

Date: March 5, 2025  
To: Port Colborne Public Library Board  
From: Hannah Madsen  
Subject: Public Relations Report

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**Recommendation:**

That the Port Colborne Public Library Board receives the Public Relations Report for information purposes.

**Public Relations Report Items**

**1. Class Visits**

- February 5, 2025 – Steele St – 20 students
- February 12, 2025 – Steele – 24 students
- February 12, 2025 – DeWitt Carter – 26 students
- February 19, 2025 – Steele St – 20 students
- February 26, 2025 – Steele St – 18 students

**2. Pop-Up Library & Outreach**

Pop-Up: Port Colborne High School

The librarian popped-up at PCHS on February 20, 2025 with a friendship bracelet craft, along with information on community service hours and teen programs at the library. Ten teens participated in the activity, and two registered for a library card.



A monthly pop-up is scheduled for the remainder of the school year.



**3. Programming**

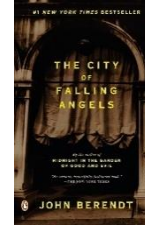
- PD Day Activity: Butterfly Craft  
Families were invited to celebrate friendship and make a beautiful butterfly craft with PFLAG Niagara. Ten participated in the activity.

- Lego Club  
Three Lego Club sessions were offered after school on Mondays in February. Children ages 5+ were encouraged to complete challenges or to use their imaginations to build something new.
- Baby Time  
Families met new friends, sang songs, and enjoyed stories during Baby Time. Two sessions were offered in February.
- Kid's Chess Club  
Kid's Chess Club continued with weekly sessions in February. Children learned tips to improve their chess strategy and competed against other children. Kid's Chess Club has 12 members and is volunteer-run.
- Kid's Craft Cart  
Four Kid's Craft Cart sessions were offered after school on Wednesdays in February. Children were encouraged to choose craft supplies and make a craft of their own choosing.
- Story Time with Shelly  
On Saturdays in February, Story Time with Shelly ran in the Children's Room from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Shelly read a variety of picture books to families.
- Adult Chess Club  
Adult Chess Club continued with weekly sessions in February. The program included a series of chess workshops for beginner and experienced players and is volunteer-run. Adult Chess Club has ten members.
- Documentary Films  
On Monday, February 24, 2025, there was a screening and discussion of the documentary film **A Mother Apart** (2024, 88 min.). The documentary, which radically re-imagines the essential art of mothering, was part of the library's celebration of Black History Month. In 2025, our Documentary Films Program is presented in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada.



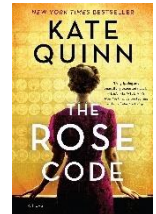
- Port Colborne Public Library Book Club

In February, the PCPL Book Club read **The City of Falling Angels** by John Berendt and met on Monday, February 10 to discuss the book. The book club has 15 members.



- Portal Village Book Club

In February, the Portal Village Book Club read **The Rose Code** by Kate Quinn and met on Tuesday, February 18 to discuss the book. The book club has 10 members.



- Music Makerspace

The Music Makerspace includes a keyboard, digital drum set, ukeleles, a guitar, and bells and shakers. The Music Makerspace is available for patrons to book a free 30-minute session.

#### 4. Passive Programming

- Blind Date with a Book

From February 1 to 14, patrons were invited to go on a blind date with a book by checking out a wrapped book for a surprise read.

- Take and Makes

Free Take and Make craft kits were available each week during February. Thirty kits were handed out each week, for a total of 120 kits distributed.

- Scavenger Hunts

Scavenger hunts were available daily on the library's main floor, with a different theme each week. Children reported how many scavenger hunt items they found to receive a small prize. In February, there were four scavenger hunts with over 140 participants.

- Design Our Bookmark Contest

In January, the theme for the monthly bookmark contest was "Create a

Cartoon Character”. The winning bookmark submission for January was designed by Jane, who drew a colourful cartoon dog named Rainbow.

Jane received a small prize package and her bookmark was handed out to all patrons at checkout.

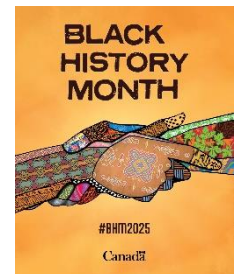
In February, the Bookmark Contest theme was “Favourite Foods.”



#### 5. Black History Month

Every February, people across Canada celebrate Black History Month by honouring the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.

The library celebrated Black History month with a book display and a screening and discussion of the documentary film **A Mother Apart**.



#### 6. Freedom to Read Week

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom. The library celebrated Freedom to Read with a display of banned books and with an Instagram reel of library staff’s favourite banned books.

#### 7. Art in the Atrium

Each month, the library hosts a local artist in our Atrium gallery. The art show is open to the public for free.

In February, the library welcomed an exhibit by Niagara-based multidisciplinary artist and photographer Cleah Fast.

In March, the library will be hosting an exhibit by local artist Judy Wade.

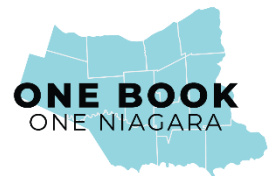
### 8. Visiting Library Service

The librarian coordinates volunteers to deliver library materials to patrons unable to visit the library due to illness, physical disability, or age. The program has two volunteers and two patrons.

### 9. One Book, One Niagara

One Book, One Niagara is an annual initiative that encourages the community to come together by reading the same book. It culminates in an in-person author event that is free to attend.

On February 19, the One Book, One Niagara committee met to discuss the 2025 event.



### 10. Community Connect

On various dates in January, community partners booked a library table to promote their programs and services:

February 1, 2025 – PFLAG Niagara

February 3, 2025 – Birchway Niagara – Programs & Services

February 4, 2025 – PC Works – Resume Refresh

February 5, 2025 – Bridges CHC – Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

February 10, 2025 – Niagara Transit

February 11, 2025 – PC Works – Resume Refresh

February 15, 2025 – Elections Ontario

February 18, 2025 – PC Works – Resume Refresh

February 25, 2025 – PC Works – Resume Refresh

