

# Opinion | 10 ways to still enjoy the library despite COVID-19 shut down

*Lyndsay Bowen*

While the physical library branches of the Kawartha Lakes Public Library may be closed, that doesn't mean that you are shut off to the library world. In fact, we challenge you to make this an opportunity to explore the library in ways that you had never even considered. Here's the top 10 ways you can do just that:

- 1.** Don't have a library card? No problem! Register for a free one at [www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/librarycard](http://www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/librarycard) That's an easy thing to check off the list, next!
- 2.** Read books on your laptop, tablet, e-reader or phone with cloudLibrary or hoopla – our free resources for online reading. Download them today from your apps store. Or if you read magazines, you'll love the Flipster app.
- 3.** Learn something new! Gale Courses offers hundreds of courses focused on professional development, technology skills, and personal enrichment. Or, have you been meaning to learn Spanish for that next trip? Now's the perfect time to start, with Mango Languages!
- 4.** Try a new recipe. Although there may be limitations to some ingredients because of grocery shortages, it's worth a shot to find a new recipe. Try A to Z World Foods – a resource that has recipes for drinks, appetizers, desserts and everything in between – from 174 different countries around the world! Have you ever tried to make classic Dutch Stroopwafels? Nope, me neither but perhaps that can be a project for this week.
- 5.** Are you finding yourself with lots of downtime and are getting that creative itch (real crafters probably know what this means. I for one, do not have a creative bone in my body). Try Creativebug – a resource filled with crafting tutorial videos for jewellery making, knitting, holiday décor, baking, drawing and more.
- 6.** If you don't have Netflix, Disney+ or any of the other streaming platforms don't despair! Try hoopla – the free library version of all of this. Hoopla also has books, audiobooks, graphic novels and music. Or if you're a music fan, try Freegal.

**\*More information for 2 - 6 can be found at**

[www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/digitallibrary](http://www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/digitallibrary)

- 7.** Browse our digital archive. Featured collections include the Life and Times of Dr. George Hall, the Thurston Album of Dunsford History, "On The Main Street" newspaper columns by Ford W. Moynes and much more. Access it here: [www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/digitalarchive](http://www.kawarthalakeslibrary.ca/digitalarchive)

- 8.** Watch a virtual storytime prepared by library staff. If you miss your library staff, you can bet that they miss you too! See their wonderful faces and enjoy a virtual story

read by them. These have all been shared on a webpage called 'Home for Coronavirus'. Access it under the 'Kids' or 'Adults' menu on our home page.

**9.** We can't take credit, but we have found a ton of free, (mostly) educational web pages for both kids and adults such as homeschooling help, virtual tours of museums, digital escape rooms, yoga videos and more. These have all been shared on a webpage called 'Home for Coronavirus'. Access it under the 'Kids' or 'Adults' menu on our home page.

**10.** Follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Search for **@kawarthalibrary**. Keep up to date with information and engage in fun activities such as Book Battles. Now the only question is, would you choose Anne of Green Gables or Little House on the Prairie if you were asked during a Book Battle? I'll let you in on a secret – Anne of Green Gables won by more than 40 votes on our Facebook page last week.

Phew, there's a ton of information here! If you're looking for assistance with any of it, email [LibraryAdministration@kawarthalakeslibrary.ca](mailto:LibraryAdministration@kawarthalakeslibrary.ca) or call [705-341-9411](tel:705-341-9411). Please leave a message and someone will get back to you when able.

Stay safe everyone!

***Lyndsay Bowen is the Library Specialist for Outreach and Community Engagement at the Kawartha Lakes Public Library.***