



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#ThrowbackThursday with Ajax Public Library

22 November 2022—Ajax Public Library is honouring their 70 years of service with the ultimate #ThrowbackThursday party.

The first official public library in Ajax opened on December 13, 1952 at the corner of Kings Crescent and Harwood Avenue with 1,175 books. A committee of dedicated community members initiated a campaign for a public library in February 1952, noting that Ajax was the only community of its size in Ontario without a public library. Their goal was to ensure the children and teenagers of Ajax would “grow into a happier person, a more useful citizen” with the availability of “a good public library”.

In 1967, a centennial project brought a new Library in the municipal complex, which included an adult reading area, storytime corner, and open-air reading court. In 1974, Ajax’s expanded boundaries welcomed the Village Branch, a space that served the community for over 100 years.

The 1980’s were full of technological advances, with the introduction of microfilm, machine-readable formats for Library records, online catalogues, and the ability to borrow CD-ROM magazines and software!

The opening of McLean Branch in 1994 brought the total Library collection to 130,000 items, including books, movies, cassettes and CDs. After efforts from the community to raise funds for a new branch, in 2003, the current Main Branch opened just steps away from the original site. Over 15 years later, the Audley Branch opened to serve expanding Ajax communities.

Now, Ajax Public Library has three locations, a “virtual branch” with access to eBooks and online databases, and over 235,000 items for the community to enjoy. A Library originally championed by the community, is proud to have served its community for 70 years, and excited to see what the next 70 years bring!

Join Ajax Public Library on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at Audley Branch to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Children and families can enjoy a puppet show and craft featuring Applefun Puppetry; opening remarks and showtime start at 6:30 p.m. Library lovers are encouraged to drop-by anytime from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. to explore the Library’s history, share their Library memories via an interactive guest book, enjoy sweet treats, and enter to win amazing prize packs!

More information about current Library services can be found on the Library's website at www.ajaxlibrary.ca. For updates, be sure to follow the Library on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

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