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V I I D

## COMMUNITY

## Port Colborne Children's Book Now Available to the Community

By KEASHA MAILE, PCO

A book created by Port Colborne children is now available in local school libraries and for purchase at the Port Colborne Public Library, giving young artists a chance to see their work shared across the community.

The book, which recently won the Minister's Award for Innovation at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, was created at the City of Port Colborne's Touch-A-Truck event on Oct. 3. During the event, children explored various trucks, vehicles, and equipment used by City staff and expressed their experiences through drawings. These illustrations were then compiled by the Port Colborne Public Library into a published book.

Library CEO Rachel Tkachuk highlighted the significance of the project in amplifying



Port Collborne Public Library CEO Rachel Tkachuk (left) and Librarian Hannah Illadsen hold a copy of the Touch-A-Truck book created by local children



Port Colborne Public Library Librarian Hannah Madsen holds a copy of the Touch-A-Truck book created by local children

children's voices. "The Touch-a-Truck Book inspires literacy and allows children to see themselves reflected in their community by making them published authors in their own schools and library," she said. "We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the City on this project."

Following its recent award, interest in the book has grown. "We are deeply honoured to receive the Minister's Award for Innovation, and we are grateful for the recognition of our efforts to connect the community through storytelling and creativity," Tkachuk said. "It's great to be able to share this type of project with libraries from across the province."

Each elementary school library in Port Colborne will receive a donated copy of the book.

Community members can also purchase a copy for \$10 at the library, with proceeds supporting children's programming. Orders are printed on demand, and payments can be made with cash, debit, or cheque.

This special book stands as a creative testament to the city's youngest residents, celebrating their perspectives while encouraging literacy and artistic expression.

