



Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Carolyn Swayze for OLA's Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award.

Carolyn has been the Children's and Teen Services Librarian at the Arnprior Public Library since 2010.

During this time she expanded an existing Children's Department to include new collections, new technology, additional programming and a solid community profile. She also earned her EXCEL certificate through SOLS.

Previous to her employment at the Arnprior Public Library, Carolyn worked for Bound2Learn, an Eastern Ontario book distributor specializing in educational resources to school boards. Her knowledge of children's literature and keen interest in public libraries made her a natural choice as the head of the Arnprior Public Library Children's Department.

Her ever-present sunny disposition is inviting to all children who adore coming to the library. When some of her regulars become too old to attend their favourite programs, they clamour to volunteer!

Carolyn manages a full slate of activities from September to May. In addition to her 5 regular weekly programs, she offers:

- Special author visits;
- Encourages children to participate in all levels of OLA's Forest of Reading;
- Outreach and support to daycares;
- Outreach and resource support to five area schools including Arnprior & District High School's Special Education classes; Girl Guides and Scouting Troupes;
- Outreach to the Arnprior chapter of the Ontario Early Years Centres;
- Outreach to the Health Unit's Prenatal Classes.

Carolyn hires and supervises all summer students who maintain her high level of programming.

In 2015, Carolyn

- filled 7144 programming spaces for children of all ages (including 1569 summer programming spots over a 7 week period);
- selected and catalogued 913 new acquisitions;
- circulated 42,887 items from the juvenile and teen collections;
- applied for and received two successful summer employment grants;
- secured funding from The Writer's Union of Canada for Red Maple author visits;
- maintained and created new community partnerships.

Carolyn has also fostered a strong connection to (and gained respect from) her peers as coordinator of the Eastern Ontario Children's Services Networking Group.

In my opinion, there are very few who rival Carolyn's drive, determination and success in children's programming in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Karen DeLuca, CEO



GROWING A STRONG CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



Story Times have been a constant at the Arnprior Public Library since the 1980s. Under Carolyn's leadership programming has expanded to meet demand. *She runs the regular lineup single-handedly!*

REGULAR PROGRAMMING LINEUP SEPTEMBER TO MAY

Mondays	Wonderful Ones (drop in program ages 12 to 24 months) After School Kids (registered programs including LEGO Lounge, Pokemon Club; seasonal programs for various age groups from JK to Grade 4) Teen Library Group
Tuesdays	Class Visits in the morning Baby Rhyme Time (registered program for babies 5 to 12 months)
Wednesdays	Class visits in the morning
Thursdays	Class visits in the morning; Afternoon outreach
Fridays	Toddler Tales (drop-in for 18 months to 2 ½ years) Have a Hoot Preschool Story Time (2 ½ years to school age)

Carolyn has led the Eastern Ontario Children's Services Networking Group since 2010.

She plans meetings, organizes speakers and presenters and frequently hosts their two annual meetings.

Eastern Ontario children's services librarians from Cornwall to Deep River attend regularly.



PROGRAMMING

In addition to running multiple programs every week, Carolyn keeps everything fresh, exciting and interesting.



Inviting baby goats to Friday morning drop-in story times!



Taking story time outside when weather permits



Grade 2 students with their teacher excited to select books for their classroom

Carolyn invites area schools for regular visits. At least 10 teachers bring their students to the library every other week from September to May.

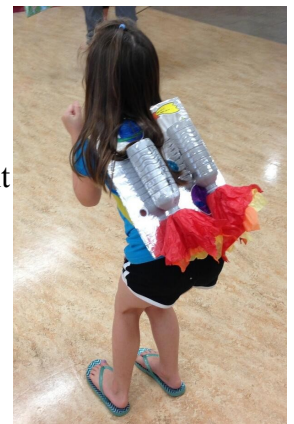
In addition to reading stories and guiding the students in selecting books to sign out, Carolyn leads them through the Blue Spruce Forest of Reading program and offers special events such as creating book spine poetry which we post on social media!



Crafts are always an important part of the take-away to bring the library back home!



Parents connect at our baby program and plan to meet in the library café even when Baby Rhyme Time is over!



Kids at Toddler Tales loved the morning she brought in boxes!

When it comes to thinking outside the box, Carolyn is our gal!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN PROGRAMMING



Local Fire Department attends Friday Morning Drop-in Story time programs with special guest Sparky the Fire Dog!



War Amps outreach during March Break Programming



Registered Massage Therapist shares her knowledge at Baby RhymeTime introducing Baby Massage!



Borrowing Maker Space items from OLITA's lending library to introduce this new technology!

Introducing Ottawa Therapy Dogs for some one-on-one reading time at the library



Partnering with the OPP to include safety tips during Summer Programming



Inviting local day cares to showcase artwork in the library

INNOVATION

TDSRC always inspires Carolyn. Each summer children earn their invitations to the end-of-summer party.

We had a ton of fun at the Arnprior Airport watching a sky diving demonstration and cooling down with a visit from the Fire Department's pumper truck.



2012 & 2013

TDSRC year end Gala 2014 Super event featuring music, portraits, games and the Fire Department's Chief and Deputy Chief dressed to the nines serving snacks!



Carolyn rolls out the new 100 Books to Share Before Kindergarten program.

Titles are held in our special little red wagon display!



Youth Expo in partnership with the High School featuring information for youth on health, jobs, volunteer opportunities and community activities. This event attracted 300 students!

2015 we invited the National Museum of Science and Technology and transform the library inside and out for our TDSRC finale. More than 130 children read their way to the event.



Six activity stations inside and outside for this event.



We even had the gigantic inflatable planetarium inside the library!

Community Support

Carolyn's tireless efforts are recognized by the community and have garnered support from many.



The Arnprior Optimist Club and the Arnprior Rotary Club are regular donors to the library's summer programming. Their donations ensure children are not turned away due to long waiting lists!



The local business community is very supportive of Carolyn's work. Many merchants provide coupons and prizes for summer giveaways.

Others such as the Northern Credit Union provide financial support. The credit union's recent donations allowed the library to purchase LEGO to start this ever popular program for children aged 5 and up!