

Help **Lethbridge Public Library** customers get to know you better!

Share your love for libraries by answering any (or all) of these library-related questions. We'll share our favourite responses with LPL customers so they can get to know you better!

What is your favourite library memory or experience?

Getting my library card when I was growing up. I read a lot (still do), so being able to go to the library and take out as many books as I wanted every week, sometimes 2 or 3 times a week was the best thing ever! I spent a lot of time at our local library – doing homework, reading – it was a place I could go on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and just spend some time. Libraries are one of the only public places you can go and just ‘be’.

I also remember when our library got cassettes (hello Rick Springfield) – new music came in on a regular basis and my friends and I used to organize who would take out what and share the cassettes amongst our group because there were limits on how many we could take out at a time, and the check out times were short.

Spending afternoons at the library continued when I move to Lethbridge to attend U of L as my friends and I would come downtown to Lethbridge Public Library and spend Saturday afternoons at one of the tables talking and working on assignments. The library is just a great place to be.

What is one book you think everyone should read and why?

Only one??!!

I have a few to suggest.

11/22/63 by Stephen King: It's a reminder that history isn't just dates and events; it's the choices people make and the ripple effects those choices create. As a councillor, that lesson hits home: every decision at City Hall has long-term impacts on our city's future and reminds me to think about what we may want that future to look like.

Still Life with Woodpecker by Tom Robbins: It's quirky, philosophical, and a little chaotic – much like politics. It explores how we search for meaning, how love and rebellion shape us, and how we can laugh our way through complexity. For me, it's a reminder to take a step back and not to take myself too seriously even when the issues are serious.

'Til We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis: A reflection on truth, perspective, and the ways we really come to understand each other. It underscores that leadership isn't about power or appearances it's about authenticity, humility, and truly listening.

The *Dark Tower* series by Stephen King: I read the entire series during a rough time in my life, and it was one of those things that got me through that time. It's an epic journey that blends adventure, philosophy, and perseverance. What resonates most with me is Roland's relentless pursuit of his goal, balanced against the relationships, choices, and sacrifices he makes along the way.

For me, the series is a reminder that leadership and community-building aren't straight paths – they're long, winding journeys with setbacks, alliances, and tough decisions. The lessons of resilience, loyalty, and staying true to your purpose despite obstacles are deeply relevant to public service and civic leadership.

What vital role do you think LPL plays in the Lethbridge community?

The Lethbridge Public Library is one of the most democratic and accessible spaces in our city. It removes barriers, offers resources for lifelong learning, and creates inclusive programming and access that serves everyone from young families to newcomers, seniors, and vulnerable residents. In many ways, it embodies the values I champion on Council – accessibility, community, education, and social wellbeing. It's not just a building with books; it's an engine for opportunity.

If you could be any fictional character, who would you be and why?

I'm going to go with Sookie Stackhouse from the Charlaine Harris *True Blood* series. She's someone who, despite being underestimated and often placed in challenging situations, uses her resilience, intuition, and ability to truly listen to navigate complicated worlds. She's also a small-town girl, with plenty of sass, and is often surrounded by more drama than she signed up for – it sounds a little like municipal politics already. Swap out the supernatural for city budgets, bylaws, and public hearings, and the parallels are uncanny. Sookie also reminds me that strength isn't about power – it's about empathy, perseverance, and staying grounded in who you are even when things get chaotic. Those are the same qualities I bring to my work on City Council.

What is the biggest lesson you've learned at your local library?

The biggest lesson I've learned is that access matters. Getting a library card might seem like a simple thing, but it opens the door to education, technology, community programs, and a sense of belonging. That mirrors my platform commitment: when people have access to housing, transit, healthcare, and services, they can thrive. Libraries show us that inclusion isn't just a principle – it's a practice.

If you could host a program at the library, what would it be about?

I would host a program on civic engagement called *Your Voice, Your City*. It would walk people through how decisions at City Hall are made, how residents can get involved, and why their voices matter. Empowering people to understand and influence their local government aligns with my work in public engagement, accessibility, and strengthening civic participation. And where better to spark those conversations than the library, our city's hub of knowledge and community connection?