

MAY 2024 LIBRARY REPORT

April Circulation = 9,411

Class tours of the library are taking place May 28-June 17.

Huge thanks to **Shane van de Water, Ember**, and the wonderful **Wildfire Fighters crew** for their fun and educational kids' program!



NID Fun!

Free & Drop-in

WILDFIRE RESILIENCY
Meet Ember, FireSmart's official mascot!

 **Smithers Public Library**



-  **Storytime & Kits with Ember**
-  **Wildfire Truck Show & Tell**
-  **FireSmart Craft Station**
-  **FireSmart Tips for your Home**



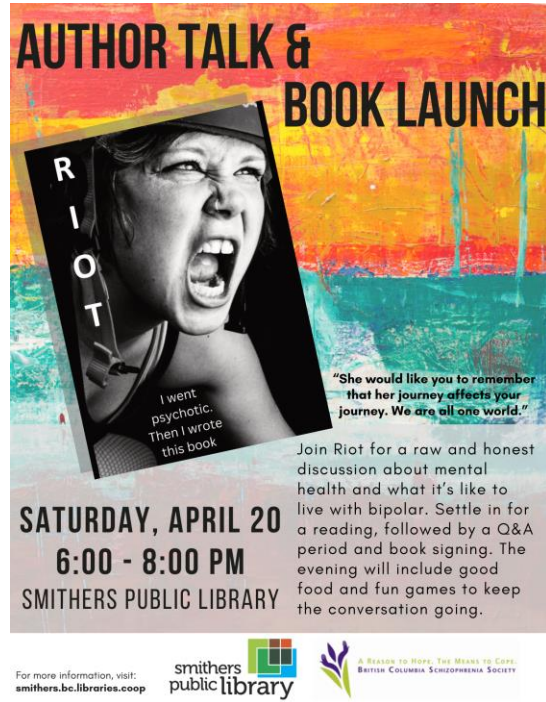
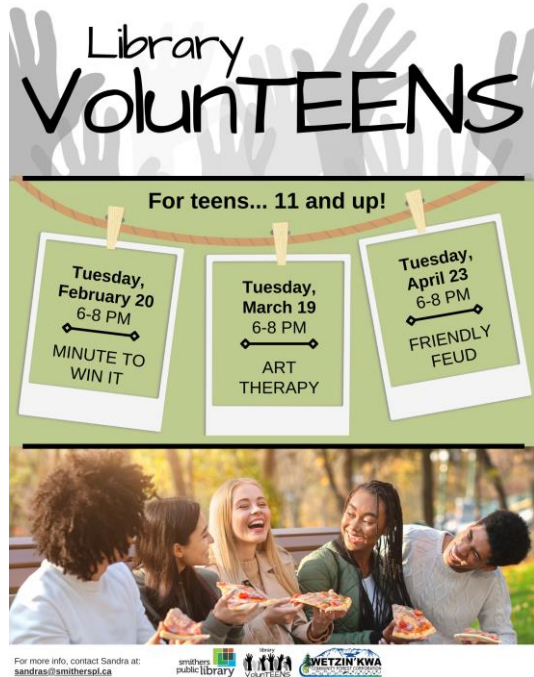
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Friday, April 19

9:30 - 11:00 AM



Sandra led a fun-filled **Friendly Feud** night for the **Library VolunTEENS**. Thanks to Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for their ongoing support.



Author Talk & Book Launch: **Riot** by **Chelsea Mae Smith**

26 people joined Riot for a raw and honest discussion about mental health and what it's like to live with bipolar. The audience settled in for a reading, followed by a Q&A period and book signing. The evening included good food and fun games to keep the conversation going. This event was sponsored by Northern Health and organized in partnership with the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society and the Consumer Family Initiatives Fund.

The library participated in a Métis Scavenger Hunt organised by the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre.



The Town of Smithers staff participated in an April 24 virtual workshop on adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle for Earth Day. The library partnered with the Town by providing public computers for any staff requiring access.

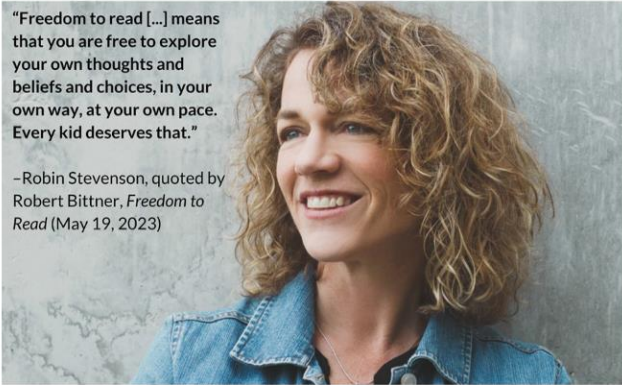


Award-winning B.C. author **Robin Stevenson** visited Smithers as part of a regional tour funded by the **Northwest Library Federation**. Robin presented her book ***Ghost's Journey*** to students at Walnut Park Elementary and ***Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle*** to Smithers Secondary students on May 10.

Robin was named the **2022 Freedom to Read Week Champion of Free Expression** and appeared at the Smithers Library on May 9 to discuss her experiences with censorship. CBC Daybreak North interviewed her about the event.

“Freedom to read [...] means that you are free to explore your own thoughts and beliefs and choices, in your own way, at your own pace. Every kid deserves that.”

– Robin Stevenson, quoted by Robert Bittner, *Freedom to Read* (May 19, 2023)



FREEDOM TO READ


A CONVERSATION WITH ROBIN STEVENSON

Let's talk about it


Join award-winning author Robin Stevenson for an in-depth conversation about her experiences as a champion of free expression in a time of unprecedented book bans and challenges—including several of her own published works.

THURSDAY
MAY 9

7:00 p.m.
Smithers Library



smithers public library



north west library federation

For more information, visit smithers.bc.libraries.cooc

BC and Yukon Book Prizes on Tour | Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

The BC and Yukon Book Prizes brought their author tour to Smithers! The library hosted a reading and Q&A with two of this year's finalists: **Emelia Symington-Fedy** (author of

Skid Dogs) and **Wanda John-Kehewin** (author of *Hopeless in Hope*). The BC and Yukon Book Prizes celebrate the achievements of British Columbia and Yukon writers, illustrators and publishers of various genres.



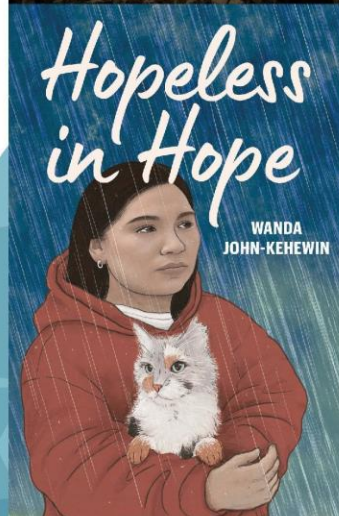
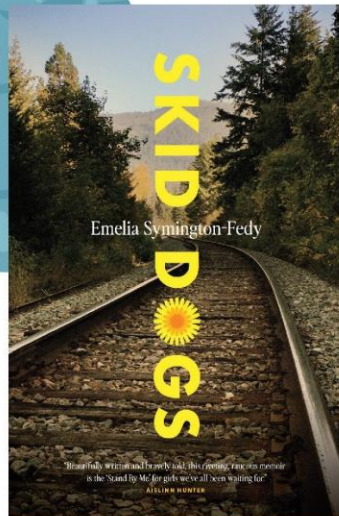
ON TOUR

Join BC and Yukon Book Prizes finalists Emelia Symington-Fedy and Wanda John-Kehewin for an evening celebrating the 2024 shortlists. At this event, Symington-Fedy and John-Kehewin will read from their work and answer audience questions.

Wednesday, May 15th, 7 pm
at the Smithers Public Library



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Gardens Galore: NID Program | Friday, May 17, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Dig into earthy crafts, learn about our garden friends, and have fun with earthworm races and (gummy) worm science! This drop-in non-instructional day (NID) program is open to all school-aged kids and teens and is supported by Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation.



Sandra (with Pete the puppet), Reuben and Wendy had a great time at the **Northwest Trade Expo** on May 3 and 4. Around 2,500 people visited the show, most of whom stopped to enter our draw for free books, check out upcoming events, or play with the library's portable puppet theatre.

Book Lovers Night Out (BLNO): Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

This month featured a focus on Kate DiCamillo. Thanks for Wetzin'kwa's support.

Staff

Jessica Generoux joins us as this year's **Summer Reading Club Coordinator**.

Jessica has worked for many years with libraries and children's programming, including extensive puppeteering experience. We look forward to her fun and educational free summer program for Bulkley Valley children and 'tweens.

Professional Development

Trustees **Christine** (Chair) and **Charmaine** attended a **Community-Led Libraries workshop** at the Terrace Public Library.

Christine and Wendy attended an online workshop on **The Board as Employer**.

Wendy viewed a webinar on **Understanding Addiction** and Sandra became recertified in **FoodSafe**.

Wendy is honoured to join the [Centre for Free Expression](#) (CFE) at Toronto Metropolitan University as a **Senior Fellow**. Local radio station MooseFM [announced](#) the appointment, as did the [Smithers Interior News](#). Wendy recently attended the CFE's **train-the-trainer course on intellectual freedom for library staff** and looks forward to continued advocacy, public education, and collaborating on the Centre's resources for Canadian libraries.

Reporting

The library's 2023 Annual Survey (usage statistics) and Statement of Financial Information have been submitted to Libraries Branch.