

What a year this has been, and as we sit on the doorstep of 2021 we can only hope it will be brighter! We know the library is an important service to many of you - for our resources and in helping you to navigate the on-line world for leisure, work and school.

The library is pleased to have helped hundreds of patrons through the mandated lockdown in the spring with access to reading material and information through our digital library.

This success is clear as digital usage soared by 67% this year!

It was fantastic to see patrons embrace Curbside Service in the early summer and the return to browsing and computer use as soon as the province entered Stage 3 in early August.

In order to better meet the demand on service, we have modified our hours.

Mondays noon - 7pm; Tuesdays through Fridays 10am - 5pm

Unlimited free WiFi 24/7 from the parking lot



Every December we look forward to displaying our beautiful holiday quilt, created by Anne Ogletree, an avid library user who moved away and thanked us with this "permanent loan". You can admire it too when you stop by for a visit!

The library was on hand for Arnprior's Drive by Santa event on Sunday November 29th. We were thrilled to see all those smiling faces and would like to thank Valley Heritage Radio for all their help.

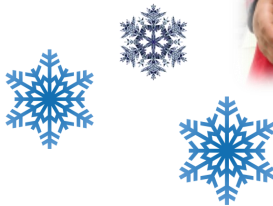
Youth Services Librarian Carolyn was one of the many voices reading some fabulous stories on their Kick-off to Christmas program held in conjunction with the event.



The library loves to help the community celebrate the season. The book advent calendars are a great way to countdown to the big day. There are a few countdowns to the new year in circulation too. It looks like we'll have to create even more bundles next season!

If you didn't register for a festive book bundle, stop by anytime to have your kids select one of our Holiday Activity Kits. There are lots of options, and they are free. Available at the main desk, while supplies last!

CHRISTMAS Activity Bags ARE HERE!



Remember

If you're looking for some fabulous festive reading, we've got loads! There's a great selection of children's books, adult fiction and special displays of how-to books (baking, cooking, crafts, giftwrapping, holiday décor, floral arranging and more!)

The latest magazines are also available on a one week loan!

2020 may have altered our vision of a being Arnprior's community hub, but there's still plenty community spirit to celebrate!



The library recently received a generous donation from Nu-Tech to help cover the library's unbudgeted COVID related costs. Plexiglass, computer keyboard covers, additional computer hardware, software and other associated purchases have helped us adapt to our new reality and have ensured staff is safe in delivering services to the public.

This is Nu-Tech's second major donation to the library and we'll be adding another book spine to our donor wall to honour the gift.

To all of our donors this year we extend a heartfelt thank you. From tribute gifts to loose change in the "fish bowl", every dime is put to good use.

The Canada Helps link on our website issues a charitable receipt through its secure portal. Donations made at the library are issued charitable receipts by staff.

Thank you!

AND, we would like to take this opportunity to say another special thanks to the Scharf Family Charitable Trust. Their annual donation ensures children's programming needs are met. This year the fund paid for many 'extras' including the Summer Reading Club Pizza Party launch, gifts added to the Advent Book Calendar Bundles and the soon-to-arrive book bags for Curby's classroom resource deliveries.

In years past, this is the time we would have been knee-deep in preparation for our annual New Year's Eve Gala...

Instead we are working on some of our goals for 2021.

- ◇ There will be a continuation of Curbside Service as well as regular hours for library visits.
- ◇ Homebound Service, Interlibrary Loans and readers advisory will continue in full swing.
- ◇ The Virtual Library will be updated on a regular basis with new resources.
 - ◆ Free at-home access to Ancestry.ca will continue until at least December 31st
 - ◆ The library is partnering with Contact North to provide a variety of free online programs such as the upcoming writing tutorials with intakes on December 9th and January 13th.
 - ◆ Join the nearly 550 Arnprior Public Library patrons who regularly download eBooks on OverDrive (or the Libby app). If you need help setting up your free account, give us a call at 613-623-2279.
- ◇ Stay tuned for WiFi on Wheels visits with Curby throughout the community.
- ◇ We'll be creating many more themed Activity Kits for the children to pick up at the circulation desk. Our themed book bundles will be revitalized throughout the winter/spring and we'll be planning another fantastic Summer Reading Program!



The library is thrilled to once again partner with the Ottawa Valley Community Arts Organization as they create a two year art installation in the library. Displays will be traveling throughout the region and we are the official hosts for exhibits in the south end of Renfrew County.

In addition to visiting the mini gallery, the public will also be invited to participate in creative workshops - virtual and/or possibly in person. Check out their website (<https://ov-caos.org>) for regular updates.

