

Present:

Regrets:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Board Feedback
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes of December 18 2024 meeting
 - b. Items for Information
 - i. Correspondence
 - a. City of Camrose – Member at Large Appointments – Renee Greer
 - b. Camrose County – 2025 Allocation
 - ii. Libraries in the News
 - a. Astronomical hold queues on year's top e-books frustrate readers, libraries
 - b. How the Calgary Public Library avoided the worst after it was targeted in a massive cyberattack
 - c. Reports
 - i. Director's Report
 - ii. Program Overview to December 31 2024
 - iii. Program Report and Library Statistics December 31 2024
4. Items for Discussion and Decisions
 - a. Organizational Review
 - b. Executive Election
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice Chair
 - iii. Secretary/Recorder
 - iv. Communications
 - v. Finance Committee/Treasurer
 - vi. Signing Authorities
 - vii. Personnel Committee
 - viii. Policy Committee
 - ix. Advocacy Committee
 - c. Meeting Date
 - d. 2025 Library Closures
 - e. Board Orientation – Date and Provider

Next regular Board meeting: February 19 2025, 5:00pm

Present: Renee Greer (Chair), Alyssa Martin (Director), Naomi Finseth (Vice-Chair), Don Simpson (Camrose Council) Joy-Anne Murphy (City Council), Cheryl Dezall, Lucy Ernst, Peter Hamm, Vikki Williams (Treasurer), Margaret Holliston (Secretary),

Call to Order: Chair Renee Greer called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 63/24 M/S/C –Margaret Holliston/Don Simpson: That the agenda be approved as amended:

- Add Item 4g, Library Operating Hours 2025
- Move Item 3biii, Ratification of E-votes to become 4h

2. Board Feedback: Joy-Anne shared that the Children's Choirs attended and performed at the CPL Winter Wonderland Party; it was a lovely event.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes November 20, 2024, meeting:

Motion 64/24 M/S/C – Joy-Anne Murphy/Don Simpson: That the minutes for November 20, 2024, be approved as presented.

b. Items for Information: Board members reviewed prior to the meeting.

c. Reports: Board members reviewed prior to the meeting.

4. Items for Discussion and Decision

a. Financial Committee Verbal Report: Vikki reported that the numbers look good as per her recent review.

b. Policy Committee Verbal Report: Assisted with Item 4h re Personnel Policy Motion 62/24, to be ratified later in the meeting. Otherwise, eagerly awaiting the organization report, and look forward to assisting Alyssa with its implementation. Alyssa shared some early implementation plans, pending Item 4e, 2025 Budget approval, necessitated by Cheryl Hamel's retirement at the end of 2024.

c. Plan of Service Committee Verbal Report: The final report was reviewed prior to the meeting. As ad hoc committee members, Cheryl and Lucy reported they are pleased with the report. Joy-Anne suggested several formatting adjustments, which Alyssa can make prior to its submission and publication.

- Page 3, ensure footnote is identifiable as a footnote
- Page 7, create a smaller green box or have three lines instead of two inside said green box
- Page 7, change "referenced" to "considered"

Motion 65/24 M/S/C – Naomi Finseth/Lucy Ernst: That the Plan of Service final report be approved as amended.

- d. Organizational Review Verbal Update: Alyssa provided a summary of key recommendations anticipated in the final report, which will be ready for board review and discussion at the January meeting. (Also see the Director's Report and 2005 Budget Summary - both included in the December board package).
- Re-organization will include staffing adjustments; cost will be similar to 2024, given the Manager's retirement (had been top of the grid).
 - CPL will be outsourcing payroll and human resources to TAL, which is used by many other libraries in Alberta, and will lease new HR software through Collage, a Canadian company recommended by Salopek and Associates.
 - The Service Desk Coordinator role will become the Service Desk Supervisor role, as some of the (retiring) Manager's responsibilities can be transferred to this position. The pay grid will be adjusted accordingly to ensure appropriate compensation.
 - A new Executive Assistant role will be created, replacing the former Manager position, taking on the remaining Manager responsibilities as well as several new duties (for example, statistical analysis, additional grant support, secretarial duties for the board, if so desired).
- e. 2025 Budget – Final Draft: Alyssa prepared a comprehensive document to explain differences between the first draft budget approved in September and the final draft reflecting City and County grants, changes resulting in the Manager's retirement and subsequent organizational review, and significantly more other donations/fundraising than anticipated in September. It is a good news budget in meeting current expenses, with some limited expansion, but there are still gaps we would like to fill, pending more financial resources in the months/years ahead. The documentation was included in the board package.
- Motion 66/24 M/S/C** - Don Simpson/Joy-Anne Murphy: That the 2025 Camrose Public Library Budget be approved as presented.
- f. TAL: The Alberta Libraries, or TAL, is a library consortium serving Alberta libraries in various ways (<https://thealbertalibrary.ca/>), including HR and Payroll support. CPL will transition from ADP to TAL early in 2025; however, as 2024 year-end finances are more complex than finances in other years, we are advised to contract TAL to assist with year-end for an estimated cost of just under \$2,000. This will mean over-spending our 2024 Audit, Professional and Legal fees line, but this is balanced by other budget areas in which we have under-spent.
- Motion 67/24 M/S/C** – Margaret Holliston/Naomi Finseth: That the board approve overspending by up to \$2,000 in Audit, Professional and Legal fees in order to contract TAL to assist with year-end financial administration.

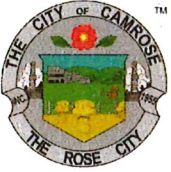
- g. Library Operating Hours: Since Friday evenings are quite quiet, CPL will close an hour earlier on Fridays and open an hour later on Tuesdays to enable adult programming and a busier use evening. The board agreed that no motion was needed and thanked Alyssa for information regarding this change, which is effective February 1, 2024. A publicity campaign will happen in January.
- h. Ratification of E-Votes: The three specific e-votes requiring ratification were included in the board package:
- Electronic Banking Capacity: **Motion 60/24 M/S/C:** Joy-Anne Murphy moves, Cheryl Dezall seconds "That Camrose Public Library will set up the capacity for e-payment through our financial institution, with the signing authorities being Lucy Ernst, Renee Greer, Vikki Williams, and Alyssa Martin."
 - Stat Holiday Pay Covered by Reserve Funds: **Motion 61/24 M/S/C:** Cheryl Dezall moves, Joy-Anne Murphy seconds "To pull \$16,038.02 from the operational reserves to cover the Stat Holiday Pay deficiencies found in the 2023 payroll."
 - Personnel Policy RE: Benefit Eligibility: **Motion 62/24 M/S/C:** Vikki Williams moves, Margaret Holliston seconds "That the Personnel Policy be amended to add section C17 Benefits, as presented: 'C17 Benefits POLICY STATEMENT In line with the library's dedication to being a competitive workplace, Camrose Public Library is pleased to offer an array of benefits. GUIDELINES 1. All permanent part-time employees who are contracted to work an average of 20 hours a week are eligible to sign up for benefits if they desire. 2. All permanent full-time employees must participate in the benefits program.'

Motion 68/24 M/S/C – Peter Hamm/Don Simpson: That the board ratify motions 60/24, 61/24 and 62/24, as amended with minor changes ("motions" changed to "moves" as noted above).

5. **Motion 69/24 M/S/C** – Naomi Finseth/Don Simpson: That the board move in camera.
6. **Motion 70/24 M/S/C** – Margaret Holliston/Don Simpson: That the board move out of in camera.
7. **Thank you, Vikki Williams:** The board thanked outgoing member Vikki Williams for her service, particularly as CPL Board Treasurer, and wished her well. Alyssa presented Vikki with a card of appreciation containing a gift certificate.

Adjournment: Chair Renee Greer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next regular Board meeting: January 15, 2024, 5:00 pm



The City of
Camrose

5204 – 50 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta T4V 0S8 PH. (780) 672-4426 FAX (780) 672-2469

December 17, 2024

Attention: Renee Greer, Chair
Camrose Public Library Board
7315 – 42 Avenue Close
Camrose, AB T4V 4W6

Email: rgreer_2@telus.net

Re: 2025 Member-at-large Appointment – Camrose Public Library Board

Please be advised at the Regular Meeting of Council, held December 16, 2024, Council approved the following Member-at-large appointment to the Camrose Public Library Board. The appointment commences January 1, 2025, and expires December 31, 2027, or at the pleasure of Council.

- Renee Greer - Reappointment

A Police Information Check is not required for a reappointment as there is one on file from their previous appointment.

Please contact the above noted individual to advise of the first meeting in 2025. Herein is the contact information sheet for your information.

Should you have any questions, give me a call at 780-781-0826 or email pjstasko@camrose.ca

Yours truly,

The City of Camrose

PJ Stasko
Mayor

cc: Alyssa Martin, Director, Camrose Public Library Board amartin@prl.ab.ca

**City of Camrose
Camrose Public Library Board
2025 Member-at-large Appointment**

Name	Contact's #	Email
Renee Greer	780-781-6244 (P)	rgreer_2@telus.net

Primary (P)
Secondary (S)



3755-43 Avenue,
Camrose, Alberta T4V3S8
P 780-672-4446
E county@county.camrose.ab.ca

December 16, 2024

File No: 970-03-73

Camrose Public Library
4710-50 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 0R8

RE: 2025 Allocation

Council at their December 10, 2024 Council meeting reviewed recommendations from the Budget Committee and after careful consideration Camrose County Council allocated \$77,240.00 (Seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars), which is a 5% increase, in the 2025 Budget to the Camrose Public Library.

We appreciate the contribution your local library makes to your community and wish you a successful year.

A cheque in the amount of \$77,240.00 will be forwarded in July, 2025.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Gratrix', written over a horizontal line.

Teresa Gratrix, BComm
County Administrator

/jy

Cc Accounts Payable

Ottawa

'Astronomical' hold queues on year's top e-books frustrate readers, libraries

Inflated costs, restrictive publishing practices to blame, librarians say

[Ben Andrews](#) · CBC News · Posted: Dec 20, 2024 2:00 AM MST | Last Updated: December 20, 2024



Sarah Macintyre, division manager of client services with the Ottawa Public Library, says she often hears from library users frustrated about long e-book wait times. (Mathieu Deroy/CBC)

Anyone hoping to read the Ottawa Public Library's most popular e-books of the year may find themselves waiting until well after the holidays, and librarians say major publishers are to blame.

The Women by Kristin Hannah, a bestselling novel in which a young American woman serves as an army nurse in the Vietnam war, is the library's most popular book of 2024.

But despite offering 75 copies of the e-book, the library's waitlist currently sits at about 1,200 people. With a maximum borrowing period of 21 days, someone placing a hold on the e-book today could be waiting well over a year before it comes available.

"It's really a challenge when a book is so popular," said Sarah Macintyre, division manager of client services with Ottawa Public Library (OPL). "Our clients end up waiting a fair amount of time to get access."

- [Ottawa public library wants cheaper e-books from big publishers](#)
- [Library CEO urging patrons to join fight for e-books](#)

Queues are similar for other titles on the library's list of [most popular books of 2024](#).

Louise Penny's *The Grey Wolf*, for instance, currently has about 750 holds on 50 copies. The same goes for non-fiction, with nearly 300 people waiting on 26 copies of Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*.

Although the year's biggest titles may yield the longest lists, Macintyre said a diverse readership means a wide range of books can generate hundreds of holds.



Hundreds of readers are currently waiting in lengthy queues for Ottawa Public Library's most popular e-books. (Trevor Pritchard/CBC)

It's a phenomenon that's been around since digital material first entered library catalogues, but a pandemic-driven surge in e-book popularity suggests queues may be longer than ever.

In response, both readers and libraries are adapting — but librarians say the root cause of the backlog remains the same: restrictive e-book publishing practices.

E-book readers, checkouts spike during pandemic

Because e-book distributor Overdrive doesn't make hold information available, Macintyre said OPL can't provide specific data on how long readers are waiting for e-books. The data she can access tells a clear story of increasing demand, however.

The number of OPL Overdrive users ballooned in the first year of the pandemic — and has swelled from 50,548 in 2019 to 77,190 in 2023.

In line with users, e-book checkouts went from 887,069 in 2019 to more than 1.1 million the following year.

The high cost of e-books compared to physical copies makes it difficult for libraries to keep up with demand, Macintyre said.

Depending on the title, public libraries may pay two or three times more for an e-book than they pay for its print edition. In some cases, the e-book may be up to six times the price, librarians told CBC.

Calls for cheaper e-books are longstanding.

In 2014, Coun. Tim Tierney [led a group of municipalities](#) asking the federal government to investigate the publishing industry for e-book pricing. At the time, OPL was spending about 11 per cent of its materials budget on electronic content.

By 2023, that share had grown to about 40 per cent.

While the library's spending on e-books is trending upward, the number of copies in its collection has declined slightly since reaching a peak in 2020.

The library is getting less for more — and readers are left waiting longer.

“The waitlist would be astronomical, could even be years...”

- Mary Chevreau, Canadian Urban Libraries Council

"The waitlist would be astronomical, could be even years, depending on how many copies that particular public library can afford to buy," said Mary Chevreau, executive director of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

But reasons for the backlogs have remained more or less consistent, Chevreau said.

Throttled access, embargoed releases

In addition to high prices, Chevreau said the "big five" multinational e-book publishers "throttle" access to e-books by selling them to libraries for either a limited time or a limited number of circulations — sometimes both.

Those publishers — Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, Macmillan Publishers, Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster — will often license copies of e-books for just 12 or 24 months. Once that licence expires, libraries must repurchase access to the same book.

"That throttling is very, very new. It only came about because of e-books," Chevreau said.

- [Why e-books, e-audiobooks could be harder to snag at your local library](#)

The practice stands in stark contrast to physical books, Chevreau said, which libraries buy once and keep in circulation until the copies are "dog-eared" and "well-loved."

Publishers will also [embargo high-demand releases](#) as a way to hold bestsellers off library shelves for months after they go on sale, she added.

None of the "big five" publishers responded to a request for comment.

Readers, libraries adapt

E-books are an important offering for libraries, Macintyre said, because the format allows flexibility for readers and includes built-in accessibility features, such as adjustable font sizes and brightness.

But the prohibitive cost of loading up on popular titles is pushing OPL and other libraries to think creatively about how to meet community needs.



Higher costs and restrictive publishing practices for digital materials are to blame for long wait times, librarians say. (The Associated Press)

OPL offers a reciprocal lending program that allows people with an Ottawa library card to access the digital collections of other libraries in the province. It also has an "express" collection where holds aren't allowed.

Public libraries are "curating" their collections more than they have in the past by carefully selecting titles for which readers are clamouring, Chevreau said.

For their part, readers may place holds on dozens of books across multiple formats, reading them gradually as they become available. Only a few "hardcore users," will go so far as to sign up for multiple library cards, Macintyre said.

But any long-term solutions would likely come in the form of legislation, according to Chevreau. Those efforts have so far proved fruitless in Canada.

"We continue to work on it. We continue to hope that at some point we'll be able to get some clarity and some legislation that would protect our ability to purchase," Chevreau said.

"In the end, it really is part of our accessibility values — being able to provide good content in the format people want it."

Clarifications

- The average cost of an e-book at the OPL is calculated by dividing the annual cost of e-books reported by the library by the number copies purchased each year, not the other way around. A previous version of a graph in the story stated that equation backward in its caption, although the data the graph showed was correct.
Dec 22, 2024 1:24 PM MST

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How the Calgary Public Library avoided the worst after it was targeted in a massive cyberattack

EMMA GRANNEY > ENERGY REPORTER

CALGARY

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 25, 2024

UPDATED DECEMBER 27, 2024



Calgary Public Library CEO Sarah Meilleur at the Central library, in Calgary, on Dec. 19.

TODD KOROL/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The Calgary Public Library first flagged suspicious activity on its servers on Oct. 10. Less than 24 hours later, it confirmed the library was the target of a full-fledged cyberattack.

Security teams chose to pro-actively shut down the servers rather than leave systems vulnerable, a decision that chief executive officer Sarah Meilleur credits with saving the library's infrastructure, stopping the attack and ensuring that no business, employee or member data was compromised.

From 2023: Toronto Public Library service reductions projected to last months after ransomware attack

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For the next six weeks, library operations remained in a holding pattern. Patrons were asked to avoid returning books. WiFi was disconnected at branches. E-books and audiobooks couldn't be checked out and holds couldn't be placed. The online catalogue was a best-guess scenario.

Yet there was a charming analog side to the digital nightmare.

Branches reopened on Oct. 16, albeit with limited services. People could check out books – with librarians writing out card and items numbers by hand – and gather in the local spaces for reading groups and the like.

“It took us back to those days before technology was so much a part of our services,” Ms. Meilleur said in a recent interview.

“It was pretty amazing seeing how the community responded, even when access to the full library was minimal. Our locations were busy. People were coming in, they were checking out materials, they were studying, they were gathering and connecting with folks.”

The library's IT team provided branches with secure laptops after a few days, so librarians switched to scanning book barcodes into a document. The information was uploaded later, once servers were back online.

Hacker breaches B.C. libraries and demands ransom after taking e-mails, phone numbers

A Microsoft Incident Response team was brought in early on to support containment procedures and investigate what happened. On Oct. 29, the team's report confirmed a suspected ransomware attack.

The Calgary Public Library has invested a lot in cybersecurity over the past two years, Ms. Meilleur said – a direct result of watching escalating attacks on public and private libraries.

In October, 2023, the Toronto Public Library was hobbled for months after a ransomware attack on its network. In that case, the attackers, from the Black Basta group, demanded a ransom. The library reported that it did not pay, but it's believed the identities, home addresses and social insurance numbers of current and former staff were compromised.

Calgary's choice to immediately shut down its servers was disruptive, but it helped one of North America's largest municipal library systems avoid such a fate.



On Dec. 11, two months after the cyberattack, public WiFi became available at all Calgary library locations, as did printing services.

TODD KOROL/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

“Because we were able to stop the attack from being fully implemented, we were never in contact with a threat actor at any point to really understand what they were looking for or what their intentions were,” Ms. Meilleur said.

“There’s no conclusive evidence to determine who the attacker was, so we’ll probably never know.”

Postattack, the Calgary Public Library slowly implemented a three-stage Pathway to Recovery.

The first step restored staff networks and devices, a lengthy process that included inspecting and reviewing every piece of technology at the library before making it available to staff or patrons.

Stage two rolled out on Nov. 21. Members could access their accounts and libraries could finally begin processing returns and holds.

The last stage, which is under way, is the restoration of full technology services at the library. On Dec. 11, public WiFi became available at all library locations, as did printing services, and members could finally access most digital resources and book meeting rooms online.

The library is building back stronger using lessons it learned from the attack and recommendations from experts, but the strategy it already had in place stopped the situation from being much worse.

“No doubt we were preparing for what we might do if something like this happened, focusing on what recovery might look like,” Ms. Meilleur said. “That planning and preparation work stood us in good stead. You can’t prepare

for every eventuality, but even thinking about the steps you might take help set you up for the future and for a solid comeback story.”

The attack also highlighted the importance of strong cybersecurity training and password management for staff, Ms. Meilleur said – something she’s taking into her own personal life as well.

“Many organizations have mandatory cybersecurity training, but it really comes home in a new way when you live through a cybersecurity attack,” she said.

By the way, she said, as the interview wrapped up, “Can I give you a book recommendation?”

Absolutely. She named a book by Japanese author Michiko Aoyama. The title? *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library*.

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Director's Report

January 8 2025

Alyssa Martin

Organizational Review

Margaret Law has submitted a draft of her organizational review for us to read, and then implement. Portions of the organizational review have already been put into effect as a result of our Manager's retirement.

Contracting TAL (The Alberta Library)

TAL has started to offer payroll and bookkeeping services. They have been contracted to handle our 2024 year-end activities, and will be running our bookkeeping and payroll starting January 2025. We are in the midst of implementation with them, and have had an exceedingly positive and smooth experience thus far.

Moving to Online Banking

We are updating our banking platform to meet financial best practices. This process has been slower and less smooth than hoped for, but progress is being made.

Creating Executive Assistant Role

With payroll and bookkeeping duties being contracted out, we have created a new role to take on the bulk of the Manager's other responsibilities, as well as a few new ones. We are currently advertising for the Executive Assistant role, and hope to start the hiring and training process in the coming weeks. Details can be found on our Employment Page.

Creating Circulation Desk Supervisor Role

Our Service Desk Coordinator role has evolved into the Service Desk Supervisor role, having taken on the Manager's supervisory tasks for the front desk and Pages. Our current Service Desk Coordinator agreed to the promotion, and is assisting me in navigating all of the changes.

New HR Software

Now that we are no longer using our old payroll and HR software, we needed a new platform. We have contracted Collage HR and begin implementation next week. This company was recommended by Salopek and Associates, and is a Canadian company.



Summer Student Employment Grants

Applications for Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works for our Book Bike Pilot and Summer Reading Program Coordinators have been submitted. The maximum possible financial contributions from these grants has shrunk drastically this year from previous years, and we should be prepared for less financial assistance.

Operating Hour Changes

CPL will shift our operating hours starting in February. We will be open one hour later on Tuesdays, and close one hour earlier on Fridays. We have started to advertise this change with the public, and programs and rental availabilities have already adjusted.

Camrose Public Library

Adult Programs

January 1 to December 31, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Deliveries to Care Facilities	109	860
German Circle Online	42	140
Ukulele Online	37	106
Mind Masters	12	2580
Augustana Preview Days	1	40
Tech Essentials with FCSS	4	44
Harp Holiday Outreach	1	3
Seniors Week Advocacy Events	2	24
Bethany Pride	1	16
SRC Walking Book Club	6	14
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Film	1	49
	216	3876

In House	Program	Attendance
Spanish	41	275
Ukulele	32	300
Fibre Club	42	170
Drum Circle with CMHA	12	92
French (Wednesday) CANCELLED	4	4
French (Thursday)	14	32
Climate Café	10	48
Cricut Classes	18	87
Life Skills 101	3	21
How To: Canva	2	27
How To: Chat GPT	1	10
Intellectual Freedom & Libraries	1	18
Fellowship Open House	1	30
Mending March	4	14
Advanced Makers with Makers Making Change	1	2
vermicomposting	1	8
Emergency Preparedness	1	5
Harp Holiday	4	33
Caregiver Connection with CMHA	1	3
Yogan with Brad	4	14
Orange Shirt Moosehide Beading	2	26
Energy Savings Workshop	1	7
Scam Awareness with Camrose Police Service	1	7
Lunch & Learn: Supports for Temporary Foreign Workers	1	7
How to: Cricut Design Space	1	7
SpeedFriending	1	14
	204	1261

Total	420	5137
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Camrose Public Library
Family Programs
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Read for 15	1	4167
Chuck Maclean Family workshops	9	146
Women's Shelter Family Literacy	6	34
Paw Café with CAARS	1	175
Curious Cuties @ CFRC	1	19
ECCHS Multicultural Night	1	45
PRIDE in the Park	1	50
Book Bike @ Canada Day	1	400
Book Bike @ local parks	7	119
Book Bike @ Wellness Walks with Recovery College	4	79
Summer Staff @ Watershed Festival	1	22
Book Bike @ BRSD Pet Parade	1	34
Book Bike Meteor Shower	1	100
Newcomer's Guide to Camrose Bus Tour	1	8
Ecole des Fondateurs Community Night	1	13
Saturday Farmer's Market for Canadian Library Month	1	50
Haunt the Museum	1	40
Toddler Time at CFRC	1	12
	40	5513

In House	Program	Attendance
Snacks in the Stacks	245	4908
Something Cool After School	169	972
Books & Bounces	43	879
Terrific Tales	44	798
Tech Help	104	212
Bed Time Stories	41	431
Crafternoon	31	257
Rainbow Club	9	26
Writing Club	13	5
School PD Matinee	9	502
Newcomers Guide to Camrose	19	209
Saturday Story Time	2	13
Weekend Wiggles	3	21
Ghibli Geeks Club	5	21
Impromptu Story Time	1	17
Game Day CANCELLED	4	2
Anime Club CANCELLED	4	8
Family Literacy Day with CFRC	1	25
Leap Day	1	0
Spring BreaK vr	2	8
Jr Innovators with Makers Making Change	1	25
enviropalooza	1	4

Star Wars Day	1	31
PRIDE Month Rainbow Riot	1	10
Wonkalicious Tea Party	1	279
SRC Watercolours	2	27
SRC Wrap-up Party	1	8
Pumpkin Carving Contest	1	6
Canadian Library Month Scavenger Hunt	1	56
PRL Golden Ticket	1	22
Find Fergus	1	34
Royal Tyrrell Virtual Tour	1	22
Terrific Trees	1	8
Intro to Metis Beading	2	30
Winter Wonderland Holiday Party	1	352
Merry Creepmas	1	12
	768	10240

Total	808	15753
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Camrose Public Library
 Childrens Programs
 January 1 to December 31, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
St Pat's Tournament of Books	1	26
SRC School Visits	3	587
SRC @ local parks	6	54
Book Bike @ OSCAR	5	154
Book Bike @ Reading University	3	101
	18	922

In House	Program	Attendance
Chester Ronning Kindergarten Tours	3	61
Hay Lakes Kindergarten Tour	1	30
School Tours	6	136
SRC @ the Library	3	26
Sifton Kindergarten Tours	3	54
Homeschooler Tours	2	32
Feathered Friends	1	6
Red Hot Science	2	27
	21	372

Monthly Total	39	1294
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Camrose Public Library
 Teen Programs
 January 1 to December 31, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Adulting 101 @ECCHS	1	175
	1	175

In House	Program	Attendance
Golden Flames Teen D & D	41	638
Mario Cart Tourney	1	16
SRC D & D	7	89
SRC Gaming Club	6	42
SRC Craft Club	7	65
	62	850

Total	63	1025
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Camrose Public Library
Total Programs
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Outreach Programs	275	10486
In-house Programs	1055	12723
YTD	1330	23209

Submitted by Nicole Kyle
8-Jan-25

December 2024

Program and Library Statistics

Submitted by Nicole Kyle
January 7, 2024

961

people attended programs that foster a sense of community connection and belonging.

352

people of all ages joined us as we celebrated the holiday season at our annual Winter Wonderland party.

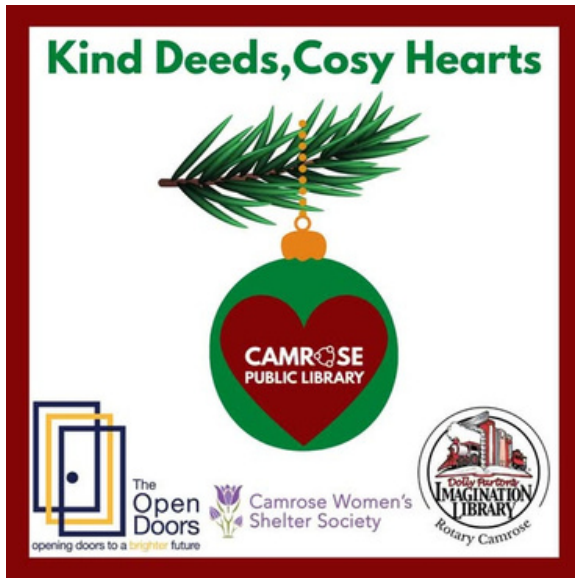
418

people attended library programs and special events designed to educate and promote a love of lifelong learning.

1 bit of awesome feedback:

A patron was very complimentary about the outreach service staff have been providing to her mom for the last 11 years.

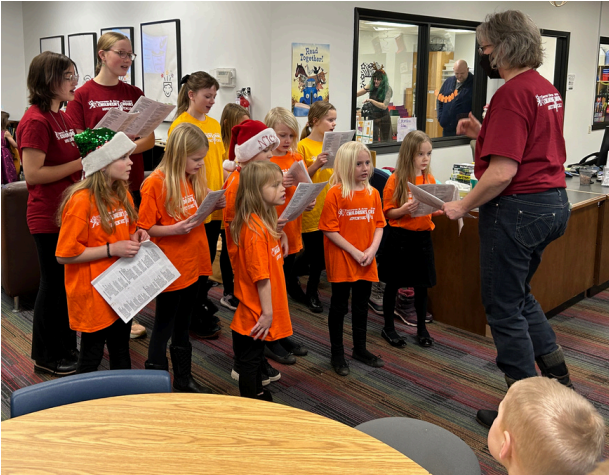
December Program Summary



This year we hosted 4 Giving Trees to provide a way for folks to give back to community this holiday season. There were trees for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Women's Shelter, Open Doors, and of course Camrose Public Library.



We hosted our second annual Merry Creepmas program for those who take an not-so-traditional view of the season holidays. 12 teens and adults (mostly families) joined us to turn a nutcracker ornament into a Krampus ornament.



352 people joined us for our annual Winter Wonderland party! We were so pleased this year to have performances by the Camrose and Area Children's Choir, who wandered around the library singing holiday cheer wherever they went! There were also professional photos by Perspective Photography, winter themed crafts, goodies sponsored in part by The Lefse House, and time to visit with others from around our community.



Ongoing Programs

Ongoing programs will run from
January 6 to June 20.

Ukulele Jam (Adults)
Mondays @ 10:00

Spanish Circle (Adults)
Mondays @ 3 in person
and on Zoom

Books & Bounces
(infants under 2 and
caregivers)
Tuesdays @ 11:00

German Circle (Adults)
Tuesdays @ 4 on Zoom

Climate Cafe (All ages)
1st Tuesday monthly @ 5:30

Terrific Tales (Families)
Wednesdays @ 10:30

**Golden Flames D&D
Club**
(Teens, registered)
Wednesdays @ 4; email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca to
register

Bed Time Stories
(families)
Wednesdays @ 6

Ukulele Online (adults)
Thursdays @ 1 on Zoom

**Drumming Circle with
Recovery College (16+)**
1st Thursday Monthly @ 5
Register at
<https://bit.ly/CMHADrums>

**Newcomer's Guide to
Camrose (All ages)**

- January 7 @ 5:00
- January 18 @ 2:00
- January 21 @ 5:00

Ghibli Geek Club
January 9 @ 4:30 (12+). This
month: Ponyo

PD Day Matinee 
(All ages, registered)
BRSD Friday Staff Meeting
Days @ 11:30. Registration
required. Please call
780-672-4214 or email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca.
This month's title is *Harriet
the Spy*.

Snacks in the Stacks
(Grades 1-12)
School days @ 3:30

**Something Cool After
School (Grades 1-8)**
School days @ 3:30

**Rainbow Club Public
GSA (All ages)**
1st Saturday Monthly @ 11

Saturday Story Time
(Families)
1st Saturday Monthly @ 11

Weekend Wiggles
(Infants under 2 and
caregivers)
1st Saturday Monthly @ 12

Crafternoon (All ages)
Saturdays from 1-3

Fibre Club (All ages)
Saturdays @ 1



Our Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10-7
Saturday: 11-4
Sunday: Closed

Closed January 1

Technology Services



24/7 access to electronic resources:

Visit prl.ab.ca/elibrary to
check out electronic print
materials, audio books,
learning resources, and
resume building software.
Use your library card
and PIN to log in.

1-on-1 Tech Help

Need assistance with
some technology basics?
Please call us or email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca to
book your free 1 hour
appointment today!



Special Events

Life Skills 101: Pet Care Edition (16+)
January 14 @ 5:30

Learn how to choose and care for your furbabies!
Facilitated by Camrose & Area Animal Shelter
Society & Camrose Animal Alliance Rescue
Society.

Pasta Art Family Workshop
January, 19 AM to noon

@ Chuck MacLean, 4809 52 Street. Space limited;
register with QR code.

For Cricut's Sake (Adults)

January 23 or 30 @ 5 PM: Paper Luminaries
Space is limited; register with QR code.

Environmental Literacy Night (Families)
January 27, 5:00-7:00 PM

Our Family Literacy Day theme this year is the
greenest one yet! Join us for sustainable crafting
and other eco-friendly family activities! Presented
in partnership with Camrose Family Resource
Centre.

For program and service info:

Phone: 780.672.4214

Web: prl.ab.ca/camrose

Email: cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca

Unless otherwise noted, programs
& events are FREE and on a drop-in
basis. For registered programs,
visit <https://bit.ly/CPLEventbrite>,
scan the QR, or call 780-672-4214.





Indigenous Beading Circles

with Métis artist Joelle Skinner

Last Saturday of Most Months in 2025

Space is limited. Registration opens on the 1st of every month.

For ages 16+ | All supplies provided!

**First session: Cab Pendants
January 25, 12 - 2 PM**

Participants who are interested are invited to join Joelle at 11:30 AM for smudging ahead of the session.



Made possible thanks to a generous grant from

Please visit <https://bit.ly/CPLEventbrite> or use the QR on the other page to register beginning January 1.



READ FOR 15

JANUARY 27, 2025

READ FOR 15 MINUTES & REPORT TO THE LIBRARY

cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca

<https://bit.ly/ReadFor15Camrose2025>

780.672.4214



Learn to be Green Together

Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be more green.

Environmental Literacy Night

January 27
5:00-7:00 PM

at **CAMROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY** in partnership with **CAMROSE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE**

2024 Year in Brief Review

17% ↑

in the number of people visiting Camrose Public Library in 2024

104% ↑

in the number of people and organizations booking our spaces for their meetings.

30% ↑

in the number of people we connected with during library outreach programming and services.

72% ↑

in the number of new and renewed library memberships.

1 bit of awesome feedback:

"How wonderful it is to have a library like this in our community. It's such a gift, and it's all thanks to staff like you who make it warm and welcoming"

December 2024 Library Statistics

2024 Year-end in coloured cells

YTD daily visit averages (and hourly based on operational hours in brackets)

Mondays: 346 (avg of 38/hr) Tuesdays: 399 (avg of 44/hr)
 Wednesdays: 372 (avg of 41/hr) Thursdays: 370 (avg of 41/hr)
 Fridays: 335 (avg of 37/hr) Saturdays: 220 (avg of 44/hr)
 Sundays: 97 (avg of 24/hr)

Circulation	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Adult Material	5123	5498	67711	68231	-520	-1%
Young Adult Material	266	313	5325	6376	-1051	-16%
Juvenile Material	3595	4201	59914	59106	808	1%
Relais Items Borrowed	119	129	1542	1652	-110	-7%
Relais Items Sent	20	21	327	343	-16	-5%
Total	9123	10162	134819	135708	-889	-1%

Econtent	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Cloud Library/RBDigital	378	488	5435	6314	-879	-14%
Overdrive	1330	1203	15229	12504	2725	22%
Total	1708	1733	20664	19107	1557	8%

Circulation by Residence	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
City of Camrose	7844	8687	112913	111302	1611	1%
County of Camrose	1967	1800	25260	24874	386	2%
Outside City/County	42	56	765	565	200	35%
ME	0	29	182	434	-252	-58%
Total	9853	10572	139120	137175	1945	1%

Miscellaneous	Dec 2024	Dec 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Visitors	7040	7674	98850	84163	14687	17%
WiFi Users	7598	1324	111253	125076	-13823	-11%
Internet Users	837	963	12963	11742	1221	10%
Exams	23	22	261	217	44	20%
Total	15498	9983	223327	221198	2129	1%

Selection of Service Responses

1. Social Engagement: Developing Relationships and Ending Isolation
2. Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access
3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
4. Visit a Welcoming Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Programs	Dec 2024		2024 YTD		Participants	
	Sessions	People	Sessions	People	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
1	24	544	352	4161	2,932	2606
2	2	4	99	998	515	166
3	23	450	427	6751	7,254	4812
4	30	417	441	6198	6,636	4177
Advocacy			11	5101	6,067	6231
Total	79	1415	1330	23209	23,404	17992

Library Closures Requested – 2025

Camrose Public Library has closed on long weekends for years, and initially this was done as a way to absorb budget cuts. This extra money in the personnel budget line allows us to have staff meetings, professional development days, and additional staff on hand for large library events. Now that we no longer open on Sundays, the savings have been reduced, but our patrons and staff have become accustomed to the library being closed on long weekends, and this acts as a form of staff appreciation that does not cost the library any funds.

The [Employee Policy Manual](#) outlines which days are general holidays and which days are holidays as recognized by CPL. You can find this chart on page 32 of the manual.

C5 General Holidays (stat holidays)

POLICY STATEMENT

The following are general holidays that are mandated by Employment Standards:

New Year's Day	January 1
Family Day	Third Monday in February
Good Friday	Friday before Easter Sunday
Victoria Day	Monday before May 25
Canada Day	July 1
Labour Day	First Monday in September
Thanksgiving Day	Second Monday in October
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25

The following are additional holidays recognized and treated by the Library as general holidays:

August Civic Holiday	First Monday in August
Boxing Day	December 26

1. The general holiday will be observed on the actual day of the work week that it falls. When the general holiday falls on a weekend, it will be observed on the following Monday, or another day that the Library has decided upon and will communicate well in advance of the holiday.

Requested Closures:

Red and Bold Dates = General Holidays in Alberta with holiday pay, and days the library has adopted as General Holidays.

Blue and Bold dates = Sundays where we would be closed anyways

Black dates are additional requested closures.

Family Day Weekend: February 15, 16, 17 (Saturday-Monday)

Easter Weekend: April 18, 19, 20, 21 (Friday-Monday)

Victoria Day: May 17, 18, 19 (Saturday-Monday)

Canada Day: July 1 (Tuesday)

August Civic Holiday: August 2, 3, 4 (Saturday-Monday)

Labour Day: August 29, 30, September 1 (Saturday-Monday)

Thanksgiving: October 11, 12, 13 (Saturday-Monday)

Remembrance Day: November 11 (Tuesday)

Christmas and Boxing Day: Close at 3:00pm Wednesday December 24, Closed December 25, 26, 27, 28 (Thursday-Sunday)

New Year's Day: December 31, January 1 (Wednesday and Thursday)