

# Discover the “secret book walk”

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Somewhere in the Drayton Valley/ Brazeau County area is a secret storybook that’s been laid out by Verna Wicks, the youth and adult programmer for the Drayton Valley Municipal Library.

The story is laid out along an area where families can go for a walk, says Wicks. Each page has been placed on a different sign, giving families something fun to do for an afternoon or evening activity.

Wicks says she started the storybook walks when the pandemic hit because it was a program that the library could put on without having a gathering of people.

Normally, Wicks creates the story walks around community events or posts the location on social media. This time, she decided to make it a bit of an adventure by leaving the area it’s in vague.

“The current one is not actually in the town,” says Wicks as her hint to families.

Anyone participating can also send in a picture of their

family on the walk to the email address on the signs. “Those who send in pictures can get a free book from the library to keep,” she says.

Wicks says she plans to continue doing book walks, but many of them may be weather dependent. She says she set one up in November one year and a sudden snow storm blew away some of the signs. So, most likely, she will be doing these in the summer as part of the

summer reading club signs.

Some of the stories Wicks gets are already set up for story walks. The stories themselves are printed on corrugated plastic signs.

Other times, Wicks will purchase two

copies of a book and create the signs herself. In the past, they’ve had local businesses donate some supplies for the

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*-Verna Wicks*

In the past, Wicks has had the walks set up at different ponds in the community, on the trails south of the cemetery, and at Little Lions Park. Sometimes, the books have different themes as well.

“One year I did it on spring break and I called it Gross Week,” says Wicks. She had a book at the library that seemed appropriate, and it went up at the Lions Park.

Wicks says families have until October 28 to find the story.