

PRESS RELEASE

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STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY KICKS OFF SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Spend your summer with the Stratford Public Library! Throughout July and August, we'll be offering both online programs and self-directed activities that families can do at their own pace. Some are focused on reading and others promote physical activity, civic engagement, cultural experiences, and STEAM skills.

"While this year's programs will look different than past summers, families will be happy that we've found new ways to offer old favourites like Reading Buddies, LEGO and Beyond, Full STEAM Ahead, and Indigenous Stories & Art" says Trish MacGregor, PLOW & Children's Program Coordinator.

Erin Ingoldsby and Samantha Pinckney, Summer Program Coordinators, are excited to introduce new programs as well. Crafty Kids is perfect for the curious, imaginative child in your life. For this program, we're offering kits that kindle the imagination and provide weekly opportunities for self-directed, creative expression! For Stratford Family Face Off, you'll have to get your game face on! In this friendly competition, families will track down clues and solve puzzles all across the City. Dear Friend will help children discover the lost art of letter writing as they exchange weekly letters with local seniors. This program will foster writing skills, build community and reduce the sense of isolation we've faced during COVID-19.

"In this time of social distancing, SPL is finding new and exciting ways to connect with our community. There really is something for everyone and community connection is more important now than ever before" says MacGregor.

In addition to our community-based programs, we're also encouraging children to read this summer. Research shows that children who read during the summer holidays gain a month of reading proficiency, while those who do not can lose up to three months of reading skills. We're helping to motivate readers by offering free TD Summer Reading Kits that are packed with fun reading-related activities. We're also bringing back the Read Your Way Through Summer game board that rewards those who meet their reading goals with a spin of the ever popular prize wheel. The TD Summer Reading Club is sponsored by TD Canada and is funded in part by the Government of Canada.

We'll also be offering MakerSpace programming that focuses on coding skills related to animation, 3D printing, robotics and more. Find details on all summer programming, plus what's happening for teens and adults, visit splibrary.ca.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact

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