

Summertime Fun at Brockville Public Library

Brockville Public Library is a tourist destination! So far we've welcomed travelers from Germany, Australia, and Wisconsin who dropped in to use our free Internet and wireless Internet services. Their travel stories are amazing! Two German couples told us they had shipped their motor homes to Canada and were heading west for Yellowknife and then down to Las Vegas where they plan to leave their vehicles over the winter. Another couple from Thunder Bay is celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary by motorcycling east as far as Quebec City.

There are many exciting and special activities for children and families at your library this summer. We have spaces available for the summer reading club, and many special programs. Our theme this year is *Agent 009* and features espionage and detective work, including a series of spy school programs, dinosaur detectives, insect investigators, science mysteries and fingerprint art. In addition, we are offering family story times and movies, a magic workshop with Ry Guy the Teenage Magician, and a friendship bracelet workshop. Of course, there are lots of exciting stories and factual books about detectives and detecting. Our Teen Drop-In program featuring Anime, gaming and movies will continue over the summer on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm in the meeting room at the library. See the teen area of the library's website for details. Pick up a copy of our summer program, view it online at www.brockvillelibrary.ca/childrens-programs.htm or phone us at 613-342-3936.

We are delighted to announce that you now have access to three new databases through the library website. We are subscribing to the *Brockville Recorder and Times* online. From a library computer you can search for information back to 1999. For earlier dates, just book our microfilm/reader printer to view the microfilm copies. Also accessible only from a library computer is *Ancestry Library Collection*, one of the most important genealogical collections available today with coverage of the United States and United Kingdom. And with a BPL card from home or office or a library computer you can now access the *Career Cruising Database* which provides occupation profiles, assessment tools and information about Canadian universities and colleges. Try the Career Matchmaker quiz!

New adult fiction is arriving daily. Lose yourself between the covers of an exciting mystery, or a western. Swedish writer Henning Mankell has created the complex and compelling detective Wallender in books such as *The Pyramid*, *One step behind*, *The man who smiled*, *Faceless killers*, and *The dogs of Riga*. Wallender was portrayed by acclaimed actor Kenneth Branagh in a recent television series. Scottish crime writer Denise Mina has won prizes and praise from established writers such as fellow Scot Ian Rankin. Her book *The last breath* is set in Glasgow in 1990 where Paddy Meehan is enjoying a good life until her former lover is found murdered. As she investigates this violent death she realizes that she and those close to her are in terrible danger. For western lovers we have some titles such as *Kill straight*, winner of the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America, by Johnny D. Boggs. It is the story of a Comanche who returns to his people after education in the east and becomes involved in two brutal killings. In William Luckey's book *Burn English*, a horse breeder who feels like an old man at age 45, burns

his barn and cabin, releases all his horses except for one prize mare and heads north looking for a fresh beginning.

Finding the latest books in a favourite genre – mystery, fantasy, science fiction, thriller, romance- is very easy using the library's online Power Search feature. Just enter the genre name under *document type* and then choose a *location* such as Adult Fiction or Large Print Fiction from the drop down menu. From your home computer or a library computer you can reserve items that are on loan or currently available using you library card number and your PIN. Ask us for details about these self-serve features.

Perhaps your idea of a vacation fun is finding the time to tackle, or complete, an overdue home improvement project. The Library has added some inspiring new titles to help you. Black & Decker's *The complete guide to contemporary sheds* includes styles such as a storage lean-to, playhouse, hobby studio and lawn tractor barn. Sherri Hunter inspires the keen gardener or landscape architect in *Making concrete garden ornaments*. Better Homes & Gardens will tempt you to create *Outdoor kitchens* with many ideas for grills, fireplaces, lighting and landscaping; and you will find plans for the perfect patio in *Decks: step-by-step instructions*, and *The Deck and Patio Design Guide*.

There are many new books for those of you who prefer non-fiction. In 2009 writers and publisher are celebrating the accomplishments of three diverse men: scientist Charles Darwin, American president Abraham Lincoln and Scottish poet Robert Burns. Adam Gopnik's book *Angels and ages: a short book about Darwin, Lincoln and modern life* shows how these two giants, born on the same day - February 12, 1809- have altered the way people think. This year also marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Robert Crawford describes this poet's genius in his book *The Bard : Robert Burns, a biography*. To celebrate the International Year of Astronomy we have added a number of new titles including *Einstein's telescope : the hunt for dark matter and dark energy in the universe* by Evalyn Gates; *Astronomy : a visual guide* by Mark Garlick; and *Stargazing with binoculars* by Robin Scagell.

For a great selection of the latest best-sellers, DVD's, books on tape and large print titles visit the Brockville Public Library soon, located at 23 Buell Street across from the post office. Staff looks forward to welcoming you.