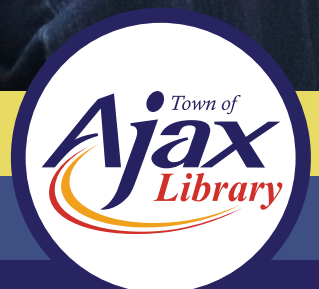


What's On

January–March 2025

Black History Month
Page 5

March Break Preview!
Page 10



Ajax/Pickering Science Fair

Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Grades 3–12

Do you have a great science question that might change the world? Are you ready to show it off? Enter the annual Ajax/Pickering Science Fair!



Registration opens on **Monday, January 6** and the registration deadline is **Friday, February 7**.



Grandview Kids - The Jerry Coughlan Building is now open!

Grandview Kids - The Jerry Coughlan Building, Grandview Kids' new Ajax-based headquarters, is now open! We officially began operating out of our new headquarters in Fall 2024. The building is located at 1461 Harwood Ave N, Ajax, Ontario L1T 0R3.

The 105,306 square foot building supports the seamless and coordinated provision of family-centred care for children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs. It is an open, welcoming and inclusive community-based paediatric facility, offering an integrated mix of rehabilitation, medical and clinical services, as well as education and research activities.

Many clients and families are excited, but also a little anxious, about visiting their new space. On our website, we outline what you can expect during your first visit(s) to make it a memorable, easy experience. Scan the QR code below to view the page. We look forward to welcoming you!



Prepare for your first visit(s)!

Access the new Ajax Public Library - Grandview Kids Express Branch

We're thrilled to announce the official opening of the Ajax Public Library - Grandview Kids Express Branch. Located inside the Family Resource Centre on Level 1 of Grandview Kids' headquarters, this cozy, inviting space is designed with families and clients in mind.

Bring your family and check out everything this branch has to offer! We can't wait to see you there!



Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, *Gather*

Dedicated to clients, caregivers, families and our community, *Gather* by Grandview is a monthly update about all things Grandview, including new programs and projects, upcoming events, important announcements, and more.

Scan the QR code to the right to learn more, read past editions and subscribe!



Study Better with Solaro

With Solaro, you can easily access Ontario curriculum content resources for grades 3–12. Study better with course-specific quizzes, lessons, and material review.

ajaxlibrary.ca/Online-Resources



Welcome!

Table of Contents

Special Events

All Ages.....	4
Seed Saturday.....	4

Black History Month

18 th Annual Black History Month Celebration.....	5
Youth Poetry Contest.....	5
BlackLit Durham.....	5
Black Voices Collection.....	5

Kids & Families

Storytimes.....	6
Craft & Make.....	7
PA Days.....	7
Science Fair How To Sessions.....	7
EarlyON.....	8
For Babies.....	8
For Homeschool Learners.....	8
Multilingual.....	9
Coding & STEM.....	9
SPARK! Juried Art Show.....	10
Mysterious March Break.....	10

Tweens & Teens

Learn.....	11
Fun & Games.....	11
TAC Presents.....	11
Call for Volunteers.....	11
Study Hall.....	11

Makerspace @ McLean

Explore, Make, and Create.....	12
Project Makerspace.....	12
Mysterious March Break.....	12
Try Sublimation Printing.....	12

Adults & Seniors

Parent Café.....	13
Financial Literacy.....	13
Small Business.....	13
Health & Wellness.....	14
For Movie Lovers.....	15
For Writers.....	15
Games.....	15
Dungeons & Dragons.....	15
Discover.....	16
Learn.....	16
55+ Amateur Poetry Contest.....	17
Ajax Archives.....	17
Thinking Ahead Series.....	17
Multilingual & Multicultural.....	18
Community Connections.....	19
Seniors Centre Without Walls.....	20-23

Holiday Hours

All branches will be closed:

Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

Main Branch, Audley Branch, and Grandview Kids

Express Branch closed:

Monday, February 17 (Family Day)

McLean Branch and Makerspace open 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
on Family Day for Winterfest.

Bring Back the Salmon



Starting Thursday, January 9 at Main Branch

Stop by to catch a glimpse of our salmon eggs when they hatch into fry! Find videos and activities at bringbackthesalmon.ca. Presented in partnership with the Town of Ajax, Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters.

Winterfest

Monday, February 17, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

McLean Community Centre

Celebrate the snowy season with your family! Enjoy winter-themed activities, shows, and fun for the whole family. McLean Branch and the Makerspace will be open, so step inside for crafting fun. Learn more at ajax.ca.

Have Allergen Concerns?



Programs with potential allergens will now have that information available on our web calendar. If you have specific questions or concerns, contact us by calling 905-683-4000 or emailing libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca.

Special Events

All Ages

*2025 Year of the Snake Celebration with Litmus Chinese Dancing Association

Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Main Branch

Celebrate the Year of the Snake through captivating cultural performances by Litmus Chinese Dancing Association! Join us for an unforgettable experience as we usher in the new year. To register, call 415-895-6810 or email litmuschinesedance@yahoo.com.

Ramadan Storytime

Saturday, February 22, 1–3 p.m.

Audley Branch

Celebrate Ramadan and Eid with the Library and Muslim Women of Durham Region, featuring a storytime, crafts, colouring, and henna. Plus, learn about the month of fasting, the lunar calendar, and how Eid is celebrated.

*International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Friday, March 21, 6:30–8 p.m.

Main Branch

Join us to recognize the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Authors Greg Frankson, Kern Carter, and Nadia Umadat will share a reading from their works and participate in a panel discussion. The winners of the Youth Black History Month Poetry Contest will also share their work.

Seed Saturday!

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Main Branch

Get ready for the growing season at our first-ever Seed Saturday!

Seed Storytime and Scavenger Hunt!

10–11 a.m. | Families

Enjoy a gardening-themed storytime with activities and a scavenger hunt in the Library!

*Starting Plants from Seeds Workshop

11 a.m.–12 noon | Adults

Calling all home gardeners! Learn how to successfully start seeds at home for planting in the spring. Presented by Durham Master Gardeners.

Seed Exchange and Gardening Advice Tables

12 noon–2 p.m. | Adults

Participate in a seed exchange to get new flowers, vegetables, and herbs, and visit tables from local gardening groups to get advice. Please bring your seeds in packed and labelled envelopes to make the swap easier for participants.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

18th Annual Black History Month Celebration

Saturday, February 1

J. Clarke Richardson High School

Save the date for the 18th Annual Black History Month Celebration presented by Cultural Expressions for CHANGE. The theme this year is “The Next 10: Preparing the Next Generation.” Also, stay tuned for news about the Library’s Teen Advisory Committee’s video project supporting this event.

Youth Poetry Contest

Saturday, February 1–Friday, February 28

Young writers of Ajax are invited to submit a poem based on the theme for Black History Month 2025, “The Next 10: Preparing the Next Generation.” Winners will be chosen from each category.

Categories:

Grades 4–6, Grades 7–8, Grades 9–12

The contest deadline is Friday, February 28, at 5 p.m. Entry forms will be available at all branches and online at ajaxlibrary.ca/BlackHistoryMonth. Entries can be emailed to libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca or dropped off at any branch. Winning entries will be recognized at a special event on March 21, the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination.

BlackLit Durham

***Hear the Youth Speak! A Black History Month Showcase**

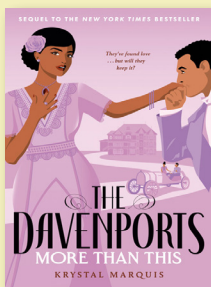
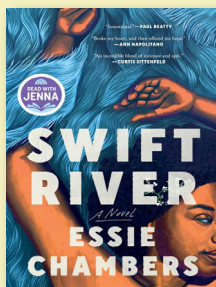
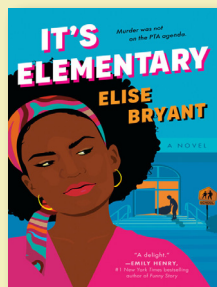
Wednesday, February 19, 7–9 p.m.

All ages | St. Francis Centre for Community, Arts, and Culture

Celebrate Black Canadian literary voices of all genres at a night of amazing performances and Q&A with the artists. Sign-ups for open mic start at 6:30 p.m.—poetry and prose are welcome! Visit blacklitudurham.com for more information.

Black Voices Collection

Browse memoirs, essays, stories, and ideas for adult readers on OverDrive. Find the collection online at ajax.overdrive.com/library/Black-Voices and on the Libby app.



Registration for programs closes at midnight the day before, unless otherwise noted.

Kids & Families

Storytimes (January 13–February 28, no programs February 17)

STEAM Storytime Ages 2+	STEAM Storytime Ages 2+	Books for Babies Ages 0–2	Books for Babies Ages 0–2
Mondays 10–11 a.m.	Tuesdays 10:45–11:45 a.m.	Tuesdays 10–11 a.m.	Thursdays 1–2 p.m.
McLean Branch	Audley Branch	Main Branch	Audley Branch
Join us for special March Break Storytimes March 10–14!			

Family Storytime + Ajax Reading Circle

Saturdays, January 11, February 8, March 8, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Sundays, February 23, March 23, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Ages 3–12 | Audley Branch

Sensory Storytime

Thursdays, January 16, February 13, 10–10:30 a.m.

Ages 2–6 | Main Branch

Thursdays, January 30, February 27, March 27, 10–10:30 a.m.

Ages 2–6 | Grandview Kids Express Branch

STEAM Toddler Time

Fridays, January 24, February 21, March 7, 21, 11 a.m.–12 noon

Ages 2–3 | Audley Branch



1000
Colourful Stories

1000 Colourful Stories is a reading club just for preschoolers! From birth to four years is the best time to nurture a love of reading in your child. Sign up at any branch, get your first reading log, take it home, and read. Once your first reading log is full, come back to the Library for the next one and keep reading together until you've read 1000 books together!

1000 Colourful Stories Storytime

Saturdays, January 25, February 22, March 22, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon

Ages 0–4 | Audley Branch

Drop by for a storytime and to get your next reading log!

Kids & Families

Craft & Make

LEGO!

Saturdays, January 4, 25; February 15, March 22

10 a.m.–12 noon

McLean Branch

Sundays, January 12, February 9, March 9

12 noon–2 p.m.

Audley Branch

Imagination Station

Thursdays, January 30; February 27; March 13, 27

6–7:30 p.m.

McLean Branch

Have fun with us at our new special monthly drop-in! Enjoy stories, get creative with crafts, play games, and take on awesome challenges like scavenger hunts and riddles.

PA Days

Craft and Movie: Transformers One

Friday, January 24, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Craft: 10–10:30 a.m.

Movie: 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Autobots assemble! Come out for a craft and to watch Transformers One (PG).

Crayon Crafting

Monday, March 31, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Main Branch

Have you ever coloured with melted crayons? Celebrate National Crayon Day with fun and colourful crafts and activities.

Ajax/Pickering Science Fair: How To Sessions

The Ajax/Pickering Science Fair is Saturday, March 1! Not sure where to start with your science project? Learn how to turn your questions, experiments, or research into an award-winning project you can enter into this year's Fair!

Science Fair How To

Wednesday, January 22, 6–7:30 p.m.

Grades 3–12 | Main Branch

Saturday, January 25, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon

Grades 3–12 | Audley Branch



Find weekly themes at
ajaxlibrary.ca/Events

Registration for programs closes at midnight the day before, unless otherwise noted.

Kids & Families

EarlyON

*Preschool Music and Movement

Tuesdays, January 7–March 4, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Ages 2.5–6 | Audley Branch

Introduce children to interactive songs, nursery rhymes, music, creative movement, and musical instruments. Learn more and register at keyon.ca.

*Infant Massage

Fridays, January 10–February 28, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Ages 0–6 months | Main Branch

Learn techniques in infant massage that promote healthy child development and growth while enhancing bonding and positive interactions with your child. Presented by a certified infant massage instructor from EarlyON Child and Family Centre. Learn more and register at keyon.ca.

*Family Music and Movement

Saturdays, January 18, February 8, March 15, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Ages 0–6 | Main Branch

Introduce your child to interactive songs, nursery rhymes, music, creative movement, and musical instruments. Learn more and register at keyon.ca.

For Babies

*Infant Hearing Screening Clinics

Wednesdays, January 8–March 26, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Ages 0–2 months | Main Branch

The Tri-Regional Infant Hearing Program is hosting infant hearing screening appointments. Babies up to two months of age are eligible to receive a hearing screening if they did not receive a screening at birth or require a follow-up screen. For more information or to book an appointment, visit childdevelopmentprograms.ca/BookMyBaby or call the Tri-Regional Infant Hearing Program at 1-888-703-5437, ext. 4.

For Homeschool Learners

Homeschoolers in the Makerspace

Wednesdays, January 8, March 12, 2–3:30 p.m.

Ages 8–16 | Makerspace at McLean Branch

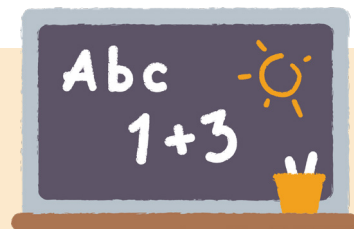
Unleash your creativity and learn new maker skills by exploring our Makerspace with other homeschool learners!

Homeschool Club

Wednesdays, January 22, February 26, March 26, 1:30–3 p.m.

Ages 6–12 | Audley Branch

Explore fun and informative STEAM activities and connect with other homeschool learners at this monthly meet-up!



Kids & Families

Multilingual

*Le Club Français

Mondays, February 3–March 3 (no session February 17). Registration is for four weeks.

Mondays, March 31–June 2 (no session April 21 and May 19). Registration opens Saturday, March 15 and is for eight weeks.

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Ages 6–12 | Main Branch

Boost your French reading skills by conversing and reading aloud with high school buddies!

Coding & STEM

*Family Scratch Coding

Saturday, January 4, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Main Branch

Thursday, March 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Audley Branch

Discover coding as a family with fun challenges offered via Scratch, a free online resource for coders of all experience levels. All skill levels are welcome.

*Ontario Tech STEM and Coding Workshops

Coding Workshop: Saturday, February 1, 10 a.m.–12 noon | Grades 1–4

STEM Workshop: Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.–12 noon | Grades 5–8

Main Branch

These Ontario Tech University Engineering Outreach workshops introduce youth to the fundamental concepts of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and coding through engaging activities that inspire confidence!

*Black Girls Empowerment STEM Club

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 5–6:30 p.m.

Grades 7–10

Audley Branch

Wednesdays, March 19, 26; April 2, 4:30–6 p.m.

Grades 3–5

Audley Branch

This club is designed to spark interest in STEM among young Black girls through hands-on activities and mentorship from Black female STEM students. Presented in partnership with the Congress of Black Women of Canada Ajax/Pickering Chapter.



Kids & Families

SPARK! Juried Art Show

Artwork Drop off at Main Branch:
Thursday, February 20, 5–8:30 p.m.
or Saturday, February 22, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Art Show & Reception: Sunday, March 23, 1–2:30 p.m.

SPARK! is an annual juried art show for Ajax kids in Junior Kindergarten–Grade 8. Artwork will be displayed at Main Branch throughout March. Pick up your SPARK! Guide online at ajaxlibrary.ca/SparkArt or at any branch starting January 3 for complete contest rules.



Mysterious March Break!

Friday, March 7–Sunday, March 16

Track down clues, solve puzzles, and explore detective-worthy gadgets and science during our mystery-filled March Break! March Break programs and registration will open on Friday, February 14. You can find programs at ajaxlibrary.ca/MarchBreak and in our March Break flyer.

March Break Reading Contest

Friday, March 7–Sunday, March 16

Ages 4–12

Show off your reading skills with our annual reading contest! Pick up a log sheet at any branch or download one from ajaxlibrary.ca/MarchBreak to get started. Read for 120 minutes with your family to earn a ballot for an eReader and play a game of book bingo for a bonus entry.

March Break Kickoff: Clue Hunters

Saturday, March 8, 1–2:30 p.m.

Families | Main Branch

Test your mystery-solving skills and win a prize as we kick off March Break with a scavenger hunt!

Junior Einsteins Science Club

Friday, March 14, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Ages 5–12 | Main Branch

Get ready to experiment! Engineer bubbling exothermic reactions with elephant toothpaste, light a lightsaber with a plasma ball, make slime through crosslinking polymerization, and more. Sponsored by OPG.



Tweens & Teens

Learn

***Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program**
Wednesdays, January 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26;
March 5, 6:30–8 p.m.

Registration is for eight weeks

Ages 13–18 | Main Branch

This program helps youth improve their communication and leadership skills. Participants will learn to evaluate their speaking abilities, prepare and deliver speeches, and provide feedback.

Teen Homeschool Hangout

Wednesday, February 12, 1:30–3 p.m.

Ages 13–18 | Audley Branch

Hang out and unwind with other homeschool learners at this teens-only homeschool club!

Fun & Games

Gamers' Club

Saturdays, January 18, March 29, 1–3 p.m.

Ages 10–14 | Main Branch

Saturday, February 15, 1–3 p.m.

Ages 10–14 | Audley Branch

Attention Switch gamers: Super Smash Bros. and Mario Kart await! Participate in tournament play for a monthly prize, or play for fun.

TAC Presents

PA Day: Valentine's Day Cookie

Baking + Hot Chocolate

Friday, February 14, 6–8 p.m.

Ages 13–18 | Audley Branch

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Teen Advisory Committee (TAC) with snacks, hot chocolate, and a chill evening.

YAMM (Young Adult Matinée Movie): The LEGO Movie

Tuesday, March 11, 3–6 p.m.

Ages 13–18 | Main Branch

Enjoy snacks, build with LEGO (including building contests), and then watch The LEGO Movie! Everything will be awesome!



Call for Volunteers!

Le Club Français

Run programming and activities for school-aged children and read with small groups of younger reading buddies in French. Must be able to read and communicate in French fluently at a minimum of grade 10 level.

Application deadline: Monday, January 13.

Gardening Crew

Do you have a passion for gardening? We're looking for teen (and adult) volunteers to help care for the Audley Reading Garden throughout the growing season!

Application deadline: Friday, March 21.

Learn more and apply at ajaxlibrary.ca/Jobs-Volunteers.

Study Hall

Saturdays & Sundays, January 18, 19, 25, 26

11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Audley Branch

Are you looking for a place to cram for your exam? Pick up your study kit created by the Library's Teen Advisory Committee, grab a drink, and get studying! Kits are available starting at 11 a.m. while supplies last.



MAKERSPACE @ MCLEAN

Explore, Make, and Create!

Sundays Are for Makers

Sunday, January 5, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sundays, January 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 23, 30, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Learn about (and create!) something new every Sunday. From robotics to bookbinding, there's a ton to explore.

Find weekly themes online at ajaxlibrary.ca/Events.

Makers Making Change

Weekly on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Come explore how the Makerspace can help you with creating your own assistive devices. Presented in partnership with Makers Making Change.

Small Business Wednesdays

Weekly on Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Drop by for a tour of the Makerspace to see how our equipment can assist you with your small business or starting your small business.

Project Makerspace

The Older Adults Advisory Committee is pleased to present Project Makerspace, celebrating the diverse interests and creativity of older adults in our Ajax community. Running until March 2025, each month will focus on learning and sharing creative intergenerational knowledge to support digital literacy with peers and teens in the Library's Makerspace. This project is funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

*Virtual Travel with Virtual Reality Goggles

Thursday, January 23, 12:30–4:30 p.m.

(one-hour appointments)

Explore cities around the world in a brand-new way! Stroll through the streets of Paris or ride a gondola in Venice with our Virtual Reality Goggles. Sign up for a spot, pick a city from a list of locations, and we'll take care of the rest.

*Converting Your Old Films to Digital

Thursday, February 27, 1–4 p.m.

(45-minute appointments)

Do you have old film that you would like to preserve? Our new digitization machine will convert your 8mm and Super 8mm films.

Project Makerspace Wrap-Up Party

Wednesday, March 26, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Celebrate Project Makerspace! Join us to see what we created over the past six months. Get inspired and let us know about any future projects you would like to try.

Mysterious March Break!

Friday, March 7–Friday, March 14, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Ever wonder how detectives gather fingerprints? Come to the Makerspace this March Break to learn how! You'll take home your own fingerprint art.



Try Sublimation Printing

Sublimation printing is a digital printing process that uses heat and pressure to transfer a design onto materials such as mugs and clothing. Drop by to check it out!



Adults & Seniors

Parent Café

*Improving Teen-Parent Communication

Wednesday, January 15, 7–8 p.m.

Main Branch

Learn how parents can create a safe environment for teens to open up and talk about feelings. Presented in partnership with Sima Health Consultancy.

*Self-Care Series for Parents

Thursdays, January 16, February 20, March 20

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Grandview Kids Express Branch

January: Self-Care Strategies for the New Year

Learn uplifting coping strategies to help you focus on your mental health.

February: Create Your Self-Care Kit

Discover additional self-care strategies to help you focus on yourself. This workshop will teach mindfulness and the importance of self-care and help you build your self-care tool kit.

March: Let's Add to Our Self-Care Kit

Learn different breathing techniques, boundaries, strategies for tough days, and help you see the value in self-care.

This series is presented in partnership with Grandview Kids.

Durham Children's Aid Society Information Session

Thursday, January 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Durham Children Aid's Society has an urgent need for foster homes. Get information about becoming a foster parent.

*Mixed Roots Workshop

Friday, February 7, 6–8 p.m.

Main Branch

Is your child mixed-race? Together, we'll explore the strengths and challenges of raising bi-racial children. Presented in partnership with the Durham Family & Cultural Centre. Children are welcome to attend.

*Supporting Children Through Grief

Wednesday, March 5, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Main Branch and Zoom

Learn to recognize common emotions in children's grief and how to best communicate with children and youth about death and bereavement. Presented in partnership with VON Durham Hospice Services.

Financial Literacy

*Raising Financially Fit Kids

Thursday, January 30, 6–7 p.m.

Zoom

Learn easy-to-implement parenting techniques to teach children ages 2–18 about saving, giving, and spending. Presented in partnership with the Credit Counselling Society.

*Investment Workshop

Thursday, February 27, 6:30–8 p.m.

Zoom

Learn about the basics of investing, tax implications, registered plans, and more. Presented in partnership with the YMCA.

*Tax Clinics

Registration begins on Tuesday, February 18

Appointments begin in March

Volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program will be available to assist you with filing your 2024 tax return. The program is only available for Durham residents who have a valid Ajax Public Library card and have a modest income with simple tax situations. For more information or to see if you qualify, call 905-683-4000 ext. 8813 or email libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca.

Small Business

*Small Business Financing Workshop

Tuesday, January 28, 9–10 a.m.

Main Branch

Learn about the financing options that are available to small business owners to start or grow your business. Presented in partnership with the Town of Ajax, Economic Development and the Business Advisory Centre of Durham.

*Starting a Business Workshop

Tuesday, February 11, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Main Branch

Learn the fundamentals of starting a business. Presented by a business advisor from the Business Advisory Centre of Durham.



Adults & Seniors

Health & Wellness

*Bibliotherapy

Tuesdays, January 7, 21; February 4, 25; March 11, 25
7–8 p.m.

Zoom

Bibliotherapy combines reading and talking about books and stories to achieve a more positive sense of wellness. A trained facilitator will lead reading activities and a guided group discussion. Presented in partnership with the Literacy Network of Durham Region.

*Brain Waves Café

Tuesdays, January 14, February 11, March 11
1–2:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Enjoy conversation, support, and activities in a dementia-friendly atmosphere. For persons with cognitive change and their care partners, family, and friends. Presented in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region. To register, call 905-576-2567 ext. 5240 or email recreation@alzheimerdurham.com.

*Brain Health

Wednesday, January 22, 2–3 p.m.

Main Branch

Learn how to promote brain health and how lifestyle changes can impact your risk of developing dementia. Presented in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region.

The Compassionate Friends Ajax

Tuesdays, January 28, February 25, March 25
6:30–8:30 p.m.

Intended for any parent who has lost a child

Audley Branch

We are here to journey alongside the bereaved until they can make their own choice to reinvest in life once again. For more information, contact ajax@tcfcanada.net.

*Cultivating Happiness & Joy

Tuesdays, February 25–April 1, 10:30–11:45 a.m.

Registration is for six weeks

Main Branch

Explore various aspects of happiness, including personal reflections on our happiest moments, emotions that contribute to joy, and practical ways to enhance well-being. Presented in partnership with the Ontario Shores Recovery College.

*Dementia 101: Options for Care

Friday, March 7, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Audley Branch

Fridays, March 14, 21, 28, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Main Branch

This four-week series offers care partners of persons living with dementia an opportunity to explore an overview of the dementia journey. To register, call 905-576-2567 ext. 5228 or email education@alzheimerdurham.com. Presented in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Durham Region.

*Understanding Attachment Styles (Part 1)

Wednesday, February 12, 6:30–8 p.m.

Main Branch

Learn about the different attachment patterns and how they develop and impact relationships. In this workshop, you will gain a clearer understanding of your attachment style and how these dynamics shape your connections.

*Healing and Transforming Your Attachment Style (Part 2)

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30–8 p.m.

Main Branch

In this follow-up session, explore how to heal attachment wounds to transition into a secure, healthy attachment style. Learn practical strategies to create stronger, more meaningful relationships and build lasting emotional security.

Note: Registration is for both sessions.

Adults & Seniors



For Movie Lovers

Cultural Cinema

Tuesdays, January 7, February 4, March 4, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
Main Branch

January 7: *The Stones and Brian Jones* (not rated)

The Stones and Brian Jones examines the musical creativity of Jones, the secret to the band's success, through candid interviews and previously unreleased archive.

February 4: *Little Richard: I Am Everything* (not rated)

The life and career of Little Richard, the one-of-a-kind rock 'n' roll icon who shaped the world of music.

March 4: *Percy* (G)

A Canadian farmer takes on a giant corporation after their GMOs interfere with his crops.

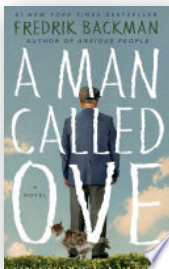
*Box Office Books and Brews:

A Man Called Ove

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30–9 p.m.

St. Francis Centre for Community, Arts and Culture

Is the book actually better than the movie? Enjoy a book club and movie screening all rolled into one! Pick up a copy of "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman at Main Branch before the movie screening and enjoy a group discussion after the movie. Enjoy a movie-themed cocktail, wine, or beer as well as snacks available for purchase.



For Writers

Ajax Public Library Writers' Group

Thursdays, January 9, February 13, March 13
6:30–8:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Social writers and avid authors alike—ignite your creativity using our provided topics and phrases! Every month, we challenge you to create an original piece based on a new topic. Bring your tale to the circle for sharing and (gentle) critique. We ask that you bring your own writing supplies.

Games

Beginner Bridge

Thursdays, January 9, 23; February 13, 27; March 13, 27
2–4:30 p.m.

Main Branch

All levels of experience welcome!

Friendly Euchre

Fridays, January 10, 24; February 7, 21; March 7, 21
2–4 p.m.

Main Branch

Social Bridge

Thursdays, January 16, 30; February 6, 20; March 6, 20
2–4:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Cribbage

Fridays, January 31, February 28, March 28

2–4 p.m.

Main Branch

Woman Grandmaster Chess Exhibition

Saturday, March 8, 12 noon–4 p.m.

Main Branch

Attend a Q&A session followed by a chess exhibition with Woman Grandmaster Anna Burtasova. Anna is a Russian-born Canadian chess player, and was awarded the title of Woman Grandmaster by FIDE in 2009.

Dungeons & Dragons

D&D Café

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 25;
March 4, 18, 25, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Tuesdays, February 18, March 11, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Audley Branch

Play D&D at the Library! Interested in attending, but don't have a group? Email carly.midgley@ajaxlibrary.ca. Kids and teens welcome too!

Adults & Seniors

Discover

Crafters' Corner

Wednesdays, January 8, 22; February 12, 26; March 12, 26
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Main Branch

Knitting and Crochet for Community

Wednesdays, January 8, February 5, March 5, 1–3 p.m.

Audley Branch

The Library is pleased to host this community group formed to connect charity knitters and crocheters, yarn, and tools with volunteers who make items with love for those who may need them.

*Armchair Travel

Tuesdays, January 21, March 18, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Main Branch

January 21: Sicily

Located just off of the “toe” of Italy’s “boot,” Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean, is known for its many historical landmarks, gorgeous beaches, and wine.

March 18: Ireland

Known for its green landscapes, dramatic coastlines, and rich heritage, there is nowhere quite like the Emerald Isle.

*Virtual Armchair Travel: China Part 1

Tuesday, February 18, 1:30–3 p.m.

Zoom

Jet around the world without ever leaving the comfort of your home! Discover China, a country that fascinates travellers with its ancient customs and historical sites contrasting with the new ultra-modern state.



Language learning for everyone



Start learning a new language in a fun and interactive way! Mango Languages is available free with your Library card at ajaxlibrary.ca/Online-Resources.

Learn

*Stay Connected Training

Mondays, 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, or 1 p.m.

Main Branch

Saturdays, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., or 12 noon

Audley Branch

Learn how to stay in touch with these 60-minute technology training sessions. Topics include using iPads and other smart devices, social media, and safe use of Zoom. To register, call 905-683-4000 ext. 8813.

*Genealogy Group

Wednesdays, January 15, February 19, March 19

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Main Branch

January 15: How to Do your Genealogy Research Using Free Sites

February 19: Researching Land Records

March 19: RootsTech 2025

To register, email events@ajaxlibrary.ca.

Headline Hunters

Tuesdays, January 28, February 25, March 25

1:30–3 p.m.

Main Branch

For more information, call 905-683-4000 ext. 8806 or email elaine.lievaart@ajaxlibrary.ca.

*Winter Sowing Workshop

Wednesday, January 29, 2–3 p.m.

Main Branch

Get a jump-start on the growing season and produce resilient plants with winter sowing! Create your own miniature greenhouse using a recycled container, potting soil, and seeds. Presented by Durham Master Gardeners.

*Energy Affordability Workshop

Wednesday, February 5, 2–3 p.m.

Main Branch

Learn how to lower your energy costs with Energy Affordability and Home Winterproofing programs, free programs to help lower costs for income-eligible families.

Adults & Seniors

55+ Amateur Poetry Contest

Wednesday, January 1–Friday, February 28

Flex your creativity! The Ajax Public Library Older Adults Advisory Committee and the Town of Ajax Recreation and Culture Older Adults Task Force are pleased to bring you the third annual 55+ Amateur Poetry Contest. Your poem can be on any topic, using whatever style you prefer. Visit ajaxlibrary.ca/55PlusContest for more details or pick up a brochure at any branch. The winners will be announced in April during National Poetry Month.



Ajax Archives

***Ajax Archives: Consult an Archivist**

Wednesday, February 26, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
(15-minute appointments at 10:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m., 11:10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 11:50 a.m., 12:10 p.m.)

Main Branch

Ask the Library's Archives Services Librarian any questions you might have about at-home preservation, digitization, research, and more during a one-on-one consultation.

***Ajax Archives: Discover Your House's History**

Wednesday, March 26, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon

Main Branch

Learn about the archival tools that you can use to learn about the history of your house and other local history in this introductory session.

Thinking Ahead Series

Based on the Older Adults Advisory Committee Caregiver Supports Guide (available at ajaxlibrary.ca/Policies), Thinking Ahead is a monthly workshop series that will help you plan ahead as a caregiver or care recipient.

***Estate Planning and Administration**

Wednesday, March 5, 1:30–3 p.m.

Main Branch

Learn important estate planning considerations, including the role of the executor, tax implications, and the rules surrounding probate.



Explore, learn, and
create with Project
Makerspace!

Learn more on page 12

Adults & Seniors

Multilingual & Multicultural

*Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services

Weekly on Mondays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
(no session on February 17)

Main Branch

Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services provide settlement service for Durham Region residents. Services provided in English, Hindi, Pashto, Persian, and Urdu. To book an appointment, contact Muska Wardak, Settlement Counsellor, at 437-223-5989 or by email mwardak@afghanwomen.org. Funding provided by Citizenship & Immigration Canada.

*Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services Citizenship Preparation Class

Weekly on Mondays, 1–2 p.m.
(no session on February 17)

Main Branch

To register, contact at Muska Wardak, Settlement Counsellor, at 437-223-5989 or by email mwardak@afghanwomen.org.

DCCC Seniors and Durham Happy Seniors Alliance
Saturdays, January 4, 18; February 1, 15; March 1, 15, 29
1–4 p.m.

Main Branch

Enjoy Chinese-style games, dance, Tai Chi, and more at this engaging program. Languages spoken: Cantonese and Mandarin. For more information, email info@durhamchinese.ca. Presented in partnership with Durham Chinese Canadian Culture Centre.

*Spanish Seniors Social

Mondays starting January 6, 2–5 p.m.
(no session on February 17)

Main Branch

Meet new people, learn new things, and socialize with other Spanish-speaking seniors! For details, contact Cristina Gomez at 289-928-2037. Presented in partnership with the Hispanic Canadian Alliance of Durham.

French Conversation Circle

Mondays starting January 13, 6:30–8 p.m.
(no session on February 17)

Main Branch

Hone your French skills with drop-in French discussions for adults, whether it is your first language or you are just learning. For more information, email Tasnuba Rahman at trahman@cdcd.org. Presented in partnership with the Community Development Council of Durham.

*English Conversation Circle

Wednesdays starting January 15, 6:30–8 p.m.

Main Branch

Practice English as a second language, meet new adults in the community, and join our lively discussions. For more information or to register, email Tasnuba Rahman at trahman@cdcd.org. Presented in partnership with the Community Development Council of Durham.



LOTE4Kids is an online resource that allows kids to learn a language and engage with books through the magic of storytelling. Choose from thousands of audio-picture books in 70+ languages, along with English translations.

Find it at ajaxlibrary.ca/DigitalCollections.

Ajax Public Library

Community Connections

Connect with these organizations and their staff for the following services:

Durham French Employment Centre

- Resume and cover letter assistance
- Connect French-speaking job seekers with employers that wish to hire francophone or bilingual (French/English) workers

Wednesdays, January 8, February 5, March 5
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Main Branch

John Howard Society Harm Reduction Services

- Harm reduction and safe practices
- Naloxone kits and training on their use available upon request

Wednesdays, January 8, 22; February 5, 19;
March 5, 19
1–3 p.m.
Main Branch

Newcomer Settlement Services with Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)

- Orientation/settlement in Ontario and Durham Region
- Information and referrals to community programs and services
- English classes

Thursdays, January 9–March 27
Main Branch
 By Appointment Only: 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
 Walk-ins: 2–4:30 p.m.

Conseil des organismes francophones de la Région de Durham (COFRD)

- Settlement services tailored to French-speaking newcomers
- Needs assessment and referrals, orientation, and community connections through the Settlement Workers in Schools program

Fridays, January 10, February 7, March 7
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Main Branch

Herizon House

Staff from Herizon House will be at Main Branch on a monthly basis to offer confidential services to women including:

- Crisis counselling
- Safety planning
- Referrals to community agencies

Tuesdays, January 14, February 11, March 11
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Main Branch
 By appointment or drop-in. To book an appointment, contact Julia Campbell at 905-683-4000 ext. 8809 or email julia.campbell@ajaxlibrary.ca.

Gap Committee Outreach and Education Table

- The Gap Committee is made up of individuals who have experienced homelessness, service providers, and compassionate partners
- Access education and referrals to community programs

Tuesdays, January 14, February 11, March 11
12 noon–4 p.m.
Main Branch

Housing Help Durham

- Rental accommodations and tenant rights
- Subsidized, non-profit, and emergency housing

Wednesdays, January 15, February 12, March 12
2–4 p.m.
Main Branch

Durham College Information Table

- Information about programs, out-of-country credential assessments, and student services

Wednesdays, January 15, February 19, March 19
5–6:30 p.m.
Main Branch



Seniors Centre Without Walls

Join us for **Seniors Centre Without Walls (SCWW)** Monday through Wednesday for a **FREE** interactive program from the comfort of your home. Themes include fun activities, education, health & wellness and more. Each month a new calendar will highlight the upcoming days of activities.

Join using Zoom or call in Mondays through Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Programming Details

Information Highway

Learn from informative guest speakers about topics including finances, planning, health & safety, entertainment, and more; discuss what's happening in local news and around the world; join the Ajax Public Library for information about our Ajax history or immerse yourself into the wonderful world of short stories from a variety of different genres.

Fit and Fun

Keep your mind and body fit through exercises led by knowledgeable and nationally accredited Town of Ajax fitness instructors and end your week laughing with the joke of the week.

Worldly Wonders

Travel the world from the comfort of your home while sitting in your favourite spot; learn about people from different countries and cultures; boldly go where your taste buds have never gone before with diverse recipes from around the globe.

Challenge Accepted

Put your knowledge to the test during weekly themed trivia questions and games; become the detective of a whodunit during Minute Mysteries; challenge yourself with memory games; test your knowledge with fun fact or fiction trivia.

ajax.ca/55plus




Sponsored by
Ontario
Ministry of Seniors
and Accessibility

OACAO
The Voice of Older Adult Centres
La voix des centres pour aînés




January 2025 Program Calendar Space is limited.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
6 Worldly Wonders: Armchair Travel - Germany Part 2	7 No Programming	8 Fit and Fun: 52 Card Bingo and Riddles
13 Fit and Fun: Minute Mysteries	14 Information Highway: Short Stories Callers' Edition	15 Fit and Fun: Memory Games
20 Fit and Fun: Fun Fact Frenzy: The Zodiac	21 Fit and Fun: Winter Trivia	22 No Programming
27 Information Highway: Biographies: Mother Teresa	28 No Programming	29 Challenge Accepted: The Word Game

To join using Zoom 

Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495

Passcode:
SCWW55+001

To join by phone 

Dial:
647-558-0588

Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495#

Participant ID
Number
Passcode:
1409113169#




February 2025 Program Calendar Space is limited.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Worldly Wonders: Armchair Travel: Germany Part 3	4 No Programming	5 Information Highway: Historical Tidbits
10 Fit and Fun: Name That Tune: The Big Band Era	11 Fit and Fun: Pictionary on Zoom	12 Challenge Accepted: Valentine's Trivia and Riddles
17 No Programs – Family Day	18 No Programming	19 Fit and Fun: 52 Card Bingo and Riddles
24 Information Highway: Biographies: Tom Hanks	25 Fit and Fun: Spot The Difference	26 Information Highway: Film Friends: Oscar Nominations for 2025

To join using Zoom 

Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495

Passcode:
SCWW55+001

To join by phone 

Dial:
647-558-0588

Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495#

Participant ID
Number
Passcode:
1409113169#




March 2025 Program Calendar Space is limited.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Worldly Wonders: Armchair Travel – Germany Part 4	4 Fit and Fun: Trivia	5 Fit and Fun: Minute Mysteries
10 Information Highway: Historical Mysteries from Ireland	11 Information Highway: Short Stories – Callers Edition	12 No Programming
17 Challenge Accepted: Trivia: The Movies	18 Fit and Fun: Spelling Bee	19 Fit and Fun: 52 Card Bingo and Riddles
24 Challenge Accepted: Who Am I?	25 No Programming	26 Information Highway: Why Do We Say It?
31 Information Highway: Biographies: Judy Garland		

To join using Zoom 

Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495

Passcode:
SCWW55+001

To join by phone 

Dial:
647-558-0588

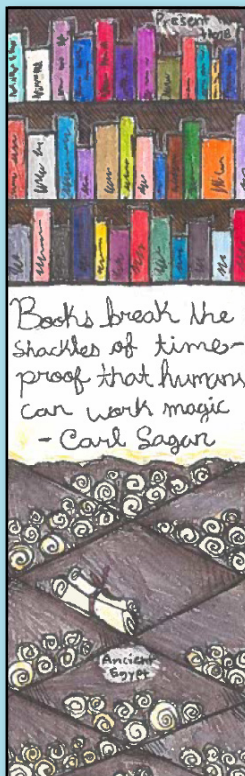
Meeting ID:
936-9272-5495#

Participant ID
Number
Passcode:
1409113169#

2025 Design a Bookmark Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the January, February, and March Design a Bookmark Contest winners!

Pick up a new winning bookmark each month at any branch.



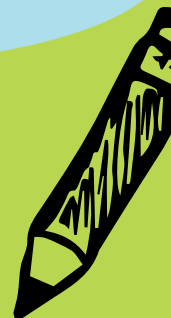
January winner:
Eishaani V.



February winner:
Dylan K.



March winner:
Tanvi D.



Branch Locations

Main Branch

55 Harwood Ave. S.

Audley Branch

1955 Audley Rd. N.

McLean Branch & Makerspace

95 Magill Dr.

Branch Hours

Monday–Friday

9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday

11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Extended Sunday Hours!

Starting January 12, Main Branch, McLean Branch and the Makerspace, and Audley Branch will open at 9 a.m. on Sundays.

Grandview Kids Express Branch

1461 Harwood Ave. N.

Monday–Thursday

9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Friday

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Open alternate Saturdays

9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday closed

Contact

905-683-4000

libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca

Live chat online at

[ajaxlibrary.ca](https://www.ajaxlibrary.ca)

Stay Connected

Get the What's On delivered straight to your inbox! Sign up for our eNews at [ajaxlibrary.ca/eNewsletter](https://www.ajaxlibrary.ca/eNewsletter)