



CEO – April 2024

Sector Updates

CFLA Newsletter Spring 2024 (information item 6.3)

Staff have completed the survey to inform CFLA-FCAB Climate Action Committee Work Planning. The CFLA-FCAB Board is hosting a series of conversations, and Board members are invited to attend and share insights. Meetings will be held May 1 at 12 p.m. and May 6 at 1 p.m. If interested, please contact the CEO for registration.

Increased funding Public Libraries

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport will be providing additional funding for First Nations Public Libraries!

- An additional investment of 1.25 million per year for a total of 3.75 million over three years will be allocated through the First Nations Salary Supplement and Provincial Libraries Operating Grant, an increase of almost 300% of what these libraries are currently receiving.
- While we do not have the details of this commitment as of yet, the MTCS has said that we can share this fantastic news with our members and a formal, public news release will be forthcoming.
- Ontario Government has given \$122,000 increase to Internet Connectivity Grant Program

ServiceOntario Info Session – The CEO is registered to take part in the ServiceOntario Information Session hosted by the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) on April 30 at 12 p.m.

FOPL has been in discussion with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery as they search for service-delivery organizations to partner with ServiceOntario to help Ontarians access the services they need. ServiceOntario will be hosting an information session to discuss requirements, logistics, community need and how partnering with them may benefit your library and community.



As our appointed representative Councillor Prendergast will attend our **Board Assembly** (20,000 – 39,999) meeting next month. OLS Board elections will take place at this upcoming meeting.

The **Centre for Equitable Library Access**, CELA, is an accessible library service, providing books and other materials to Canadians with print disabilities. There is a course offered for board members regarding Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) Service in Ontario Public Libraries that comes highly recommended. Please contact the CEO for registration details.

Public Library Association (PLA) Conference - April 2 – 5, 2024

Keynote speaker Shola Richards challenged us to consider how embracing **Ubuntu** can transform our lives. Imagine a world where we treat others with kindness and respect, both at work and beyond.

Ubuntu, this transcendent African philosophy emphasizes the belief that we are universally connected to each other. It represents the power of human connectedness, kindness, and compassion.

A few interesting takeaways from the PLA Conference:

1. Collection policy- Critical, must review every year.
 - a. Add language to address soft challenges.
 - b. Find reviews to titles and use in response to challenges.
2. Intellectual Freedom Advocacy
 - a. This fight will not be won by libraries alone.
 - b. Unite against.
 - c. Educate not advocate.
 - d. Leverage partners - build on existing goodness.
3. The Kids are alright.
 - a. Book bans are a waste of time.
 - b. Motivation is Political not Moral.
 - c. Be a book sanctuary.
4. Civic engagement- Front line yes, they can advocate ...just not at work.
 - a. Share information around elections, safe space for discord.

Incidents and Walk Throughs

There were no incidents (safety or otherwise) reported in March or April (as of April 18). Staff reported four (4) police walk-throughs in March (2 at Alder and 2 at Mill). In April, staff have reported only one (1) walk-through as of April 18th.

Featured in **HoOPLA: Catch Up with Ontario Public Libraries (Feb 2024)**- see excerpt at Information Item 6.4

HoOPLA is a newsletter for members of the Ontario Public Library Association. It is issued 4 times per year. Electronic issues are distributed in February, May, August, and November.

A Capture of our Collective Success

The following “lollipop moment” (a moment someone said something and did something that made your life fundamentally better) – was written by Shannon McGrady and shared with the library team following our Renovation to Celebration event.

Last June, at our Human Library we had a woman attend that was quite opposed to the Celebrate your Awesome event and the LGBTQ2S+ community in general and she wasn't shy in conveying her quite negative opinions. When she expressed a desire to sit down with each of our books, we were all a bit nervous that she would say something hurtful to them, but the goal of a Human Library is of course to have conversations (sometimes difficult ones) in a safe

space. Although she had some powerful opinions and questions for our books, she remained respectful throughout and listened to the stories our books shared. We all hoped she left the Human Library feeling a little more open-minded to the experiences of others in her community. Well guess who arrived on Saturday at our open house. That same woman, with a beautiful smile and a treasure box of heart stickers to give away to any who would wear one. After the event, she shared the following with me...

"This was like church, actually this was better than church. This is how church should be. So many different people talking and connecting. And do you see the children, they are having so much fun and they're all playing together. Can you do this once a month? Really, I think you need to this once a month because it's been a beautiful day with so much joy and talking and laughter." Now that is a comment I will always remember.

Program Highlights

Figure 1- Outreach event showcasing the Happiness Program and a school tour.



Figure 2 - Author afternoon, Robert Rotenberg



Figure 3 - March Break inhouse activities



Up and coming programs (submitted by Lauren)

- Wednesday, April 24 **Intermediate Battle of the Books** at the Alder Street Recreation Centre – 9 a.m. start
- Thursday, April 25 **Earth Week Story Reading with Dufferin County Waste Services** including a book donation – 10:30 a.m. at the Mill Street Library
- The CVITP Free **Income Tax Clinic** will have its final drop-in session on Thursday, April 25
- Friday, April 26 [Teen Chronicles Book Club](#) at the Alder Library at 4 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27 [Get the Dirt on Climate Friendly Gardening](#) – an afternoon workshop from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Mill Street Library hosted in partnership with Climate Action in Dufferin
- Sunday, April 28 [Headwaters Writers' Guild Open Mic](#) from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Mill Street Library – come and enjoy an afternoon of the spoken word
- Monday, April 29 the [After School Club](#) will be facilitated by local writer Allison Bothley where kids are invited to create their own poem with a chance to have their work featured on Tales on the Trail later this year
- Wednesday, May 1 the first session of the new [Youth Social Justice Club](#) starts in partnership with the Bahai Assembly of Puslinch, facilitated by Farzaneh Peterson – ages 7 to 10 and 11 to 14, pre-registration required
- Thursday, May 2 **Junior Battle of the Books** at the Alder Street Recreation Centre – 9 a.m. start
- Friday, May 17 is the **International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia** and the library is partnering with the Dufferin Child and Family Services 2SLGBTQ+ youth group GLOW to host YA author [Matteo Cerelli](#)
- Save the date for the **Friends of the Library annual plant sale** – Saturday, May 25 at the Train Station
- Thursday, May 30 Vikki Vansickle, kids author and speaker from the Period Purse, will be featured as our [Expert in the Library](#) to talk about how to discuss periods with kids in honour of Menstrual Health Day (May 28), please register for this virtual session.