



Library Board Report

To: Chair and Members of the Bruce County Public Library Board

From: Carolyn O'Rourke, Branch Supervisor, Mildmay & Teeswater Branches

Date: April 17, 2024

Re: Mildmay Branch Update

Staff Recommendation:

The Mildmay Branch update is for information.

Background:

Mildmay branch continues to be busy with foot traffic, circulation of materials, wifi use and as a place for parents & children to hang out and enjoy drop-in activities. Tuesdays are by far our busiest day with 50-60 people coming in during our open hours.

Our after-school program which runs Tuesdays at 3:30 in Mildmay, boasts 14+ children most weeks, and often children want to know what activity is happening the following week so they can tell their friends who may have missed it. They've done everything from popcorn balls to cookie-making kits as Christmas gifts, to maps of Mildmay & designing their dream bedroom!

We continue to partner with the Municipality of South Bruce with regular visits to the Municipality's After School Care program & use of the town hall meeting room when space for programs becomes problematic at the branch. We also partner with EarlyON for bi-monthly events for our youngest patrons and visit the local schools to promote events and be guest readers in classrooms.

During a successful March break 2024, we had 13 children & 9 adults attending our in-branch program from Scientists in School as well as 18 children and 9 adults enjoying "Beachball Bonanza" that included the super popular 'beach ball bowling' in the stacks! We also had 49 attend the Magic of Scott Dietrich show in Teeswater as well - many of whom travelled over from Mildmay.

Our monthly book club continues to attract a group of enthusiastic members. We regularly have 8 to 10 members at the monthly Tuesday afternoon meetings. We had another 2 to 4 attending the inaugural Saturday morning one, but it eventually dwindled down to one member who happily merged themselves into the Tuesday club.

Our summer 2024 dates for this year's Municipal summer day camp program visits have been confirmed, and our contact with the Recreation Department is excited to plan for the children's participation in our Summer Reading Club.

The South Bruce team said goodbye to two of our clerks in early 2024, with recruitment and rehiring resulting in two excellent candidates, Marlene Critchfield & Lindsay Turner, to fill the positions.

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:

None.