 kids registered and a total of 330,069 minutes read, the most ever! Additionally, staff engaged with residents through numerous outreach events, including the Kincardine Multicultural Festival, and The Truth and Reconciliation event at Cape Croker Park, Neyaashiinigmiing.

BCPL's infographic 'By the Numbers' showcases another year of growth in program attendance, cardholders, website visits, and social media followers. It was an exciting and fulfilling year for BCPL and its patrons.

### **About Bruce County Public Library**

Bruce County Public Library is committed to its role as a trusted community connector, digital community facilitator and community sharing place. Consisting of 17 Branches and a Bookmobile BCPL provides access to information, resources, and programs throughout Bruce County.



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## So what is there to discover?

Digital Library

Branches

Bookmobile

Events

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## Media Release

April 16, 2025

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### Honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Day: Bruce County Museum Hosts Artists and Documentary Screening

**Bruce County, Ontario:** On May 9, in recognition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Day, the [Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre](#) welcomes artists Destiny Roote and Melissa Comyn for a discussion on the opening of the art installation *Buffalo Woman*, followed by a screening of the CBC's *The Fifth Estate* documentary, *A Sister's Promise*.

*Buffalo Woman* is a powerful art installation that calls upon the spirit of the buffalo — provider, protector, and symbol of survival — to honour those lost and demand justice. Through visual storytelling, traditional materials and community voices, the installation serves as a site of remembrance, reflection and resistance.

In Indigenous traditions, the Buffalo Woman represents strength, resilience and sacred protection. Yet across Canada, Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people continue to go missing and be murdered at an alarming rate, their absence leaving an unfillable void in their families and communities.

The installation, which will be on display at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre from May 1 to 31, is both a tribute and a call to action, urging visitors to acknowledge the ongoing crisis, listen to the stories of those left behind and stand in solidarity for change. Additional art pieces on display accompanying the installation include:

- Woven sash (Jenna McGuire)
- Tall Dancer Boot (Jenna Parsons, Kuujjuaq)
- Red Buffalo Earrings (Alisha Finch, Whitefish River First Nation, Bear Clan)
- Medicine Bag (Brent Henry)

Following the artists' talk, guests are invited to a special screening of CBC's *The Fifth Estate* Documentary *A Sister's Promise* in the Museum's theatre. The film, guest-hosted by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Connie Walker, investigates the decades-old unsolved

murder of Sonya Cywink, whose sister Meggie has taken the search for justice into her own hands — uncovering leads that police overlooked and seeking answers to the mystery of Sonya’s death. A member of the Okanese First Nation, Walker has spent over two decades shedding light on often overlooked stories within Indigenous communities.

Coffee, tea and treats will be provided. This event is free to attend. For full details and registration, visit [brucemuseum.ca](http://brucemuseum.ca).

### **About Destiny Roote**

Destiny Roote is an Anishinaabe woman from Saugeen First Nation #29, where she was born and raised alongside her two brothers and sister. She is a self-taught fibre artist with a particular passion for crocheting, though she occasionally explores knitting as well. Her favourite crochet style is Amigurumi, which allows her to tap into her inner child and bring a sense of playfulness and joy to her creative process.

Her artistic work has mostly remained private, shared with close family and friends. Each piece she creates is a deeply personal gesture, often a reflection of how much the recipient means to her. She takes great pride in the care and intention behind every creation.

### **About Melissa Comyn**

Melissa is a self-taught artist and lifelong maker who has pursued art throughout her life, drawing deep inspiration from her emotions. After years of painting and sewing separately, Melissa found a new energy in combining the two practices. This natural transition has become the core of her artistic work. She dyes cotton gauze and uses simple stitching to create abstract images or deconstructed landscapes.

In the early 2000s, Melissa pursued part-time studies at OCAD as a mature student. Her work has since been exhibited in a range of solo, juried, and community shows.

### **About CBC’s The Fifth Estate**

Celebrating its 50th season, CBC’s award-winning documentary program [The Fifth Estate](#) brings audiences Canada's top investigative stories, with an established tradition of provocative and fearless journalism. Stream episodes anytime on [CBC Gem](#) and [YouTube](#).

### **About the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre**

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre is situated within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON). We offer adult and children's programming, exhibitions, special events and are home to the Bruce County Archives & Research Room. Our mandate is to preserve and make available the documentary heritage of Bruce County.

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**For more information, contact:**

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## Media Release

April 28, 2025

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For Immediate Release

### **Bruce County Announces New Director of Long-Term Care and Senior Services**

**Bruce County, Ontario:** Bruce County is pleased to announce the appointment of Emily Kussmann as the new director of long-term care and senior services, effective May 26, 2025.

As a member of the County's Senior Leadership Team, Emily will lead the delivery of long-term care at Brucelea Haven in Walkerton and Gateway Haven in Wiarton. Emily will also provide leadership to Bruce County's [Age Friendly Community initiative](#). Emily joined Bruce County in January 2022 as the Administrator at Brucelea Haven and brings more than 10 years' experience in long-term care, including senior leadership roles. Emily has a bachelor's degree in gerontology and a master's degree in community care health administration.

"I am very pleased to offer congratulations to Emily Kussmann, our new director of long-term care and senior services. Emily's leadership is vital to continuing our service excellence and ensuring Bruce County is an age-friendly home to all residents," says Bruce County Warden, Luke Charbonneau.

#### **About Bruce County:**

Bruce County is an upper-tier municipality in Southwestern Ontario, Canada made up of 8 lower-tier municipalities and 77,221 residents. Bruce County is located within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Anishnaabek and holds a government-to-government relationship with the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Saugeen First Nation, together as Saugeen Ojibway Nation. The explorers who visit, live, and work here are the dreamers who take roads less travelled and see tried and true as an invitation to try something new. Be an Explorer and call Bruce County home.



**For more information, contact:**

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## Media Release

April 29, 2025

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### Hair-Raising Fun Comes to Bruce County: Disheveling! An ExtraordinHAIRY Exhibition Opens May 15

**Bruce County, Ontario:** The Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre is *bristling* with excitement to announce the arrival of *Disheveling! An ExtraordinHAIRY Exhibition*, opening May 15 and running until September 1, 2025.

Produced by the Sherbrooke Museum of Nature and Science, in collaboration with Télé-Québec, and with the contribution of Heritage Canada, *Disheveling!* dives into the fascinating world of hair — from humans to animals and even plants! This hands-on exhibit takes visitors on a journey, exploring the science behind hair and its many functions.

To kick off the exhibit, the Museum is hosting an exclusive, members-only opening night event on May 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. Members are invited to explore the exhibit before the general public and enjoy an evening full of playful, interactive experiences.

The evening will feature a lively quiz show at 5:30 p.m. in the Bruce Power Theatre, testing guests' knowledge of hairstyles through the decades. Visitors can also pose for photos in extravagant foam wigs, channeling icons like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley or Marie Antoinette.

Guests will have the chance to make their own chia pet-inspired craft to take home while enjoying refreshments, including boba tea, and pizza. A hair chalk station will also be available, where members can experiment with bold new colours for a temporary transformation.

Museum members can RSVP [online](#) or by calling 519-797-2080. This one-of-a-kind night promises fun, flair and follicle-filled surprises.

For more information about the exhibition and upcoming programs, visit [www.brucemuseum.ca](http://www.brucemuseum.ca).

This exhibition is proudly presented by Ontario Power Generation and media partner 101.7 the One.

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