



# TD Summer Reading Club 2020

## North Grenville Public Library Report

*The COVID-19 pandemic changed how we delivered our [TD Summer Reading Club](#) programming at the North Grenville Public Library (NGPL), but the story is not one of doom and gloom. In fact, we were able to find safe and creative ways to reach our community at a time when they needed us more than ever. We are especially thankful to our wonderful and unshakable Children's Program Coordinator, "Library" Sue Bergeron, for leading the way.*

In past years, the Library has been teeming with children attending various programs. In 2020, we took our programming out and about and into the community, meeting in local parks, using outdoor community locations for discovery activities, and offering fun online programming, including STEAM challenges.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings throughout July and August, we set up in local parks for pre-registered Story Times. Colourful pinwheels were placed in the ground to promote physical distancing, marking where families should set up their blankets. A portable microphone helped our Children's Program Coordinator project her voice without forcing it unsafely.



We enjoyed spectacular weather, and for many families, this was the first activity post-lockdown, for which they were grateful. The Story Times were a great opportunity to showcase new material from the Library and to stay connected with the community. As the summer progressed, we began making craft kits to hand out to families to take home.

On Friday mornings, we held our popular Twinkle Little Stars program for parents and their babies, also in a local park, under a shady maple tree. This singing, rhyming and bouncing program is important for babies, and this year more than ever, important for the parents (new moms) to connect with others in a safe environment.



We also used a [local trail](#) to set up a “Word Walk”, where we hung 30 laminated signs, each with a word on it. This fun literacy activity encouraged families to get outdoors, walk the trail, “collect” words, and make a sentence. Children submitted their sentences via email and received a prize bag (for pick-up at the Library). [I Spy Kemptville](#) encouraged families to get outdoors and discover their community, by asking them to identify a series of photos of local landmarks.

The fun and learning continued online [via Facebook](#). We had two Virtual Bingo weeks. Families could print a standard 75-number Bingo card, and we called 5 numbers a day for 5 days. Wednesdays and Fridays, we posted “Maker Moment” videos that found us doing a variety of activities, including: make your own lava lamp,

easy No-bake S’mores, DIY dry erase boards, and build a bug hotel. The third Tuesday night of every month is Bedtime Story Hour at the Library, and we continued the tradition through the summer by doing it via video. For all of these activities, participants were encouraged to leave comments and share their own successes.

Our website continued to be a hub of activity, where we built a new section after closure in March to share video links and online resources [for kids](#) (and grown-ups!). We were fortunate to be able to open our doors in August, for book pick-up and limited computer use, and kept that outdoor and online [programming](#) going strong right into September.

Although the TD Summer Reading Club looked different this year, we found creative ways to keep children and their families engaged, learning and reading. Our numbers show excellent engagement: we produced 26 videos in July and August that received a total of 1897 views on Facebook; the Word Walk had 60 participants; and, the 25 park meetings had a total of 567 participants. We are thankful to have been able to continue the program in a meaningful way in 2020, and to have reached so many.

—October 2020