



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Following the high of last year's Centennial, things have returned to what passes for normal at a busy public library.

An average of 7,000 people walked through our doors each month to attend a program or meeting; work remotely; or check out the latest books and magazines. While foot traffic increased more than 30% from last year, it has not quite yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. That said, the number of items people checked out, renewed, and downloaded, **105,000**, was the highest on record.

We observed a noticeable shift in how some were using their library. Meeting room use rose 36% - not including the many instances of study room "overflow" – people working remotely who needed space, but study rooms were full. Study room use increased by 17%. We also saw a huge increase in the number of teens and tweens coming to the library after school.

Speaking of teens.... five years ago, the teen area was located in what is presently the Book Nook space, and we had no dedicated staff member to offer programs or maintain their collection. Only a handful of teens and tweens were regularly using the library. YPL made a concerted effort to change that and created a half time position to fill this important need. What we hadn't realized is that many kids had no place to go after school lets out; there is no teen center and unless kids participated in an after school activity, they could not stay at the school. We expected "if we built it, they would come" and did they ever!

It was obvious we had hit upon a true community need because the response was immediate. It quickly became apparent we needed a bigger space if we wanted to accommodate more than the half dozen kids who could comfortably fit in the teen area.

We relocated teen services downstairs, thereby doubling their space. The growing collection was installed in what was originally a storage room and the Kennebunk Room was turned into the teen program room. Fast forward to now: it is commonplace for 20 or so kids to be using the teen area – sometimes upwards of 40, 50, even 60 – spilling out into the lobby, into portions of the Children's Room, and occasionally into the Community Room. It's a good problem to have, this tidal wave of teens and tweens, but space is and will be a real necessity for the foreseeable future, one that will take some creativity to address.



We held hundreds of programs for all ages throughout the year with a collective nearly 17,000 attendees. Over 600 people of all ages registered for his year's Summer Reading Program alone – an increase of nearly 20% from the year before.

It's impossible to touch upon every program and initiative, but for just a taste:

Teen/tween programs and activities included crafts; themed scavenger hunts; Book boxes; fun polls; and drop-in games. A Teen Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of 6-8 kids gives feedback and input on what they would like to see and do at their library.

The Children's Department hosted family music and movie programs; drop-in Lego days; preschool storytimes; baby & toddler time; themed scavenger hunts; cooking programs; the infamous Stuffed Animal Sleepover; and to great acclaim, the first annual Halloween Costume Swap. Children's Librarians also visited preschools and elementary schools and partnered with organizations such as York Land Trust, York Parks and Recreation, and the Center for Wildlife for offsite children's programs.

For the grownups: We launched a popular walking club and adult craft series (why let the kids have all the fun?). Our Art Committee planned another series of interesting and beautiful exhibits over the course of the year. We hosted authors Ann Beattie and Lincoln Perry to discuss their work and as part of the Maine Humanities Council's Community Discussion Project, we welcomed Portland's own Phuc Tran to talk about his fantastic Sigh, Gone: a Misfit's Memoir about Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In.
Together with Serving our Seniors and York Hospital,
YA Librarian Tasha Spuches; Library Clerk Dewey Canella Matthews; Library Assistant Stephanie Green; and after 18 years at YPL, Library Assistant Jeanine Means is enjoying a well-deserved retirement. In their stead, we welcomed Bookkeeper Diane Johnson; YA Librarian Danie Fortin; Library Assistant Isabelle Kirwin; Assistant Librarian for Programming Karen Blass; and Library Clerk Sophie Scapicchio.

Together with Serving our Seniors and York Hospital,
YPL hosted a successful Senior Volunteer Fair. We
continued our partnership with Altrusa of the Seacoast,
whose members hand deliver library materials to
homebound residents as part of our **Books on Call**
service.Library Clerk Sophie Scapicchio.We bade farewell to Board Treasurer Rick DiDonato; Vice
President Nancy Garrick; and Trustees Barbara Chase,
Julie Steedman, Matt McTighe, and Mary Behnke: - a
combined 24+ years of institutional memory. We also
said an unexpected and difficult goodbye to Board
President **Dan Bancroft** (page 9).

In line with the **Sustainable Libraries Initiative** (page 8), we extended our climate-focused programming from last year to include informative topics such as climate friendly investing; "greener" lawns; and Efficiency Maine's tax credit initiatives for residents making changes to their homes. All programs are archived on our website to be viewed at any time. President **Dan Bancroft** (page 9). We welcomed "aBoard" Vice President Steve Burns, Treasurer Steve Gendron, and Marina Mails, and launched FY '24 joined by Janet Blyberg, Amber Harrison, Bill Littlefield, and Erin McGann.

As part of our Strategic Plan, we began providing monthly technology training opportunities for residents; improved public computing throughout the building with a new server and switches; and created a web page to serve as a central hub for local organizations working in the realms of climate and sustainability. As part of the local history resources featured on our website, we premiered a project years in the making: the **York History Digital Archive** (page 7).

YPL has a hardworking and wonderful staff and Board of Trustees. Sadly, we said goodbye to some of each.

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Julie Steedman	B Y

We could not do what we do without the help of a myriad of **volunteers**. In addition to the countless hours put in from Board members, last year, 60+ volunteers spent more than 1,300 hours working in the Book Nook and on the Art Committee; reshelving library materials; working at events; and serving on the Teen Advisory Group.

Vichelle

Michelle Sampson Executive Director

Staff as of June, 2023

Full time Aichelle Sampson EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sophie Smith

Katie Arey IEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES

Aichele Bertolini

Devin Burritt REFERENCE & TECHNOLOGY IBRARIAN

lane Siviski Hoffman DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COORDINATOR

Barb Bourgoine OUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN Part time

Danielle Fortin YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIAN

Lynn Adams Emily Benson Karen Blass Isabelle Kirwin Kelly Moore Marlow Stefanik LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Sophie Scapicchio LIBRARY CLERK

Diane Johnson BOOKKEEPER

Roger Cole FACILITIES MANAGER

FY 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



ADULT PROGRAMS

Over the course of the past year, we have made an intentional shift to build community and combat social isolation through fun, informative, and engaging programming. While we still have plenty of visiting speakers and outside guests, this year has seen the birth of many new regular meetups for all kinds of interests.

One program that took off immediately was our Monday Walking Club. The opportunity to explore our town and make new friends has built a wonderful, regular group who not only enjoy the York Village highlights but also enjoy off site excursions to York Land Trust and other unique sites.

Additionally, our Week in Review current events discussion group has grown its numbers and found great success over the past year. Having a space to discuss complicated topics with an open and curious group is more important than ever, and new voices and fresh perspectives are always welcome.

With the launch of our Virtual Author Talks through the Library Speakers' Consortium we've been able to share live author events with big names like Geraldine Brooks, Fredrik Backman, and William Kent Krueger, among others.

A successful second year of Climate programming with community partners focused on direct actions that individuals can take to impact their own carbon footprint.

More than ever, people visit York Public Library not just for books, but for social interaction, opportunities to express creativity, and the chance to learn new things. We are truly enriching lives, inspiring minds, and creating community.

SOPHIE SMITH, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

618 programs & events

16,967 program attendees



for checkout

2022-2023 Art Exhibits

The Remains of the Day: Berri Kramer SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER Ten Piscatagua Painters NOVEMBER-DECEMBER Hidden Stash JANUARY-MARCH

From the collection of Chris Caraviello Student Art Show APRIL Studio Works: The Abstract Four MAY-JUNE

Featuring Barbara Adams, Peter Cady, Tom Glover, and Dustan Knight

Clockwise from left: Works by Tom Glover, second grade students of Coastal Ridge Elementary School (a group project inspired by Beatriz Milhazes), and Berri Kramer.











READY FOR SUMMER READING From Left: Head of Youth Services Katie Arey, Children's Librarian Barb Bourgoine, and Library Assistant Isabelle Kirwin

THE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT nurtured collaborative relationships both new and old this past year. We had the privilege to partner with art teachers from York schools to host the annual Student Art Show. We welcomed oodles of elementary and middle school students through our doors for field trips! We also hosted *Brain Break or Boost* for teens during midterms to support high school students through their exams by providing study space, project supplies, and snacks.

Our librarians brought storytimes and our engaging "Trail Tales" on the road to reach community members far and wide, with visits to York Land Trust, Center for Wildlife, and several area preschools. We enjoyed planting, harvesting and engaging with families at York Land Trust in their beautiful garden! We also welcomed human and animal ambassadors from Center for Wildlife at the Library to educate and entertain folks about how we can protect wild areas and wildlife in York.

We reorganized the Children's room to create an area for elementary kids to craft, build with Legos, and enjoy board games. The YA spaces continued to grow, and we've added more games and activities to engage the increasing number of tweens and teens who frequent the Library after school.

York Public Library organized the annual summer challenge with the community-centric theme, **"All Together Now."** Librarians distributed 440 books to youth participants (thanks to grant support from Kennebunk Savings Bank),

checked 1,562 "Bingos," and spent endless hours helping children and teens find just the right books to enjoy over the course of the twomonth program. Community partners from York Fire, Police and Public Works answered our call to help resurrect the beloved **Touch a Truck** event at the Library after the long pandemic pause. Over 400 people climbed aboard the trucks and enjoyed some sweet treats and tunes from the Kona Ice truck. The Library provided compostable cups and spoons for folks to enjoy their ice! York Parks and Recreation brought their elementary and middle school campers for a summer of fun at the library. Campers played ping pong, went on scavenger hunts, made crafts, built with Magna-Tiles and of course read books.

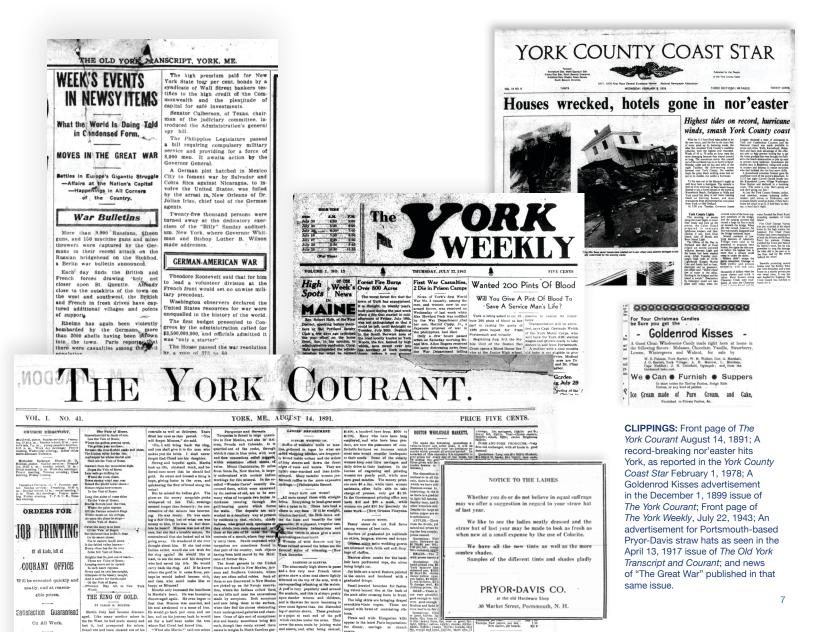
In addition to our regular schedule of workshops and storytime programs, other noteworthy highlights from this last year included: the annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Read with Millie (the dog), Costume Swap (we swapped 101 costumes), Star Wars *Revenge of the Sixth* Party, Ella's Winter Reading Challenge and our annual **Take Your Child to the Library Day** party.

York Public Library is the heart of York. Youth Services is a place for parents to meet, a space for children to play, and a haven for tweens and teens in the after school hours. The support from our community enables us to continue to grow and develop more experiences for residents of York to enjoy!

KATIE AREY, HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES

A Digitization Project Years In The Making

Following a grant awarded by the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, YPL was able to complete a large scale digitization project of York newspapers. Over 100 years of York's history—history that existed nowhere else but on reels of microfilm held by Old York—is now digitized, fully keyword searchable, and available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection. Content ranges from 1891 to 2016, but the bulk of the collection begins in the 1940s and includes coverage from *The York Courant, Old York Transcript, The York Weekly, The York Independent*, as well as assorted ephemera. We held a soft launch at the end of June and went live a week later. In its first week, over 300 people used the new **York History Digital Archive.**







DIVING IN: The York High School Eco Club assisted the Library with a trash audit in September.

CERTIFICATION GOALS

CREATE an organizational culture that asks the right questions about operational and outreach decisions

ENGAGE administration, staff, and Board members in a new way of thinking and collaborating

INSPIRE our colleagues and community to join our efforts

REDUCE our greenhouse gasses, energy intake, and waste output

HELP to future-proof our organization, our profession, and our community

THE PURPOSE of York Public Library in undertaking this work is to minimize our organization's impact on and maximize future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. The Library supports principles that ensure a resilient, sustainable community and Library for all residents. We strive for economic efficiency; to conserve energy and water; support renewable energy resources; minimize pollution and waste; protect habitat; buy environmentally friendly products; and encourage environmentally preferable transportation. Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of this environmental policy. Administration and the Board of Trustees encourage Library staff to be proactive and apply sustainable thinking in the areas of facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming and partnerships.

THE SUSTAINABLE **LIBRARIES INITIATIVE**

In the fall of 2022, York Public Library joined the Sustainable Library Certification Program.

This certification provides library leaders with a tested, structured path forward to increase our library's commitment to environmental stewardship, economic feasibility, and social equity. Following governance resolutions by the American Library Association to adopt sustainability as a core value of the profession, this work aims to help acknowledge the important role libraries can play in larger community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future. This program enthusiastically encourages members to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, and partnerships.

Sustainable thinking is not new to libraries; many of the action items were already in progress as part of our natural approach to our work. By formally enrolling in the program, however, we are holding ourselves accountable and being transparent in our commitment to meet climate and sustainability goals. With the Town of York's adoption of a Climate Action Plan in May 2022, our community set the ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GSG) emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050. This program is one way we are engaging with the work of our greater community.

Libraries, as town centers, are in a natural and unique position to model sustainable practices in their communities, and we plan to lead the charge to help our town achieve this goal. Visit our webpage to see progress along our sustainability journey at vorkpubliclibrary.org/ sustainability.



HARBOR BEACH as photographed by Dan. who, among his many gifts, was a wonderful photographer. He could often be found walking on the beach with his dog, Whisky.





1950-2023

In January, Library staff and trustees were shocked and As news of his death spread and library staff, trustees, profoundly saddened by the sudden and tragic loss of and patrons spoke of his loss, the word that kept our Board President. Dan Bancroft. reappearing in nearly every conversation was "kind." He was generous with his time, thoughtful in his responses, intellectually curious, humble. He also had a proclivity for random acts of kindness. We will miss you, Dan.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and though he called York home for just under six years, he left a mark on the community. After retirement, he and his wife Anne relocated here where the first thing Dan did after they signed papers on their new home... was to get a library card. A trial attorney by trade, he was also a published playwright, an athlete, avid reader, photographer, mentor, and role model to many. He spent time writing for *The York Weekly*, substitute teaching at York Middle School, and entertaining his grandchildren.

Dan joined the library's Board of Trustees in September 2020 and did not waste a moment rolling up his sleeves. By June of the following year, he was elected unanimously as our new Board President, a post he held until his death.

Dan was an enthusiastic supporter of libraries and none more than the library of his new, adopted home. He whole-heartedly believed in our mission and vision: to promote democracy by ensuring freedom of access to information for all, to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, to advance learning, and inspire creativity.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **DAN BANCROFT**

Through his engagement in the York community as a dedicated volunteer and outstanding leader, as well as his gift for connecting with people, Dan left an enduring impact on our town. He was a remarkable exemplar of the power of a single person to make a real difference in the community. In a nod to his passion for libraries and in recognition of his involvement in our town, the Library, with the support of the Bancroft family, established The Dan Bancroft Memorial Endowment for Civic Engagement.

One of the most important goals of our Library is to serve as a center for community engagement. This endowment will allow the Library to host annual events that illuminate and promote this engagement. Learn more at yorkpubliclibrary.org/bancroftfund. Donors to this fund appear on page 12.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Throughout the 2023 fiscal year, we worked with numerous organizations in York and the larger community to fulfill our mission of providing free and equitable access in our commitment to connecting people, advancing learning, and promoting creativity. We work best when we work together, and the following groups help make York Public Library the thriving organization it is!



OUR COMMUNITY ROCKS!

Academy of Little Learners Preschool Altrusa of the Seacoast Center for Wildlife Coastal Ridge Elementary School Green Team Kids Free to Grow Little Timbers Preschool Old York Historical Society Serving Our Seniors Time of Wonder Preschool White Pine Programs York Committee to Combat Racism and Bias

York Community Services Association York Department of Public Works York Diversity Forum York Fire Department York High School Eco Club York Hospital York Land Trust York Parks and Recreation York Police Department York Ready for Climate Action York Recycling Committee York Schools

Happy Retirement!

We said a fond farewell to longtime Library Assistant Jeanine Means, who is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement. We couldn't resist the opportunity to wish her happy retirement after 15 years! Patrons, coworkers, Board members past and present, all convened en masse in the Library to wish her well on her future adventures!



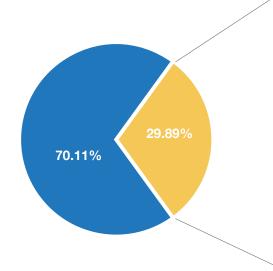


VETERAN STAFFERS: Librarians from left to right: Sudie Blanchard (retired 2021), Michele Bertolini (next in line as the longest tenured staffer), Jeanine Means (retired March 2023), and Kim Erickson Myers (retired in 2020).



FY 2023 Funding Sources

York Public Library Association \$318,260 Town of York \$746,509



We are grateful for the funding we receive each year from the Town of York. Without this operational support, we would be unable to sustain the number and quality of programs, services, content platforms, and variety of materials area residents have come to enjoy and expect from their library.

York Public Library also thanks Association members, whose yearly membership dues make up a large portion of YPLA contributions to our budget.

We receive ongoing support from the **Virginia Parsons Endowment** which helps to fund the Library's Youth Services Department. The Library also receives annual support from the YPLA General Endowment.

This fiscal year, the Board of Trustees approved additional drawdowns from investment accounts for supplementing our operating budget as well as funding capital improvements including masonry work; repairing the stairs on the side entrance; upgrading the fire alarm system; replacing our server; and purchasing new shelving units.

FY 2023 Support – and how it was applied



Association Membership \$82,867 Grants \$4,500 Restricted Gifts \$57,390 Unrestricted Gifts \$1,960 Investment Income Donor Rest. \$37,472 Investment Income Unrestricted \$44,287 Investment Account Drawdowns \$67,794 Other (fees, book sales, etc.) \$21,990

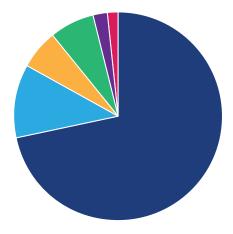
Grant Support

Kennebunk Savings Bank for Summer Reading Challenge support

The David A. Dionne Charitable Trust for musical programming for youth

Altrusa International of the Seacoast for early literacy / STEM kits

FY 2023 Expenses



Salary and Benefits \$764,117
Services \$120,841
Facilities \$66,935
Acquisitions \$74,263
Supplies \$23,293
Other \$15,320

TOTAL: \$1,064,769

for your support!

2023 SUPPORT

Foundation and Grant Support

The Virginia Parsons Trust The David A. Dionne Charitable Trust Kennebunk Savings Bank Altrusa International of the Seacaost Lois Whitney Forbes Book Fund Hannaford Helps Community Programs The Camden Conference Friends of the Cliff Walk Amazon Smile

Matching Corporate Gifts

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Gifts In-Kind

Anne Erwin Sotheby's International Realtv Raymond Buell Hart and Home Barbara Maddaus Nono's Kitchen The Booktenders The Central Restaurant & Bar

The Dan Bancroft Memorial Endowment for Civic Leadership and Engagement

Gifts received through 11-15-23

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town funding to meet the needs of our community.

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THE YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (YPLA), incorporated in 1922, is the private, nonprofit entity that owns and governs York Public Library and protects its future. Public funding provides a basic operating budget for the Library, but we rely on contributions from the Association and its members to supplement

Reader's Circle (\$100-\$249)

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Continued on next page

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