

Date: October 4, 2023
To: Port Colborne Public Library Board
From: Rachel Tkachuk, Librarian
Subject: Librarian's Report

Public Relations Report Items

1. Pop-Up Library and Outreach:

- City of Port Colborne's Volunteer BBQ – September 18, 2023
- City of Port Colborne's Touch-a-Truck – September 21, 2023



- **Northland Pointe**

For several years during the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person visits to Northland Pointe were suspended for safety. During this time, library service transitioned to a book delivery drop-off which occurred on the second Tuesday of each month. In October, in-person visits will return as a monthly Pop-Up Library event for Northland Pointe residents, who will be able to checkout material from a selection of library books delivered by a librarian.

2. Programming

Tot Time

Three Tot Time sessions were offered in September. Children enjoyed stories, activities, and a craft with their caregiver.

Baby Time

Three Baby Time sessions were offered in September. The sessions included songs, stories, and play time.

Story Time with Shelly

On four Saturdays in September, Story Time with Shelly ran in the Children's Room from 10:30

Mental Health Awareness: Have THAT Talk Series

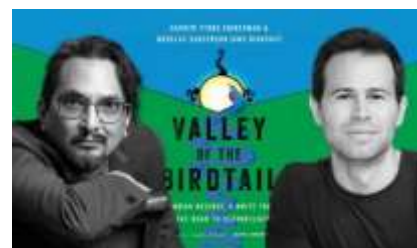
The “Have THAT Talk” series was developed and presented by the Niagara Region to raise awareness about the importance of mental health. The series was scheduled for four consecutive Tuesdays starting in September and will continue into October. Presentation topics included: reducing stigma, learning safe ways to talk about mental health or illness, and how to support others sharing their mental health challenges.



Indigenous Author Book Talk: Valley of the Birdtail (Virtual)

On Monday, September 25, a virtual book talk hosted by Lincoln Pelham Public Library was offered to the community through a programming partnership.

Authors Andrew Stobo-Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii) discussed their award-winning book *Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town, and the Road to Reconciliation*. This event was partially funded by the Niagara Community Foundation.



Adult Painting Class with Kyla

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, two sessions of an adult acrylic painting class called *Algonquin Sunset* were offered.



Documentary Films

On Monday, September 25, 2023, a screening was held for two documentary films: *The Way West: The War for the Black Hills* (2010, 90 min.) and *Park for All Seasons: Banff National Park* (2010, 25 min.). This program continues to gain popularity, and registration for this session sold out.

3. Passive Programming

- **Scavenger Hunts**

Scavenger Hunts were introduced as a summer activity and have continued into the fall due to popularity. The scavenger hunts are available daily and each week have a different theme. When children report how many scavenger hunt items they found, they receive a small prize. In September, there were five scavenger hunts with over 75 participants.

- **Take and Makes**

In September, one Ladybug on a Leaf Take and Make craft kit was available while supplies lasted. The activity sold out and 25 children participated.



- **Colouring Sheets**

Due to the popularity of the colouring sheets during the summer months, more were added to the Children's Room table as an ongoing passive program. In September, approximately 38 participated in the activity.

- **Design Our Bookmark Contest**

The August bookmark theme was: "Outer Space." The winning submission was drawn by Freya, who received a small prize package. During September, Freya's bookmark was handed out to all patrons at checkout. All bookmark submissions were on display in the Children's Room throughout the month. In October, the Bookmark Contest theme will be, "My (Dream) Pet."



4. City of Port Colborne's Touch-a-Truck and Fire Prevention Kick-Off Open House

On September 21, 2023, The City of Port Colborne and Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services hosted their annual Touch-a-Truck and Fire Prevention Kick-Off Open House. Library staff offered a colouring activity at the event. Children were asked to draw a picture of their favourite truck from the event and to write a sentence about what they enjoyed most. The drawings will be collected and bound into a book. This book will be added to the Port Colborne Public Library's collection and patrons will be able to check out the book from the library. A digital version of the book will be shared with City departments and Port Fire.



5. Port Colborne Optimist Club Book Donation

On Saturday, September 9, 2023, the Port Colborne Public Library received a sizable donation of over 500 books from the Port Colborne Optimist Club. Donated books will be added to the library collection, used for children's programming, and given away as prizes for contests and giveaways for the Port Colborne community.

6. Art in the Atrium Showcase: Port Colborne Proud and Port Colborne High School

From September 1 to 21, 2023, the Port Colborne Proud Photography Contest winning submissions were featured in the Art in the Atrium.

From September 21 until October 31, 2023, the Art in the Atrium showcase will be featuring the Visual Arts Students from Port Colborne High School to celebrate 100 years.



7. Truth and Reconciliation Week

During the week of September 25 – 29, 2023, Truth and Reconciliation Week 2023 Public Lunch and Learns were broadcast in the Atrium for the public. All library staff were invited to register for the sessions. This opportunity was offered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation through the University of Manitoba.

Day 1 – Sept. 25: Indigenous peoples and the History of residential schools

Day 2 – Sept. 26: Unconscious bias and debunking stereotypes

Day 3 – Sept. 27: Intergenerational impacts and ongoing systemic discrimination

Day 4 – Sept. 28: Indigenous Peoples' rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Day 5 – Sept. 29: Taking action towards Reconciliation

On September 30, 2023, the library was closed to observe the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. However, a screening of Orange Shirt Day was presented at the L.R. Wilson Archives thanks to an opportunity from The Orange Shirt Society, the Digital Human Library, and the International Indigenous Speakers Bureau. The film Orange Shirt Day recounts the personal story of Phyllis Webstad and how she created the national Orange Shirt Day Every Child Matters movement.

8. Community Connect

Partnerships with local community support agencies continued and expanded in September. On various dates throughout the month, community partners booked the library table to promote their programs and services:

- Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023 - PC Works - Resume Refresh
- Sept. 12, 2023 - Service Canada – Programs and Services for Apprentices
- Sept. 20, 2023 - Birchway Niagara
- Sept. 7 & 28, 2023 - Bridges Community Health Centre

In October, Niagara Parents will start a monthly presentation series on a variety of parenting topics, such as infant sleep and breastfeeding.

On Saturday, November 4, PFLAG Niagara will join the Community Connect roster and will be onsite at the library with an information booth.

