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# HoOPLA Newsletter



NEWS & UPDATES FROM ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*HoOPLA is a privilege of membership for members of the Ontario Public Library Association. It is issued 4 times per year. Electronic issues are distributed as soon as possible following the submission deadlines at the beginning of February, May, August, and November.*

## A message from our opla president

Happy Spring, everyone! We have a lot happening and I am pleased to highlight the following accomplishments and upcoming events:

### **OPLA Member & Council Accomplishments**

Congratulations to the OPLA Readers' Advisory Committee for an excellent RA in a Day on April 30! It was a privilege to attend and, as always, I learned a lot about this aspect of librarianship that I consider to be one of my "areas of opportunity." I had no idea that I was a fan of "dark academia" and that there are NASCAR romance novels! I also found the newly updated Readers' Advisory Core Competencies presented by Nadine Desrochers and Constance Poitras to be highly informative.

I would like to congratulate Melanie Kindrachuk of Stratford Public Library, to whom I had the honour of presenting the OLA Award for Excellence in Adult Readers' Advisory for 2024.

I would also like to congratulate Liz Zylstra from the County of Prince Edward Public Library, who was the recipient of the 2024 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference Grant. This funding allows the successful applicant to attend the PLA Conference. Liz enjoyed an action-packed few days in Columbus, Ohio at this year's conference in April, and she had this to say about the impact of her experience overall:

*"The PLA Conference ... was invaluable for my work. Beyond the overwhelming feeling of connection and enthusiasm I left with, I also brought home practical ideas that I have already started to implement in my library. It heavily informed our recent program strategic planning process and has given me a fresh look at communicating the value of the library to the community - plus I have a notebook packed with other ideas to use. I cannot thank OPLA enough for making this possible and truly feel it has brought real value to my library and community."*

The next grant opportunity is for the 2026 PLA Conference, so there is plenty of time to apply!

### **OLA Accomplishments**

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport approved an additional investment of 1.25 million per year over three years which will be allocated through the First Nation Salary Supplement and Provincial Libraries Operating Grant and represents an increase of almost 300% of what these libraries are currently receiving. This is representative of advocacy from many groups, including the OLA and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. Libraries on reserve are vital to the communities they serve and are critically under-funded.

### **Upcoming Event**

On Tuesday May 28, the Community-Led Libraries Committee held an ONLibChat. This was a great opportunity to meet others doing similar work and learn more about the Community-Led Libraries Committee. Your participation informed how the committee can further support the critical work being done by libraries.

OLITA and OPLA co-hosted an ONLibChat on Thursday, May 30 on the topic of cybersecurity. Many people depend on libraries for access to the Internet and given that the ability to participate and thrive in our society is increasingly digital and virtual, ransomware attacks on libraries are an equity issue at heart. We heard about first-hand experiences as well as concerns from libraries on this topic. This will help to inform further training and support.

On June 13, the Education Institute will present "Let's Debrief: Library Incident Support Tools for Front-Line Staff" with Becky Potter and Mary Graham from Calgary Public Library. I attended their session at Super Conference this year, and they have very good practical tips for recovering from critical incidents in the library and promoting staff wellness.

Finally, I encourage you to consider joining us on OPLA Council. We currently have one councillor position vacant for the Northeastern Ontario region. This is an opportunity to bring forward issues that are critical to your region and help to inform the training, support and advocacy done by OLA.

As always, I am happy to answer questions and hear any ideas or feedback you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me.



## **Megan Garza**

### **OPLA President**

Senior Manager, Organizational Transformation

Markham Public Library

[MGarza@markham.library.on.ca](mailto:MGarza@markham.library.on.ca)

## *What's new* -----

### **LLEAD Fellowships & Bursaries Support Your Development**

Have you seen the video below? This simple video spoke so loudly to me. We cannot judge individuals by their dress, education, or our assumptions. A pianist does not have to wear formal clothes; a leader-manager in a library or any information-intensive organization does not have to look a certain way or hold selected degrees or diplomas.

For this reason, **LLEAD**, the Library Leadership Institute's program, is based on the premise that all employees in all roles in academic, public, enterprise libraries and information services are leaders, and that our sector needs strong managers throughout libraries and organizations – in all functions, at all levels.

LLEAD also believes that *finances should not stand in the way of learning*, so LLEAD offers several fellowships and bursaries. Let them not go unused!

Spaces for **LLEAD7** are filling fast. Check out the [financial supports](#), the [curriculum and approach](#) and the [learning guides](#) who coach and support you on your learning journey. If you would like to speak with any of the 130 graduates, please contact me.

A graduate in an ARL university recently wrote me that LLEAD was “*truly transformative*.” That, and this video, brought such joy. [Do watch this video here](#) – I hope it brings you joy!



*PHOTO: Never judge a pianist by his coveralls!*

## **Rebecca Jones**

**Director**

LLEAD

[rebecca@libraryleadership.org](mailto:rebecca@libraryleadership.org)

## **Canada's Volunteer Awards**

The call for Canada's Volunteer Awards is currently open. The awards recognize volunteers for their contributions across the country and highlight the many ways that volunteering strengthens communities. Submit a nomination today!

**Nomination Deadline:** June 12, 2024

[Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

# Digital Odyssey



From debunking deepfakes to spotting shady sources, arming library users against misinformation and disinformation can feel like a constant and ever-changing challenge. Join us at this year's Digital Odyssey to learn what's new in the fight against misinformation, and how to prepare your users (and yourself) for the AI-generated landscape.

**Date:** June 10, 2024

**Time:** 10 AM – 4 PM ET

**Location:** Online

[Register today.](#)

## Emily Burns

**Director, Education & Impact**

Ontario Library Association

[eburns@accessola.com](mailto:eburns@accessola.com)

## Annual Institute on Library as Place



The **Annual Institute on the Library as Place** is a must-attend event for anyone involved in library space planning and design. Bringing together architects, librarians, and other experts from across the country, this year's theme, **"Tools of Engagement,"** will focus on community engagement challenges and successes in library building and renovation projects of all sizes.

Whether you're a seasoned architect looking to expand your skillset or a librarian eager to stay on top of the latest trends, this conference is the perfect chance to network with peers, gain valuable insights, and take your library space to the next level.



**Date:** June 17-18, 2024

**Location:** Mississauga Public Library - Hazel McCallion Central Library

[Register today.](#)

## Emily Burns

**Director, Education & Impact**

Ontario Library Association

[eburns@accessola.com](mailto:eburns@accessola.com)

## Celebrate and Support I Read Canadian!



Every young person should have access to Canadian books.

Reading is the easiest way to give a child a healthy start, as reading for fun is proven to enhance academic performance, social engagement, and personal development. Help get new Canadian books into the hands of young people across the country this coming Canada Day, and every other day, too.

You can take action today by [making a donation](#) to help the Ontario Library Association (OLA) reach its goal of raising \$25,000, or by making an I Read Canadian purchase through The Library Marketplace.

With t-shirts, bags, stickers, and more, there's something for every kind of book lover. The best part is that a portion of the proceeds go directly to the fund!

[Shop the full collection.](#)

For more information on school fundraising or to access teaching resources for I Read Canadian Day, [visit this link](#).

**Stephanie Buosi**

## Building on Fun Summer Programming With Bookish Swag



Got programming this summer? What better way to build on the excitement of fun summer programming than with cute, bookish swag? Shop The Library Marketplace and surprise your young readers with stickers, pins, bookmarks and other fun swag.

Purchase I Read Canadian stickers in bulk and save! Or browse our Forest of Reading merchandise and grab a pack of our bestselling Forest Bunny Keychains or Croc Charms.

[Shop The Library Marketplace.](#)

### Stephanie Buosi

Store Manager, The Library Marketplace

Ontario Library Association

[sbuosi@accessola.com](mailto:sbuosi@accessola.com)

## Upcoming Forest of Reading® Dates



The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! To encourage a love of reading and to create a meaningful experience for your readers, we encourage you to keep the following important dates in mind.

**September 1-30:** Voting for the Evergreen Award program (Winner announced during Ontario Public Library Week, 3rd week of October)

**October 1:** Registration opens for the 2025 program

**October 15:** Nominated lists for the school-aged programs are announced

**October 20-26:** Ontario Public Library Week

**November 15:** Password portion of the website open for 2025 registered participants

**January 29-February 1, 2025:** OLA Super Conference

**April 1-30:** Voting for school-aged programs

**April 23:** Official Forest Voting Day for school-aged programs (World Book Day)

**May 13-14:** Forest of Reading Festival - Toronto - in-person and digital experience both offered

**May 21:** French Event (location TBD) for French-language award

For more information on what's involved and how to participate, we invite you to visit:  
[www.forestofreading.com](http://www.forestofreading.com).

## **Meredith Tutching**

**Director, Forest of Reading®**

Ontario Library Association

[mtutching@accessola.com](mailto:mtutching@accessola.com)

## **Ontario Public Library Week**

Save the date! October 20-26, 2024, is Ontario Public Library Week.

As the coordinator, the Ontario Public Library Association (OLA), will be providing public libraries and public library supporters with various promotional resources. Keep an eye out for graphics later this summer!

For questions and comments, please contact [communications@accessola.com](mailto:communications@accessola.com).

*Around the province*  
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## **May the Force Be With You at Clearview Public Library!**

To ignite excitement for this year's TD Summer Reading Program theme, Clearview Public Library (CPL) launched its Space program over March Break. With plenty to see and do throughout a week of interactive family fun, library patrons felt that the Force was indeed with them at the library.



An exhibition of Sci-Fi Magazine Art graced the walls of CPL's art gallery. A spaceship captained by CPL's friendly library alien "landed" and gifted everyone with the keys to the universe (the alphabet). The highlight of this week was the imperial visit from the folks of the 501st Canadian Garrison. The success of these cosmic programs will lay the foundation for more astronomically fantastic literary adventures and expeditions throughout this summer here in Southern Georgian Bay!



*PHOTO 1: Lesley Martel (curator for Sci-Fi Magazine Art Show) carefully handles a Martian under the baleful eye of the library's alien.*



*PHOTO 2: One of the Stormtroopers "engages" in friendly combat (spelling bee competition) with a library patron.*



*PHOTO 3: A Tie Pilot amuses himself with a storybook.*

## **Michele McKenzie**

### **Deputy CEO**

Clearview Public Library

[mmckenzie@clearview.ca](mailto:mmckenzie@clearview.ca)

## **Libraries, Puppies and Smiles, Oh My!**



On a weekly basis, Gravenhurst Public Library (GPL)'s patrons excitedly ask, "When are the puppies coming back?" Staff at GPL had the good fortune early last year, to connect with Veronica Matthews of Rover Barbets in Severn Bridge, Ontario—a breeder of French water dogs. Multiple litters of these pups have delighted GPL patrons of all ages and abilities over the past 12 months.

Puppy programs were added to GPL's menu of programs after one staff member shared her unique experience of attending a local puppy yoga session. Shortly afterwards, one-hour cuddle sessions were set up for the many support workers from organizations such as Community Living South Muskoka, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Ontario Passport Program, and the District of Muskoka Friends Program, who regularly bring their customers to visit the library.

The library took the opportunity to introduce some new programs featuring the pups. Reading to Puppies, a literacy program for school-aged children, allows them to select picture books to read to (often sleeping!) puppies. The intergenerational program, Littles and Lovelies, matches school-aged children with seniors from the Gravenhurst Manor long-term care facility. Both programs have been well received and have allowed children to practice and develop their literacy and interpersonal skills.

From support workers to people with developmental disabilities, school-aged participants to caregivers of adult family members, and long-term care residents to mental health crisis workers, the broods of Rover Barbets brought joy to all who were blessed to witness the puppies' carefree innocence, free spirit, and playful curiosity, and provided a natural boost of endorphins, too. During each session, the energy in the room would start as a buzzing of excitement and slowly transform into a lovely calm as participants enjoyed petting and cuddling the pups and learning about proper handling practices and ethical approaches to raising dogs from breeder Veronica.

A huge "Thank You!" to Diego, Sir Reginald, Charlotte, Edith, Monica, Archie, Bessie, Claus, Sloan, Victor, Tory, and Ross - some of GPL's favourite guests over the past 12 months, albeit guests with tails!



*PHOTOS 1-3: Puppies delighting Gravenhurst Public Library patrons.*



**Mandy Dart**

**Library Clerk**

Gravenhurst Public Library

[mandydart@vianet.ca](mailto:mandydart@vianet.ca)

## Let's Talk About Race: London Public Library's Community Conversation Toolkit

In March 2024, the London Public Library (LPL) launched its newest system resource - the Let's Talk About Race (LTAR) Community Conversation Toolkits. The Toolkits are geared towards helping parents, caregivers and educators have open, age-appropriate discussions about race, racial differences, and racism in their households and classrooms.

The LTAR Toolkits highlight racially diverse board books, picture books and non-fiction titles as their central focus, and include manipulatives, activities, and discussion guides to supplement learning for different ages. Inspired by a similar project at Salt Lake City Public Library in Utah, the LTAR team (consisting of librarians across the system), sought to bring something comparable to Ontario, but with more of a Canadian focus. The Toolkits are the result of a two-year undertaking by the team, which wanted to cultivate an environment of sustained racial literacy and learning in the city. Described as “a labour of love” by team leads Olivia Stedman and Lana Winchester-Tucker during a presentation to LPL's Board of Trustees in April, the project's culmination and successful launch further showcased the Library's efforts to provide safe, inclusive spaces for all.

“Race and racism are real and prevalent societal issues that impact everyone, including children, and we are empowering families to become change agents in their community by celebrating racial diversity, and disrupting the accepted negative narratives surrounding race,” Winchester-Tucker stated during the Board presentation. The Toolkits are available at most LPL branches and are curated for ages 0-2 years; 3-5 years; 6-8 years and 9+ years.

“The community feedback for this initiative has been overwhelming, and continues to be positive, with parents sharing favourite learning-together moments, and their own personal reflections as they interact with the contents,” team member Shereen Fatima also shared. The LTAR Toolkits are quickly gaining popularity amongst families and schools in the city, with most of the kits out on loan at the time of this writing.





*PHOTO 1: Let's Talk About Race team members (L-R) Olivia Stedman, Lana Winchester-Tucker, Nelson Rosales, Caity Haugen, Shereen Fatima, Dakota Smith.*

*PHOTO 2: Contents of the 0-2 Baby/Toddler kit.*

*PHOTO 3: Four levelled bags for ages 0-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9+.*

## **Olivia Stedman**

**Supervisor, Programming and Outreach Services**

London Public Library

[Olivia.Stedman@lpl.ca](mailto:Olivia.Stedman@lpl.ca)

## **All the Pieces Came Together for a Successful Puzzle Exchange!**



*PHOTO: Armloads of puzzles were exchanged at Meaford Public Library's Puzzle Exchange event.*

The Meaford Public Library (MPL) hosted its first Puzzle Exchange on Saturday, April 13, 2024, and it was a smashing success!

The event started with participants dropping off puzzle donations, with donors receiving one ticket for each donation. Each ticket could then be exchanged for one "new-to-you"

puzzle during the exchange portion of the event. The room quickly filled with puzzles, and staff had to set up more tables to accommodate the abundance of donations.

With over 50 participants and more than 110 puzzles being exchanged, the event was a phenomenal success. Several participants even drove in from surrounding communities, with one couple travelling over an hour to attend the event!

Library staff used the event as an opportunity to promote other library programs and resources, register new patrons for library cards, and bring together like-minded puzzle enthusiasts.

The original goal was to hold monthly exchanges, and after the success of this inaugural event, MPL will make monthly puzzle exchanges a reality, with the next exchange having already taken place on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

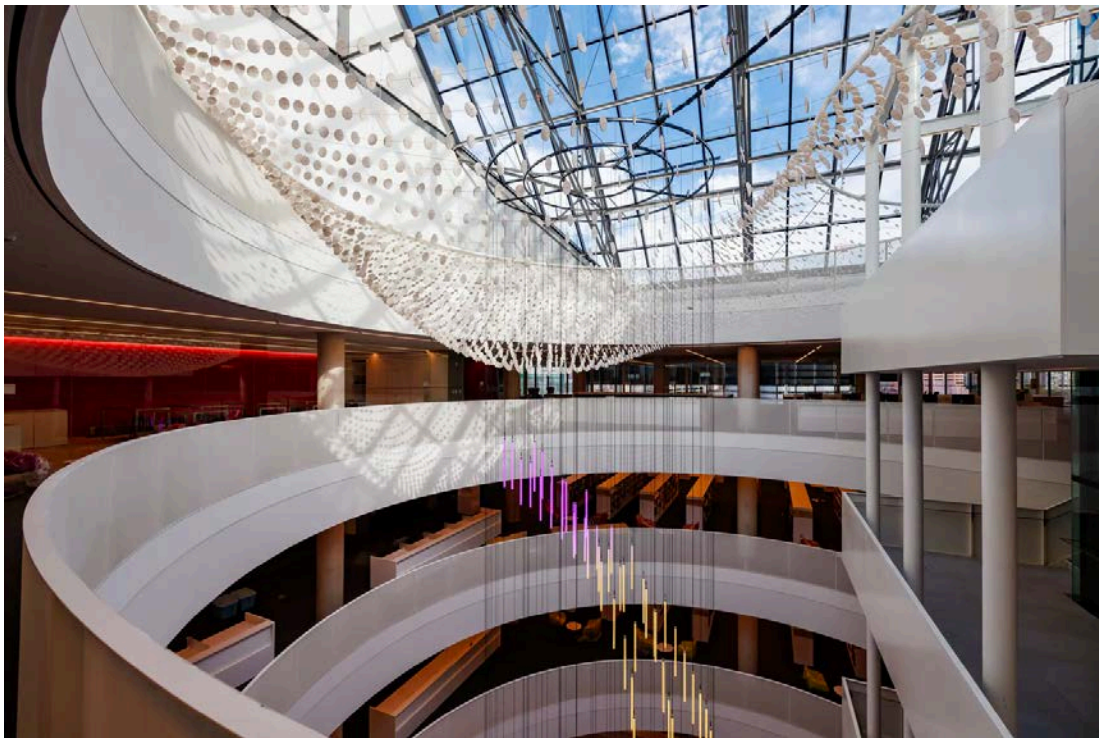
### **Lynne Fascinato**

**Acting CEO/Manager, Library Services**

Meaford Public Library

[lfascinato@meaford.ca](mailto:lfascinato@meaford.ca)

## **A New Chapter at the Hazel McCallion Central Library**



*PHOTO: A show-stopping art piece entitled Lightfall, by Nathan Whitford, is displayed in the atrium. Courtesy of Adam Pulicicchio Photography.*

After years of anticipation and extensive renovations, the Hazel McCallion Central Library in Mississauga, Ontario, reopened its doors to the public.

Named in honour of Mississauga's longest-serving mayor, Hazel McCallion, who was instrumental in shaping the city's landscape, this library stands as a testament to her legacy and the city's commitment to fostering community and literacy.



The library, located in the heart of the city, has undergone a transformative renovation that not only modernizes its facilities but also enhances its services to meet the evolving needs of its diverse community. The redesign focuses on creating an inclusive and accessible environment.

Features include an innovative makerspace equipped with 3D printers and digital labs, designed to inspire creativity and learning across all ages. The Children's section has been reimagined as an enchanting space that encourages young readers to explore the world through books.

Furthermore, the library introduces quiet study areas and collaborative workspaces, catering to students and professionals alike.

Community engagement is at the heart of the Hazel McCallion Central Library's mission. It aims to be more than just a place for books; it strives to be a central hub for cultural events, workshops, and public talks that spark curiosity and dialogue.

As the library doors open once again, the Hazel McCallion Central Library invites residents and visitors alike to explore, learn, and connect in a space that truly reflects the vibrant city of Mississauga.

To learn more, please visit: [mississaugalibrary.ca/central](https://mississaugalibrary.ca/central) or contact [Laura Reed](#), Manager, Central Library & Community Development.

### **Taylor White**

**Communications Coordinator, Media and Business Communications**

City of Mississauga

[Taylor.White@mississauga.ca](mailto:Taylor.White@mississauga.ca)

## **Niagara Falls Public Library's Stamford Centre was worth the wait!**

Niagara Falls Public Library (NFPL) was able to reopen its newly renovated Stamford Centre location on April 2, 2024. The space is now fully accessible and has been expanded from two storefronts to four. The expansion has added an additional 2,000 square feet, providing more space - 8,250 square feet in total - for customers to enjoy.

Teens and seniors are NFPL's most active customers at the Stamford Centre location and will continue to be a priority when the Centre reopens. The Teen Lunch Bunch program provides a safe space for neighbourhood teens to gather and eat lunch. Recognizing that teens need support for mental and physical health, along with access to food, NFPL worked with various local partners to offer those necessary supports.

Programming for seniors in the neighbourhood often includes monthly book clubs, a games cafe, a short story social, computer classes, basic tech help, and afternoon movies. In partnership with the local Older Adults 60+ organization and senior living homes in the area, NFPL will be providing a number of new programs.

Two private study rooms were added to provide quiet spaces for homework, solo work, small group collaboration, and virtual conferencing. These will also be safe and welcoming spaces for community partners to meet their clients and members. The MacBain Family Community Room is larger than the previous program room, with an added kitchenette. Customers will benefit from a more vibrant space to learn and explore reading and literacy and have access to computer workstations and maker technology.



*PHOTO 1: Accessible bookshelves at Stamford Centre. The sign on the back wall has been at all three previous Stamford Centre locations.*

*PHOTO 2: The McCall MacBain Family Community Room.*

*PHOTO 3: A portion of the bookshelves in the children's area, complete with new, bright decals.*

## **Kaley Stewart**

### **Communications Associate**

Niagara Falls Public Library

[kstewart@nflibrary.ca](mailto:kstewart@nflibrary.ca)

## **In Oshawa Public Library's Memory Lab “Era”**



*PHOTO: Frances Newman, CEO, pictured with examples of media for conversion.*

Oshawa Public Libraries (OPL) recently launched the latest addition to their Local History Room services -- the all-new Memory Lab!

With technology having grown by leaps and bounds over the last century, OPL recognizes that earlier technologies have become outdated or even obsolete.

The Memory Lab technologies at OPL allow the conversion of older media formats like cassettes, VHS tapes, vinyl records, and 8 mm and Super 8 reels into digital formats, ensuring the preservation of precious memories and histories. The Memory Lab's flatbed scanner is also invaluable for digitizing photos and documents.

"It is wonderful to see people using these new technologies to safeguard their memories in such a tangible way," says Frances Newman, OPL's CEO. "It is equally heartening to know that the Library can play a pivotal role in helping people keep their memories alive and accessible for future generations."

### **Dina Pen**

#### **Marketing Manager**

Oshawa Public Libraries

[DPen@oshawalibrary.on.ca](mailto:DPen@oshawalibrary.on.ca)

## **County of Prince Edward Public Library's Partnership in Action!**

The Picton Branch of the County of Prince Edward Public Library had the opportunity to partner with the local Prince Edward 4-H Association to offer "Explore 4-H" at the library as an after-school program. 4-H is a long-standing international organization that encourages youth to "Learn to Do By Doing." Popular in rural communities, 4-H is known for its agricultural offerings, such as raising a goat to show at the County fair, as well as cooking, sewing, and quilting, but it also has many more clubs available.

Grant funding made 4-H membership free to participants in the library program, opening the door to all other 4-H programming offered within the community, all with one fee providing limitless access to other 4-H clubs. "Explore 4-H" is an introductory program with a wide range of 4-H offerings – games, farm tours, gardening, sewing, sports and more. A particular success story involved a 10-year-old who had never shown any interest in sewing. He learned to sew at the library and went home to sew a tote bag for his sister's birthday!

The 4-H group always meets at the library and occasionally takes bus trips to other locations within the community, including farms, garden centres and the local knitting store to learn about spinning and fibre arts - all at no cost to members.

Guided by the interests of the participants, each week is different and always engaging. With experienced and fully vetted volunteer leaders in place, this program has been immensely successful in introducing children to 4-H and bringing new children into the library.





*PHOTO 1: A group touring the local alpaca farm.*



*PHOTO 2: An architectural challenge with marshmallows and skewers, including a communication challenge with one person having to describe what the other should build.*

## **Liz Zylstra**

**County of Prince Edward Public Library & Archives**

Programs & Outreach

[liz@peclibrary.org](mailto:liz@peclibrary.org)

## **Rideau Lakes Public Library's Production of Murder By The Book: A Fundraiser**

The Rideau Lakes Public Library (RLPL) is producing "Murder By The Book," a library fundraiser endorsed by best-selling Canadian author Louise Penny, who collaborated with Antigonish playwright Laura Teasdale on the script. This is an eight-person comedic murder mystery, set in a library, which is adaptable to any region, and is made available royalty-free to libraries across Canada for use as a fundraising opportunity. This play within a play is fast-paced and lighthearted, with a local cast and crew. RLPL is excited to offer four performance dates starting with a preview night on May 30, and ending with an afternoon matinee on June 2.

Library Fundraiser	
<b>Thursday May 30th</b> preview night, 7pm, \$20	<b>Friday May 31st</b> opening night and lounge, 6pm, \$25
<b>Saturday June 1st</b> 7pm, \$25	<b>Sunday June 2nd</b> matinee, 2pm, \$25

**Delta Old Town Hall**  
8 Lower Beverley Lake Park Rd.

Tickets available at all 5 RLPL branches, or scan for link to eventbrite page  
contact info@rpl.ca



*PHOTO 1: Poster promoting Murder By The Book.*

## **Mady MacLeod**

### **Promotions and Resources Coordinator**

Rideau Lakes Public Library

[mady@rlpl.ca](mailto:mady@rlpl.ca)

## **Stratford Public Library's Fix It Workshop**

The Fix It Workshop, conducted by Stratford Public Library's Teen Services Librarian, Brooke Windsor, at Stratford District Secondary School, was a full class in practical adulting skills. Teens in grade 11 were shown various stations featuring simple repairs, including using a plunger and reattaching a chain in a toilet tank; matching screws to screwdrivers; jumpstarting a car with a cardboard battery rig and changing batteries in remotes (strangely enough, only a quarter of the class knew this skill, what with the prevalence of charger-based remotes these days!).

The toilet was a display floor model borrowed for the day from the Stratford Home Hardware Building Center. It certainly drew a great deal of attention, got the teens talking, and was a fun way to keep them engaged.

After the station demonstrations, students were given a small flyer which included helpful instructions to use while participating in the various stations and served as a keepsake for future reference when these skills are needed in the real world.

For every station completed, students received a ballot for the draw at the end of class to win a beginner tool set. The winning ballot was drawn from the toilet bowl for added fun. It was an exciting day with lots of learning, student engagement, and an experience that the students will not soon forget!



PHOTO 1: "Why is There a Toilet in Our Classroom"?



PHOTO 2: Matching screws to screwdrivers.

## **Brooke Windsor**

### **Teen Services Librarian**

Stratford Public Library



## Thunder Bay Public Library and Thunder Bay Repair Café

### Partnership

In 2022, Thunder Bay Public Library and Thunder Bay Repair Café embarked on a partnership between the two organizations to ensure that residents would have regular opportunities to have broken household items repaired, to learn to do their own repairs, and to help reduce overall waste in 2024. The partnership commits to holding Repair Café events quarterly through the year, with the first Café having been held at Waverley Resource Library in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Head Librarian Ruth Hamlin-Douglas stated, "Partnerships like this help the Library in its mission to facilitate knowledge sharing and to help build a connected and healthy community. Thunder Bay Repair Café shares core values with us, including collaboration, access and sharing. We cannot wait to see what kind of learning opportunities people will enjoy at these events!"

At each Repair Café event, volunteer repair experts, or "Fixers," help make all possible repairs free of charge while sharing their knowledge and walking attendees through the process. Successfully repaired household items have included a leaf blower, a hair dryer, a straightening iron, several lamps, a garment steamer, a stereo receiver, luggage, a toaster, wooden chairs and tables, gaming consoles, jewelry, shoes, boots, along with various items of clothing.

Future Repair Café events will be scheduled for July and October, with a strong possibility of renewing the partnership for 2025.

For more information, please visit [www.tbayrepaircafe.org](http://www.tbayrepaircafe.org) or contact Raili Roy, Marketing Manager, Thunder Bay Public Library.

### Raili Roy

**Community Hub Manager, Marketing**

Thunder Bay Public Library

[rroy@tbpl.ca](mailto:rroy@tbpl.ca)

## Citizenship Ceremony Welcomes New Canadians at

### Vaughan Public Libraries' Civic Centre Resource Library

On Friday, September 22, 2023, Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) hosted a joyous occasion welcoming its newest Canadian citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony at the Civic Centre Resource Library. The atmosphere was emotional, as participants from diverse backgrounds took the oath of citizenship, marking a significant milestone in their lives and solidifying their commitment to their newfound Canadian identity. This pivotal moment resonated deeply with each participant, representing a legal status change and a profound personal journey towards belonging and acceptance in a new homeland.

Representatives from various levels of government shared heartfelt messages emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and mutual respect in fostering a solid and cohesive society. Their words echoed throughout the venue, reinforcing the collective resolve to embrace and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that enrich our nation.

As the host of this memorable event, VPL takes immense pride in its role as a catalyst for community engagement and integration. The library underscores its commitment to fostering unity and understanding among all residents by providing a welcoming space for such significant ceremonies. This event serves as a poignant reminder of the strength derived from embracing our differences and working together towards a shared future characterized by harmony and inclusivity.



*PHOTOS 1 & 2: Citizenship Ceremony participants, government representatives, VPL CEO Margie Singleton & VPL Board Chair.*

## **Denise Foley**

### **Marketing & Communications Assistant**

Vaughan Public Libraries

[Denise.Foley@vaughan.ca](mailto:Denise.Foley@vaughan.ca)

## **Bigger Than Ever! 2024 Battle of the Books a Major Hit for Whitby Students**



When enthusiastic young readers recently flooded two of Whitby Public Library (WPL)'s locations, one could easily describe it as a library takeover! More than three hundred excited students, vibrating with anticipation, arrived to take part in the largest Battle of the Books on record. For more than 15 years, avid readers have been absorbing massive amounts of detail from hundreds of books so that they could compete in this wildly popular program.

Battle of the Books takes a trivia competition to the next level. How does it work? Librarians from across Durham Region craft a series of questions from a pre-selected book list. Students spend months reading and attending practice sessions with their teammates and work from a series of mock questions that test their knowledge of the books on the Battle list.

On competition day, the teams arrive ready to battle for the chance to move on to the next round. With the clock ticking, students answer rapid-fire questions from the library moderators to earn points. They only have 20 seconds to come up with the right answer! It is impressive to see how hard these readers work to retain the tiniest of details from the list of thirty books. The teams with the most points move on to represent Whitby at the Durham Regional finals.

Battle of the Books holds a special place in the heart of Durham libraries. Not only does the program engage hundreds of young readers from across the region, but it also provides an opportunity for the library to work directly with Durham public and Catholic schools. This allows WPL's staff to forge relationships with school librarians and work together towards a common goal - to share the power and love of reading. Staff at WPL are already counting the days until next year!



*PHOTO 1: Students celebrating their win at the finals of Battle of the Books.*

*PHOTO 2: Whitby Public Library staff prepare for round one in the finals of Battle of the Books.*

*PHOTO 3: Students from Fallingbrook P.S. pose in front of the photo wall at the Central Library in Whitby.*

## **Karen Horsman**

### **Manager, Communications**

Whitby Public Library

[khorsman@whitbylibrary.ca](mailto:khorsman@whitbylibrary.ca)

## **Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Wins Gold Hermes Award for Outstanding Graphic Design**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library has won a Gold Hermes Award for Outstanding Graphic Design for their Adventure Zone C-Can! An outdoor extension of the Library's Lendery, the Adventure Zone allows individuals to check out bicycles, bicycle accessories, sporting equipment, outdoor gear, and more.

The design was hand-drawn by Jennifer Onlock, Manager of Latcham Art Centre, with elements and ideas generated by the team created for the design project: Marcia Friginette, Manager of Customer Service and Collections, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library; Jennifer Onlock, Manager of Latcham Art Centre, and Margaret Wallace, CEO, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.



The Gold Award is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry's norm.



*PHOTO: Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library's Adventure Zone C-Can.*

## **Kate Scheiers**

### **Manager of Communications and Events**

Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

[kate.scheiers@wsplibrary.ca](mailto:kate.scheiers@wsplibrary.ca)

## **Next Issue:**

**The deadline for submissions for the Summer edition of HoOPLA is August 1, 2024.**

**Please send submissions to HoOPLA Editor, Andra Steele:**

[hooplaeditor@accessola.com](mailto:hooplaeditor@accessola.com). For more information, you may visit the [editorial guidelines](#) listed on the OLA site.

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192 Spadina Ave, Suite 205

