

JAN / FEB
2023



Warning: Do Not Read

WARNING: READING BANNED BOOKS MAY EXPOSE YOU TO NEW IDEAS, FORCE YOU TO CHALLENGE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS, GENERATE EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING, AND HELP YOU SCRUTINIZE CONTROVERSIAL IDEAS AND TABOO TOPICS

Don't let anyone else tell you what you must read or what you must think. Your library will always help you read and listen to the ideas of others.

Stratford Public Library supports your right to read freely!



kids

THURS
JAN 26

Visit with S.P. Joseph Lyons

BOOK READING AND Q&A WITH THE AUTHOR OF LITTLE BEAR IN FOSTER CARE

Thursday, January 26, 7 PM | Zoom - As part of our Family Literacy Week celebrations, the Libraries in Perth County are hosting a special reading with award-winning Anishinaabe Algonquin author S.P. Joseph Lyons. Join us on Zoom to hear him read Little Bear in Foster Care and answer all your questions. splibrary.ca/littlebear

JAN 23
TO
JAN 28

Family Literacy Day

CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE WITH FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Jan 23 to Jan 28 | Library Children's Floor - Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading as a family. This year's theme encourages families to celebrate their heritage! Self-directed activities will be available during library hours the week of January 23. splibrary.ca/familylitday

JAN 12
TO
MAR 9

Story Starters

LEARN, PLAY, CREATE, AND EXPLORE... TOGETHER!

Thursdays 10:30-11:30 AM | Jan 12 to Mar 9 | Library Auditorium - Come to the library and enter a world of magical picture books, new friends, songs and activities, and so much more with Story Starters. No registration required. Geared to preschoolers but all are welcome. splibrary.ca/storystarters

teens & tweens

FEB 15
MAR 15
APR 12

Tween Break-In Bags

AN ESCAPE ROOM WITHOUT THE ROOM

Ages 9-12 - Solve themed puzzles to unlock a bag of goodies each month. When you pick up the next one, return the empty bag and lock to the library. splibrary.ca/breakinbags

Feb 15 - Pokemon | Mar 15 - Marvel Superheroes | Apr 12 - Star Wars

THUR
FEB 16

DIY Spa Night

SHAKE OFF THE WINTER BLUES WITH SELF-CARE AND GOOD VIBES

Grades 9-12 | Thursday, February 16, 6:30-8 PM | SERC Library at SDSS/SMCSS - Come make sugar scrubs and bath bombs, then relax with some meditation. Take home the spa products that you make along with the good vibes you need to get you through the rest of the winter.

FEB TO
MAY

Loot Packs and Lit Kits

MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTIONS WITH 3 BOOKS AND PLENTY OF TREATS

Sign up for a YA Loot Pack (ages 12-18) or a Tween Lit Kit (ages 9-12) featuring 3 books in the genre of your choice, a craft or activity, and lots of goodies too! Return the books and keep the treats!

- **YA Loot Packs | Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3 & May 1** | splibrary.ca/lootpacks
- **Tween Lit Kits | Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 19 & May 24** | splibrary.ca/litkits

adults

STARTING
JAN 13

Brain Gains

A THREE-PART SERIES ON BRAIN HEALTH WITH THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

Jan 13, 20, 27, 2-3 PM | Library Auditorium - This series, presented by the Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth, will teach you how to recognize the difference between the warning signs of dementia and normal aging, give you strategies to reduce your risk, and reveal the latest advances in brain research. Register: splibrary.ca/braingains

- Jan 13 - Forgetfulness vs the Big A: How to Tell the Difference
- Jan 20 - Games and Recipes for Optimizing Brain Health
- Jan 27 - Research and Medical Advances in Brain Health

STARTING
JAN 19

Gardening in a Changing Climate

FOUR DYNAMIC SPEAKERS TO GUIDE YOUR GARDENING PRACTICES

Monthly on the 3rd Thursday, 7-8 PM | Jan to Apr | Zoom - Your library is teaming up with Stratford and Area Master Gardeners for a new Zoom series! Join us and learn how to adapt your garden practices in our changing climate. Register: splibrary.ca/gardening

- Jan 19 | Lorraine Johnson | Climate Change and the Garden
- Feb 16 | Jen Llewellyn | Plant Health for a Changing Climate
- Mar 16 | Sean James | Fusion Gardening
- Apr 20 | Cathy Kavassalis | Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate

featured

FEB 19
TO
FEB 25

Freedom to Read Week

ANY BOOK WORTH BANNING IS A BOOK WORTH READING

Feb 19-25 - Exercise your right to intellectual freedom by celebrating Freedom to Read Week. Select from our displays of banned and challenged books, read some powerful ideas, and enter a draw for some Freedom to Read Week prizes. splibrary.ca/ftw

STARTING
JAN 31

3D Design

LEARN TO CREATE YOUR OWN 3D PRINTED PROJECTS

Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25 & May 23 | 6:30-8 PM | MakerSpace - Learn the basics of 3D design using programs like Tinkercad and Fusion 360 so you can get started creating your own custom projects. People of all skill levels are welcome. Ages 12+ splibrary.ca/3D

STARTING
JAN 31

Dungeons & Dragons

LEARN TO PLAY D&D IN A FUN AND STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT

Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25 & May 23 | 6:00-8 PM | Library Auditorium - Join us in the Library Auditorium to learn to play Dungeons & Dragons. All ages and skill levels are welcome (those under 12 with an adult, please). splibrary.ca/DnD

BANNED AND CHALLENGED READING LIST

And Tango Makes Three

by Justin Richardson
JP Richa

Stamped (for kids)

by Sonja Cherry-Paul
J 305.800973 Che

The Great Bear

by David Robertson
J FIC Rober

The Hate U Give

by Angie Thomas
ebook

Gender Queer

by Maia Kobabe
GN 306.768 Kob

Maus

by Art Spiegelman
GN FIC Spieg

Beloved

by Toni Morrison
FIC Morri



Find out
why these
books were
challenged!

Reflecting Our Community; Defending Your Right to Read



This February 19-25, SPL celebrates Freedom to Read Week, along with libraries across Canada. This is an issue that's dear to our hearts every year, but this year, it means a little extra. Across North America, libraries have faced an unprecedented number of challenges to our collections.

There are patterns to the challenges. Materials reflecting the lives of people of colour, or LGBTQIA+ communities are far more likely to be challenged. A PEN America study run from July 2021 - June 2022 indicates that 41% of books challenged in that period featured LGBTQIA+ themes or content. Meanwhile, 40% featured protagonists or prominent secondary characters of colour.

The challenges are becoming violent, and some have shut down programs or even entire libraries. Stratford Public Library remains proud to reflect our entire community. Join us in celebrating all that we are here in Stratford by exercising your Freedom to Read. We're stronger together!

Come to the library from February 19-25 to select from our displays of banned and challenged books, read some powerful ideas, and enter a draw for prizes!

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAY	2PM - 5PM
MONDAY	10AM - 9PM
TUESDAY	10AM - 9PM
WEDNESDAY	10AM - 9PM
THURSDAY	10AM - 9PM
FRIDAY	10AM - 6PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 5PM

If you require this document in an alternate format contact us at 519-271-0220 or askspl@splibrary.ca

UPCOMING CLOSURES

January 1: New Year's Day
February 19 & 20: Family Day
April 7, 9 & 10: Easter

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