

# PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: LIZ ANDERSON

TELEPHONE: 519-271-0220 X123

EMAIL: [LANDERSON@SPLIBRARY.CA](mailto:LANDERSON@SPLIBRARY.CA)

WEBSITE: [WWW.SPLIBRARY.CA](http://WWW.SPLIBRARY.CA)



## LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Family Literacy Day is an annual movement that highlights the importance of engaging in literacy activities as a family. Stratford Public Library is celebrating Family Literacy Day 2023 with a full week of family-friendly activities and events that emphasize the importance of reading and learning together.

“We know the important role that family literacy plays in developing a lifelong love of learning so we are planning all kinds of engaging activities for families to do together to create stronger bonds, make shared memories, and of course have lots of fun,” says Trish MacGregor, PLOW & Children’s Program Coordinator. “How awesome it is when families discover the excitement and joy of reading together!”

Since 1999, ABC Life Literacy Canada has united libraries, schools, and literacy organizations on Family Literacy Day to raise awareness about the importance of literacy skills. This year’s theme, *Celebrate Your Heritage*, encourages families to explore their family history, create a stronger sense of identity, and build social connections, all while developing important literacy skills and having fun!

On Thursday, January 26 at 7 PM on Zoom, the Perth County Information Network (PCIN) is hosting a special author reading and a chance to meet award-winning Anishinaabe Algonquin author S.P. Joseph Lyons, who wrote the book *Little Bear in Foster Care*. Joseph Lyons writes from his own experiences as an Indigenous child living in foster care and a survivor of the Sixties Scoop. This virtual program is offered on Zoom and requires registration.

Additionally, SPL is offering an outdoor story trail featuring Mem Fox’s picture book *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*. This delightful story inspired Stratford native Samuel G. Davey to write and direct a short film “Wilfrid” which has been showing at The Little Prince Micro-Cinema as part of Lights On Stratford.

“We’re delighted that Little Prince Cinema is extending the film to January 27<sup>th</sup> in celebration of Family Literacy Day. *Wilfrid’s* production team is from Stratford, it features local actors and it was filmed in the city. It’s very exciting to see it featured here!” says MacGregor.

In addition to these two exciting events, families can come into the library from January 23-27 to take part in free activities including weaving, trivia, writing activities, games and, of course, the ever-popular Scavenger Hunt!

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For more information about Family Literacy Day, please contact Trish MacGregor, PLOW & Children’s Program Coordinator at 519-271-0220 x140 or [tmacgregor@splibrary.ca](mailto:tmacgregor@splibrary.ca).