

Drag Queen's host story-time at library



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Drag Queens Miss Shaneen (who was only fifteen) as well as Alita, were at the Kincardine Library on Saturday, October 5, to read three books for a good crowd and willing audience. Hannah MacLeod/Kincardine News

Kincardine Public Library recently had some visitors, Miss Shaneen and Alita, the guests came by on Saturday, October 5 to read three of their favourite books to a very observant crowd of about thirty.

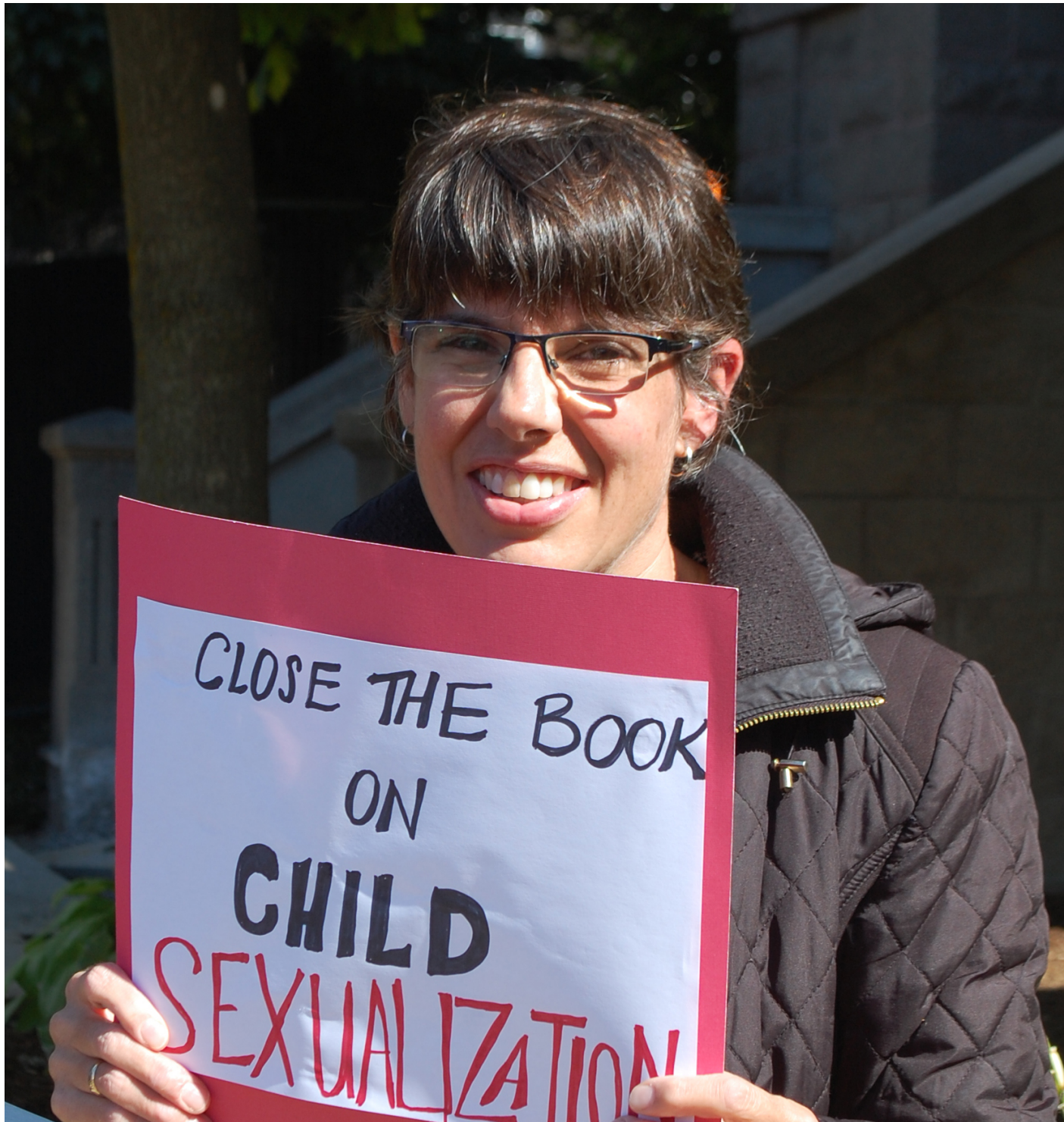
The special thing about these guests was that they were Drag Queen's, and they came in full garb.

"The numbers speak," said Martin Withenshaw, the president of the Rainbow Optimist Club. A recent story time at St. Mary's library brought out a crowd of 120. He spoke about some recent controversy over the event. "People are entitled to their opinion, I respect it and pass concerns along to the board."

The pair read three books that all had themes surrounding inclusion, understanding and awareness of people's differences. The books were "Pink is for Boys", "Red", and "Family is a Family".

"They are drag queens, it has nothing to do with sexuality," explained Withenshaw when asked about the negative feedback. He made the point that it is no different from dress-up. "It's important to teach children from a young age that's it's okay to be themselves, and for others to be themselves."

"I don't question having religious books in the library," said Withenshaw. "It's no different. It's about mutual respect, inclusion and diversity."





Lisa King, of Kincardine, was one of few protestors, including a heavy police presence at the new Dragqueen Storytime.
Hannah MacLeod/Kincardine News

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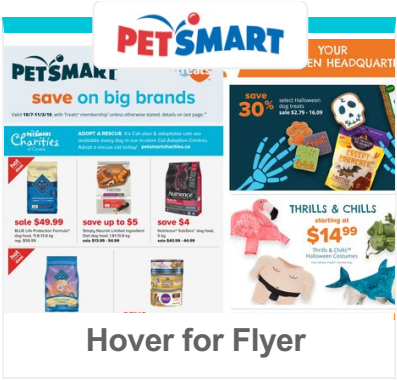
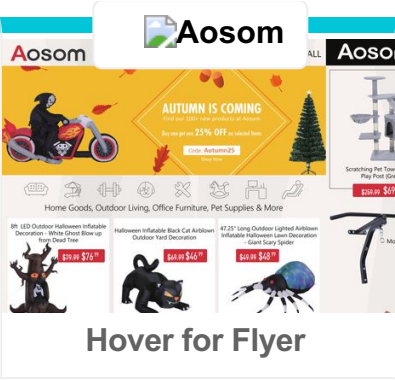
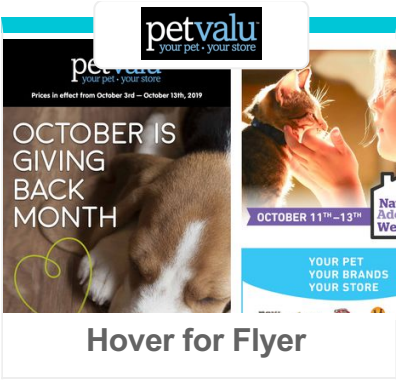
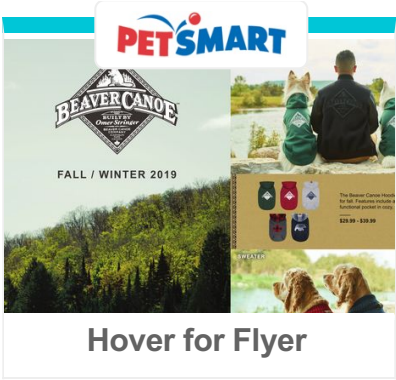
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Annette Fyvie

I found this post from Michelle Wright while scrolling yesterday. There are no better words written or spoken. I felt compelled to share, and commend you on your open mindedness, and incredible upbringing of two very open minded and accepting children. Well done!

October 5 at 3:45 PM

I took the two older boys to Drag Queen Story Time at the Kincardine Library this afternoon. They got to listen to a few stories, and (not) participate in a couple kids songs and dances. We stuck around the library for another hour just reading books and playing with LEGO, and after we left, Nixon noticed a sign of a protester outside (there were only a few). Fortunately he could only read part of it: the sign said “Close the book on child sexualization.” Once we got in the car, he asked why their sign said “close the book?” I said it was about the story time. He asked why?

Me, not entirely sure how to address this topic, but wanting to take advantage of a teachable moment: “Umm... well did you like the girls who were reading the stories?”

you like the girls who were reading the stories:

Nixon (age 7): "Yes. But I know they're actually boys dressed up like girls."

Me: "How do you know?"

Nix, shrugging: "I just do. I could tell."

Me: "What do you think about that?"

Nix, shrugging again: "It's fine. It's their bodies and their time and money to buy their own clothes, so they can do whatever they want."

Me, kinda speechless because he totally nailed it: "Exactly. People should be free to be who they are, shouldn't they? Because everyone is different. Well the people outside didn't understand that. They thought it wasn't appropriate for kids to see that."

Nixon (total confusion on his face because in his mind, he simply experienced two people reading stories to a room full of kids with their parents): "Sooooo... because of that, they wasted their whole day standing outside with a sign? That makes no sense. If they don't like it, they just don't have to participate in it. They should go do something else, because it doesn't have anything to do with their lives anyway. Seems like a waste of a perfectly good day to me."

Mic. Drop.

Me: "How would you treat a boy who decided to come to school wearing a dress everyday, or makeup, or carrying a purse?"

Him, another shrug: "Well if he was my friend already we'd probably just play like we always would anyway..."

Baker (age 5) pipes up: "I had a boy in my class come to school wearing a dress once!"

Me: "Oh yeah? And what did you think about that?"

Baker: "I said 'I like your dress,' wanna know why? Because Mickey Mouse was on it. I love Mickey Mouse."

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