## PRESS RELEASE

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## STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK 2024

**[Stratford, OCT 17, 2024]** – Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW), celebrates libraries as lifelong institutions and how they continue to be reliable and trustworthy organizations serving the needs of individuals and communities across Ontario. From October 20 to 26, new visitors and existing library members are invited to join the celebration under the theme "Libraries for Life".

October is also Canadian Library Month, a time when libraries and their partners across Canada come together to raise awareness about the essential services they provide.

In celebration of Canadian Library Month and Ontario Public Library Week, Stratford City Council has proclaimed October 20 to 26 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.

"Libraries serve as community hubs for lifelong learning and play a vital role in helping those of all ages access the information and tools they need to live, learn and work." said Krista Robinson, Stratford Public Library's CEO. "We invite Stratford residents to explore how our library supports learning, creativity, and community. Our doors are open to everyone, offering not just books, but a world of possibilities.

During OPLW, those who check out physical materials or register for a new library card will receive a ballot to enter a draw for a SPL book bag full of reading themed goodies. Coffee and snacks will also be served Monday to Friday morning, and there will be special programming such as a library wide scavenger hunt, Boo Bash with Haunted Canada Author Joel Sutherland, and Rockin' Octogenarians with Lindsay Otto from OneCare.

Stratford Public Library offers a wide range of resources and services, from books and digital collections to programs for all ages, a makerspace, and outreach into the community. Each year, SPL circulates nearly half a million items and welcomes over 140,000 visitors.

Join us in celebrating the power of libraries this October. Visit splibrary.ca or stop by our location at 19 St. Andrew Street to learn more and get involved.

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