



MEDIA RELEASE

French and German Conversation Groups at the Library

Owen Sound, Ontario – Tuesday, May 12, 2026– Join us at the library to practice your French and German at our monthly Conversation Groups.

The library is pleased to announce two monthly language conversation groups meeting at the library. These groups offer members of the community a chance to engage in conversations, meet new people and practice language skills. Whether you're a beginner or bilingual, you're welcome to come and chat in a relaxed atmosphere in the library board room.

Our French Conversation Group meets one Thursday evening a month and is run by library volunteer Christelle Mahnke. Mahnke moved two years ago to Georgian Bluffs with her husband Devin and could not be happier to call this community home. She will celebrate ten years since immigrating from France this coming October. Her life is full between her life-coaching career, her volunteer time (at the Library, the Repair Café and as a Big Sister), and her passion homesteading.

Mahnke says “I love offering this Conversation Group as a space for the community to come practice their French. A language requires repetition to stay alive, even I can lose my French if I don't use it”.

The German Conversation Group meets one Monday evening a month and is run by library volunteer Martin Hederich. Hederich has his master's degree in Adult Education from the University of Hamburg, Germany. He is a retired Captain of the German Armed Forces and immigrated to Canada in 1984.

Hederich is also a certified instructor with 30 years experience with the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS) and has lead evening classes at the Jarvis Street Collegiate in Toronto for many years. Hederich says “I am happy to live in beautiful Grey/Bruce and look forward to meeting new friends interested in improving their language skills!”.

The library would like to thank Christelle and Martin for their work organizing and running our language conversation groups. If you are interested in running a conversation group, in an additional language, please reach out to the library.

For more information contact 519-376-6623 x 3 or info@library.osngupl.ca

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For more information about the program contact Shauna Doyle sdoyle@library.osngupl.ca or 519-376-6623 x 5206

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