



COCHRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

*"So thankful for this amazing asset in our community."*

# Message from our Board Chair

Dear Friends, Patrons, and Community Members,

Reflecting on the year gone by fills me with immense pride and deep gratitude as I address you in this annual report. The Cochrane Public Library (CPL) has achieved remarkable milestones and made significant progress towards our mission of supporting, inspiring, innovating, and educating.

In a significant move towards inclusivity and accessibility, we have decided to do away with card and late fees, ensuring that our wide range of resources and services are accessible to all without any barriers. This bold step aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing equitable service, a value deeply ingrained in CPL's DNA. The positive impact of this decision has been truly inspiring. We have seen increased patron engagement in various aspects - more individuals borrowing physical and virtual materials, a rise in visits, and heightened participation in programs, exemplified by the tremendous success of the Summer Reading Program. These results not only highlight the value of our services, but also showcase the intellectual curiosity and vibrant community spirit.

Taking into account invaluable community feedback, we have developed an ambitious service plan for 2024-2026, focusing on maximizing our impact. Inclusivity is at the forefront as we strive to celebrate and embrace the richness of diversity, aiming to extend our influence beyond the library's walls. Despite the challenge of operating within a space only 25% of the recommended size for our growing town, we are undaunted and motivated to create interim outreach programs while planning for a new facility that meets and exceeds our community's evolving needs. At the heart of our progress and growth are the essential elements that uphold the strength and resilience of our library - our people, partnerships, and patrons. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff for their commitment to excellence in serving our patrons.

To the community we serve - your unwavering support drives our mission and underscores the vital role the Library plays in enriching lives. A sincere thank you to our partners, sponsors, and donors for their generous contributions that help bring our vision to fruition, and to the Town of Cochrane, Rocky View County, and the Government of Alberta for recognizing the library's integral role in enriching the social and cultural fabric of our town.

I invite you to join us in celebrating our achievements and looking forward to the future with excitement. Together, through collaboration and a shared vision, we will continue to write the next chapters of the Cochrane Public Library - a timeless narrative of learning, growth, and community spirit.

Warm regards,  
Rhonda Newman  
Chair of the Cochrane Public Library Board







# WE WENT FEE AND FINE FREE!

A milestone year for the Library, the Cochrane Public Library Board passed a motion on January 10, 2023 to eliminate all card fees and late fees for library materials, significantly reducing barriers to accessing CPL's resources and services and reflecting the Library's dedication to equitable service for all!

*"Our vision is to inspire a journey of discovery, learning, and connections and this decision helps make that vision a reality. The Library belongs to the community and we want to invite everyone to take part in our programs, services, and collections, regardless of financial status."*

Monique Fiedler-Sills  
Library Director



# Let's Celebrate!

## Fee and fine free was a **MASSIVE** success!

*"Love that our Library has met so many practical needs of our community--borrowing of tools, games, free magazine swap, donated books available. Also, all the staff that I have interacted with have been more than helpful, kind, and willing. Kudos to all of you!"*



## 22% Increase!

### Cardholders

The Library signed up **3,090** new cardholders.

## 11.5% Increase!

### Checkouts

Patrons checked out **343,501** physical and virtual materials.



## 23% Increase!

### In-person visits

Patrons visited the Library **112,845** times this year.

## More reasons to celebrate!

We invigilated **94 exams** and booked **77 meeting space rentals**.

From individuals to community service groups, we love sharing our space!





# New Initiatives to Serve You Better!

## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

This year the Library expanded its special collections to include items like ice cleats for safer winter walking, power washers for home projects, and “book clubs in a bag” to support local reading groups. These additions helped enhance the Library’s role as a community hub, catering to various interests and needs beyond books.

## **LUCKY DAY COLLECTION**

Thanks to the Cochrane Foundation and Home Treasures, we launched our Lucky Day Collection on St. Patrick’s Day in 2023. 278 items checked out 2,910 times!



# Patrons Loved Programs in 2023

From *Hebecon* to *Night with the Stars* to *Stories with Santa*, you loved attending our programs, learning new things, and connecting with neighbours!

*"It was so nice for my kids to be part of the expedition! Thank you for your patience and love with all of them. You went beyond with the extra effort each of you put with my nephew who learning English and through your activities and games he learned faster! thanks again!!!"*



## 43% Increase!

### Program Sessions

2022 - 739 sessions  
2023 - 1,057 sessions

## 85% Increase!

### Program Participants

2022 - 9,358 participants  
2023 - 17,329 participants

## Our Summer Reading Club was bigger and better than ever!

**1,301** total participant visits who read almost **1,000 hours!**

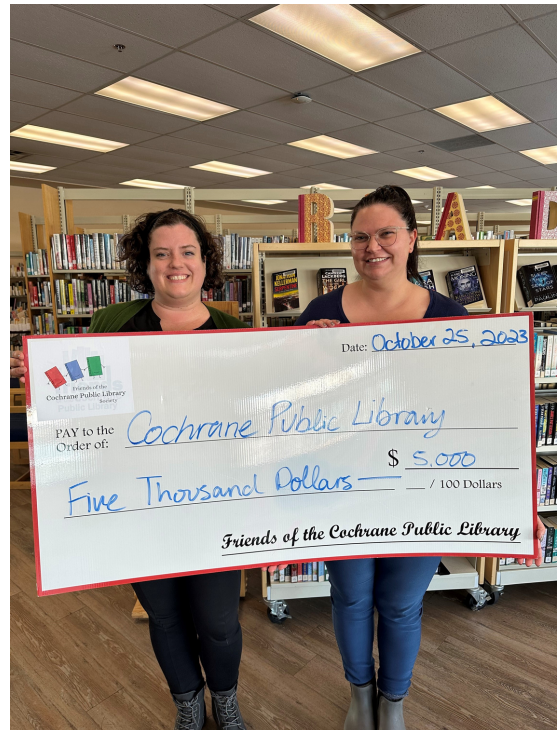




# Our Supporters

We couldn't do it without you!

- The Town of Cochrane
- Government of Alberta
- Rocky View County
- Government of Canada
- Friends of the Cochrane Public Library
- Cochrane Community Foundation
- Home Treasures
- Marigold Regional Library System
- Cochrane Activettes
- Inter Pipeline
- Bow RiversEdge Campground Society
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Cochrane FCSS & United Way of Calgary and Area
- Cochrane Kiwanis
- Rotary Club of Cochrane
- Rocky Mountain Rotary



# Our Future

With your input, we launched the 2024-2026 Plan of Service with a renewed focus on inclusivity, collaboration, communication, and future planning.

Ask us about our plans to grow and serve you better!

*"The library is such an important place! Thank you to the librarians. It is more than knowledge, it's a community."*





**SUPPORT \* INSPIRE \* INNOVATE \* EDUCATE**



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