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Borrow the Internet from the Library

Stratford, ON, September 20, 2019 – Stratford Public Library is now loaning out the internet, just like a bestselling book. As part of a two year pilot project, Library members can now access the internet 24/7 by borrowing a free mobile hotspot from the Library.

"We know many Stratford residents don't have home Internet access, and SPL is committed to providing our community with the skills and support it needs to participate in the digital world", says Krista Robinson, SPL's Systems Librarian. "The Borrow the Internet program will provide a key tool for access to information and learning opportunities to those who need it the most."

Internet access has become a necessity as it provides opportunities for learning, connecting, and communicating in the 21st Century. Despite the importance of internet access, research shows that 63% of rural households in Canada do not have access to broadband internet. The goal of the Borrow the Internet project is to extend internet access and to close the digital divide in Perth County.

Beginning on September 23, customers can place the Wi-Fi hotspots on hold, and borrow the devices for 1 week. There are 10 mobile hotspots available and each hotspot is capable of connecting up to 15 devices at once. Similar lending programs are in place in many area libraries such as Huron County, Region of Waterloo, Wellington County as well as Kitchener and London Public Library.

This project was generously supported by Rhyzome Networks and the following funds held within the Stratford Perth Community Foundation: the Orr Family Fund, the Reading Fund, the Melanson Family Fund and the Smart & Caring Community Fund.

Want to know more? Visit splibrary.ca or contact Krista at krobinson@stratford.ca / x 112.

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For more information about Borrowing the Internet, contact Krista at krobinson@stratford.ca / x 112.