

Rideau Lakes Public Library is bridging the digital divide in Ontario

Members can now borrow the Internet and take it home using their library card



kajeet®



Libraries across North America can offer an innovative solution to the digital divide by "loaning out the Internet" to their patrons - circulating cellular-based hotspot devices that provide Internet access to those without a broadband connection.

"We are just trying to make people's lives a bit easier."



We met with Vicky Stevenson, CEO of Rideau Public Library. A library located in a beautiful part of Ontario that is popular amongst summer guests.

"We have learned about mobile Wi-Fi lending for some time, and as a smaller library, we thought it was out of our reach budget-wise, but when Covid hit, and principals and social workers from the area contacted us saying they have clients and students who really need access we thought we have to do it now.

We started the program in late 2020. I felt we were late to the party, and I was worried we might have missed a window to really help our community, but that was not the case. The word really got out through a newsletter that came out through our municipality. Then it was like the light went on, people were like, "What, there is free Internet?!"

"Providing this service to our members is making their entire stay with us so much more enjoyable as they can rely on it; they are saying it is providing them with great coverage, and we have had no complaints.

I had people even trying to hand us donations, and I said no, this is a free service the library is offering. We have really enjoyed helping our patrons whether it was someone doing online learning or for work-related reasons."

"We are here for our members, and that is what libraries do, trying to make people's lives a bit easier, so I would recommend other libraries to find out more about the Wi-Fi lending and to connect with other libraries in your area that have tried it. You can learn a lot from them!"

Vicky's advice to get started with a Kajeet SmartSpot® program:

- 1 Connect with libraries that are already using it. Peer-to-peer support is really helpful to cover questions about the lending periods, waiving forms, data limits policy, and procedures.
- 2 Ask your Kajeet account manager to customize the setup. You can manage the Kajeet SmartSpots® or choose to do it all through Sentinel. Set it up the way that works best for your team.



How does the Kajeet SmartSpot program work?

1. Stock Kajeet SmartSpots® and select a required data pool amount.
2. Allocate data to each SmartSpot through Sentinel.
3. Change data allowance on a device in seconds & tailor it based on lending periods.
4. Select if you wish to add content filtering to reduce high bandwidth usage or inappropriate content.

Contact Kajeet

To understand more about this program or get a free demo contact us at sales@kajeet.com