

DIRECTOR'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout 2022, Eden Library staff worked diligently to continue offering the excellent customer service it's known for throughout Erie County, changing, adapting, and modifying their daily procedures to accommodate an ever-expanding clientele.

In 2022, Eden Library welcomed **15, 375** patrons through their doors who collectively checked out **42,532** items, used computers **1,154** times and accessed the library's WiFi network **2,410** times. **731** people attended **43** in-house programs during the year, with offerings for all ages. The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library adopted a fine free policy in May 2022, and patrons are greatly appreciative of the fact there is no longer a charge for overdue materials or for ordering items from other library locations. As an added convenience, the library also offers automatic renewals on non-requested items.

Community involvement/Partnerships/Outreach:

Eden Library partnered with Erie County Senior Service to present four programs in the popular University Express lecture series, aimed at citizens 55 and up. Eden's inaugural offerings included talks on women in the civil war, stretching one's grocery dollars, basic estate planning and an overview of the life of physician and cancer research pioneer Dr. Roswell Park. Lectures drew participants from across the county...and several new library users!

In December, the library partnered with representatives from Edward Jones Financial Services to present a "lunch-and-learn" session on investing aimed at women. Edward Jones, in turn, partnered with Eden's R and R Catering to provide delicious free barbecue box lunches to the 15 attendees.

Library Director Donna-Jo Webster visited local schools four times during the year, twice at Grover L. Priess Primary School for Reading Night promotions (February and October), and twice at Eden Elementary for Reading Night in February and a K-5 Mental Health Night in May. She shared information about the library's services with a total of 286 students and their families (notably, 58 at the EES Mental Health event and 167 at the GLP October Reading Night event). Several attendees took applications for new library cards during the outreaches.

The Arc Erie County and United Health Care both had informational tables at the library during 2022. Eden Parks and Recreation brought two groups of young participants to the library for field trips during the summer months, allowing 17 children to obtain library cards, check out materials and enjoy the coolness inside the building.

Donors/Contributors/Grants:

The library received two memorial donations in 2022 in memory of Shirley Lindell and Leo Antos, the late husband of former trustee Marilyn Antos. Additionally, the library benefitted from three non-memorial donations totaling \$1,400.00.

Early in the year, the library received an in-kind donation of two cases of individual hand sanitizer bottles from the local Rite Aid Pharmacy. Library staff distributed the sanitizer along with free COVID-19 test kits to community members in continued efforts to stop the spread of novel coronavirus and its variants.

Equipment and Facilities:

Staff from the Town of Eden's Highway Department continued snowplowing of Library parking lots in 2022. Minor repairs to the Town-owned library building and equipment (i.e., touchless sinks, etc.) is now coordinated through a Town portal.

Friends of Eden Library:

Annual collection of membership dues continued to be the group's main fundraiser. The Friends presented a drive-through Weidner's Chicken Barbecue in April that netted additional proceeds. Fundraising efforts allowed the group to sponsor several library events throughout the year, including an ice cream social, canvas emoji painting, Pumpkin Patch with Magician Mr. J., and Amazing Appetizers. The Friends met in-person at the library in January, March, May, July, September and October.

Library Personnel:

After 30 years of service to the Eden Community, Clerk Typist Patricia Nagle retired in October 2022. The library welcomed William Ruof as Clerk Typist in November. Senior Clerk Helga Antonou, Clerk Typists Cindy Bancroft, Cheryl Colvin, and Caretaker/Custodian Tony Sacilowski all continued in their respective roles.

Volunteers:

Eden Library utilized 11 volunteers with a combined 101 hours of service at booksales, basement book inventory cleanouts, barbecues and others events during the year.

Yarn Club:

After 15 years of continuing service to the Eden community and beyond, Eden's Yarn Club surpassed another milestone at the end of 2022. Club members created and donated more than 8,087 knitted or crocheted items to charities.

In conclusion, the Eden Library continues to serve as an important asset and community hub to the citizens of Eden and beyond, a vital resource to all. Library users from all over Erie County enjoy ongoing programming, informative speakers, free access to books, magazines, newspapers, music, digital content and the Internet. Eden Library provides a clean, comfortable and inviting space for people to interact with others, explore the world around them and participate in life-long learning.

The library remains truly appreciative of its dedicated, hard-working staff, the guidance and leadership received from its Board of Trustees, and for its continued relationship with the Town of Eden.

Donna-Jo Webster
Library Director