



2021 Annual Report



A Message from our Chief Librarian



Another year of living through COVID-19 has meant the Library prioritized resources to help our community thrive. The provision of key services for social wellness, community health, learning, and leisure has remained at the core of what we do at Ajax Public Library. I am proud of the dedication our employees have demonstrated, prioritizing excellent customer service and helping residents adapt to a new normal.

We remain focused on a brighter future, and bringing more exciting services to Ajax, whether they be in our branches, or with you wherever you go via our Virtual Branch.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Vaisler".

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian and Executive Officer

2021 Board Members

Matthew Tapscott (Chair)
Marcela Killin (Vice-Chair)
Sepelene Deonarine
Noel Green
Rebecca Hayes

Sterling Lee (Regional Councillor, Ward 2)
Deborah McDougall
Doug Miller
Sandy Taylor

Ajax Public Library Mission Statement

Ajax Public Library is the gateway to information and resources that improve the quality of life, foster life-long learning, encourage community involvement, and meet the varying educational and social needs of all members of its communities.



Fast Facts

Cardholders



23,302
Total Cardholders
5,983
New Cardholders

Circulation



605,721
Total Circulations
17,830
Curbside Pick-Ups

Programs



1,208
Total Programs
43,949
Attendees/Views

Visits



149,139
Total Library Visits
90,650
In-Person
58,489
Website

Partnerships

Special thanks to the partners who help us build a stronger community:



Building Resilience

- **Warming & Cooling Centres**

In 2021, the Library provided the only warming space in Ajax through the COVID-19 pandemic. Warming and cooling spaces were provided on 11 days.

- **COVID-19 Community Supports**

The Library hosted two (2) testing clinics with 240 visitors, as well as two (2) vaccine clinics that provided 179 doses. Staff assisted customers with printing or accessing vaccine receipts and QR codes in alignment with provincial 'vaccine passport' requirements.

- **Connecting Seniors**

Staff connected with over 256 seniors in February and April via phone to check in and share updates about Library Service. The Library also made over 1,000 phone calls to seniors in April 2021 to provide information about booking their first vaccine doses or where to find quality information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Formation of LEIDs**

To undertake important equity, diversity, and inclusion work, the Library reimaged the Anti-Black Racism Committee, which became a subset of the broader Library Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Staff committee.

Launched in 2021

- Ontario Parks Passes
- New Database: PressReader
- New Website
- Book Bike Launch
- Reciprocal Lending Agreement with Whitby Public Library
- Bike Locks
- Active Living Sports Ball Kits



Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Ajax Public Library remains committed to practices that support a diverse and inclusive community. This includes providing programs and events to our customers which amplify diverse voices, provide opportunities to connect and learn from one another, and showcase our diverse community. Programs in 2021 that highlighted equity, diversity, and inclusion included:

- Drag Queen Storytime (May 26)
- Panel Discussions
 - Anti-Asian Racism Forum (May 25)
 - Cancel Culture (June 8)
 - Anti-Muslim Racism Panel (October 5)
- Durham Indigenous Voices (July – September)
- Sensory Storytime with Grandview Kids (October)
- #SharpieActivism and Trans Day of Remembrance (November 17)



Key Initiatives

- **Makerspace Project Initiated**
The Library contracted Lord Cultural Resources to complete a study on potential makerspace locations, equipment, services, and staffing levels. Public surveys and consultations with key stakeholders resulted in a report presented to and approved by the Library Board and Council at the end of 2021.
- **Space Needs Assessment**
Working towards recommendations laid out in the Library's Master Plan, a Space Needs Assessment was initiated in July and completed in December. Undertaken by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, it aligned with the Makerspace Project and Recreation and Parks Master Plan at the Town of Ajax.
- **Main Branch Accessibility Installations**
Thanks to a grant from the Government of Canada, accessibility upgrades, specifically automatic door openers, were installed in Main Branch throughout late 2021.

Library Love

"Excellent Service, especially in these days! Excellent range of resources. You are easily the best Library in Ontario, probably in Canada. I cannot praise you or thank you enough!"

- Harry

"Keep up your excellent work. Great staff have developed and implemented remarkable and diverse programming to address the interests and needs of a very diverse community!"

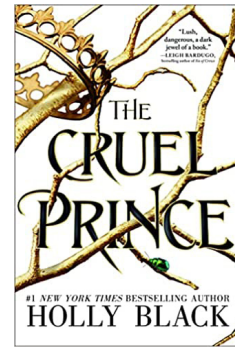
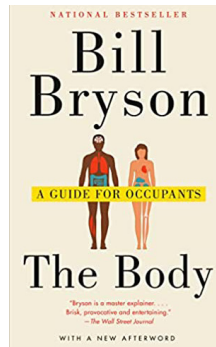
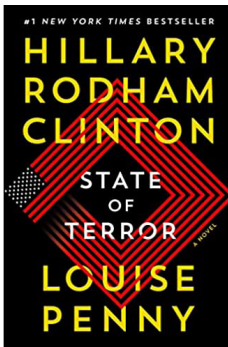
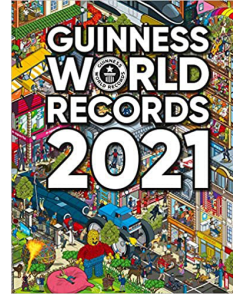
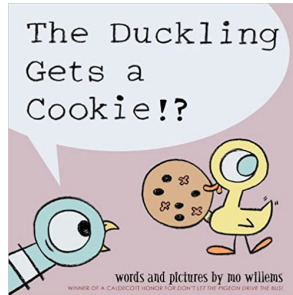
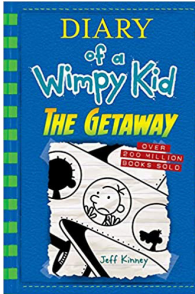
- Paul

"We LOVE the Library! Thank you for all you do to keep us well-read and entertained! We so appreciated the curbside pickup option during lockdown and your new no-fee policy. THANK YOU!"

- Lamisse

Best Bets

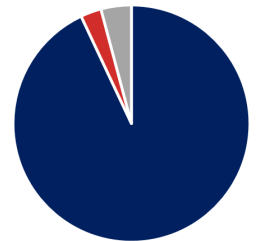
These are the books that you couldn't get enough of in 2021!



Budget

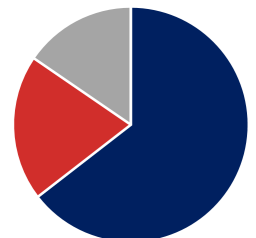
Income

- Town of Ajax Operating Grant: \$5,552,100
- Non-Municipal Income: \$169,259
- Reserve Top Up: \$248,000



Expenses

- Staffing: \$3,813,360
- Operations: \$1,183,704
- Collections: \$913,276





ajaxlibrary.ca



Audley Branch
1955 Audley Rd. N

