



## Wapiti Regional Library

### Wapiti Partners with Notice Nature Community Youth Initiative

Encouraging youth to get outside and interact with nature was the goal when Wapiti Regional Library partnered with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) in its *Notice Nature* initiative.

With the vision of getting families and kids to “look, look around, and *Notice Nature*” as a first step to stewardship, the summer program enticed participation with a toolkit consisting of a series of 19 bingo-style task cards along with reference guidebooks, backpack, magnifying glass, insect/fish net, and pencil with sketch pad.



Kids and families visited their local library to choose cards that caught their imagination, then completed a list of meaningful tasks. For example, the "Nature" card tasks included planting a tree, helping a bee, or building a birdhouse. Once the required number of squares was completed on a card, it was turned into the local Wapiti branch library to receive exciting prizes such as hats, bandanas, activity books, flashlights, and for the first 50 who completed the Community task card, free passes to the Western Development Museum.

Branch Librarians sent completed cards to the Wapiti Regional Office where Community Services Librarian Lindsay Baker has been coordinating with partners NSRBC and Lakeland Regional Library to collect information on participation and ensure that branches are well stocked with prizes.

There is still time to take part. Due to requests from participating School Divisions, the program will be extended into October, 2021. Print off the bingo cards from home (<https://www.noticenature.ca/resources>), or request them from your library, and drop them off at your nearest Wapiti branch to qualify for prizes.



### Local Personalities Donate, Engage Library Storytime

During August, Storytimes at [Wakaw Public Library](#) were made special by visiting local personalities whose reading skills brought young preschoolers to their feet.

Teacher Darla Oleksyn (pictured at upper left), read *The Kindergarten Cat* by J. Patrick Lewis then followed up by presenting a toy to each listening child.



On another day, bringing a generous donation that was used to purchase a new table and chairs, Rebecca Stan from Wakaw Pharmacy read *Bear Feels Sick* by Karma Wilson. To help everyone feel better, she distributed colouring books and suckers.



Then, on a rainy day in late August, Mayor Steve Skoworodko kept the children engaged with *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle. Afterwards, everyone explored colour with bingo dabbers on paper.

Finishing up the month, paramedic Ben Howson read *Not afraid of Dogs* by Susanna Pitzer, then explained why paramedics are valuable members of the community.

The Wakaw Public Library and board thanks these participants and the entire community for its ongoing generous support.



## Kids and Kittens Pair to Improve Reading Skills

A [Melfort Public Library](#) program aimed at improving reading skills for kids in grades 1 through 8 proved to enchant both participating children and their feline Book Buddies.

On loan from the North East SPCA, five kittens made themselves at home in the library while young patrons read to them. Calm and cool, the cats hosted readers in 15-minute increments over a 4.5 hour period.

Some kids chose books from an available display at the library, others chose to bring their favorite book from home. Readers who ordinarily find it difficult or intimidating to read out loud to a human found they had little trouble reading to a receptive cat who didn't mind mistakes or a slow pace.



"The program was very popular," said Branch Librarian Rene Chambers. "We are actually planning another feline Book Buddy event for adults."

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