



Tara Kennedy, 4, and her two-year-old sister Becca, learn how to follow the leader and count with their fingers as part of Belleville library's Storytime.



In Storytime at the Belleville library, fingerplay helps children develop early numeracy skills. Tara Kennedy, 4, practices counting penguins.

Shhh!...I'm trying to learn



Big sister Tara Kennedy, 4, tries to quiet Becca, 2, in the middle of Storytime at the Belleville library. She shows her how to "button it up."

Families urged to get onboard for National Family Literacy Day

This week, they'll be telling stories all across Canada. Close to home, story lovers of all ages will gather to listen, learn, share and spin a tale or two as part of the Belleville Public Library's Family Literacy Day activities on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Family Literacy Day is a national program created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held every year on Jan. 27.

Almost half of all Canadian adults (48 per cent) have low literacy skills, and in Ontario 30 per cent of the population (15 years of age and older) have less than a high school education. With the ongoing concern about literacy skills in Canada, ABC Life Literacy Canada and other organizations are focused on the need for action and the action starts at home.

"We encourage family literacy all year round," said Suzanne Humphreys, children's librarian at the Belleville Library.

"Storytimes, rhymes, fingerplay – it's not just about reading a book. There are all kinds of other avenues to encourage children in their early reading skills and literacy."

Jacob Parks, who is almost six, has been coming to the library's Storytime program since he was two.

"Reading was one of the first interactive activities we could do together, before he could even talk," said his mom, Sabrina Chamberlain-Parks. "He learned so much by just sitting on my lap and having me point out pictures. I introduced him to the world through books."

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, this week's Saturday morning Storytime session will focus on reading as a family affair, with books such as *How Rocket Learned to Read*, by Tad Hills, and *Five Little Monkeys Reading*, by Eileen Christelow.

Story and photos by Joanna Becket

Recycling pilot project promotes composting with curbside pickup

By Brynn Campbell

To be green or not to be, that is the question.

A total of 700 residents are involved in Belleville's Curbside Organics Recycling Pilot Project.

The Curbside Organics Recycling Pilot Project was created to help promote curbside composting.

The project began Sept. 8 of last year, when each household was given a green bin for compost pick up. After the first three successful months, Belleville City Council passed a motion to continue the project until June, 2012 for further analysis.

"The project will extend till the end of June, 2012," said Brad Wilson, director of operational and environmental services. "We view it as a great success. The people really like it, whether we take it city wide or to a portion of the city. I think it's the city's intention to extend the project."

The project's intentions are to reduce kitchen waste from landfills. This would help reduce the amount of methane gas released from landfills, and to help turn composting material into nutrient soil.

"Nearly one third of landfills is compost diverting to compost," said Wilson. "The disposed organic material needs to go to a compost facility. Each week the compost is picked up from the 700 different residences, and brought to Norterra Organics, in Kingston.

"The biggest portion (of the costs) of the project is the green bins and the kitchen catchers," said Wilson. "The actual collection doesn't cost as much."

Gerald Boyce, an avid composter is all for Belleville's Organics Recycling Pilot Project. Boyce has been composting since 1991, and admits that the reason he got into composting was it is cheaper to compost your own food then to have garbage pick up or bring your own waste to a landfill.

"At one point, I had three composts," said Boyce.

Boyce said he was optimistic about the pilot project and agreed that it would be successful. "I think the project is working well, so they can extend it," said Boyce. "For people in apartments, it certainly would be easier, and a lot cheaper."

A curbside composting system would not only save money for each household, it could also save money on a bigger scale.

"By getting rid of the waste material from the waste stream, it was saving the city and the municipalities around it, money," said Boyce.

Composting would be more environmentally friendly.

"One of the problems with landfills is the methane gas coming out," said Boyce. "Composting is vital; it can be a money saver. Look at all the good things it can do, it looks to be the way of the future. I think you can say that without any fear of contradiction."



Gerry Boyce demonstrates how to use the compost bin. Boyce, who has been composting since 1991, said he composts to save money and prevent the release of methane gas that landfills produce.

Diabetes...

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"He is so passionate about his work and the findings are really intriguing.

"Our branch is dedicated to assisting him with his efforts in anyway we can to increase awareness of diabetes, and bring community recognition to Dr. Collip's role in the discovery of insulin," said Spargo.

Pearce started creating his extensive archive on our hometown 'hero' Collip, in 2009.

"It would be appropriate to recall and retell his story in the community where he was born. It is a matter of pride to this community.

"It will serve to educate and inspire the students of today as to the importance of how Collip's work played in saving millions of lives around the world," said Pearce.

Ice...

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"I've been the snowman for 13 years now," said Madder, who stepped up this year as co-chairman with Doug Platt to replace former chairman Claude Thompson. "The kids love it and I try to do my best."

Some out-of-towners are drawn to Brighton for the festival, but it's mainly a community event. Some people come from Trenton, Belleville, Colborne and Campbellford, but most come from with, in the Brighton area, said Madder.

Old Man Winter has not always gotten along with Winterfest.

More information about the Brighton Winterfest, including a schedule of events, can be found at <http://brighton.ca/winterfest-c557.php>