

Director's Report March 2024

1. Operational Highlights

Seed Libraries

In preparation for the spring planting season, branches offered a seed swap the week of February 24 - March 8. Individuals were able to donate and exchange seeds. Grange Hallow Nursery dropped off seeds for the Chesley and Paisley Branches, ensuring a successful event for their 26 participants.

More seeds will be distributed to branches by the end of March in advance of promoting our seed libraries.

The Wiarton Branch has partnered with the Grey County Master Gardeners to provide gardening programs. The Ripley and District Horticultural Society donated a large quantity of pollinator seeds to the seed library.



Forest of Reading

Once again, BCPL is participating in the Forest of Reading Challenge. The Forest of Reading offers ten programs for all ages and is Canada's largest recreational reading program. It gives readers the opportunity to vote for their favourite Canadian title. Ten titles are nominated in each program and may include a combination of fiction and non-fiction. This year has seen increased interest among students and schools. Supervisors have successfully connected with local classes to share these stories, promote the library, and develop a love of reading among children. It has been so successful that we had to order an additional set of books to meet demand! Participants are encouraged to read at least five of the ten nominated titles in their stream.

Evergreen, the adult Forest of Reading program, will begin in April and run until the end of September.

Submitted by Brooke McLean, Library Director/CEO

Solar Eclipse

On April 8 a total solar eclipse will take place over Canada, the United States, and Mexico. BCPL will highlight the significance of this event during morning PA Day programs on April 8. Staff will distribute 1,000 pairs of eclipse glasses beginning April 2 for as long as supplies last. The glasses meet the requirements of ISO 12312-2, filter for direct observation of the sun. The Port Elgin and Chesley Branches will live stream the solar eclipse on their meeting carts.

Paisley 150th Celebrations

The snowy weather didn't stop people from celebrating Paisley's 150 Anniversary. 45 people boarded the Bookmobile to check out materials, register for library cards, and learn more about library services.



2. Personnel

Inter-Library Loan Coordinator Dan Blacklock will retire at the end of July after 34 years of service.

3. Facilities

Bookmobile

A new foldable desk has been installed in the Bookmobile, as well as a desktop on one of the mobile carts. This improves workspace for patrons and staff. Additionally, Acore provided magnetic strips to add some colour and help differentiate the Bookmobile collections.



Port Elgin

New lights were installed in the two staff offices, greatly improving visibility. The electrician has also attended the branch to run cabling for the new accessible door openers for the washrooms, with work anticipated to be completed by the end of the month.

Paisley Branch Update

Currently work remains on track for the branch to relocate to the Paisley Community Centre in May. The circulation desk is anticipated to be installed at the beginning of April, followed by completing the necessary electrical work in the staff area.

Facilities Manager Tony Ban is assisting with a quote for exterior signage. Staff will coordinate interior signage with Arran-Elderslie.

New hours are proposed for the Paisley Branch when it is relocated. The total open hours remains the same at 21. We heard from residents a preference for open hours on Wednesdays as well as evenings. The proposed schedule offers consistency of hours and reflects anticipated opportunities for library visits based on recreational activities at the Community Centre. It also meets ARUPLO Guidelines for number of hours and days open.

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - 10:00am - 2:00pm

Wednesday-3:30 - 8pm

Thursday-3:30 - 8pm

Friday- 10:00am - 2pm

Saturday - 10am-2pm