

## **OLA Poster Session**

**Thursday, February 25, 2010**

**Display time: 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm**

**Presentations: 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm**

### **1. Greater Sudbury Public Library Transit Pass Program - Let Us Get You There**

Greater Sudbury Public Library

Monique Roy and Rebecca Blackburn

The Transit Pass Program is a unique partnership between the Greater Sudbury Public Library and Transit Services. Transit buses provide free bus rides to elementary school classes and daycares to any library in the city, where they can learn all about libraries. This partnership is an all-around educational opportunity for students, especially life-skills classes. Our program was recognized recently by Ontario Library Services-North.

### **2. Georgian Bay READS**

The Clearview Public Library Collingwood Public Library

Michele McKenzie and Janey Shabati

The sisterhood of five libraries found out what words look like when they fly off the page and take to the stage during the first annual GEORGIAN BAY READS event in October 2009. Moderator Antonia Zerbisias (Toronto Star) controlled the action created by five celebrities - two newspaper editors, two radio personalities and one author - sponsored by the Public Libraries in Blue Mountain, Collingwood, Creemore, Owen Sound and Wasaga Beach as they stepped up to the challenge of defending their favourite Canadian novel. Books were voted off - one by one - until THE BOOK survived - Fifth Business by Robertson Davies.

### **3. Serving your First Nations Community**

Thunder Bay Public Library

Barbara Philp

As a northern library, Thunder Bay Public Library has a growing Aboriginal patron base. A 2008 Quality of Life report to the city revealed that the Aboriginal Identity Population (self-identified) grew by 18% in 5 years. Through a concentrated effort, Thunder Bay Public has made itself a welcoming place to the First Nations communities. Libraries feature Aboriginal décor, commissioned Aboriginal Art, and a growing collection of Aboriginal music and literature. All personnel have received cultural training sessions, and current front line staff physically reflects the growing Aboriginal patron base. Outreach into the community to Friendship Centers, Aboriginal high schools and PowWows has resulted in more partnerships for programming. This poster session will show an overview of the library's activities as well as provide take-away examples of promotional material. If your community has a growing Aboriginal patron base, this poster session will be of interest to you!

#### **4. How Does that Work? Science-based Programming for Children**

Vaughan Public Library, Pierre Berton Resource Library

Laura Luopa

Children are naturally curious about what they observe, and the world around them. Science-based programming provides an excellent opportunity to engage children by capitalizing upon their interest while challenging them to think critically. At Vaughan Public Libraries children have churned ice cream, worked with planispheres, and had their fingerprints taken in the pursuit of learning something new. Discover how you can bring science to your library setting with experiments, computer programs, government initiatives, and community partnerships that incorporate science. Allow your own curiosity to be piqued!

#### **5. Newcomers Waterloo Region Portal - Using Teamwork and Technology to Build Community Capacity**

Waterloo Public Library

Gloria Van Eek-Meijers and Catherine Palach

The Newcomers Waterloo Region portal supports newcomers and their families as they settle in Waterloo Region by providing a comprehensive source of community, health, employment, education, and business information. The portal was developed in partnership with the Region of Waterloo, Waterloo Public Library and other local service organizations and individuals. The ongoing collaboration between the library and the Region makes this portal unique. While both partners continually enhance and promote the site, library staff manage content and respond in a friendly and timely manner to all questions generated from the "Contact Us" link. The Newcomers Waterloo Region portal builds on the work the library already does to serve newcomers and is a creative use of partnerships and technology to extend this service on a global as well as local scale.

#### **6. First Nations Public Library Week**

First Nations Public Library Week Committee

Sabrina Saunders (Six Nations Public Library) and Karen Lewis (Kanhiote Tyendingaga Territory Public Library)

First Nations Public Library Week is a multi-level, multi-purpose program that encourages all Ontario libraries to join in its celebration. In First Nation communities, this week is an opportunity to promote public library services and celebrate cultural uniqueness through creative library programming. The poster will communicate this year's theme: "Celebrating Our Culture and Language". The display will showcase the strong connections that exist between First Nation libraries, culture, and language.

#### **7. The Library's Contribution to the Community**

Welland Public Library

Janet Booth and Stephen Hanns

Using the SOLS document *The Library's Contribution to the Community Initiative* the Welland Public Library undertook a study to demonstrate the value the Library adds to the community. Using a Management/Board committee, focus groups, community surveys, web surveys and in house surveys and usage statistics we were able to identify the most significant benefits the library provides the community. We undertook a community statistical profile covering a period of 25 years to identified changes that have taken place in the community and assessed how the library can positioned itself within the community in response to the changes. Five benefits were identified and addressed by the committee. We have used the results to assess our collections, determine future development of services and as a lead document in our marketing plan. The initiative was part of our Strategic Plan process to determine the role the public library can play in community unemployment, economic hardships and closures in the industrial sector.

## **8. Health Literacy Initiative**

Pelham Public Library

Jennifer Bennett, Laura Kmety, and Melanie Taylor-Ridgway

The purpose of the poster session is to acquaint school and public libraries with a new initiative between the Pelham Public Library and local elementary schools. Our Healthy Literacy visits to JK, SK and grade 1 combine a nutrition and physical activity introduction, a snack and of course talk about reading and the public library. The program is very popular as it satisfies curriculum, introduces children to new health concepts and literacy and is fun! A highlight is a bag crammed with information for parents, activity fun, booklists, their own activity toy and a topical book.