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Tutoring program celebrates 30-years

Library's Read On program has served nearly 3,500 children

Brantford – July 3 marks a major milestone for a free tutoring program offered by the Brantford Public Library.

On that day, kids will start summer tutoring sessions that have been running at the Library for thirty years.

"It's a source of great pride for the Library to offer a program that has had such a positive impact on two generations of Brantford children," says Brantford Public Library acting CEO Rae-Lynne Aramburo. "We've supported these children in developing reading, math and French skills and in gaining confidence they can carry throughout their lives."

Nearly 3,500 children have participated in the Read On program since its beginning. The program has grown over the years to meet the demand from the community. When it first started, the program offered one-week sessions delivered by only three tutors.

This year, there are nine tutors delivering tutoring sessions to 175 children who will be entering grades two through six in the fall. These tutoring sessions are 45-minutes each delivered weekdays over a two-week period. The sessions focus on areas of need identified by the child's parents, such as reading and literacy, math and French.

The tutors are university students who go through a full training session before the summer begins. Their salaries are funded with assistance through Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works grants. Many of the tutors are training to be teachers, which means the Read On program also provides them with valuable work experience.

"The bond the children form with these tutors is special," says Aramburo. "We see children coming to the Library throughout the summer eager to learn and spend time with their tutor. It's such a positive environment for learning."

The Read On program is now full for the summer and registration for the summer 2019 program will open in June of next year.

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About the Brantford Public Library

The Brantford Public Library connects the community through innovation, discovery and creativity. Last year, the Library had more than 700,000 virtual and in-person visits and staff answered nearly 60,000 reference questions. The Library also offers a range of programs for people of all ages and provides a number of online services that promote creativity and life-long learning.

For more information: Rae-Lynne Aramburo Manager – Customer Engagement and Acting CEO RAramburo@brantford.library.on.ca

519-756-2220 ext. 309