

CONTACT INFORMATION

Birchway Niagara

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THE BIRCHWAY BOOK RIOT RETURNS TO THE GALE CENTRE JUNE 4-9

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, May 21, 2024 – With over 100,000 books, puzzles, games, CDs, and DVDs, Canada’s best and biggest used book sale, the Birchway Book Riot, will return for its 45th installment from June 4-9. This year’s sale will take place on rink 4 at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls and will raise critical funds for Birchway Niagara’s domestic violence shelter in Niagara Falls, and abuse support and prevention programs across South Niagara.

“We hope booklovers will help to raise even more than last year’s record-breaking sale, which raised over \$116,000,” explains the agency’s Director of Development and Stewardship, Amanda Braet. “Because of the generosity of our community, there will be even more books than last year, and we know that shoppers will make some great finds while supporting an important cause.”

In 2023, Niagara lost three women to violence. In 2024, four lives have already been lost. As Birchway Niagara’s biggest annual fundraiser, which welcomes approximately 5000 attendees annually, this year’s event will be helping to protect and empower survivors of abuse, while also creating critical awareness to help end the cycle of violence.

“Even if you are not a big reader, you can find ways to be an ally against abuse at the Book Riot,” explains Birchway Niagara’s executive director, Jennifer Gauthier. “Not only are there enough books to fill an ice rink. There are also games, puzzles,

music, fudge and other items for sale. You can even enter one our raffles for a chance to win a 50/50 prize or a \$500 Gales gas card.”

Volunteering is also a great way to get involved. During the set up, sale and take-down, approximately 200 volunteers make this sale possible every year, including a team of Niagara Falls firefighters, who have donated their time to load trucks with donations for delivery to the sale for decades. Throughout the year, a volunteer committee also plans the event and a core group of 14 “sorting” volunteers donate their time every week so that items are already in categories before being sent to the sale venue.

Local businesses are also helping to make the event a success by becoming event sponsors and in-kind donors, such as returning donor, Home Instead, which is this year’s Major Sponsor.

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 4 (4pm–9pm) Pre-Sale – \$10 admission

Wednesday, June 5 (10am–9pm) Regular sale day

Thursday, June 6 (10am–9pm) Daily special: Buy 2 CDs/DVDs, get 1 free!

Friday, June 7 (10am–9pm) Daily special: Children/youth titles – Buy 2, get 1 free!

Saturday, June 8 (9am–5pm) Daily special: Hardcover – Buy 2, get 1 free!

Sunday, June 9 (9am–5pm) Bag Day – Fill a bag for \$10 or 3 bags for \$20

Please note, book donations have closed for the 2024 event and will re-open on July 23 in anticipation of the 2025 event.

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/. 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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