

# Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Prepared by Janine West, Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



As Mayor of Côte Saint-Luc, I am incredibly proud of the remarkable accomplishments of our library and its dedicated staff. The Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library has consistently exceeded expectations, providing outstanding services to our community.

From expanding children's programming to offer more opportunities for teens and pre-teens, including the exciting addition of Dungeons and Dragons, to enhancing services for adults of all ages—such as the popular tax clinic and workshops for tenants—the library responds to residents' needs. However, it also truly enriches our community by offering a diverse array of cultural programs. From captivating concerts that bring music and joy, to author events that connect readers with inspiring voices, the library fosters a deep love of literature and creativity. Art exhibits showcase local talent, providing a platform for artistic expression, while engaging book clubs foster meaningful conversations and connections among patrons. These programs not only entertain but also strength-

en the cultural fabric of our community, making the library a vibrant hub for learning and creativity.

The library continues to go above and beyond in terms of serving patrons and the staff's unwavering commitment to excellence ensures that every patron feels valued and supported. Whether it's through new technological initiatives, community partnerships, or personalized services, the library continues to be a place of learning, connection, and growth. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire library team for their tireless work and passion in making the library such an essential part of our lives. We look forward to many more years of success and continued service to our residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Brownstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

**Mitchell Brownstein**  
Mayor





## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Eleanor London Côte Saint-Luc Public Library was thrilled to announce a 96 percent score for library service from the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec for 2023, the highest in our history and well above the Quebec average. This prestigious assessment evaluates key factors such as book acquisitions, opening hours, seating capacity, and staff, highlighting the dedication of our team and the quality of our services. This recognition is a testament to the invaluable role the library plays in our community, and I couldn't be prouder of the work we do.

We are also proud of our continued efforts to modernize our spaces, particularly the addition of two acoustic study pods and a re-imagined reference area highlighting our commitment to meeting the needs of our patrons. I am grateful for not only the trust that the Mayor and Council place in me to successfully guide these major projects from planning to completion but for my staff who repeatedly went back to the drawing board to ensure this project was executed perfectly.

Looking back on 2024, although it was a challenging year financially, it has also provided an opportunity for reflection and realignment. We've focused on strengthening our core services—library membership, circulation, reference, collection development, and diverse programs for both adults and children. This

re-evaluation has allowed us to adapt and continue offering meaningful, impactful services to our patrons.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose tireless work ensures that we consistently deliver innovative services and exceptional customer care. Your continued support means everything to us, and we look forward to another year of serving this amazing community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine West".

**Janine West**  
Library Director



## OUR MISSION

Responding to our community's social, educational, creative and cultural needs in an inclusive and welcoming way.

## OUR VISION

Empowering everyone to live a happier and healthier life by fostering creativity, discovery and social connection.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Côte Saint-Luc Public Library  
2024



**91,496**

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

**441**

PROGRAMS  
OFFERED



**10,014**

PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE



**12,998**

PUBLIC COMPUTER  
SESSIONS



**230,882**

WEBSITE VISITS



**374**

INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS



**1,612**

FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS



**231,620**

ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**33,380**

DIGITAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**9,454**

ACTIVE  
BORROWERS

**1,873**

NEW CARDS THIS YEAR



**23,057**

REFERENCE  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED



**9,086**

BOOKS ADDED  
TO OUR  
COLLECTION

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## Home Library Service

Home Library Services have a profound impact on the community by making library resources accessible to those who may have difficulty visiting in person, such as seniors, individuals with disabilities, or those with limited mobility. By delivering books, audiobooks, and other materials directly to patrons' homes, this service ensures that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can continue to enjoy the benefits of reading, learning, and entertainment. This year we circulated 8,400 items through our dedicated group of volunteers.

## At Home Tech Help

One major goal of the library is to ensure that residents with mobility issues have access to the same services as those who are more able-bodied. The At-Home Tech Help service extends the support typically provided at the Reference desk, helping with smartphones, tablets, and library apps like CloudLibrary. The technological support provided by the library helps empower older seniors to become more comfortable with technology, fostering greater independence and confidence.

## Care Calls

Care calls significantly enhance seniors' well-being by providing emotional support, reducing feelings of isolation, and ensuring their safety and health needs are met. In 2024, the library made a total of 5,143 calls and recipients have routinely acknowledged an exceptional level of gratitude not only for the call itself, but for the thoughtful and non-judgemental conversations, the birthday cards they receive, and the connection that they feel.



## REACHING OUT

To better support the health and well-being of older seniors in our municipality, Seniors' Services Coordinator Katie Bezaire offers outreach programming at B'nai Brith and the Waldorf to promote social connections and mental stimulation. In 2024, Katie continued her book club at the B'nai Brith House, and started one at the Waldorf to accompany the Waldorf's monthly *Pop-Up Library* where residents can choose from a variety of library materials, as well as receive technological assistance with their devices. She also continued her popular poetry program at the Cumming Centre Day Program held at the Aquatic and Community Centre.



### SPVM

On May 28, Katie participated in the SPVM's annual Door-to-Door program, visiting seniors in the community. She visited residents at Saint Patrick Square along with three police officers, two employees of *Hear Entendre*, and a social worker from the CLSC. Katie promoted library services and distributed information about library programs, as well as pamphlets for the Care Calls and Home Library Service programs.

On June 14, Katie participated in the SPVM's annual kiosk at Cavendish Mall in honour of the International Day Against Elder Abuse, along with several other community organizations including the Bank of Canada (spotting counterfeit money), *Hear Entendre* Quebec (hearing health resources and accessibility), Montreal West United Church's Extra Miles Program, Alzheimer Group Inc (AGI), and the city's Public Security/VCOPs.



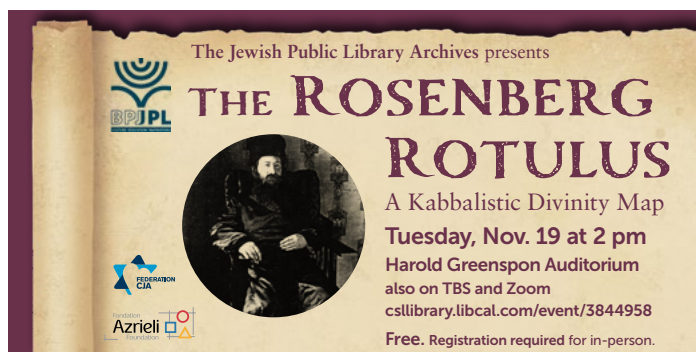
## COLLABORATIONS

### LogisAction

LogisAction's mission is to aid tenants of Notre-Dame-de-Grace and the surrounding areas in finding solutions to problems regarding rental situations. Their goal is to improve housing conditions for tenants, as well as to educate them on their rights and obligations. This invaluable partnership brings their expertise to tenants living in Côte Saint-Luc. In 2024 the library offered three *Rent Increase Workshops* in collaboration with LogisAction as well as a workshop focusing on tenants' rights when it comes to maintenance and repairs.

### The Jewish Public Library

On November 19, The Jewish Public Library Archives presented *The Rosenberg Rotulus, A Kabbalistic Divinity Map* in celebration of Jewish Book Month. Senior Director of Lifelong Learning Eddie Paul explained how the provenance and purpose of the scroll was uncovered and the process to find a safe way to open the canister without the contents disintegrating.



### Quebec Writers' Federation

The library partnered with the Quebec Writers' Federation to offer *StoryScaping*, a series of free writing workshops for youth and seniors. In celebration of Black History Month, they offered *Speak Up and Rap On: How to Find Your Voice and Make it Heard*. The May workshop, *I Remember*, inspired by theatre and poetry, focused on place, memory, and sharing stories through writing and performance. In September, they offered *Life Stories: A Writing Workshop*. This session encouraged participants to explore their life experiences through free writing and sensory memories. Due to high demand, the September workshop was extended.



### The Thomas More Institute

The Thomas More Institute reached out to the library to offer their discussion-based programming as part of their outreach initiative. Known for its use of the Socratic Method, the institute promotes shared inquiry and open-ended discussions in small group settings.

The first session on February 28 focused on *The Painted Door* by Sinclair Ross. The discussion centered on themes of loneliness, particularly among seniors, sparking personal stories from participants.



On November 5, the animators led a thought-provoking discussion on the short story *Fable*, which explores a man's therapy session where he reluctantly opens up about his life as a father to a disabled adult.

## COLLABORATIONS



### Schools and Daycares

The library is always excited to welcome schools and daycares, offering a valuable opportunity for young minds to explore the world of books and learning. During the month April a total of 77 students from Yavné visited the library and listened to two inter-

active stories, made a small craft, and explored the youth department with Olivia. In December, the library welcomed 5 groups of preschoolers from CPE Ganyenou who participated in storytime and made a craft with Kim.

### Trottier Space Institute at McGill and McGill's Let's Talk Science

On March 20, with the April 8 solar eclipse approaching, the library began distributing *Let's Talk Science* kits. They were generously received through a partnership between the the library and McGill University's *Let's Talk Science*. The kits included a craft, guided activities, information about astronomy and the eclipse, and one pair of eclipse glasses. Upon request, McGill's Trottier Space Institute donated an additional 200 pairs of eclipse glasses to distribute.

On April 3, the library hosted *Eclipse Incoming!* with the Trottier Space Institute at McGill for children aged 5 to 12. Two outreach volunteers from the Space Institute taught 25 children about eclipses through interactive experiments, helping them understand the science behind the phenomenon. The program concluded with children making pinhole cameras,



a safe and easy way to view an eclipse. Each child received a space kit from *Let's Talk Science*.

### McGill Chemistry Outreach

McGill Chemistry Outreach Group came to visit the library on August 4, where 30 children were able to learn about the science behind combustion and alloys as well as take home their very own experiment: Cloud dough!

## BROADENING OUR SERVICES



### Dungeons & Dragons: Session Subzero

Mottel Zirkind joined six teens for a one-shot session of *Dungeons & Dragons*, a role-playing game deeply rooted in storytelling. Both a strategic and story-driven experience, D&D requires immense skill and creativity to lead effectively. With years of experience as a Dungeon Master, Mottel excels at crafting storylines, assisting with character development, and ensuring the narrative stays engaging for everyone involved.

This project came to life thanks to a Library & Culture Committee member who reached out to Bronwen to start the group. It's the perfect tween program, combining literacy and the social aspects of a club.

### Online Room Bookings

Online room booking was implemented in 2024 greatly enhancing library service by providing patrons with a convenient and efficient way to reserve meeting spaces and study rooms. This service allows individuals and groups to easily check room availability, make reservations, and manage their bookings from the comfort of their own homes, saving time and streamlining the process.

### CreateSpace

The library now offers several creative programs to its members which take place in the CreateSpace. *Sewing Club* on Monday afternoons is for registrants who are familiar with sewing machines. *Studio Arts Collective* on Tuesday mornings allows artists the opportunity to work on individual art projects. *To Bead or Not To Bead* on Wednesday Afternoons encourage new friends and familiar faces to chat and produce or perfect individual jewelry projects. *In Stitches*, a knitting and crochet group on Thursday afternoons, allow people of all skill levels to come and learn from one another and apply techniques to their projects. *Create! For Kids* on Friday afternoons is where families unite and get creative and artsy together.

## A PLACE FOR TEENS



### Digital Photography for Teens

During July, Avi Kroo held a *Digital Photography Club*. Avi worked for several years with the library as the teen leader for *Magic: The Gathering Club*, and in 2020, had a photography exhibit in the Community Art Space. Avi began with teaching a photography concept and assessing where participants are with their photography; the second part of the session took place partly outside, where the teens got to practice taking photos.

### Friday After Hours–Game Night

On September 27, *Teen Game Night After Hours* hosted 20 teens for an evening of food and fun. The event was led by Bronwen, Avi and teen volunteer Daniel, and featured pizza as well as board games. Avi organized a lively game of Code Names, while Bronwen facilitated a quieter game of Werewolf creating a fun and inclusive environment. The night welcomed both new and returning teens, encouraging new friendships.



# VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Book Sales

The Spring Book Sale which took place April 27 and 28 was a great success thanks to the help of both adult and teen volunteers! In all, we had 18 volunteers help with setup, working the sale, and packing and cleaning up. The library was able to generate a total of \$3,150.90.

On October 26 and 27, we held our Fall Book Sale to close out Public Libraries Week. As always, our sale could not take place without the help of our dedicated volunteer team. With their help, we raised \$3,400 over the course of the weekend.

## Volunteer Appreciation Night for the City of Côte Saint-Luc

Katie and Justin helped out at the city's annual *Volunteer Appreciation Night*, held on November 6 at CineStarz at Cavendish Mall. Tax Clinic volunteer extraordinaire, Stanley Frackt as well as a long standing and dedicated driver for Home Library Service, Francie Yudcovitch were awarded the Library Outreach Award. Daniel Brozgold won the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership role in the library.

## Tax Clinic

Our 4th Annual *Tax Clinic* took place in 2024, where the library booked 104 appointments, successfully filing returns for 83 residents. This year's clinic was made possible by the dedication of seven hardworking tax clinic volunteers including Stanley Frackt, a semi-retired tax accountant. Additionally, we were incredibly grateful for the continued support of Julie Cormier and her team from the NDG Tax Clinic.



Spring  
**\$3,150.90**  
raised

Fall  
**\$3,400**  
raised



# LIBRARY DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Adopt-A-Book Program

Many people think of the library when they wish to mark a significant occasion, for example, a birthday or an anniversary. The library's Adopt-a-Book program provides patrons the option to "adopt" a book and receive a tax receipt for a small donation of \$40. One very generous patron "adopted" a total of 4 books over the course of 2024.



## Sarah Fremeth Sensory Wall

Thanks to a generous donation in centenarian Sarah Fremeth's name, new sensory panels were added to the early childhood corner. Sensory panels are bright, colourful, and stimulating, engaging the senses through visuals, touch, and sound. They also help develop motor skills, balance, hand-eye coordination, and visual processing, which are all essential for young children's development, especially for children with disabilities.

## Children's Literacy Programming

Thanks to the generous financial support received in 2024 from Mrs. Roslyn Margles, the Max Margles Children's Library has been able to significantly expand its literacy programs, offering a wide range of opportunities for children of all ages. Through all our diverse offerings, the library is fostering a community of readers and learners, helping children develop crucial literacy skills that will serve them for years to come.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



### Magnifying Lamps

The library purchased two magnifying lamps for its reading lounges providing crucial support for individuals with visual impairments. Many library patrons, particularly older adults, struggle with reading small text or fine details, and a magnifying lamp allows them to read comfortably without straining their eyes. These lamps are especially useful for reading newspapers and magazines thereby ensuring that all patrons, regardless of their vision abilities, can fully engage with library resources.

### Accessible Books for Readers with Dyslexia

Thanks to some curated assistance from bookstore Renaud-Bray, the library purchased over 160 books written for dyslexic children and teens. They will be catalogued as dyslexia-friendly to make them easy to find and access. The writing size as well as the spacing makes for a comfortable and unintimidating reading experience for all. The English collection will be augmented in early 2025.

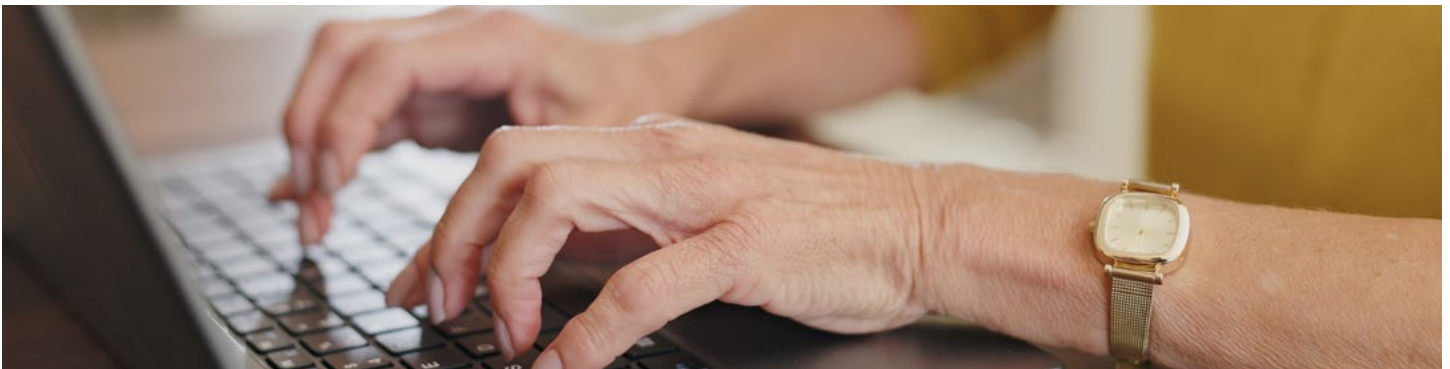
## REFERENCE AND RESEARCH

### Reference

The reference service at our public library is an invaluable resource for patrons, offering personalized assistance that goes above and beyond expectations. This year, several standout customer service moments highlighted the positive impact of the service. One patron expressed deep appreciation for our help with a challenging printing task related to her federal government taxes.

Another positive experience came when a patron, who recently underwent cataract surgery, confided about difficulties with reading. Antonella suggested audiobooks and large-print books, and she introduced the patron to a magnifying sheet from the reference desk, which proved to be the perfect solution.

These moments reflect the meaningful, tailored service we provide, ensuring that every patron, no matter their need, feels supported and valued.



### Tech Help

Reference librarians play a crucial role in helping seniors navigate technology, providing personalized support that empowers them to make the most of digital tools. Many older patrons face challenges when it comes to downloading documents, videos, or using new devices, and our staff is always ready to assist.

One elderly patron shared how much she depends on our help to download materials for her language class, saying she wouldn't be able to manage without our guidance. Another patron expressed gratitude for the tech support we offer with smaller issues, like troubleshooting her iPad and phone, downloading apps, and managing her emails.

This personalized approach not only enhances digital literacy but also fosters a greater sense of confidence and independence among seniors.

## LIBRARY SPACES



### Reference Area

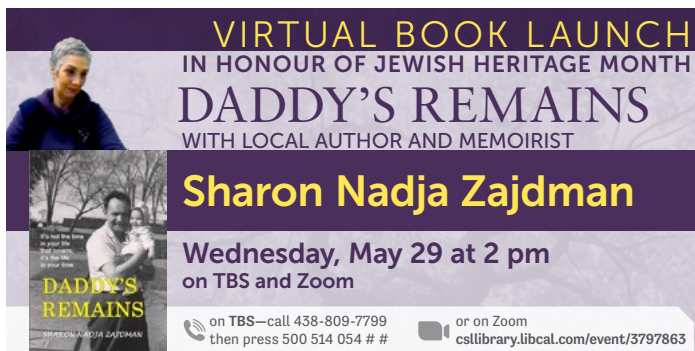
The new Reference desk and surrounding area were officially inaugurated on October 21 by Mayor Mitchell Brownstein and Councillor Mike Cohen, who holds the library portfolio. The library team came up with a vision and a design to ensure that the space was light and modern but also adaptable and flexible to meet the evolving needs of the library. Aesthetically, the area maintains the integrity of the original layout, incorporating the columns in a way that is both functional and visually pleasing. In terms of traffic flow and visibility, the space is designed to allow both staff and patrons to move around naturally, while ensuring staff have clear sightlines to the entrance and front desk for ease of supervision and service.

### Mute Boxes

In July, two new acoustic pods, or Mute Boxes were installed at the library, offering a soundproofed, private space for patrons to take phone calls, attend online meetings, or work and study alone or in pairs. Equipped with power outlets, ventilation, and controlled lighting, the pods provide a comfortable and focused environment. This improvement was made possible thanks to the generous donation of Mrs. Roslyn Margles and enhances the library's ability to support a variety of activities and needs.



## RAISING AWARENESS



### Jewish Heritage Month

On May 29, the library invited Côte Saint-Luc resident and author Sharon Nadja Zajdman to launch and discuss her book *Daddy's Remains* commemorating Jewish Heritage Month. The story chronicles the life of her father, Abram Zajdman who escaped Poland via Russia then Paris finally immigrating to Canada in 1948.

### The Grandchildren of Survivors: Anything Can Happen Again

On January 28, in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the library held a special film screening, *The Grandchildren of Survivors: Anything Can Happen Again*, with Côte Saint-Luc residents and film makers, Denna Dlusy-Apel and Max Beer. The film featured third generation holocaust survivors who shared their feelings and memories about their grandparents' experiences and discussed the importance of commemorating and disseminating Holocaust education. The screening was followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers.



### National Canadian Film Day

On April 17, the library celebrated National Canadian Film Day with the screening of *Ru* in French with English subtitles. Based on the Governor General's Award-winning novel by Kim Thúy, *Ru* is the story of the arduous journey of a wealthy family fleeing from Vietnam, before landing in Quebec. A Q&A led by the author, Kim Thúy, and movie Director Charles-Olivier Michaud followed.



### J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Race to Victory

On November 14, the library presented the program *J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Race to Victory* with University of Ottawa Professor Gary Evans. Professor Evans presented an engaging and informative lecture on the history of J. Robert Oppenheimer and unpacked fact from fiction in the film. His presentation featured the book *American Prometheus*, newspaper clippings, historical visuals and sound bites to illustrate and truly bring to life the story of this controversial historical figure.

The talk was preceded by the screening of the film *Oppenheimer* on November 13.

# LEARNING IS FUN AT THE LIBRARY

The library's many STEAM offerings encourage curiosity and exploration, empower children to think innovatively, foster collaboration with others, and approach challenges with confidence—skills that are vital for success.

## LEGO Club

*Lego Club* has become a powerhouse of creativity, confidence, and connection. With 323 participants this year, the club has continued drawing kids who not only love to build but also thrive in the collaborative, welcoming environment. Led by Coady's engaging format, children have developed problem-solving skills, independence, and even public speaking abilities—one mother credited her son's newfound confidence on stage and with public speaking to his show-and-tell experiences in LEGO Club. More than just a building activity, LEGO Club is shaping young minds, fostering friendships, and proving that play is a powerful tool for growth.



## Rubber Band Race Cars

On February 25, children gathered to build rubber band-powered race cars using recycled materials. They experimented with design adjustments to help the cars move faster and farther and explored how the cars were powered by energy stored in the tightly wound rubber bands, which transformed into kinetic energy to propel the wheels when released. At the end of the session, several children put their creations to the test by racing them in the Multipurpose Room.

## Painting with Kim

On March 5, the library offered a watercolor painting session. While the theme was left open, inspiration was offered by suggesting children paint a place that made them happy—whether that be an outdoor scene, an interior space, outer space, or something from their imagination. The results were truly impressive, with creations ranging from abstract designs to natural landscapes, flowers, flags, rainbows, and more.

## LEARNING IS FUN AT THE LIBRARY



### Slime with Coady and Kim

On March 7, the library staff demonstrated how to make slime. The children mixed up the simple recipe, experimenting with adding varying amounts of the ingredients and observing how the texture and stretchiness of their slime changed, then added colour, glitter, and foam.

### Crafternoons with Animation KIDZ

On three separate dates in July, Animation KIDZ provided afternoon entertainment for children and families. A range of creative activities accommodated children 3 and older, and included LEGO, origami, stained 'glass,' and splatter-paint.



### Marble Madness

On September 29, children were tasked with creating marble runs out of recycled materials. They experimented with different designs and had fun testing their creations. STEAM programs like Marble Madness challenge children to think sequentially, develop spatial reasoning, and learn about gravity and other simple physics concepts, in a fun and engaging way.

### Make Your Own Snow Globe

On December 1, children learned how to create their own snow globes using simple materials. The kids had a lot of fun building their crafts and watching their snowstorms in action. This activity combined scientific concepts that were engaging and easy to understand, with a lovely souvenir that kids really enjoyed making.



### Adult Programming

The library has always had a long tradition of providing programming that develops lifelong skills. These range from language groups like *Spanish Conversation* to *Science Demystified* with Dr. Joe Schwarcz and *In the Headlines* with Hershey Dvoskin. In 2024, the library re-introduced its popular iPad course and Introduction to Computers.

# A CENTRE FOR ART AND CULTURE

## CONCERTS

The unpredictable weather posed a challenge for our outdoor concerts in 2024, with rain and strong winds making it unsafe for performers and attendees. As a result, we had to move two of the scheduled concerts indoors to ensure everyone's safety and comfort, but despite the change in venue, the performances still went on with great energy and enthusiasm.



### Rachel Therrien presents *Latin Jazz Project*

On July 24, the library hosted *Rachel Therrien presents Latin Jazz Project*. The concert took place in the auditorium. The musicians played a varied set of Caribbean-flavoured jazz pieces and interspersed commentary in French, English, and Spanish.

### Donald Dogbo presents *Coubli-Afro Jazz*

On July 31, Donald Dogbo and his musicians played a very personal set of African pieces inspired by his heritage and roots and Dogbo himself provided commentary.



### Lakeshore Concert Band

On August 18, approximately 300 people attended the performance by *The Lakeshore Concert Band* which took place in Ashkelon Gardens behind the library. Their summer repertoire consisted of concert band classics such as music by Holst, Grainger and Reed, plus more popular selections including Philip Sparke's *A Klezmer Carnival*, John Williams' *Theme from Schindler's List* and Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*.



### Sophie Lukacs presents *Kora Beyond Borders*

On August 7, Sophie Lukacs performed *Kora Beyond Borders* at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park. Her concert was a captivating fusion of traditional West African

## A CENTRE FOR ART AND CULTURE



music and contemporary sounds. With her masterful kora playing, Lukacs took the audience on a musical journey that transcended cultural boundaries, blending rich melodies and rhythms that showcased the instrument's versatility and deep cultural significance.

### Yoel Diaz and Mundo Jazz Quartet

On September 18, *Yoel Diaz and Mundo Jazz* showcased a blend of Latin rhythms and Cuban jazz creating intricate and lively melodies that emphasized the rich diversity of Cuba's musical landscape. The audience enthusiastically clapped along to the rhythm, particularly during an original Peruvian-inspired piece, *Fantasia Imagine*.

### Ensemble Caprice presents *A Baroque Holiday Season*

Ensemble Caprice's *A Baroque Holiday Season* concert offered a festive and elegant celebration of baroque music, featuring timeless holiday classics reimagined through the rich, expressive sounds of period instruments. Compositions from Italy and Germany were fused with rousing baroque rhythms from Mexico and Peru creating a festive holiday concert to remember.



## FILM SCREENINGS

With its film selections for the *Friday Afternoon at the Movies*, *Bright Lights Film Club* and the *Ciné Club*, the library continues to bring free movies with commentary and engaging discussion to Côte Saint-Luc residents.

# A CENTRE FOR ART AND CULTURE

## PERFORMANCES



### Geordie Theatre: *The Velveteen Rabbit*

On Sunday December 8, Geordie Theatre performed an original and modern adaptation of the beloved picture book, *The Velveteen Rabbit* to 125 people of all ages. Children and adults enjoyed the humour and heart of the adaptation, featuring a little girl, her rabbit, and a new VR headset that threatens to steal her attention but ends up bringing her and her rabbit on a magical adventure.



### Shakespeare-in-the-Park

On July 11, 91 people attended *Shakespeare-in-the-Park: Infinite Variety*, presented by Repercussion Theater. It took place in the auditorium due to heavy rainfall the previous day and precarious weather conditions on the scheduled event day.

This dramatic production brought a unique twist to the works of William Shakespeare showcasing a diverse range of interpretations, blending traditional and contemporary styles making the Bard's timeless tales more accessible to today's audience.

### ← *Bal des Globetrotteurs* with Jeunesses Musicales

On March 3, the library in collaboration with the Recreation Department offered a unique cultural experience; two musicians and a dancer from Jeunesses Musicales visited the ACC with an interactive dance workshop, bringing in music and group dances from the performers' cultures, from Italy and France to Columbia and India.



## A CENTRE FOR ART AND CULTURE

### *Kidstock: A Music with Sandy Reunion*

On Sunday, July 14, the energetic Sandy Kogut joined the library and over 135 children and adults for a show full of music, dancing, and puppets. Sandy, a fixture at the Côte Saint-Luc Library for early childhood music classes in the 1980s and 1990s, was introduced by the mayor and joined by Councillor Andee Shuster onstage. The audience, made up of children from ages 2 to 92, danced, clapped, and sang along to Sandy's well-loved music. Sandy thanked the library for "making my dream come true!"



## EXHIBITS



Kevin Thomson



John Pohl

### Main Art Gallery

The library hosted several wonderful art exhibits in the main art gallery including two that were exceptional. In May, Montreal-based artist Kevin Thomson's *Revolution/Evolution* was on display in the Main Gallery. Using a mix of acrylic and oil paints, Kevin created stunning large-scale abstract pieces that evoke the beauty and complexity of geological formations. In July, artist John Pohl brought his rich experience as both a painter and former art critic for *The Montreal Gazette* to the gallery. The library held a special *Meet the Artist* event, where John engaged with 35 art enthusiasts, sharing his knowledge and discussing his techniques.

### Community Art Space

The Community Art Space showcased a remarkable series of exhibits by local artists, each offering a unique perspective and creative flair. However, there were a few standout exhibits this year including Tiam Mayeriat's multi-dimensional works, specifically his hand-painted Persian tiles and abstract pieces, Nona Gold's large-scale abstract florals and landscapes, and David Chandler's nature photography.

# FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING FOR ALL

## LITERARY PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS

The library remains dedicated to providing programs that encourage patrons to engage with books and reading in meaningful ways. From book clubs and author events to interactive workshops and themed discussions, there are countless opportunities for readers of all ages to explore new genres, share their thoughts, and connect with others who share their love of literature.



### You've Gotta Read This!

*You've Gotta Read This!* is an engaging literary program where CSL librarians bring books to life by sharing their passion for reading. In 2024, the library offered two sessions, one on July 3 and a second on November 15. Each session featured a panel of five librarians, including Director Janine West, highlighting their favorite books of the season.

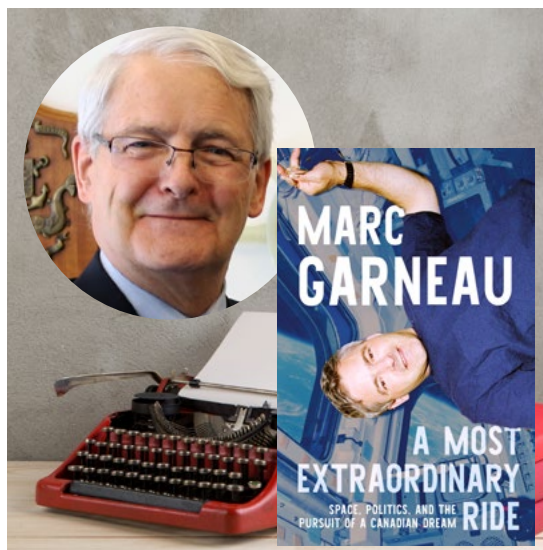
### Canada Reads, the Côte Saint-Luc Edition

Our annual tradition celebrating CBC Canada Reads took place on March 13 where librarians Jennifer Eisman, Danielle Bélanger, Katie Bezaire, Maria Luisa Morales, and Maria Ressina defended the book finalists from the 2024 CBC Canada Reads Shortlist. Lisa Milner served as the host and master of ceremonies. Each librarian made a case for their book, explaining how it aligned with the theme "One book to carry us forward." The audience chose *Meet Me at the Lake* as their winner, with *Denison Avenue* coming in as the runner-up.



### Meet Our Local Authors

*Councillor Mike Cohen Meets Your Local Authors* is a virtual monthly series which premieres a pre-recorded interview between Mike Cohen and a diverse selection of local authors on the first Monday of the month on the library's YouTube Channel. This year, three standout interviews included Marc Garneau discussing his memoir, *A Most Extraordinary Ride: Space, Politics, and the Pursuit of a Canadian Dream* in November, Yiddishist Ben Gonshor discussing his debut novel, *The Book of Izzy* in May and Dr. Christopher Labos discussing his non-fiction book, *Does Coffee Cause Cancer?* in January.



## FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING FOR ALL



### Côte Saint-Luc Reads

On September 26, the library presented Côte Saint-Luc Reads 2024. The library kicked off its signature event in early August, announcing its chosen pick, *The Inheritance* by Joanna Goodman. A specially designed webpage featured a link to the book, a short YouTube video with the author, and a curated list of resources connected to the book's themes.

The evening of the main event, guests enjoyed a reception with a musical performance by saxophonist Michael Abramovich, as well as freshly baked treats, coffee, and tea. This was followed by the fascinating interview led by Tarah Schwartz which delved into Goodman's writing process, her inspirations, and the contrast between *The Inheritance* and her other works. Joanna shared her love for crafting flawed characters and incorporating personal connections into her stories. The event concluded with a book-signing and sales, leaving attendees with lasting memories and a deeper connection to the author and her work.

## LITERARY PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN

### Family Storytime

Family Storytime remains a warm and welcoming experience, thanks to the thoughtful teamwork of Olivia and Kim. Their planning ensures that every session is inclusive, engaging, and accessible to all families incorporating built-in flexibility, a predictable, comforting structure, and multi-sensory fun all helping children focus, self-regulate and experience storytelling in new ways.

### The Roslyn and Max Margles Young Writers' Contest

The first annual Roslyn and Max Margles Young Writers' Contest Awards Ceremony took place on May 22, celebrating the creative achievements of over 70 young writers. Seven of the eight contest winners were present, joined by Councilor Lior Azerad, Roslyn Margles, Lori Schubert, Executive Director of the Quebec Writers' Federation, and three author-judges.



# FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING FOR ALL

Proud families, friends, and teachers applauded as each child received a certificate and a prize bag, which included a custom-made YWC 2024 t-shirt from sponsor Plapros, and gift certificates worth \$50-\$100 from sponsor Babar Books.

The library published the *2023-2024 Inaugural Roslyn and Max Margles Young Writers' Contest Anthology* featuring over 70 works from children who entered their poetry and stories in the contest.

## TD Summer Reading Club and Closing Party

The annual TD Summer Reading Club encourages reading over the summer, which helps children raise their reading levels by the time they return to school preventing "summer learning loss". One hundred and ninety library members between birth and 17 years old registered for the reading club, a post-pandemic record. The regrowth of the TD Summer Reading Club has brought in a new community of young readers to the library.

The closing party, attended by 150 people, included a certificate and gift-bag for each participant, hand-selected books for participants who returned their passports, a giant games room, face-painting, an awards ceremony, a scavenger hunt and colouring, and a TCBY service.

This year, the reading club also included Coady's very popular bookmark contest, which encouraged young artists to share their work for the chance to have it printed on a bookmark and available at the library.

## Rhyme and Music with La La Lesley

La La Lesley is a music and movement program designed for babies and toddlers aged birth to 36 months. Led by Lesley Sherman, a former daycare educator with a passion for early childhood development, this weekly program offers an engaging, interactive experience that significantly contributes to early language and literacy development.



## COME CELEBRATE WITH US



### Harry Potter Birthday Party

On August 1, 150 people attended *Harry Potter's Birthday*. Children entered the department (the Great Hall), and were sorted into houses, then made their own house buttons with teen volunteers. They could also get their faces painted and make slime and wands. At the end, to round out the magical birthday party theme, children got TCBY with a rainbow of kosher sprinkles.



### Halloween Party

This year the library focused on creating an atmospheric, not-too-spooky party, by transforming the children's library into a Halloween experience. The team introduced a discovery tool, an activities booklet, and brought back perennial favourites like scavenger hunts, trick-or-treating, and face painting. They also added an immersive experience: a haunted house, where children entered an elaborate cardboard set built by Kim, mounted across from the desk and complete with black lights. Inside, they added ghosts and glow-in-the-dark decoration using glowing markers. The team saw many families together in costumes, and familiar faces as well as new ones. The department welcomed over 200 visitors.

