

MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS 2024

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

FICTION

YOUNG ADULT

EBOOK

CHILDREN'S

NONFICTION

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

VIDEO GAME

BOARD GAME

LAUNCHPAD

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.

631

spice club kits given out

8,455

seed packages borrowed from Seed Library

639

teen program attendees

13,151

trivia plays

74

book club sessions

Summer Reading

1,367

children's programs offered

29,715

children's program attendees

3,073

kids registered for TD Summer Reading Club

902

teen summer reading contest entries

1,918

adult summer reading contest entries

Chatham-Kent Public Library ANNUAL REPORT 2024



BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN CHATHAM-KENT

A message from the Chief Librarian and Library Board Chair:

CKPL came incredibly close to hitting our 1 million borrows target for 2024 – 946,772 items were borrowed! It warms our library hearts to know that we’ve hit the mark on connecting you with the things you want to read, watch, listen to, play with and learn!

The demand for digital content remains strong. At the same time, we’re seeing sustained interest in traditional formats like books and DVDs. Some CKPL collections increasing in popularity include digital magazines (Libby and PressReader) and video games (Nintendo, PlayStation and Xbox). In response to patron requests, CKPL increased its purchase of materials in languages such as Malayalam and Urdu. In addition to lending collections, in partnership with CK Tourism, CKPL handed out over 4,500 free pairs of CE-certified solar eclipse glasses ahead of the total solar eclipse.

We were excited to host several authors and speakers this year, including Kai Thomas, author of our CK Reads title “In the Upper Country” and Rukhsana Khan, in partnership with the Local Immigration Partnership and supported by a Canada Council for the Arts grant. Dean Jacobs from Walpole Island First Nation’s Heritage Centre was our guest speaker during Treaties Recognition Week. Mr. Jacobs spoke about local pre-confederation treaties and what they mean for advancing “Truth and Reconciliation” based on mutual trust and respect.

2024 saw the launch of our new courier van which connects 11 library branches and over 50 other

municipal locations in communities across Chatham-Kent with information as well as collections.

Further extending our reach, CKPL staff attend a wide variety of outreach opportunities across CK, providing interactive, literacy-based programming in the community. In 2024, we reached 1,457 seniors, 428 teens and 26,790 children through outreach, including 1,800 students during the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival, organized by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

CKPL helps children increase their confidence in reading with programs like Reading Buddies, where community volunteers spend time reading and playing literacy-based games with children, and Read to a Dog, in partnership with St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs, where children get to spend one-on-one time reading to a furry companion. Summer Reading programs for children, teens and adults continue to encourage reading for all ages. Over 3,000 children registered for this important initiative in 2024, our highest registration yet!

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.

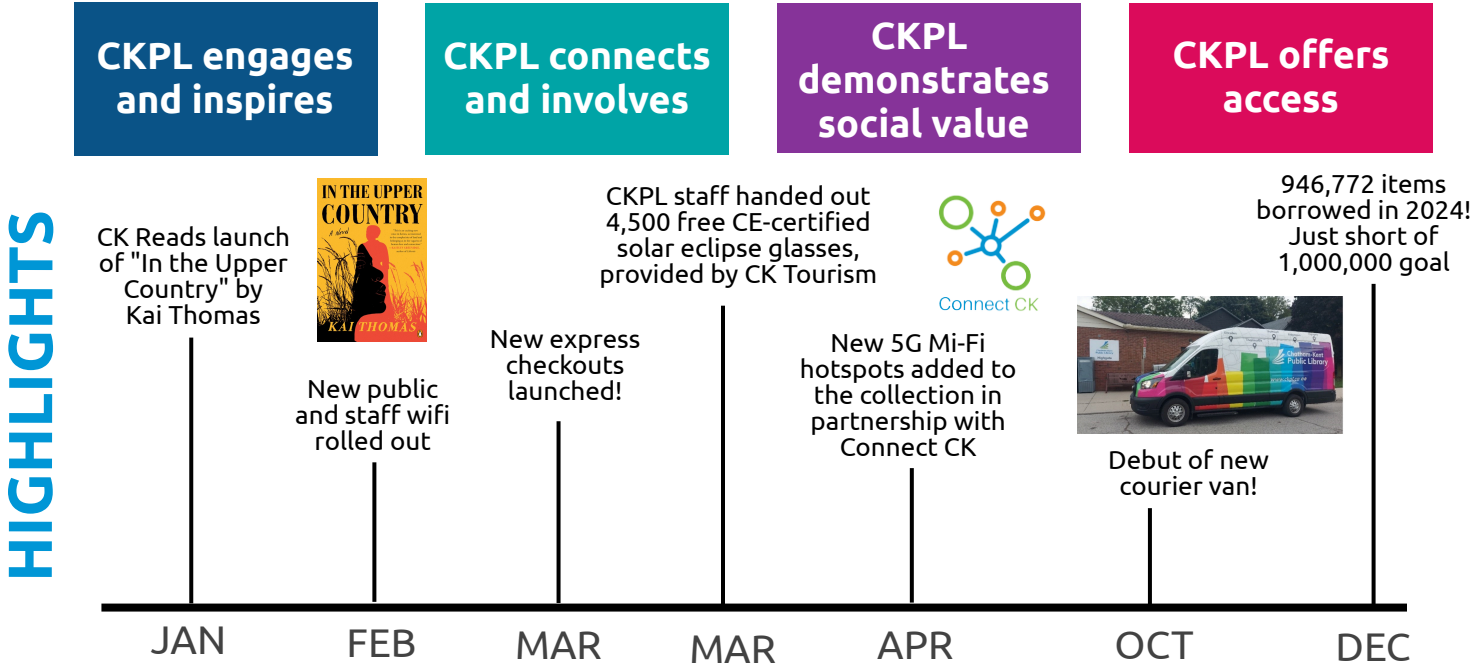
Heidi Wyma, CEO/Chief Librarian
Clare Latimer, Library Board Chair

WELCOMING AND ACCESSIBLE

CKPL offers access to patrons through participation in programs and outreach events, Virtual Library resources, and Home Service. In 2024, 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 people visiting library branches this year. Digital use also increased, with more visits to the website, more items downloaded, and a significant number of database visits.

Here is an overview of the year:

