

# PRESS RELEASE

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STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT CELEBRATES GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

**Stratford, April 23, 2025**— Stratford Public Library (SPL) has released its 2024 Annual Report, showcasing a year of exceptional growth, new initiatives, and deepening community engagement.

"Just when we thought we couldn't get any busier—we did!" says CEO Krista Robinson.

"Stratford Public Library offered more services and programs in 2024 than ever before, and our community responded with record-breaking engagement."

## **The numbers tell a powerful story:**

- 143,000+ people visited the library in person, with 475,000+ visits to the library website
- Nearly 500,000 items were borrowed, and library membership reached its highest levels in decades.

## **2024 Highlights Include:**

- 25,096 people attended 903 diverse programs, from Garden Tai Chi and Glow-in-the-Dark Karaoke to Swiftie Parties and After-Hours Trivia Nights.
- 1,163 children joined SPL's TD Summer Reading Club.
- Free solar eclipse glasses were distributed to keep the community safe during April's eclipse.

The Library collection continued to expand beyond books. With support from a New Horizons grant, SPL launched Brain Health Kits, Exercise-at-Home Kits, and Launchpads to keep older adults active in mind and body.

Partnerships with 62 local organizations resulted in meaningful initiatives like the Welcome to Stratford Kit for New Residents, and expansion of the Wonder Pass collection, including new passes to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Stratford Warriors home games.

SPL collaborated with Perth County libraries to launch a county-wide book club, featuring acclaimed author Drew Hayden Taylor and his book 'Cold'.

And three staff members received provincial recognition, including the Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory Award and two Technical Services Awards.

With a \$6.64 return on investment for every municipal dollar, and a total economic impact of \$19.3 million, SPL continues to be one of the most efficient and impactful community investments in Stratford.

"2024 was a year of growth and momentum—but more importantly, it was a year of belonging," says Robinson. "From delivering books to homebound readers to creating exciting new programs, every step we took was about connection and community."

Explore the full 2024 Annual Report at: [splibrary.ca](https://splibrary.ca)

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