



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Call for Reading Buddies Volunteers and Participants and Announcing Reading Buddies for English Language Learners**

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**Owen Sound, Ontario – Friday, May 23, 2025 –The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is now accepting applications for readers and volunteers for the Summer Reading Buddies Program.**

Reading Buddies pairs a child in grades 1-5 who needs additional reading help with a volunteer mentor for one hour per week for 8 weeks through July and August. Reading Buddy meetings can include choosing and reading books together, playing literacy games, and other literacy-based activities to make reading fun and supportive. Regular engagement with literacy throughout the summer helps children maintain and improve their existing skills and be ready to begin the new school year.

The Library is pleased to offer Reading Buddies for English Language Learners (ELLs). This new program is for children in grades 1-8 who are learning English as an additional language. The goal for this program is to build English literacy and speaking skills with a volunteer mentor. Two special events encourage buddies and volunteers to socialize and help buddies grow their English confidence.

Additionally, the Library is accepting applications for volunteer Reading Buddy mentors for both Reading Buddies programs, including volunteers who speak French. High school students can mentor a child for a minimum of one hour per week and use these hours for their community involvement activities. Adult volunteers are also welcome to apply. All Reading Buddies undergo screening and receive training, scheduled for Friday, June 27.

The deadline to apply for buddies and volunteers is Friday, June 6. Applications and additional information are available in Youth Services or on the Library website: [www.osngupl.ca/reading-buddies/](http://www.osngupl.ca/reading-buddies/)

-30-

For more information, please contact Cassie Wood, Youth Services Specialist, 519-376-6623 ext. 5221 or email [cwood@library.osngupl.ca](mailto:cwood@library.osngupl.ca)

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is located at: 824 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 4K4