

# Library Cards for Perth South Residents

## What you need to know:

### **A Perth South Non-Resident card provides membership at the Stratford Public Library for the remainder of 2024.**

Perth South has made arrangements with Stratford Public Library for residents to obtain a non-resident library card. The Library will invoice the Township of Perth South on your behalf.

### **A Perth South Non-Resident Library Card:**

#### **Provides Access To:**

- all the physical collections located at the Stratford Public Library
- database subscriptions such as Comics Plus, Kanopy, National Geographic, Tumblebooks, and Ancestry Library Ed.
- computer services and printing
- MakerSpace access
- programs and events

#### **Does NOT Provide Access To:**

- the physical collections available through the Perth County Information Network (items owned by St. Marys, North Perth, Perth East, and West Perth libraries)
- joint PCIN subscriptions including:
  - downloadLibrary (Overdrive/Libby)
  - PressReader
  - Pronunciator
- InterLibrary Loan

### **Do you value library services for Perth South?**

We strongly encourage you to express your feelings about this issue to the Perth South Mayor and Council and request them to engage in further discussions with our Library Board so we can continue service in 2025 and beyond. It is our sincere hope that we will once again be able to offer full library services to Perth South residents in the future.

Contact information for the Perth South Mayor and Council members can be found at: [www.perthsouth.ca/contact](http://www.perthsouth.ca/contact) or by calling 519-271-0619.

**STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

19 ST. ANDREW STREET, STRATFORD ON

[www.splibrary.ca](http://www.splibrary.ca) [askspl@splibrary.ca](mailto:askspl@splibrary.ca) 519-271-0220



# Perth South Service Agreement

## What you need to know:



Local governments in Ontario provide Library services to their residents under the Public Libraries Act. They may do so by establishing a public library to serve their own municipality or by entering into an agreement with another library board to provide library service.

**For many years, the Township of Perth South has contracted library services for their residents through the Stratford Public Library, St. Marys Public Library, and Huron County Library system. Libraries were paid a percentage rate representing a proportion of the Perth South population: specifically 35% to Stratford, 50% to St. Marys, and 15% to Huron County libraries.**

**Through these service agreements, Perth South residents have been provided with access to all of the resources available at Stratford Public Library and through the Perth County Information Network, the network of the five library systems in Perth County, including downloadLibrary, a vast collection of ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines.**

**In the spirit of this longstanding relationship and with the desire to serve Perth South residents, the Stratford Public Library has offered services to the Township of Perth South at a reduced rate. For the past several years, the Township of Perth South has been charged for library services at a rate per resident that is approx. 44% of what the City of Stratford pays for its residents to have access to the very same services.**

**Each year, the contracting libraries of Stratford, St. Marys, and Huron County inform Perth South Council members of the cost of library services for the upcoming year. In early March we were notified that Perth South Council was considering reducing this funding and one week later at their March 19th meeting, passed their 2024 budget, allotting just 43% of the service agreement amounts for library service. This announcement was made without any negotiation or discussion of the impact this would have on Perth South resident's access to services and the budgets of the impacted libraries. An service agreement has been renewed with Huron County libraries.**

**At that time, both Stratford and St. Marys Library boards appealed to Perth South to reconsider their funding decision which they declined to do at their April 16th Council meeting. They recommended that their residents purchase non-resident library cards and that the Township would reimburse the residents for the expense. The St. Marys Library board has since made the difficult decision to cease library services to residents of Perth South.**

**The Stratford Public Library Board passed a resolution at their May 14th meeting to provide non-resident cards to Perth South residents for the remainder of the 2024 year at a set rate of \$120. Non-resident cards will provide access to all of the services and physical/digital collections located at the Stratford Public Library. However, they no longer provide access to materials owned by the Perth County Information Network or PCIN joint subscriptions including downloadLibrary, PressReader and Pronunciator language learning.**

**Are you concerned about these cuts to your library access? We strongly encourage residents to express their feelings about this issue to their Perth South Council. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to offer full library services to Perth South residents in 2025.**

**Contacts for Perth South Council members can be found at: [www.perthsouth.ca/contact](http://www.perthsouth.ca/contact)**

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