

Branch News

- Renovations in the kitchen area of **Bethany** branch are almost complete. Carpet in the kitchen area will be removed and replaced, and updated cabinets and countertop will be installed. Tiles in the branch will be replaced later this spring.
- Work on the new Art Gallery space on William Street has started, with an anticipated move later this year.
- Oakwood branch will have the exterior bricks at the front vestibule replaced later this spring

Programs, Outreach and Partnerships

Programs/Services

- For Family Literacy Day (January 27) the library distributed 100 **Family Literacy Day Activity Packs**. The theme for 2026 was “make mealtime family time”.
- **Family Day** was Monday, February 16th. Since the Library is closed that day, a special Take Home Pack was offered – the pack included supplies to make a Family Adventure Jar. As well, all Library branches provided a beaded keychain activity on Saturday, February 14th.
- The **Craft and Connect** activity for the month of February was **Book Bedazzling**. With strong participant interest in this particular craft, the library is planning to run this program again in the summer, gearing it as a pre-teen, teen and adult family craft event.
- The most recent School Board **PA Day** was on February 27th. All regularly open Friday branches offered special programming.
- Local Author **Sharon Overend** visited Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Omemee branches in February to promote her new book *Look Over Your Shoulder*.
- Bobcaygeon branch hosted **Frost Fest** events on February 14th and had a special story time, a pompom snowman craft and a special winter scavenger hunt with snowflake stickers to tie in with community events.
- Lindsay branch offered a **Zine Making workshop** on Thursday February 18.
- Lindsay branch offered a special **Indigenous Storytime** on Saturday February 21. Participants enjoy listening to a story in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), along with cornbread and traditional tea. This event was well attended.
- Starting February 4, Lindsay branch offered **Connecting Seniors Sessions**, a five-week program aimed to improve digital literacy, competence with various library resources, cybersecurity, and learn how to preserve family history. Guest speakers included Kevin Walden of Kawartha Lakes Police Service, Laura Love and Angela Fornelli of CKL and members of the Writers Collective of Canada. These sessions were funded through an Ontario Seniors Community Grant.

- Lindsay branch offered a **Cards with Hearts** program from February 2-6. In this Valentine's Day card making program, families worked together at tables stocked with various paper supplies to make Valentines cards. These cards were collected and distributed to senior residents in care homes across the Kawartha Lakes. More than 100 cards were made for distribution to local care homes.
- To help pre-schoolers and their families prepare for Kindergarten, story time now includes a special activity – this month children practiced their fine motor skills with cutting strips. This program took place monthly in Woodville, Kinmount, Oakwood, Kirkfield, and Omemee, and weekly in both Bethany and Bobcaygeon

Outreach

- The new **Tales and Travel Memories** program for seniors at Case Manor in Bobcaygeon took place in February 2026. This program was well received, and we will be visiting Puerto Rico in March.
- Library staff provided an **outreach story time** visit to **CAPC (SIRCH Community Services)** in Lindsay. Kids programming information was provided to parents and caregivers. Library staff will be visiting the same program in Fenelon Falls in March.
- Library staff provided an outreach programming visit in February to the **Kawartha BGC Youth Loft** in Fenelon Falls.

Partnerships

- Officers from Kawartha Lakes OPP presented a workshop on **Fraud Awareness** at the Fenelon Falls Branch on Thursday February 12th. He spoke about all the different ways people are being targeted including children's online games such as Roblox and Fortnite and adult dating sites.

KPIs for January 2026		
Branch Visits	Overall Circulation	Event Attendance
12,751	30,886	3,647