

Off the Shelf

Your Guide to Programs and Services at the Waterloo Public Library

Winter 2010 | Issue 21

The John M. Harper District Branch Library



The official groundbreaking ceremony for the John M. Harper Branch Library took place in November 2009. Pictured here are (from the left) Tim Jackson (WPL Board Chair), Mike Stork (Chair of the YMCA Board), Elizabeth Witmer (MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo), Brenda Halloran (Mayor of Waterloo), Peter Braid (MP for Kitchener-Waterloo), and David Johnston (President of the University of Waterloo). The new branch will be located at Fisher-Hallman and Laurelwood. To learn more, visit <http://harperbranch.wordpress.com/>

Rock and Read for Kids a Success

The 1st annual *Country Musicians Rock and Read for Kids* online auction was a success. The auction, which was hosted by eBay.ca, ran from October 19 to 25, 2009. Successful bidders came from right across North America. Approximately \$3,800 was raised for children's literacy programs and collections at WPL.

On November 24 and 25, the country fun continued with concerts at The Princess Cinema in Waterloo. Award-winning Canadian musicians Sean Hogan, Jamie Warren, Julian Austin, Sue Medley and Tonya Kennedy performed for enthusiastic fans. The concerts, part of the *Canadian Country Christmas Tour*, were the first of fourteen taking place in Ontario...

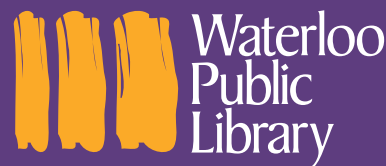
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a place to grow





Message from the Chair and Chief Librarian

On a brisk day in November, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new John M. Harper District Branch Library took place at the corner of Fischer-Hallman Road and Laurelwood Drive, in northwest Waterloo.

The new 17,000 sq. ft. branch library will open in the spring of 2011, together with a recreation facility operated by the Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA.

In earlier editions of *Off the Shelf* we've shared the plans for the new library branch, which will be the first new library construction in Waterloo since the 1970s. Waterloo has grown by leaps and bounds since then, and there is great pressure on both the Main Library and neighbourhood McCormick Branch to meet the library needs of our community of 122,000. We're excited by the possibility of extending our library service to the community through the new branch.

John M. Harper (or "Jack", as he was fondly known to family and friends) passed away last year, but one of the proudest moments our library had was the day the Library Board announced the name of the new branch to Waterloo City Council in his honour.

Mr. Harper was present at that Council meeting, together with his family and some close colleagues. Although somewhat frail,

he stood to acknowledge a round of applause in Council chambers – something that is usually discouraged but was warmly given in recognition of the many contributions to the community by this remarkable man.

Trained as a lawyer, Mr. Harper was active in the private sector throughout his lifetime as chair, director, advisor, and honorary director for several businesses. But it was through his generous gift of time and work for the community that Mr. Harper is most widely recognized. He worked with the Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA, KW Counselling Services, Waterloo Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, KW Community Foundation and the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo, among others.

In 1975, Mr. Harper was named Kitchener-Waterloo Citizen of the Year, and a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary International Foundation in 1993. He became an Honorary Director of St. Mary's General Hospital in 1997, and that same year worked with community volunteers on the preservation and exhibition of the Seagram Museum collections.

Mr. Harper was on the Patron's Council of the 2004 Campaign Waterloo (University of Waterloo) and served as an Honorary Chair during that same year with the RIM Park Campaign.

The Waterloo Public Library is extremely pleased to recognize the numerous and diverse achievements that Mr. Harper made to our community by naming the new west side library branch in his honour. It is an honour well-bestowed, and well-deserved.

MISSION

The Waterloo Public Library is a place to grow! Through a team of friendly, knowledgeable and well trained staff, volunteers and trustees, WPL offers people of all ages innovative lifelong learning and leisure opportunities.

Library Board Members

Tim Jackson, Chair
Bob Ernest, Vice-Chair
Tom Bishop
Stephen Bryant
Barbara Dembek
Helen Kaluzny
Raegan Little

Ian McLean, Councillor
Lynne Paquette
Karen Scian, Councillor
Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian
and Secretary-Treasurer to the Board

download *Library* content grows!

The choice of downloadables is expanding again with new e-video content and a bigger selection of iPod-friendly e-audiobooks. WPL now offers more than a thousand iPod-compatible e-audiobooks that can be downloaded at *Download Library* (www.downloadlibrary.ca). To find out if a title will play on your iPod, look for the iPod icon next to any audiobook title.

The first downloadable videos are now available for use with pcs and supported MP3 players. Try one out and watch for a growing selection of titles as we expand this new service.

For those proud owners of eReaders, download e-books are coming soon to *Download Library*. We'll bring you more news about this exciting development as it unfolds.

Are you new to downloading library material? What you'll need is a valid library card and PIN (personal identification number) to borrow titles. Then follow *Download Library's* Quick Start instructions to download the Media Console that manages your selections. Now you're ready to browse our collection of adult and children's titles, download and enjoy!

Download Library is a virtual branch open 24/7 where you can access best-selling and classic digital audiobooks and downloadable video when it's convenient for you. If you have any questions about downloadable library material, please contact our Information Desk staff at 519-886-1310 ext. 124.



Congratulations to **Download Library** contest winner Joan Ang (pictured here with Local History Manager, Janet Seally) who was the recipient of an iPod Nano in our recent contest. All library customers who borrowed downloadable material at downloadLibrary.ca during September and October were eligible to have their names drawn and win. Thanks to Carbon Computing for donating the iPod Nano that was given as a prize.

Hours and Locations



MAIN LIBRARY

35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5E2
Phone: 519-886-1310

- Monday to Thursday – 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sundays – open 1:00pm to 4:00pm

POPULAR EXTENSIONS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY 519-886-1310

General Enquiries	Ext. 110
Computer Reservations	Ext. 124
Information Services	Ext. 124
Children's Department	Ext. 129
Overdues	Ext. 185
Holds	Ext. 189
Room Bookings	Ext. 186
Visiting Library Service	Ext. 186

McCORMICK BRANCH

500 Parkside Drive
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5J4
Phone: 519-886-1310 ext. 213

- Tuesday to Thursday – 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday – 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sunday and Monday – Closed

TTY: 1-866-786-3942

TELRENEW: 519-886-5480

HOLIDAY HOURS 2010

The Waterloo Public Library will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day
- Monday, February 15 – Family Day
- Friday, April 2 – Good Friday
- Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday
- Monday, April 5 – Easter Monday

To receive a copy of our popular quarterly newsletter, *Off the Shelf*, directly in your Inbox, simply contact Sandi Hall at 519-886-1310 ext. 157 or shall@wpl.ca

Focus!

Free eye health seminars at WPL

WPL, in partnership with the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry and the K-W Community Spirit Lions Club, is pleased to present a free and informative series of talks focusing on eyesight.

This series will be presented at the Main Library (35 Albert Street) in the James J. Brown Auditorium, beginning at 7:00pm. Each presentation will be 60 minutes in length with a question period to follow.

Please note that these are general information sessions for public interest only. Personal questions regarding symptoms or care cannot be answered at these sessions.

Registration is not required; everyone welcome!

Healthy Sight for a Lifetime Monday, February 22

This lecture is an overview of healthy sight factors for a lifetime. When should we have an eye exam, what happens during an eye exam, what happens to my eye as it ages, how can I help myself over my lifetime to keep my sight as healthy as possible? The discussion will focus primarily on the eyes over age 40 and highlight some of the more common conditions that people encounter as our eyes age.

Diabetes and the Eye Monday, March 22

Diabetes has a direct and potentially debilitating affect on the eye and vision. This discussion will focus on the effects of diabetes on the eye and how a person with diabetes can reduce the harmful potential of these effects. Come and join us for an overview of diabetes and how the optometrist is an important part of your eye health care.



WPL and the Waterloo Wolves' 55+ Fan Club

Waterloo Public Library, along with Seniors' Programs and Services at the City of Waterloo and the Waterloo Minor Hockey Association, is happy to support the Waterloo Wolves Midget AAA Hockey Team's new *55+ Fan Club*.

Membership to the fan club is free and comes with a lot of perks!

- Free admission to all Waterloo Wolves Midget AAA hockey games played at RIM Park (where the parking is always free)
- Take part in 50/50 draws and chuck-a-puck contests
- Win draw prizes (including WPL book bags full of goodies!)
- Have your name entered into weekly members-only draws

Don't let winter get you down! Come out and enjoy Canada's favourite pastime at RIM Park. For more information visit <http://waterloowolvesaaa.wordpress.com/about/55-fan-club/>





Let's Read Program

Have you heard about *Let's Read*, the new family literacy program offered by the public libraries of the Region of Waterloo and *Project Read*?

Our mission is to build a community of readers by asking families to read *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang*.

There is a month left in our campaign, so families still have time to experience the joy of reading together. If you've never read *Jacob Two-Two*, it's time to enjoy this Canadian classic. Moms and dads, if you read it as a child, it's time to read it again with your children. Kids – if you've already read *Jacob Two-Two* why not share the fun and read it to your parents? Pick up your copy at the Library today!

Please join us at Conestoga Mall on Sunday, January 31st, 11:00am to 3:00pm as we celebrate Family Literacy Day and mark the end of our inaugural *Let's Read* campaign. There will be lots of fun activities for the whole family, including Erick Traplin, stories, giveaways, a boggle tournament and much, much more. Please check our *Let's Read* blog for more information on Family Literacy Day and fun *Let's Read* activities throughout the region. <http://letsread2009.blogspot.com/>.

Baby Food for Emergency Food Hampers

WPL is collecting donations of baby food for *The House of Friendship's Emergency Food Hamper Program*, which experiences a chronic shortage in these items. This initiative supports WPL's emphasis on early childhood literacy, as good nutrition has been found to have an important influence on brain development and subsequent learning, behaviour and health.

The House of Friendship is most in need of Formula (Similac, Enfalac, Isomil, Goodstart, SMA), infant cereal, strained food and junior food.

The collection boxes are located in the Main Library's Children's Department and at the McCormick Branch.

Value of Library Services Calculator

\$2.69 won't buy you two large Tim Horton's coffees, but it will cover unlimited access to books, DVDs, magazines, high-speed Internet worth so much more.

In the city of Waterloo, \$32.66 per capita is directed at supporting WPL. This is approximately \$2.69 per month.

So, for your \$2.69, what are you getting in return? Enter the *Value of Library Services Calculator* available on our new website. The calculator adds up how much money a customer can save by taking advantage of the Library's free services. For example, you can borrow a new best-seller free of charge but to purchase it at your favourite bookstore would cost approximately \$29.99. By borrowing the book instead of buying it, you are saving!

To try the calculator, visit www.wpl.ca/about/calculator/. To estimate the library services you use, enter the number of books you borrow in a month, the number of DVDs, hours of Internet use etc. The calculator will do the rest!

New Magazines From A to Z

Did you know that WPL now has 300 magazine titles in its collection? Here's a list of our latest additions, in alphabetical order, of course...

American Girl...mostly for girls

Antiques Roadshow Insider
...because you never know

Bird Watcher's Digest

Boy's Quest...mostly for boys

Bunte...Sprenkenzie Deutsch?

Creative Kids...kids, kids, kids

Disney & Me

Elle Décor...beautiful

Food & Wine...yummy

Game Pro...play the game

Golf Magazine...play the other game

Nickolodeon

Nintendo Power...more games

Ode

Pack-O-Fun...for kids only!

Simply Cards & Papercraft
...why not create your own?

The Toastmaster
...need help with public speaking?

Top Gear...zoom

Triathlete...zoom

Upper Canadian Antique Showcase
...show it off

Wild Animal Baby

Wood (Better Homes & Gardens)

Zoobooks
...books for animals? in zoos?

McCormick Branch

Favourite McCormick Moments of 2009

**McCormick staff love their jobs!
Here's a small sampling of why...**

Deb Wilson, Senior Program and Library Assistant

Regular patrons of ours were in one day, one being a favorite 4-year-old of mine. He has been in my programs since he was two and we have a good friendship. His mother told me they were driving past the site of our future John M. Harper Branch Library and she was telling her son, that on that land there was going to be a new library built and they would be able to go to it. Her son said he didn't want to go to that library. His mother then said that there would be a pool there too, so they could go swimming and then pick out some books. Her son said again that he didn't want to go to that library... Then comes the best part... He said he didn't ever want to go that library and that Deb could never go there either! Gotta love my job!

Tina McFarlane, Circulation Assistant

I've been getting into graphic novels, and have discovered adult patrons who also enjoy the genre. It's made for nice moments of connecting and a great way to get ideas of what novels to look into. I get to pick patron's brains instead of them asking for my recommendations.

Rebecca Dechert Sage, Manager

One day, one of our regular Tween customers asked me if I was allergic to cats, to which I replied, "No, why do you ask?" He then appeared sheepish and said, half to himself, "You'll just say no." I assured him that he could ask me anything and he asked if I could step outside. He would not tell me why. He assured me that I was not going to meet my end at the paws of a cat, so we went outside where his friends were holding two little kittens. They had hand-selected me as the person who they wanted to take the kittens home and care for them. After I informed them that my Golden Lab, Buddy, would not appreciate his domain being inhabited by two kittens, I was able to give them contact numbers for community agencies they could call. Information needs present themselves to you in all forms, including kittens!



And our Favourite McCormick Moment of the Year Award goes to...this little Chester-lover who has to stop by and visit him as often as she can (every time her family walks by the library doors, actually)! We so look forward to her visits and her parting hugs for Chester.

McCormick Proudly Presents...The Chip and Dip Book Club!

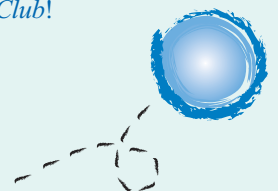
Do you love to read and can't wait to talk about your latest book find? Are you ten to twelve years old? If you enjoy making crafts and munching on a tasty snack then McCormick has a book club for you! We meet at the McCormick Branch Library on the last Wednesday of each month for a fun-filled hour! You will get to



debate the good and bad points of our monthly book, answer a few questions and write your own book review. To top it off we like to make a neat craft! So if you like to munch, read, talk and make things like Wizards lanterns, then join us and sign up for McCormick's *Chip and Dip Club!*

Our inaugural Chip and Dip book club members!

By Rebecca Dechert Sage, Manager, McCormick Branch



Just for Tweens

Winter Activities for Tweens



Check out these sites for fun things to do with your friends during those long winter months.

<http://familycrafts.about.com/>

http://www.fvsd.ab.ca/stm/winter_sites.htm

<http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/crafts-by-age/specialfeature/kids-crafts-9-12-years/kids-crafts-9-12-years.html>

http://familycrafts.about.com/od/atweencrafts/A_Tween_Crafts.htm

Instruction to make a very cute button snowman may be found at:
<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/snowpeople/ss/buttonsnowman.htm>

Volunteering in Your Neighbourhood

If you like helping others, volunteering is very rewarding and a great way to get those necessary hours for the high school requirements. If volunteering for an organization is not something you are interested in, look around your neighbourhood. There are likely seniors who would love your help with snow shovelling, grocery shopping, or even just short visits. Ask your parents for their input. There are many things that you could do for others.

By Jeanne Church, Children's Programs & Circulation Assistant

Tween Survey: what do you think...

The WPL programmers love to provide quality programs that appeal to everyone, including Tweens. We want to organize programs that you want, will sign up for and will come out and enjoy! Here is your chance to let us know what you would like to see happening at WPL for you and your friends. Fill out the form below and return it to the Children's Department by February 20 or email your response to jchurch@wpl.ca. Please remember that while all programs may not be possible, all ideas are very welcome... the more the better!

What programs would you like us to offer?

What day is best for you to attend programs? (Circle all that apply)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

What time of day is best for you to attend a program? (Circle all that apply)

Weekdays: After school Evenings
Weekends: Mornings Afternoons

Do you like to talk to your friends about books, music and movies?

(Circle) Yes No

If the library offered a club/group that allowed you to meet other kids your age and talk about issues/books/music/games that interested you, would you join?

(Circle) Yes No

Other Comments: _____



Programs for Kids

January to March 2010

The library offers a variety of storytime programs for children of all ages. Participants will hear great picturebooks read out loud, you will sing fun songs, enjoy fingerplays and poems and several of the programs even feature a craft. Please call us for more information at 519-886-1310 ext. 129 (Main) or ext. 213 (McCormick) or visit KidBits on our website www.wpl.ca.

Main Library: Drop-in Programs

Tales for Tots

Mondays, January 14 and ongoing, from 10:30 to 11:00am
Everyone welcome.

Preschool Wiggles and Giggles

Wednesdays, January 13 to March 10, from 10:15 to 11:00am for kids ages 3 to 5 years.

One-derful Walkers

Thursdays, January 14 to March 11, from 10:30 to 11:00am for kids ages 12 to 24 months.

Babytime

Thursdays, January 14 to March 11, from 11:15 to 11:45am for kids ages 3 to 15 months.

Fridays with Chester

Fridays, February 12 to March 12, from 1:30 to 2:15pm for kids ages 3 to 5 years.

Family Storytime

Saturdays, January 30 to March 6, from 11:00 to 11:30am
Everyone welcome.

Registering on Jan. 26:

Time 4 Twos – Tuesdays, February 9 to March 9, 10:15 to 10:45am for kids ages 24 to 35 months.

Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, February 9 to March 9, 2:15 to 3:00pm for kids ages 3 to 5 years.

Chester Tales – Wednesdays, February 10 to March 10, 2:30 to 3:00pm for kids ages 3 to 5 years.

Registering on Jan. 5:

Mother Goose on the Loose – Fridays, January 15 to March 12, 10:15 to 10:45am for ages 24 to 35 months.

Main Library: Registered Programs

Happy Feet

Penguin crafts, stories, and activities.

Date: Saturday, January 9

Time: 2:00 to 3:00pm

Ages: 4 to 7 years old

Registration: January 2

Chutes and Ladders

Come and play a life-size game of *Chutes and Ladders* in honour of our *Let's Read* book *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang* by Mordecai Richler. An excerpt of the book will be read to participants and then the fun will begin. Please sign up with a partner.

Date: Saturday, January 23

Time: 2:00 to 3:00pm

Ages: 5 to 10 years old

Registration: January 11

Knitting Klub

This program introduces kids to the joy of knitting. Starting with the basics, simple projects will be completed. Participants are welcome to bring their own projects. Beginners and experienced knitters are all welcome.

Date: Fridays, ongoing

Time: 4:00 to 5:00pm

Ages: 7 to 14 years old

Registration: January 26

– new members start on February 12

Dumbledore's Army: WPL's Harry Potter Club

Come and join us in the Room of Requirement (aka The Auditorium) for our weekly Harry Potter Club. Games, crafts, trivia and more!

Date: Mondays, February 8 to April 5

Time: 4:00 to 5:00pm

Ages: 8 to 14 years old

Registration: January 25

Cartoonists Assemble!

Learn cartooning and visual storytelling as well as develop and produce your own comics in this ongoing club. Topics include basic anatomy, perspective, storytelling and more!

Date: Wednesdays, February 3 to March 10

Time: 4:00 to 5:00pm

Ages: 8 years old to teen

Registration: January 27

PJ Party

Wear your PJs and bring your stuffie for a fun afternoon of stories, games, parachute play and a craft.

Date: Saturday, February 20

Time: 2:00 to 3:00pm

Ages: 2 to 6 years old

Registration: February 12

A Sampling of our March Break Shows:

Please check our website for more programs and registration/ticket information.

Comedy Juggling Show

Amazing juggling acts, comedy and a death-defying unicycle ride define this energetic show. Don't miss it.

Date: Tuesday, March 16

Time: 10:30 to 11:15am at Main and 2:00 to 2:45pm at McCormick

Ages: 4 and up

Tickets required.

Lofty's Magic Show

This popular magician offers a 45-minute comedy magic show and a funny, puppet bunny.

Date: Wednesday, March 17

Time: 10:30 to 11:15am at McCormick and 2:00 to 2:45pm at Main

Ages: 3 to 10 years old

Tickets required.

Mad Science

Participants of these fun, interactive science workshops see science in action and get to create their own experiments.

Date: Thursday, March 18

Time: 10:30 to 11:30am at Main – Dry Ice

Time: 2:00 to 3:00pm at McCormick – Slime!

Ages: 5 years and up

Registration required.

McCormick Branch: January to March Programs

Around the World: Chinese New Year

Travel the world with us and have fun learning about different cultures and their ways. Try different foods, crafts, songs, stories, and lots more! Dragons, stories, crafts and fun! Come and celebrate the Chinese New Year with us!

Date: Saturday, January 16

Time: 2:30 to 3:30pm

Ages: 7 to 10 years old

Registration begins Saturday, January 2; by phone or in person.

Kool Kids

Science experiments and really kool stuff!!

Date: Tuesdays, January 26 to February 23

Time: 6:30 to 7:30pm

Ages: 4 to 6 years old

Registration begins Tuesday January 12, by phone or in person.

March Break Programs Check out our website for our exciting lineup of events.

The Chip and Dip Book Club

What goes with chips and dip? Reading of course! McCormick Branch Library is proud to announce its first children's book club for 10 to 12 year olds. Come join us for the fun!

Date: Wednesdays, January 27, February 24, March 31, April 28 and May 26

Time: 6:30 to 7:15pm
Ages: 10 to 12 years old

Registration begins Wednesday, January 6, by phone or in person.

Wiggles and Giggles

Wiggly rhymes, silly stories and lots of fun!

Date: Fridays, January 22 to March 12

Time: 2:15 to 2:45pm

Ages: 3 to 5 years old

Registration begins Friday, January 8, by phone or in person.

Knifty Knitters

Participants in this "knifty" club will learn the basics of knitting and complete an exciting knitting project!

Date: Saturdays, January 23 to March 6

Time: 10:30 to 11:30am

Ages: 7 to 12 years old

Registration begins on Saturday, January 9, by phone or in person.

Time for Twos

Stories, games, rhymes and crafts for little ones and their caregivers.

Date: Tuesdays, January 26 to February 23

Time: 10:15 to 10:45am

Ages: 24 to 35 months old

Registration begins Tuesday, January 12, by phone or in person.

Baby Bookworms

Stories, songs, bounces and tickles are sure to excite and delight babies and their caregivers.

Date: Thursdays, January 28 to March 11

Time: 3:30 to 4:00pm

Ages: 0 to 11 months

Registration begins Thursday, January 14, by phone or in person.

Clay Art

Let's get creative! Make a colourful, textured scene using coloured clay.

Date: Saturday, January 30

Time: 2:30 to 3:30pm

Ages: 6 to 10 years old

Registration begins Friday, January 15, by phone or in person.

Pajama Tales

Join us at McCormick Branch Library for a cozy evening of stories and fun for the whole family.

Date: Wednesdays, February 3 to February 24

All ages welcome

Time: 6:30 to 7:00pm

Registration begins Wednesday, January 20, by phone or in person.

Valentines' Day Party

Hearts, arrows, angels and lots of fun!

Date: Saturday, February 13

Time: 2:30 to 3:30am

Ages: 6 and up

Registration begins Friday, January 29, by phone or in person.

Around the World: Ancient India

Travel the world with us and have fun learning about different cultures and their ways. Try different foods, crafts, songs, stories, and lots more! Bring the whole family!

Date: Saturday, February 27

Time: 2:30 to 3:30pm

Registration begins Friday, February 12, by phone or in person.

Kings and Queens

Have a royal good time. Become King or Queen of the realm at McCormick Library.

Date: Tuesday, March 2

Time: 6:30 to 7:30pm

Ages: 4 to 7 years old

Registration begins Tuesday, February 16, by phone or in person.

Stained Glass

Spring is just around the corner, so let the sunshine in through a beautiful stained glass hanging made by you!

Date: Saturday, March 6

Time: 2:30 to 3:30pm

Ages: 7 to 12 years old

Registration begins Thursday, February 18, by phone or in person.

Pirates

Walk the plank, hunt for buried treasure and have a swashbuckling good time!

Date: Tuesday, March 9

Time: 6:30 to 7:30pm

Ages: 4 to 7 years old

Registration begins Tuesday, February 23, by phone or in person.

Around the World: Native American Indians

Travel the world with us and have fun learning about different cultures and their ways. Try different foods, crafts, songs, stories, and lots more!

Date: Saturday, March 27

Time: 2:30 to 3:30pm

Ages: 7 to 10 years old

Registration begins Wednesday, March 10, by phone or in person.

Knifty Knitters

Participants in this "knifty" club will learn the basics of knitting and complete an exciting knitting project!

Date: Saturdays, April 3 to May 8

Time: 10:30 to 11:30am

Ages: 7 to 12 years old

Registration begins on Friday, March 19, by phone or in person.

Onderful

Dance, sing, laugh, rhyme and learn with your special caregiver.

Date: Tuesdays, April 6 to May 4

Time: 10:15 to 10:45am

Ages: 12 to 23 months

Registration begins Tuesday, March 23, by phone or in person.

McCormick Branch: April and May Programs

Kool Kids

Science experiments and really kool stuff!!

Date: Wednesdays, April 7 to May 19
(no class April 28)

Time: 6:30 to 7:30pm

Ages: 4 to 6 years old

Registration begins Wednesday, March 24, by phone or in person.

Baby Bookworm

Stories, songs, bounces and tickles are sure to excite and delight babies and their caregivers.

Date: Thursdays, April 8th to May 27

Time: 3:30 to 4:00pm

Ages: 0 to 11 months

Registration begins Thursday, March 25, by phone or in person.

Wiggles and Giggles

Wiggly rhymes, silly stories and lots of fun!

Date: Fridays, April 9 to May 14

Time: 2:15 to 2:45pm

Ages: 3 to 5 years old

Registration begins Friday, March 26, by phone or in person.



My Waterloo Childhood

by guest columnist, Peter Etril Snyder



Until the age of 12, I lived in downtown Waterloo just two blocks from the Waterloo Public Library. That was, of course, before it became UpTown Waterloo.

Both of my grandfathers, Mennonite farmers, were regular vendors at the Waterloo market which stood in the spot now occupied by the Waterloo Public Library (Main). My grandfather Snyder lived on Hallman Road, not Fischer- Hallman. For many years he was a trustee of the Rummelhart School. That site is now the Bilingual School. It was bilingual then as well,

except that in the 1920s it was English and Pennsylvania Dutch.

Our neighbourhood included the Harmony Lunch. My fathers dairy, Maple Lane, was only a block away. Horse-drawn milk wagons provided me with much fun and the chance to play with the animals. I think that is why a good deal of my career was built on painting these imposing but gentle creatures.

The houses in our neighbourhood were old and often housed more than one family. Everyone in the neighbourhood was on first-name terms with the people along the street.

In the time after the war, pleasures were simpler, such as the band tattoo that took place every year in Waterloo Park. As a child, I delighted in the Saturday evening parade that ended up at the bandstand.

When we got married in 1966, Marilyn and I took a third-floor apartment in a commercial building on King Street (Waterloo) next to the railroad tracks. From that spot we could still watch the annual parade of bands as they made their way to the park.

Clearly by that point life was changing for me, but I still had the fond attachment to my childhood on Dorset Street in Waterloo.



The Neighbourhood



Harmony Lunch



On Parade



Christmas Morning



Waterloo Market



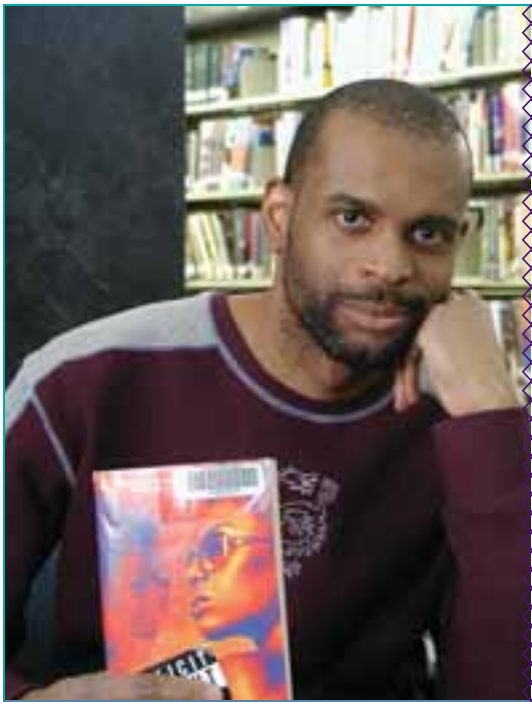
New country fan, Ben Hopkins, with musician Jamie Warren during a special Saturday morning **Family Storytime** session on October 10th.

continued from the cover...

...Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Funds raised at the concerts were also directed at children's literacy at the library.

We would like to thank the participating country musicians, their record labels and management teams for assisting us in this unique project. Also special thanks to our partners: Piller's, The Roberts Group, KIX106.7, the *Waterloo Region Record*, Chapters (Waterloo), Traces Screen Printing Ltd., A Couple of Squares, The Princess Cinema, and The UpTown Waterloo BIA.





WPL's Steffan Bain with just one of his favourite books.

The following is a list of books read (and enjoyed by!) library staff in 2009. Some are new titles, some are old, all are definitely worth borrowing from WPL.



Our Favourite Books

FICTION

Archer, Jeffrey – *Kane and Abel*

Carrell, Jennifer Lee
– *Interred With Their Bones*

Chabon, Michael
– *Gentlemen of the Road*

Delinsky, Barbara – *Firefly Lane*

Enright, Ann – *The Gathering*

Fallada, Hans
– *Every Man Dies Alone*

Flynn, Michael
– *The Wreck of the River of Stars*

Genova, Lisa – *Still Alice*

Green, Jane – *The Beach House*

Grove, Bonnie – *Talking to the Dead*

Hilderband, Elin – *The Blue Bistro*

Hill, Lawrence
– *The Book of Negroes*

Humphreys, Helen – *Coventry*

MacBride, Stuart – *Cold Granite*

Marillier, Juliet
– *Daughter of the Forest*

McCall Smith, Alexander
– *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built*

McGrath, Patrick – *Trauma*

Noble, Elizabeth – *Things I Want
My Daughter to Know*

Picoult, Jodi – *My Sister's Keeper*

Radulescu, Dominica
– *Train to Trieste*

Ravel, Edeet – *Your Sad Eyes
and Unforgettable Mouth*

Roberts, Nora – *River's End*

Saxton, Judith
– *You Are My Sunshine*

Shaffer, Mary Ann and Barrows,
Annie – *The Guernsey Literary and
Potato Peel Pie Society*

Stockett, Kathryn – *The Help*

Taylor, Patrick
– *An Irish Country Doctor*

Thomas, Rosie – *Iris and Ruby*

Vonnegut, Kurt
– *Slaughterhouse Five*

Wiggs, Susan – *Just Breathe*

Willett, Jincy – *The Writing Class*

NONFICTION

Bruhns, Wibke
– *My Father's Country:
the Story of a German Family*

Canon, Patrick – *Prairie Metropolis*

Gulley, Philip – *I Love You Miss
Huddleston and Other Inappropriate
Longings of My Indiana Childhood*

Heilbrun, Carolyn G. – *The Last Gift
of Time: Life Beyond Sixty*

Hoshowsky, Robert – *The Last to Die*

Jacobs, A.J.
– *The Year of Living Biblically*

Livingstone, Thomas – *Tommy's War*

Scott, Robyn
– *Twenty Chickens for a Saddle*

Vowell, Sara – *The Wordy Shipmates*

Walters, Barbara
– *Audition: a Memoir (BIO)*

Book Clubs

The WPL Book Club

This is an open club – feel free to attend once in a while, or come faithfully every month for some great discussion. Visit our blog at www.wplbookclub.blogspot.com to learn more about our selected titles, post your own book reviews, and more. The club meets at 7:00pm in the Auditorium at the Main Library (35 Albert Street). For more information call 519-886-1310 ext. 146.

Selections for 2010:

January 11	<i>The Best Laid Plans</i> by Terry Fallis
February 8	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card
March 8	<i>12 Books That Changed the World</i> by Melvyn Bragg
April 12	<i>Lolita</i> by Vladimir Nabokov
May 10	<i>Jest of God</i> by Margaret Laurence
June 14	<i>Water for Elephants</i> by Sara Gruen
July 12	<i>Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness</i> by Richard H. Thaler
August 9	<i>Cellist of Sarajevo</i> by Steven Galloway
September 13	<i>One Book, One Community title</i> - TBA
October 18	<i>Truth and Beauty</i> by Ann Patchett
November 8	<i>Ten Good Seconds of Silence</i> by Elizabeth Ruth
December 13	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury

The McCormick Branch Book Club

This new book club is also “open”. Participants are welcome to attend once in a while, or come faithfully every month for some great discussion. The club meets at 7:00pm in the Community Room at the Albert McCormick Community Centre. For more information call 519-886-1310 ext. 213.

Selections for 2010:

January 26	<i>The Golden Compass</i> by Philip Pullman
February 23	<i>The Best Laid Plans</i> by Terry Fallis
March 30	<i>Dreams from my Father</i> by Barack Obama
April 27	<i>The Shack</i> by William P. Young
May 25	<i>Twilight</i> by Stephenie Meyer
June 29	<i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett
July 27	<i>The Time of My Life</i> by Patrick Swayze and Lisa Neimi
August 31	<i>One Book, One Community title</i> - TBA
September 28	<i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
October 26	<i>The Painted House</i> by John Grisham
November 30	<i>The Hour I First Believed</i> by Wally Lamb
December 28	<i>The Cellist of Sarajevo</i> by Steven Galloway

Pet-acular!

One of the many blessings in my life has been the abundance of animals in it. Dogs, cats, horses, birds, hamsters, chickens and even pigs have enriched my life merely by being. It's true that pets can be time-consuming and expensive, but I believe they are worth it. Many of my WPL co-workers must think so too judging by the enthusiastic response I received for pet pictures – and what a variety of pets!

If you are thinking of adding a pet, or two, to your family then I would suggest coming to the library first and browsing through our collections. We have books and DVDs on pet care, training, nutrition, etc. We also have the following pet magazines:

Bird Talk, Canadian Horse Journal, Pets, and more.

Take the time to make an informed decision about the kind of pet that best fits your lifestyle, and please consider adopting.

Best wishes, Kerstin.

Mitch's Blackie, Dweezil and Diamond (gerbils)



Barb's Bonner

"A daily source of joy – patient and curious world observer – lover of travel and toys. A true Southern gentleman and Hurricane Katrina survivor."



Sandi's Beau

"Beau is a big, thoroughbred gelding with a very quirky personality. He has a lot of dislikes in this world but luckily I am not one of them! Beau's favourite treat: mint candies."

Joan's Polly

"As you can see, she's a very pretty kitty! This picture shows off her lovely green eyes as she sits in one of her favorite spots – our garden."





Kathy's Fluffy

"He's our much-loved dwarf rabbit. He is 4 years old."



Kendall's Salmon

"Here is a photo of my Chinese Shar Pei."



Cathy's Skipper (bird) and Earl (cat)

"Who knows what goes on when I'm not home? (Probably best not to even ask!)"

Deb's Cloe

"Cloe was staying with friends while I was away on holiday. They dressed her up in a few outfits but the frazzled 50's housewife ensemble was the funniest. Cloe does NOT look amused but she tolerated all the nonsense with as much dignity as she could muster."



Dana's Deja (giant schnauzer)



Sarah's Charlie

"A great pet who knows how to kick back and relax so you can too. (She is a leopard gecko.)"

Kayla's Pumpkin

"I love to look out windows, have my tummy rubbed, and shred cardboard boxes. I am a very laid-back cat who lets people put towels on my head for fun."





The New [wpl.ca](http://www.wpl.ca)

In the summer of 2001, Waterloo Public Library's first website (www.wpl.ca) went live. Since the launch, the site had grown to include over 600 pages of information. Although a large site, customers found it user-friendly and easy to navigate. On average, 53,000 visits were recorded each month. In 2009, www.wpl.ca received full redesign.

To help prepare for the redesign of www.wpl.ca, we asked for customer input through in-house and online surveys. Many of the suggestions made by our customers have been implemented in our new, more condensed website including:

- Printer-friendly web pages
- Search the site
- Option of viewing each page in a larger font
- Online interlibrary loan request, *Tell Us* and *Ask Us* forms
- Click on "My Account" to go directly to the online login form

All of our customers' favourites are still there with the most popular web pages being focal points in our main menus across the top and bottom of each page. The McCormick Branch (<http://mccormickbranch.wordpress.com/>) and the John M. Harper Branch (<http://harperbranch.wordpress.com/>), which is currently under construction, have their own blogs. Please take some time to visit the new www.wpl.ca today.

Coming in February, WPL's GIANT BOOK SALE!

Visit www.wpl.ca for more information.

WPL and Communities in Bloom

In late autumn of 2009, a group of community-minded volunteers from *Waterloo Communities in Bloom*, along with staff from the Waterloo Public Library and other volunteer groups upgraded the landscaping at the Main Library.

This spring, customers will be able to enjoy a new look to the gardens at Dupont and Albert Streets.

Thank you to Wendy Schuster, president of Waterloo Communities in Bloom Group, York Nurseries, Raytheon and City of Waterloo Project Manager, Geri Quin, for co-ordinating and supporting the makeover.

WPL and The Wonders of Winter

Waterloo Public Library was proud to be a part of the beautiful Wonders of Winter light display in Waterloo Park from November 28 to January 3. Our children's mascot, Chester the Giraffe, was depicted in one of the new light displays.



Off The Shelf is printed on Rolland Enviro100 paper.

www.wpl.ca

a place to grow

Waterloo
Public
Library