

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 18, 2023

CONTACT: LIZ ANDERSON

TELEPHONE: 519-271-0220 X123

EMAIL: LANDERSON@SPLIBRARY.CA

WEBSITE: WWW.SPLIBRARY.CA



ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HONOURS STRATFORD TEEN LIBRARIAN

Stratford Public Library's Teen Outreach and Collections Librarian, Brooke Windsor, is the recipient of the prestigious Children and Youth Librarian of the Year by the Ontario Public Library Association. The award honours a youth librarian who has demonstrated exceptional service to children or young adults in public libraries, while also improving the work experience of their colleagues.

Windsor joined SPL in 2021 and in that short time has dramatically enhanced and rejuvenated teen and tween services. Some of her programs include after-hours programs like Zombie Survival Night and Nerf Nights, City-wide initiatives like Fantastic Beasts and the Stratford Expedition, online and in-person escape rooms, and maker programs like Crafting for a Cause, and Teen Maker Marketplace. In 2022 alone, Brooke offered 157 programs, which saw 5,652 participants, an increase of over 1007%. Additionally, Brooke provides opportunities for teens to engage with the library in meaningful ways and earn volunteer hours.

The award will be formally given out during the OPLA Child and Youth Expo in the Fall. Serena McGovern of Barrie Public Library was honoured with the children's component of this award.

Quotes:

"It truly is an honour to be nominated let alone win this amazing award. I have worked in teen librarianship for over a decade and while I'm super psyched that I was given this award, the fact that it went to any teen librarian is a major step forward. So much of librarianship is focused on children's services but children become teens who then become adults. We are vital to the success of libraries as a whole to create life-long users." Brooke Windsor

"I just work my hardest to make sure we are accessible and relevant to the lives of local teens. I'm thrilled that I can continue to make a difference in their lives through educational initiatives and super random fun ones too. It's a special day when I get to combine them both!" Brook Windsor

"We are thrilled that Brooke has been recognized for all of her hard work. Her passion and dedication to youth in our community is something she demonstrates daily." Krista Robison, CEO

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Krista Robison, CEO at 519-271-0220 x112 or krobinson@splibrary.ca