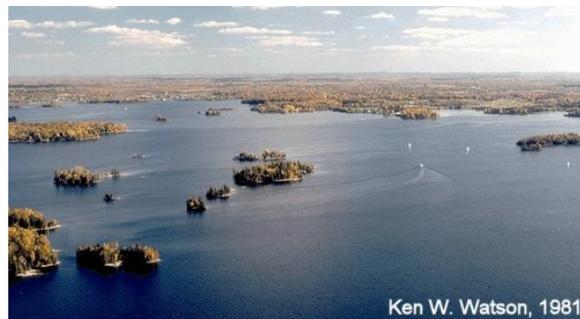
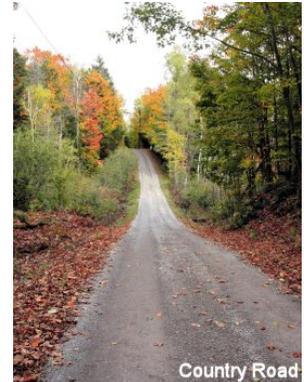




Rideau Lakes Public Library Annual Report - 2012

Who We Are

The Township of Rideau Lakes covers 311 square miles and is the largest municipality in the county of Leeds and Grenville with the most scattered population. The Township is made up of farms, villages, and hamlets including, Chaffeys Locks, Chantry, Crosby, Delta, Elgin, Jones Falls, Lombardy, Morton, Newboro, Phillipsville and Portland. The Rideau Lakes Public Library serves a rural population of 10,207, a drop of over 1% since 2006. The median age is 51.1, compared to 40.4 in the province of Ontario. People aged 45 to 64 form the biggest age group, about 36% of the population. Over 20% are 65 years or older, while only 13% of the population is under 15. In Rideau Lakes Township there are over 6,200 private residences, but about one-third of these are not occupied year round. Rideau Lakes sees a significant number of temporary residents between May and October, which increases the demand for library services during that time. The rural nature of our township is evident in its



rugged landscape and lakes. Rideau Lakes not only straddles the Frontenac Axis of the Canadian Shield, but is also traversed by the Rideau Waterway, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The fact that the Township has 500 km (310 miles) of shoreline, excluding the Rideau Waterway is the reason why it's population almost doubles during the Summer months due to the influx of

cottagers from Ottawa and Kingston and beyond.

Our public library system has five branches, with the main branch and administrative headquarters located in the village of Elgin. There are also branches in Delta, Newboro, Portland and South Elmsley. The South Elmsley Branch is currently located in the Lombardy Public School and is one of the few remaining "schoolhouse libraries" in Ontario. The Library has a staff of seven permanent part-time workers supplemented by occasional staff. As well, regular

volunteers assist us in our many activities. The nine-person Library Board represents each ward in the township as well as the municipal council.

Highlights of 2012

- Developed and launched of a new web-site that allows staff members to make updates . It has received many positive comments from patrons.
- The Library finally joined the social networking scene with a Facebook page along with Twitter and it's own blog.
- Began preliminary discussions with the new Principal of the Lombardy Public School towards achieving an agreement with the Board of Education for the long term location of the South Elmsley Branch of the library in the school.
- Initiated a series of workshops in use of e-books and tablets that were conducted throughout the year. This initiative was a partnership with the Township of Rideau Lakes who received a Recreation and New Horizons grant to improve the technical skills of seniors in the area.
- Obtained \$10,000 of funding from the township of to hire a new part-time IT person in partnership with Leeds and Thousand Islands Public Library. The individual was hired in June after the grant that supported the previous IT person ended.

- Obtained another successful Trillium grant of \$66,000 for a total make-over of the main branch in Elgin with new shelving and furniture as well as complete weeding of materials. This was a major undertaking since all the books



had to be un-shelved and moved into the adjacent Elgin Community Hall while the shelving and reception desk were replaced and remodeled. The library had to be closed for a week in September while the renovation was undertaken. Thanks to all library staff (and their children), Library Board members (and their spouses) and volunteers who

helped make this happen. The “new look” main branch has been well received by patrons. A launch with our local MLA, Steve Clark, the Trillium Foundation and the Mayor was held in November.



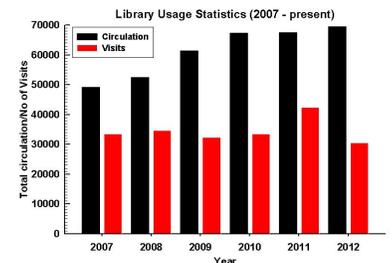
■ Following the renovation we undertook a successful audit of three branches (Elgin, Newboro and Delta) and we received provincial accreditation of these three branches. We did not seek accreditation of the remaining two branches (Portland and South Elmsley), since the Portland branch is currently in a rented building and the South Elmsley branch is housed in the Lombardy Public School. Neither of these branches meets accreditation standards at this time. Our achievement was recognized with the presentation of an award at the OLA Conference in Toronto. Donna Penny (Head of Technical Services) and Doug Franks (Library Board Chair) were present to receive the award.



■ A requirement of accreditation is that all library policy manuals must be current and up to date. Hence we undertook a complete rewrite and updating of our policy manuals. Some of the final editing of these manuals will be completed in 2013.

■ Entered into an agreement to partner with Brockville on our library database as part of the pre-existing Leeds and Grenville Automation Consortium. We will join the new partnership in 2013.

■ Library usage continues to increase. Over half the population of the Township now has library cards. As the graph on the right shows, circulation has increased continually over the years since 2007 when we began keeping records. The use of E-books has increased dramatically with 4,568 e-books circulated this year in comparison to only 1,850 in 2011. This was facilitated in part by the purchase of five e-book readers and three tablets.



■ Continued the Homework Club (Move It!) in partnership with Country Roads in five different schools.

■ Implemented workshops in high schools on e-books and use of the library web site and web resources.

■ Continued partnership with Early Years on Friday mornings at the main branch in Elgin.

■ Inventory of all Library holdings initiated which will be ongoing into 2013.

- A preliminary collection development and technology plan drafted.
- We now have a total of 14 book clubs that make use of all library branches along with the monthly card making classes in Newboro that are very popular.
- We hosted another successful book lover's luncheon with Charlotte Gray as our invited author that enabled us to purchase 10 additional book club sets.

Library Staff (as of Dec 31st 2012)

Sue Warren, CEO
 Joan Cochrane, Head of Circulation
 Donna Penney, Head of Technical Services
 Jamie Gipson
 Elva McCann
 Liz Priebe
 Christine Row, Adult Programming and Circulation
 Vicki Stevenson, Children's Programming and Circulation

Board of Directors (as of Dec 31st 2012)

Doug Franks, Chair (South Elmsley Ward)
 Yvonne Helwig, Vice-Chair (Newboro Ward)
 Greg Smith, Treasurer (Bastard/South Burgess Ward)
 Sheilagh Dubois (South Crosby Ward)
 Peggy Fletcher (South Elmsley Ward)
 Julian Hawryszko (South Crosby Ward)
 Bob Lavoie, Council Representative
 Joanne McIlhinney (North Crosby Ward)
 Nancy Sheffield (Bastard/South Burgess Ward)

Contact Information

Delta Branch 613-928-2991
 Elgin Branch 613-359-5315
 Portland Branch 613-272-2832
 Newboro Branch 613-272-0241
 South Elmsley Branch 613-284-9827
 Email: admin@rideaulakeslibrary.ca
 On the Web: <http://www.rideaulakeslibrary.ca>