



## Director's Report

**To:** Members of the Bruce County Public Library Board

**From:** Brooke McLean, Director and CEO

**Date:** May 26, 2025

**Subject:** May 2025 Update

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**Purpose:** This report is for information.

**Report Summary:** This report provides an overview of events and activities across the library system.

### Programs

#### Sweet Talk - The Great Canadian Baking Show

Season 7 contestants from the Great Canadian Baking Show visited an enthusiastic crowd at the Port Elgin Branch on May 17. The bakers were lively and engaging, answering a variety of questions from participants ranging from the best way to measure flour to behind-the-scenes details of the show. Following the one-hour question-and-answer period, the bakers shared some delicious and beautiful mini pavlovas and cake upstairs and enjoyed an opportunity to chat with the many fans in attendance. It was a great afternoon of connecting and inspiring people.



## Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading program consists of ten programs distinguished by age group and reading level, each with ten nominated titles by Canadian authors. The English school-aged programs are Blue Spruce, Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction, Yellow Cedar, Red Maple, and White Pine. At Bruce County Public Library, the 2025 Forest of Reading program wrapped up with 446 students from 16 classes casting votes for their favourite Canadian story.

Program	Bruce County Student Votes	Forest of Reading Winners
Blue Spruce (JK-Grade 2)	The Lost Stick by Anoosha Syed	The Lost Stick by Anoosha Syed
Silver Birch Express (Grades 3-4)	Ghost Girls by Brooke Carter and Alyssa Waterbury	Lost and Found: Based on a True Story by Mei Yu
Red Maple (Grades 7-8)	Book of Screams by Jeff Szpirglas and Stephen P. Hughes	40 Days in Hicksville by Christina Kilbourne

## Environmental Initiatives

In recognition of Earth Day, the Library held several environmental initiatives in April supporting sustainability.

Seed libraries are off to a strong start, with 82 users in April and 170 packages donated. In April, the Paisley Legion donated poppy seeds to our seed libraries as part of Veterans Affairs “Canada Remembers” program. Staff reached out to Veterans Affairs Canada to request more packages to be distributed among all our Seed Libraries.

Ripley’s pollinator garden is beginning to bloom and staff hear many compliments on this community partnership.

April’s PA Day Program celebrated Earth Day with stories about the environment, seed planting, and recycled crafts.

Assistant Branch Supervisor Cait McIver attended the Kincardine Home & Garden Expo in April to share our Seed Library, gardening resources, and outdoor activity collection items. In May, the Kincardine Environmental Action Network will visit the branch to offer spring bicycle tune-ups.

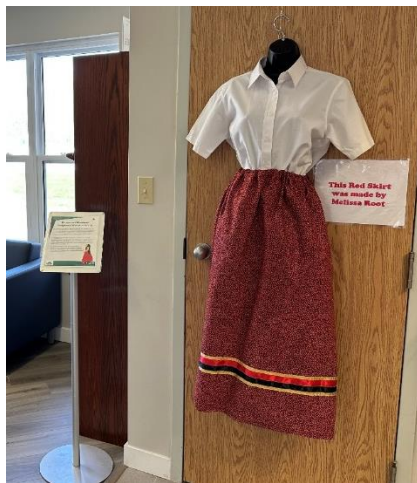
David Chapman visited the Tobermory, Wiarton, and Lion’s Head Branches to share an engaging presentation “Wild and Wacky Weather.” Special thanks for the Tobermory and Lion’s Head Friends of the Library for funding the presentations in their communities. David reported that attendance at all locations exceeded expectations and noted the strong energy and enthusiasm that led to longer than usual question periods. Program Coordinator Nancy Kuhl, Communications Coordinator Lindsay Moffatt, and Branch Supervisor Kathryn Hauck are commended for their efforts that led to three very successful events.



## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The donated red skirts from the sewing group at Saugeen First Nations are on display in our library branches in May and June in recognition of the ongoing injustices Indigenous women face. Chi-miigwech to these women for stitching their love and pain into these pieces. The Library proudly displays the skirts in support of the First Nations community.

To educate and grow understanding of this issue, a list of suggested reading material is featured on our website and catalogue: [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#).



## Book Lists

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS



Unbroken

Searching for Savanna

## Kincardine Multicultural Festival

On May 13, Lead Branch Supervisor Michaela Posthumus and Director Brooke McLean enjoyed an eventful evening at the annual Kincardine Multicultural Festival. This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of celebrating diversity through sharing food, traditions, and conversation. The library table had a constant line of children and adults keen to make a button as part of the celebration.





## Canadian Children's Book Week

Local authors visited branches to help us celebrate Canadian Children's Book Week. Dorothy Ladd read her story *Meemengwaa* (Butterfly in Ojibwe) to families who enjoyed learning about monarch butterflies and looking for the turtle hidden on every page. Local author and Library Clerk Elizabeth Davaze shared her picture book *The Weedflower* at a special Story Time.

## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Summer Reading Club Kick-Off

This year's event will occur on June 14 at the Port Elgin Branch. Featuring musical entertainment by Mystic Drumz and Panzerotti and Sunshine, facepainting by Willows Whymysies, and cultural dance presentations, this event will delight kids of all ages. Additional activities include a local author Story Time, inflatable games, and a presentation by the Bruce County Astronomical Society. We're anticipating a strong turnout to launch a summer of reading!

### Pride Month

The Bookmobile and library staff will once again attend the Kincardine Pride Parade on Saturday, June 21, and will also host an outdoor movie night with Kincardine Pride. Additionally, the Kincardine Branch will host artwork from local youth that centres 2SLGBTQIA+ joy, resilience, and imagination.

As in previous years, Library branches will offer special Love is Love Story Times in June. These programs celebrate the diversity of families while promoting inclusivity and positive representation. These events at Bruce County Public affirm that our libraries are places for everyone.

## **Administration**

### **Website Enhancements**

Two new modules are planned for the library website that will allow individuals to reserve Book Club Kits and Meeting Rooms online. These improvements will enhance the patron experience while increasing staff efficiency. Both are scheduled to launch in July.

### **Training**

Director Brooke McLean and Assistant Director Joanna Griffith completed Land Acknowledgement training with staff from the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre. Cultural Action Plan student Riordain Murphy also attended. The workshop was led by NVision with a focus on Saugeen First Nation and Nawash.

Bruce County's Government Relations office is preparing land acknowledgement direction for staff.

### **Retirement**

After 25 years of service, Lillian Abbott has announced her retirement from Bruce County Public Library. Her contributions will be celebrated on Friday, June 6 from 2-4pm at the Kincardine Branch. We extend our sincere appreciation to Lillian for her dedicated service.

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### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

None

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

Trusted Community Connector  
Community Sharing Place  
Digital Community Facilitator

### **Link to Bruce County Strategic Plan**

Be a welcoming and inclusive community  
Support Indigenous engagement and reconciliation actions  
Strengthen County's use of technology and innovative initiatives