



NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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October is Canadian Library Month!

One Card, One Million Possibilities

Niagara Falls, ON: Every October, libraries and library partners across Canada raise awareness of the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives. In addition, special focus is on Ontario Public Library Week running from October 17 through 23. One library card really is one million possibilities - more than just a place to find books, libraries promote cultural awareness, engage in the community, provide educational programs, support freedom of expression and so much more.

"Public Libraries help build better, stronger communities by serving everyone and connecting individuals to essential services and resources." says Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, CEO. "Libraries are community hubs, providing a place for **everyone** that is free, accessible and welcoming." Kilgour admits that the pandemic has been a strange time for libraries, but commitment to serving the community never wavered. "Even though our physical doors temporarily closed in March 2020, the community has had uninterrupted access every day - initially through digital services, curbside pick up, staff answering questions by phone and email, and virtual programs." As things have evolved over the past 18-months, so has library service. "We missed our customers!" says Kilgour. "Our physical spaces have been open, as provincial legislation has allowed, since October 2020, and we are still excited to see familiar faces come through the door."

This year, it feels more special than ever to celebrate Public Libraries, and all they have shared during the pandemic.

Throughout the month of October, please drop in to any of our locations and share a Library Love Note! Customers are invited to tell everyone why they love the library through sticky notes on the wall. Love notes will be shared on the Library's social media throughout the month.

Starting Monday October 17th, food donations can be made to Project Share at three of our library locations - Victoria Avenue, Community Centre and the Chippawa Libraries. Donation barrels will be available during open hours, and will be in place through October 30th. Donations to food banks are traditionally low following holidays like Thanksgiving, so we encourage the community to help build up the inventory at Project Share.

The Library's new Outreach vehicle launches on Tuesday October 18. Keep your eyes open for the white minivan sporting the Library's multi-coloured logo scooting around town on exciting adventures such as delivering Visiting Library Service books to customer's homes, outreach visits to

local schools, day care centers and parks, as well as moving materials and staff around the City to continue to serve our community outside of the library's walls.

The Living Library collection "Stories of Housing and Home" launches on Wednesday October 20. Living Libraries provide a safe space for individuals with lived experience to share their stories and spark dialogue to create understanding and connection. This debut collection of books is called "Stories of Housing and Home". It delves into discussion around homelessness and housing insecurity and is presented in partnership with the Niagara Falls Public Library, The Region of Niagara, and Niagara Regional Housing, with special thanks to Brock University for their assistance.

The Library is a space to access more than just books - it's a space for community partners to meet with clients and offer services locally. On Thursday October 21, new partner offices at the Victoria Avenue Library will be available to book by community agencies. This brings access to services by agencies across the City and Region into one accessible community hub.

The week wraps up with Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, October 22. It's been quite a year, and staff extend their deepest appreciation and thanks to the customers who have supported the Library through these unprecedented times. Library use since March 2020 has been almost double pre-pandemic times. As a way of saying Thank You, customers who drop by any of the four Library locations on Friday and check out materials will be treated with a new library bag and an I Love My Library button (limited quantities available). If you haven't seen the new library bags yet, you might have a hard time deciding which one you like the best!

One card really does have one million possibilities! Anyone without a library card can get one by applying online through the library's website at my.nflibrary.ca. And if you have one but haven't used it in a while, take a few minutes this month to browse the website, or come into one of our locations and see what the library has been up to while you've been away. Fun Fact: the most frequently asked question is "What is my PIN number?". Answer? "Try the last four digits of your phone number." Go check out one of the million possibilities!

The Niagara Falls Public Library is a free, inclusive community space open to all. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls are invited to register for a free library card to access all of our resources, both physical and digital. The Niagara Falls Public Library dates back to 1878, and today has four library locations serving the City of Niagara Falls - Victoria Avenue library, Stamford Centre library, Community Centre library and Chippawa library.. Please visit our website at my.nflibrary.ca for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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