

Welland Public Library

BOARDWALK BANTER

Bibliothèque Publique
Welland
Public Library
www.wellandlibrary.ca
t. 905-734-6210

JANUARY - FEBRUARY ISSUE 2022



A Message from the CEO

Happy New Year, Welland!

Throughout history, wordsmiths and dictionary authors have attempted to summarize the preceding year in just one word. Lockdown, vax, resilience, and perseverance are just some of the terms that have been proposed to define 2021.

As I reflect upon the last year at the Welland Public Library, none of these words seem to accurately reflect our extraordinary journey as an organization. Memorializing WPL's activities over the last twelve months in a single word is no doubt a challenge, even for those who have a knack for brevity. However, after much contemplation, I would like to offer an alternative descriptor: transformed.



The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the verb transform as the act of changing something completely, and usually in a good way. The pandemic encouraged us to challenge our thinking, beliefs, and many long-held assumptions about our collections, programs, and services. Together, we have pushed the boundaries of traditional library services while also taking the time to celebrate our history and commemorate the library's 100th anniversary of incorporation.

Over the past year, WPL truly helped residents to bridge the past, present, and future by adopting a fresh new logo, developing a new accessible website, revitalizing youth spaces at the Main Branch, addressing food and employment insecurities, providing social supports to residents, decolonizing our online catalogue, engaging the community through social media & virtual programs, and developing our "library of things" which now includes wi-fi hotspots, Chromebooks, telescopes, musical instruments, gaming consoles, a sewing machine, and a podcasting kit.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Board, Staff, and Volunteers for their dedication, commitment, courage, and endurance over the past year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers and wonderful community partners for their continued patronage and support.

2022 is a chapter of our story that has yet to be written. However, we choose to boldly enter this new year with confidence, optimism, and hope. We renew our commitment and promise to you to continually review, redefine, and reimagine ourselves to meet the needs of our growing and dynamic community.



LIBRARY CLOSURES
New Year's Day: Saturday, January 1
Family Day: Monday, February 21



Our Anna Retires

After 35 years with the Welland Public Library, December 30th marked Anna Calcagno Murtaugh's last work day as a full-time staff member. Anna began her WPL career way back in 1986 while attending Niagara College's Library Technician program. In 1987, Anna was part of the team that digitized the library – no more card catalogue! She began working full-time in Technical Services - Acquisitions in 1992, and became Technical Services Supervisor – now called Coordinator of Technical Services – in 2001, a role she held until just last month.



Anna truly can't remember a time when she did not want to work in the library. In her own words:

"Picture it: Grade 6, Gordon School library; I looked around and remember thinking, 'this is where I want to work when I grow up!'"

The library was always a place of refuge for me, so I'm not surprised that when it was time to choose a career, I chose to work at the library.

I was hired at the Welland Public Library in October of 1986 and have considered it a home away from home ever since. I've enjoyed working in every department: Adult, Children's, Audio-Visual, and most of all, Technical Services. Supplying patrons with the books they want to read has always been very fulfilling, and I'm also personal librarian to my own friends and family. The friendships I have made with my colleagues are invaluable. I have walked these halls for 30+ years and am so thankful that this is where I got to work every day. Thank you!"

Anna returns to WPL in her new role as part-time Customer Experience Associate on January 3rd. Congratulations on your retirement (and welcome back!), Anna!

Winter Warmth Table

We'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has donated to our Winter Warmth table this year, including the knitters out there who have donated bags and bags of their beautiful work. Your generosity means so much to us and undoubtedly to all those who have picked up items to help keep warm this winter.

We will continue to accept new, unused winter wear all throughout the winter. We are in particular need of adult-size hats and mittens or gloves. Items are accepted at the Main Branch only.



WPL Goes Fine Free!

The Welland Public Library is pleased to announce that we will be moving to a fine free service model in 2022!



At its 2019 midwinter meeting, the American Library Association passed a resolution on monetary fines which described them as a form of social inequality and urged libraries to "scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and actively move towards eliminating them." A growing number of libraries, including Hamilton Public Library, Brampton Public Library, Oakville Public Library, St. Thomas Public Library, Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, and Niagara Falls Public Library, have moved to fine free service models in recent years. The Welland Public Library will take this step towards inclusive, barrier-free library service in January. Existing late fees will be cleared from patron accounts, and patrons will cease to accrue fees on their account for overdue materials.

Please note that borrowing restrictions for patrons with overdue materials will continue to apply, and that replacement fees for lost or damaged materials will continue to be levied.

Chromebooks and Wifi Hotspots Now Available!

No computer? No problem! Library members can check out portable Chromebook computers for 1 week at a time. These mobile devices are ideal for remote learning, meetings/videoconferencing, word processing, and more. Borrow one today!



We also have mobile Wi-Fi hotspots that provide free unlimited Internet access to Wi-Fi enabled smartphones, tablets, and PCs. Visit the library or our website for more information.



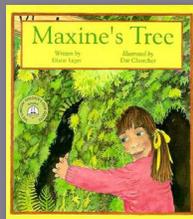
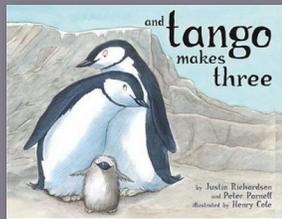
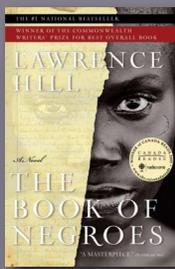
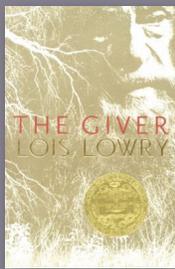
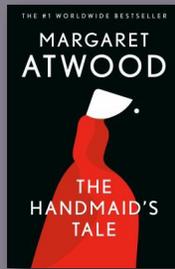
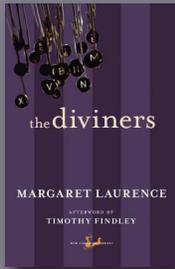
Freedom to Read Week: February 20-26, 2022

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that all citizens have certain fundamental rights including "freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression." Each year, Freedom to Read week celebrates these rights and asks Canadians to reaffirm their commitment to these intellectual liberties.

Freedom to Read week began 37 years ago in response to Ontario schools finding issue with Margaret Laurence's classic novel, *The Diviners*, due to what some deemed 'vulgar language' and 'erotic content.'

The books shown here, and many others, have been challenged in Canada for things like coarse language, same-sex parents, representations of racism and abuse, and being perceived as having occult or anti-Christian themes.

Check out one of these or many other challenged books today and exercise your right to read whatever you want! Visit freedomtoread.ca for a selected list of challenged works.



Make and Create in our Makerspace

WPL aims to provide everyone in our community with access to emerging technologies. These technologies are housed in our Makerspace at the Main Branch.

Frolicking in the snow is suddenly so much more fun with this awesome 3D printed snowball mold!

Kids of all ages are sure to enjoy making three perfectly round, perfectly packed snowballs at a time this winter! Heads up!

To find out more, call us at (905) 734-6210.



Family Literacy Day

January 27th is Family Literacy Day. Spend a little time reading and learning with loved ones!

ABC Life Literacy Canada created Family Literacy Day to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in literacy-related activities as a family.

This year, families are encouraged to participate by "Learning in the Great Outdoors." Spending time in nature provides countless benefits for our minds and our bodies. So, let's venture outside and exercise both – together as a family! On January



27th, stop by any of our branches to receive a free book and pick up a grab and go activity kit (while supplies last).

Books have been donated by First Book Canada and distributed by Niagara Region.

The Purse Project Network Niagara and WPL

This fall, WPL partnered with the Purse Project Network Niagara acting as a Collection Ambassador for the organization. Formed eight years ago by two women in the Grimsby area, The Purse Project Network has continued to grow ever since. Their campaign, which runs each November, aims to collect and distribute as many purses filled with personal care items for women in need as possible and to remind them that they are valued and worthy.



This past November, the Purse Project Network Niagara collected 580 purses which went to 15 organizations in the Niagara Region for distribution,

with all purses collected at WPL going to the Hope Centre in Welland. We look forward to expanding this partnership in 2022.

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to fill and donate a purse.





FEATURED COLLECTION: LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Valentine's Day is around the corner, and to get you in the mood for love and chocolate, check out our wide selection of romance novels. Here is a list of modern romances that will have you staring dreamily off into the distance and imagining your own meet cute:



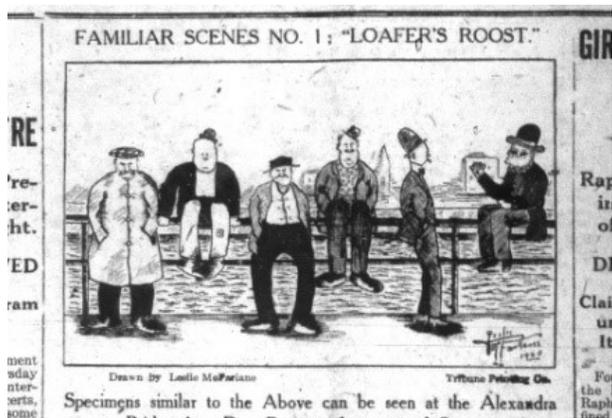
- *Just Haven't Met You Yet* by Sophie Cousens
- *Playing the Palace* by Paul Rudnick
- *If The Shoe Fits* by Julie Murphy
- *Payback's A Witch* by Lana Harper
- *Donut Fall in Love* by Jackie Lau
- *The Shaadi Set-Up* by Lillie Vale
- *One Last Stop* by Casey McQuiston
- *Dial A for Aunties* by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Local Stories: A Local Hardy Boys Mystery

Local researcher, Arden Phair, recently made a fascinating discovery while going through microfilm at WPL. Phair came across editorial cartoons by Leslie McFarlane, also known as Franklin W. Dixon, ghost writer and sole author of the first 21 Hardy Boys books!

This discovery added to the mystery of the author's time spent in Welland in 1920. Phair later learned that McFarlane was hired as a 'local reporter' for Welland's newspaper, then called The People's Press, where his cartoons appeared from April 20 until June 8 of 1920. The cartoon shown here depicts local men perched, or 'loafing,' on Welland's Alexandra Bridge (known as the Main Street Bridge since 1929).

Image from WPL Local History Collection; People's Press, May 25, 1920



Every Gift Makes a Difference.

All contributions to WPL enrich the education, vitality, and cultural growth of our entire community. If you choose to make a donation to the library, you can also decide where you'd like your monetary gift to apply. Choose from these categories: Vibrant Spaces, Community-Driven Programs & Events, Dynamic Collections, Innovative Services & Technology, or Area of Greatest Need.

Thank you for your support!

For more information or to donate, please call (905) 734-6210 ext. 2500.

Main Branch Hours		Diamond Trail Branch Hours		Seaway Mall Branch Hours		Main Branch	
Monday	9 am - 8 pm	Monday	4 pm-8 pm	Monday	10am - 8 pm	50 The Boardwalk Welland, ON L3B 6J1 905-734-6210 ext. 2521	
Tuesday	9 am - 8 pm	Tuesday	4 pm-8 pm	Tuesday	10am - 8 pm	Diamond Trail Branch 315 Southworth Street Welland, ON L3B 1Z8 905-734-6210 ext. 2501	
Wednesday	9 am - 8 pm	Wednesday	4 pm-8 pm	Wednesday	10am - 8 pm	Seaway Mall Branch 800 Niagara St. Welland, ON L3C 5Z4 905-734-6210 ext. 2518	
Thursday	9 am - 8 pm	Thursday	4 pm-8 pm	Thursday	10am - 8 pm		
Friday	9 am - 6 pm	Friday	Closed	Friday	10am - 5 pm		
Saturday	9 am - 5 pm	Saturday	11 am - 3 pm	Saturday	10am - 5 pm		
Sunday	Closed	Sunday	Closed	Sunday	Closed		