

PRESS RELEASE

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Libraries are for Life

In celebration of Canadian Library Month and Ontario Public Library Week, Stratford City Council has proclaimed October 16 – 20 as Ontario Public Library Week in the City of Stratford. This significant event honours the library's valuable role in our community and emphasizes the importance of literacy and education in our society.

Canadian Library Month, observed throughout October, is an annual celebration of libraries and library workers across Canada. Ontario Public Library Week, from October 16 to 20, is a province-wide initiative highlighting the valuable resources and services provided by public libraries in Ontario. The theme for this year's Ontario Public Library Week, "Libraries for Life," highlights the lasting impact of libraries on individuals' lives. Both celebrations promote awareness of libraries as vital community hubs, fostering education, knowledge, and cultural enrichment.

"We appreciate City Council's commitment to library service in Stratford and the importance of "libraries for life". Libraries level the playing field by providing access to all. They provide space where anyone, regardless of their economic status, can gather to learn, share, work, reflect, study, collaborate and socialize – all free of charge." says Library CEO Krista Robinson. "Some call libraries the living room of a community – they enhance lives, resulting in healthier and more prosperous communities."

From the wonder-filled days of childhood to the wisdom-filled years of old age, the Stratford library has something to offer everyone. With a free library card, visitors have access to thousands of books, music cds, movies, and magazines for all ages and abilities. But beyond the typical library collection, Stratford Public Library now offers more unique items for loan such as passes to provincial parks, birding backpacks, robotic kits, and household energy meters. And over 99% of the items can now be borrowed without late fees.

SPL provides a wide variety of programs to entertain and educate those of all ages. Babytime and Story Starters share the love of reading with young ones. Summer Reading Club keeps the summer slump from happening in children, and teens enjoy many activities to earn volunteer hours. Adults of all ages enjoy visiting the MakerSpace, trying out new technologies, learning by doing. While seniors enjoy many of the music programs and speakers throughout the year.

This Ontario Public Library Week SPL will be hosting their regular weekly drop in children's story times as well as a number of special events. In partnership with the Livery Yard, visitors are invited to decorate a coffee cup in the theme of "the Best Book of Your Life". On Tuesday, readers searching for their next best read can meet with our librarians for a consultation. Friday's PA Day will be celebrated at the Stratford Perth Museum where families can enjoy the Tales and Trails story walk of "Miss Moon: Wise Words From a Dog Governess" by Stratford author Janet Hill and partake in a number of dog themed activities. The week ends with a book swap in coordination with Stratford Reads. For all the details regarding these and other events at the library, visit the library website www.splibrary.ca

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Brandi Gillett, Community Engagement Supervisor 519-271-0220 x116 or bgillett@splibrary.ca