

KIDS READ OVER 22,000 BOOKS AT OUR SUMMER READING CLUB

Our 2023 Summer Reading Club has officially wrapped up, and what a summer it was! Nearly 1700 children and 90 teens took part this year and were more engaged than ever. Children logged a staggering 22,376 books read, and teens logged 668 books. Our Summer Reading Club is a fantastic way to foster a love of reading and keep kids engaged during the break from school.

It's not just about reading books, though - thousands of residents took part in fun, educational programs all summer long. From science experiments and visits with farm animals, to bike rodeos and escape rooms, families had endless opportunities to discover and learn for free.



BARRIE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL RAISES \$47,000

Saturday, August 19 was a beautiful day on Kempenfelt Bay! Close to 700 paddlers took their energy to the water and paddled in unison during our Barrie Dragon Boat Festival presented by Tim Hortons.

This year, we welcomed 26 teams from businesses, charities, government offices and groups of friends, who together raised \$47,000 (and counting!) for local charities, including our Future Branches Campaign.

A very special thank you to all of our supporting sponsors, vendors, suppliers and community partners who helped make the event a success. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's 20th anniversary!

► barrielibrary.ca/dragonboat



COMMUNITY IMPACT

“What doesn't this library do? It really is the best one on the entire continent. I've learned genealogy through you, Spanish through you, Harry Potter through you. I really can't count how many times the library has come through for me in this community. Thank you so much for all you do. It is noticed and very much appreciated.”

- Instagram comment

LIBRARY OF THINGS EXPANSION

Our Library of Things collection continued to grow over the spring and summer. Many recreational and educational items were added, including bike repair kits, tabletop games, sports equipment, Wye Marsh day passes, and lawn games.

These items reduce barriers by providing an opportunity for everyone to have the same experiences and discover new interests.

► barrielibrary.ca/LOT



"I greatly appreciate that a portable projector exists in your library of things and that I and others are able to borrow and utilize and enjoy it! Thank you kindly <3"

~Patron feedback



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

This May we held our 28th annual Grand Battle for our Battle of the Books - a fun, interactive trivia extravaganza for students in Grades 4 to 8. Participants are challenged to read books then come together in a final battle to determine the champion. Congratulations to the homeschool team (pictured below) who took home the 2023 trophy!



NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDENS



The Native pollinator gardens at our Downtown Library are buzzing with pollinators in their first year.

City of Barrie garden expert Dave researched which native plants are best suited for our local climate, created a garden design, and sourced the plants from local growers earlier this spring.

These gardens not only benefit our ecosystem, they provide education to the public, as well as align with our strategic goal of being a green leader and with the City of Barrie's Bee City designation.

COMING UP THIS FALL



- **BPL Comic Fest in partnership with Game On!**
Saturday, September 23, 10am-3pm
- **Red Quills Book Club**
Saturday, September 27, 7-8:30pm
- **Native Seed Swap & Share with Pollinate Barrie**
Saturday, November 18, 10am-2pm

ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK October 16 - 22

This year's theme is *Libraries for Life*. We will be found throughout Barrie raising awareness of the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives, and signing people up for new library cards!