

CONTACT INFORMATION

Birchway Niagara

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THE BOOK RIOT RETURNS TO THE GALE CENTRE JUNE 6-11

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, May 24, 2023 – With over 100,000 books, puzzles, games, CDS, and DVDs, Canada’s best and biggest used book sale will return to the Gale Centre from June 6-11. Formerly known as the Women’s Place Book Riot, this much-loved community event returns for its 44th installment as “The Birchway Book Riot,” reflecting Women’s Place’s recent announcement that the agency has now changed its name to the more inclusive “Birchway Niagara”.

This volunteer-driven event is Birchway Niagara’s biggest annual fundraiser, drawing over 4000 booklovers to the Gale Centre each year. “We have such amazing volunteers,” says Birchway Niagara’s Director of Development and Stewardship, Amanda Braet. “Without them, this event simply wouldn’t happen. In addition to our incredible event committee and the hundreds of people who come out to set up, run and take down the sale, there is also a core group of 14 volunteers who get together almost every week throughout the year so that every box of books that arrives at the sale is already sorted into the correct category. One of them is so committed to making the Book Riot a success that even he drives from Hamilton each week to help out!”

Organizers hope that the volunteers’ hard work will pay off by raising over \$100,000 in support of Birchway’s shelter and outreach services, which help hundreds of survivors of domestic violence in South Niagara every year to build safer futures.

Jennifer Gauthier, Birchway Niagara's Executive Director, notes that funds that the Book Riot raises have never been more urgently needed. "Last year, we added ten new safe beds to South Niagara to help meet the growing need for domestic violence services," she explains. "Unfortunately, none of these additional beds currently receive operational funding from the government. This means that we are relying on the support of our community, and on the booklovers who come to this event each year, to keep these spaces available when our clients need them most."

Most items at the sale are only \$3, and shoppers will have many opportunities to find a great deal during the dates and times below:

Tuesday, June 6 (4pm–9pm) Pre-Sale – \$10 admission

Wednesday, June 7 (10am–9pm) Regular sale day

Thursday, June 8 (10am–9pm) Daily special: Buy 2 CDs/DVDs, get 1 free!

Friday, June 9 (10am–9pm) Daily special: Children/youth titles – Buy 2, get 1 free!

Saturday, June 10 (9am–5pm) Daily special: Hardcover – Buy 2, get 1 free!

Sunday, June 11 (9am–5pm) Bag Day – Fill a bag for \$5 or 3 bags for \$10

For images of some of the volunteers who make the Book Riot possible and of last year's sale, visit [birchway.ca/about/media-relations/](https://www.birchway.ca/about/media-relations/)

To speak to someone about this event and the services it helps to fund, please reach out to Amanda Braet at 905-356-3933 ext. 240 or at amandab@birchway.ca. Further details can also be found on the agency's event page at www.birchway.ca/bookriot.

Originating in the 1980s with two women's shelters in Welland and Niagara Falls, Birchway Niagara provides compassionate services to individuals impacted by abuse including a 24-hour support line, safe shelter and counselling. Formerly known as Women's Place, the agency evolved in 2022 by consolidating emergency shelter services for women and children at their Niagara Falls location on McLeod Rd, and continues to offer outreach services at offices across South Niagara. In March 2023, a new name and logo were announced to reflect the growing understanding that abuse is an issue that negatively impacts everyone, and that everyone must be involved and supported to build a community without abuse.

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