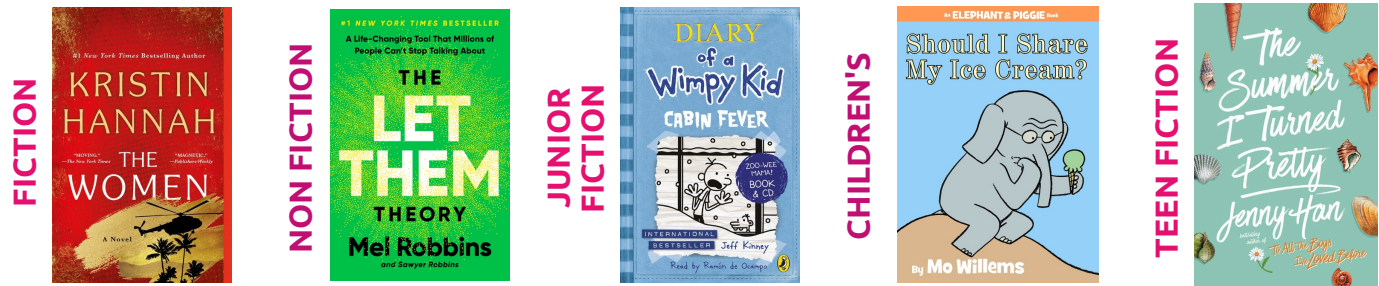


MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

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



PROGRAMS IN LIBRARY

2,382

programs & events

55,799

attended programs



"A library is an important part of my life!"

OUTREACH IN COMMUNITY

1,076

outreach events

29,559

outreach attendance



"The library is a very important community connection point."

POINTS OF PRIDE

799

Café Capers Participants

6,746

Seed Library checkouts

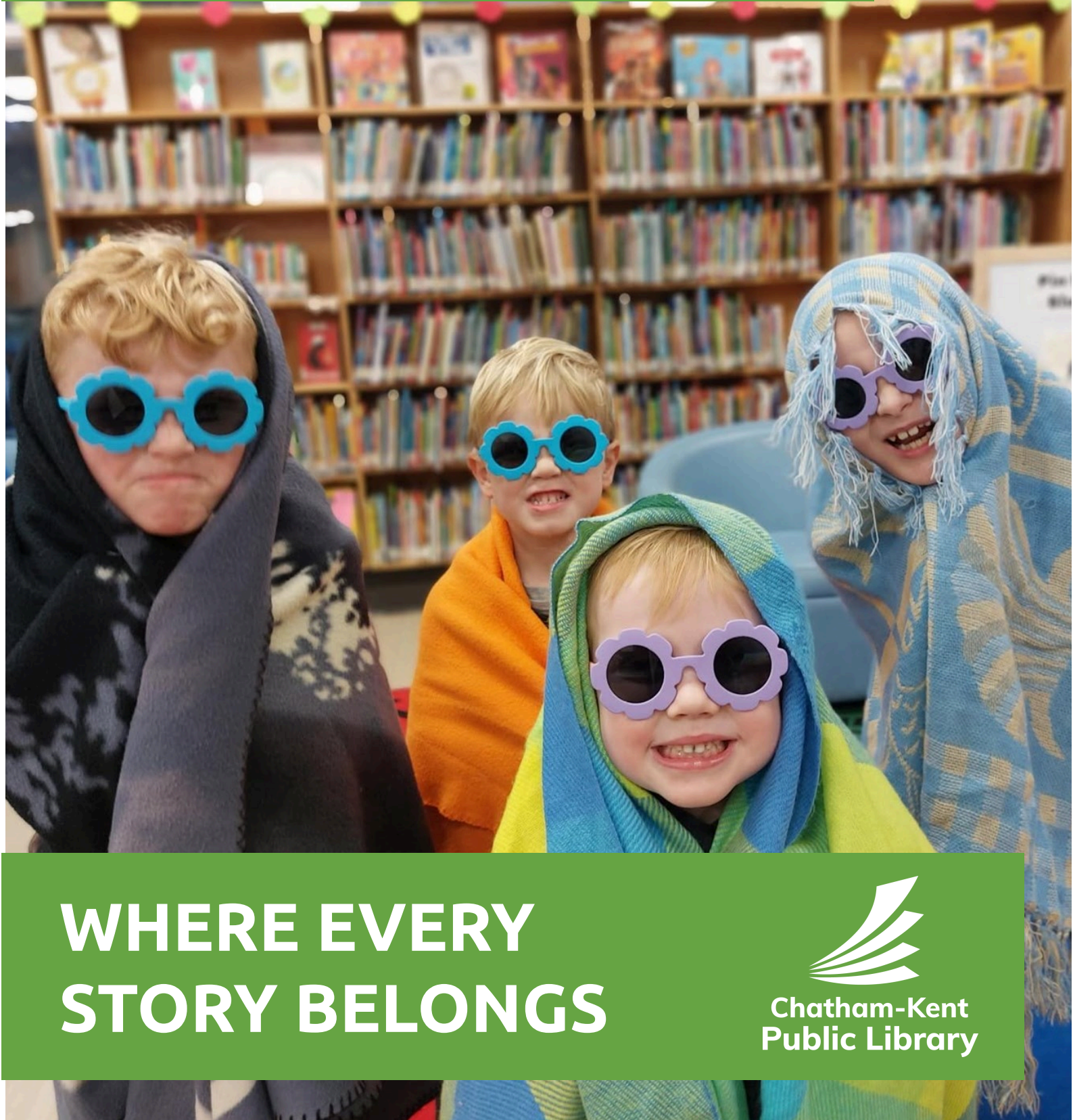
545

Spice Club kits distributed

"I am very grateful for our libraries. Very active with book clubs, mahjong, crafts for adults and children, and of course reading books. Thank you to everyone for all they do!"

Chatham-Kent Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



WHERE EVERY STORY BELONGS



A message from the CEO/ Chief Librarian and Library Board Chair:

This year was one of innovation, community connection, and continued improvement for Chatham-Kent Public Library. Guided by our commitment to accessibility and responsive service, we introduced new initiatives, enhanced our spaces and technology, strengthened community partnerships, and gathered valuable feedback to help shape our future.

One of the year's most significant achievements was expanding our fine-free lending model to include adult print materials. With this change, the library is now fine-free on nearly all collections, helping to reduce barriers and ensure that everyone can access the resources they need.

We also strengthened opportunities for community engagement. The launch of our Teen Advisory Group created a new avenue for youth to contribute ideas and help shape library programs and services. We were equally excited to introduce Café Capers, a program designed to bring people together through conversation, learning, and connection. Throughout the year, the library continued to serve as an important community hub, connecting residents with services, information, and community partners through initiatives such as income tax clinics, Community Navigator services, newcomer outreach and health information. To better understand the needs and priorities of our community and staff, we conducted community and staff surveys. The feedback received will help guide future planning and service improvements, and many of the quotes featured throughout this report come directly from community survey respondents.

Investments in our branches and technology enhanced the customer experience across the system. New shelving in the Dresden, Thamesville and Blenheim branches have improved browsing and created more welcoming spaces. Researchers and local history enthusiasts now benefit from new microfilm scanners in Tilbury, Wallaceburg and Dresden, while the addition of new 3D printers expanded opportunities for creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our board, and the ongoing support of our community. This year, our branches welcomed 280,517 visits, patrons borrowed 615,944 physical items and downloaded 318,430 digital items, and thousands more connected with us through programs, outreach, and community partnerships. These numbers demonstrate the important role the library continues to play as a destination for learning, discovery, creativity, and connection across Chatham-Kent.

Together, we continue to build a library system that is accessible, innovative, and responsive to community needs. We thank everyone who supports the library and look forward to continuing this important work in the year ahead.

Heidi Wyma
CEO/Chief Librarian

Tori Gamble
Chair, Library Board

559

home service deliveries

1,914

bags of books curated

93,203

hours of wifi accessed

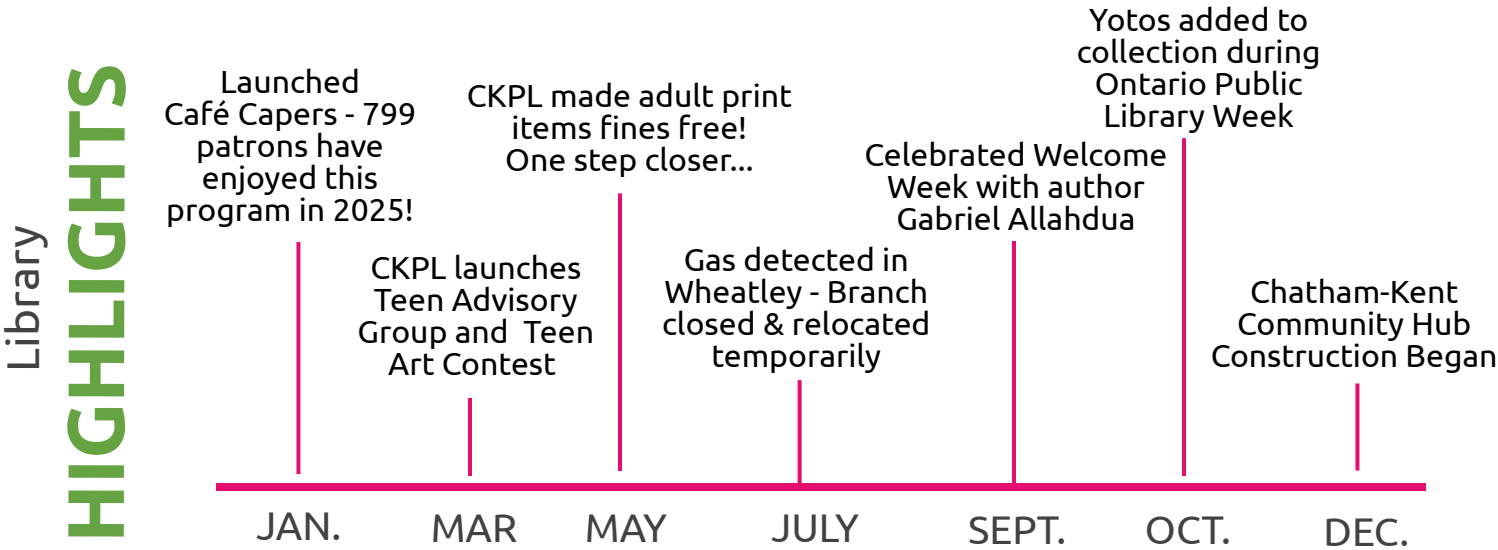
LITERARY ANGELS

CKPL's literary angels program is a great way to pay tribute or memorialize a special someone. In 2025, donors helped CKPL add **297 items** to the library collection, investing over **\$10,000** in collections. More information at ckpl.ca/donate



"I love coming into the library and seeing + hearing children's laughter and all of the crafts and storytimes..."

...I appreciate all you do and how there has been an increase of activities over the years and your funding is deserved for all the patrons that need you. It is also a stress free safe place for many people. You embrace so many people in so many capacities and I appreciate your dedication and important contributions to all!"



"As a life long reader and retired librarian, I believe the level of service in CKPL is above the standard and I enjoy visiting each branch."

BY THE NUMBERS

Statistics help tell the story, but they are never the whole story. The numbers set the scene, while library staff, patrons, and experiences bring the story to life!

3,934

new library cards created

80,699

questions answered

615,944

physical items checked out

318,430

downloads

55,194

virtual library (database) visits

33,514

card holders

280,517

library visitors

873,803

visits to the website and catalogue

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

FACEBOOK

23,779 interactions

INSTAGRAM

4,760 engagements

