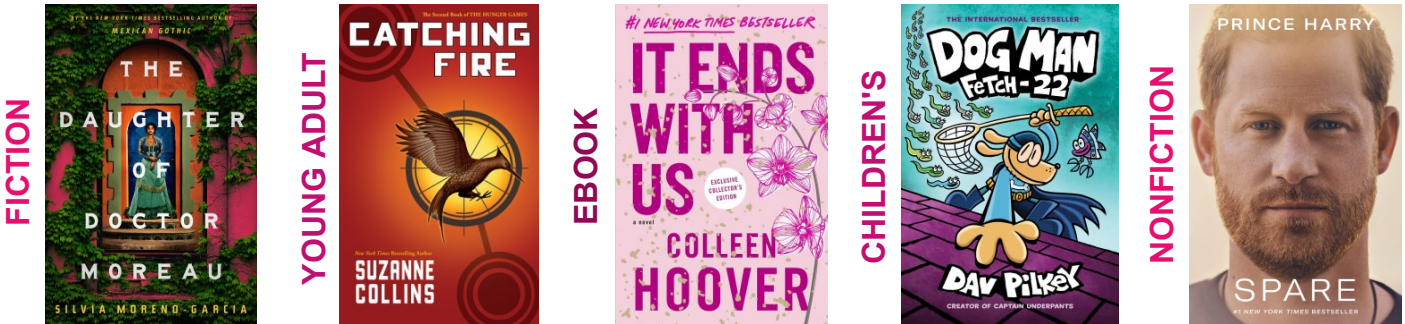


# MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS 2023

Of all the items borrowed this year, these were the most popular.



## ENGAGING AND INSPIRING



## Programming Highlights

The number of programs offered, events attended and community members CKPL connects with have continued to increase over the last year. Library staff are dedicated to providing meaningful programming to their communities, and enthusiastically reach out to residents wherever they may be across Chatham-Kent.



## Summer Reading



Chatham-Kent Public Library

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN CHATHAM-KENT FOR 25 YEARS

 Chatham-Kent  
Cultivating Growth, Shore to Shore

 Chatham-Kent  
Public Library



# A message from the Chief Librarian and Library Board Chair:

2023 marked the milestone of 25 years of prime service to the community by Chatham-Kent Public Library! CKPL celebrated its Silver Anniversary during Ontario Pubic Library Week by asking patrons to share what the library means to them; the responses were featured in displays in each library branch. CKPL is proud to have achieved a successful accreditation audit for all 11 branches in 2023, through the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council. Accreditation ensures our library's services meet the highest standards, including offering accessible and inclusive spaces that are easy to navigate and allow everyone to feel welcome. 2023 also saw the implementation of RFID technology at every branch. Efficiencies from this technology have enabled CKPL to improve customer service – giving staff more time to spend with patrons to help connect them with resources and services, and improving inventory control and accuracy. This modernization was generously funded through a \$506,355 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant. Additional investments in library spaces included the revitalization of the Wallaceburg Branch, with fresh paint and lower shelving that allow patrons better access to collections.

Wifi upgrades were completed at all locations. Improvements like these bolster our vital and vibrant community spaces, enjoyed by 271,000+ visitors in 2023. Circulation is the highest we've ever seen! In 2023, CKPL patrons read, watched, listened, and played with 880,768 items! Books continue to be the highest circulating format (from picture books to large print, graphic novels to non-fiction, and ebooks to audiobooks) but CKPL is more than books! Highlights from 2023 include expansions of the video game, story kit, and Indigenous reads collections, new pickleball playpacks, pop-up story walks, Reading Buddies, and increased programming for teens. Cards with a Cause was a huge success. CKPL invited teens to create hand-made cards to be delivered to local seniors during the holidays. This program resulted in 84 teens making 384 greeting cards. The cards made a positive impact on all who created and received them! Thank you to CKPL's dedicated staff, Library Board, community partners, volunteers, patrons and donors who have supported our strategic goals and enabled CKPL to continue to thrive and grow as an indispensable centre of culture, community and learning in Chatham-Kent.

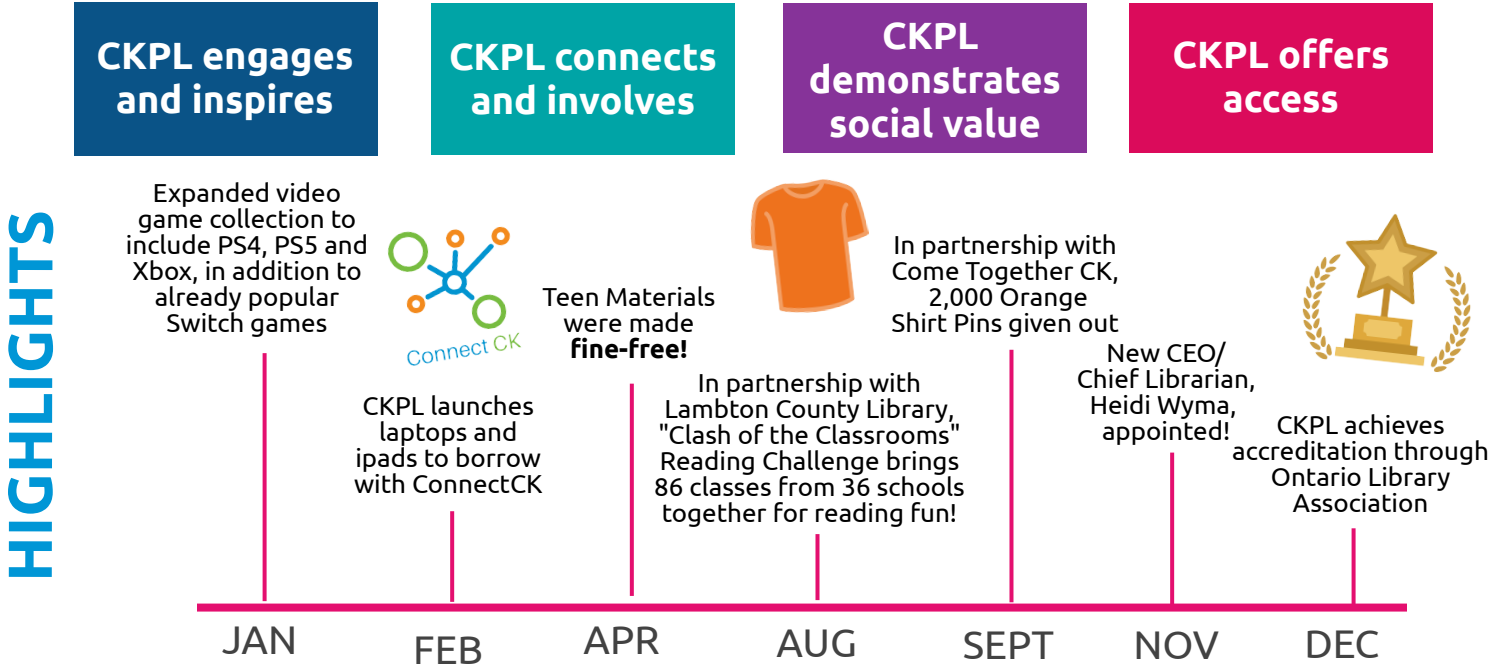
Heidi Wyma, CEO/Chief Librarian  
Clare Latimer, Library Board Chair

## WELCOMING AND ACCESSIBLE

CKPL offers library access to patrons through participation in programs and outreach, Virtual Library and Home Service. In 2023, CKPL expanded its community reach through participation in a greater number of outreach events and new and continuing community partnerships.



# CKPL's 2022-25 Strategic Goals



## CONNECTING AND INVOLVING

Thanks to the dedication of library staff, CKPL saw more community members signing up for library cards and visiting library branches. More items are being checked out or downloaded and library staff are helping more patrons meet their information needs. Community members are staying increasingly connected through visits to our website and questions answered through Ask CKPL. Here is an overview of the year:

