



2016 Report to the Community

Children



Adults



Youth



Donors





Vision

Why we exist

Inspiring Oakville

Mission

Our impact

Cultivating discovery and creativity by fulfilling our values

Values

What we will do

Providing access to resources for information and recreation

Fostering the joy of reading and learning for all ages

Offering a welcoming and supportive environment

Welcome

Oakville Public Library is over 180 years in the making.

Established as a small public reading room in the mid-1800's, our library has drastically evolved over the decades, continuously improving and transforming the way people think, create, and learn.

From a traditional information centre with books and space for quiet study, to a modern hub for exploration, inspiration, and ingenuity, the Oakville Public Library aims to provide its community with progressive opportunities for personal growth – at any age.

Oakville Public Library believes in accessible lifelong learning and, in most recent years, has made a commitment to revolutionize the services it provides to its customers. By focusing on the needs of the community, we have been able to adjust our offerings and put more attention on the areas of greatest importance.

We strive to fulfill our mission of cultivating discovery and creativity in every phase of life, and will continue to promote the importance of personal growth.

Our community drives us, and we are confident that the Oakville Public Library will maintain its exceptional customer service by supporting the needs of our community members.

We look forward to a great 2017.

Councillor Jeff Knoll
Board Chair,
Oakville Public Library

Lynn Horlor
CEO,
Oakville Public Library

2016 Board Members:

Councillor Jeff Knoll (Chair), Steven Bright (Vice Chair), Mark Bettiol, Councillor Marc Grant, Pankaj Sardana, Joan Sweeney Marsh (Special Advisor)

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Introduction

Last year was, yet again, a testament of our commitment to the Oakville community.

We embarked on many groundbreaking initiatives, including the expansion of our services at Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre with the opening of our Holds Depot, and the preparations made for the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

We made great efforts to strengthen our relationships by broadening our community engagement through various outreach programs. In April, we held a Community Expo to spark interest and curiosity of the library's future-forward plans, as well as to promote collaborative and intergenerational learning. The Expo was a very successful event that brought together over 200 individuals of all ages.

Located in a diverse community that welcomes thousands of individuals from around the world, the library's specialized seminars have resonated very well with our newcomer population. Last year we expanded our newcomer program to include more opportunities to learn more about topics such as getting your children accustomed to Canada.

In 2016, Oakville Public Library also made noteworthy advancements to better suit the individuals that step into our branches, such as the launch of Lynda.com – a multifaceted platform that provides hundreds of tutorials for training on a vast selection of topics.

The library has become an influential organization in the Oakville community, and every year we see more members of the public take advantage of the resources available to them. In last year's Citizen Survey conducted by the Town of Oakville, the library received an 88 per cent satisfaction rating – ranking OPL as the second most valued service in Oakville.

From infancy through the advancing years, we understand the different stages of learning and the outcomes our customers are hoping for. We welcome you to continue to browse this report and learn more about the significant developments the Oakville Public Library has made over the past year.

We believe in lifelong learning.

Most Popular

Book

The Lake House by Kate Morton

lynda.com
Tutorial

Excel 2013 –
Essential Training

hoopla

Program:
Family Storytime
15,791
participants

Movie:
The Girl on the Train
Audiobook:
You are a Badass
– Jen Sincero
Album:
2016 Grammy
Nominees

Year in review





1,505
children programs

44,202
participants

Cultivating our children

Learning starts at birth.

Every year, the Oakville Public Library coordinates hundreds of events that assist with the development of children. We believe in the importance of early learning, which is why we offer services for every stage of childhood.

Early childhood literacy is integral, and we strongly believe in introducing children to reading, writing, and socialization at a young age. Some of our most successful literacy programs from last year include *Paws 4 Stories*, *Little English Learnings*, our Family, Baby, and Toddler *Storytimes*, and our *Grade 2 Visits* – an initiative where we visit dozens of schools in the community and get children excited about the library.

Recognizing the importance of digital literacy, we have developed a variety of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) programming that encourages children to get creative and have fun with technology. All of our STEAM offerings are well-sought after, including *Green Screen for Kids*, *Ozoblocky*, *Squishy Circuits*, *Lego Robotics*, and our *Pre-School Discovery Labs* that introduce children to different areas of science.

Two of the library's annual school-aged programs – *Battle of the Books* and *Summer Reading Club* – also saw a lot of interest in 2016, with just under 4,000 students participating.

We are proud of the level of expertise we bring and we will continue to offer a variety of services for the children of our community.

Advancing our youth

Youth are our future.

Teens are our future community leaders, and we understand the importance of investing in them. We believe every young adult can become whomever they aspire to be, and we aim to support them on their journey.

For many years now, Oakville Public Library has had the pleasure of working with a group of teens who provide insight on how to get youth interested in the library. The Teen Advisory Group has been integral in the development of many of our programs, and, year over year, we are able to introduce more services that attract Oakville youth.

We aim to assist teens in preparing for the future, and offer informational services such as learning about financial literacy, an introduction to networking, and tips on searching for a job. It's also important that

we stimulate their minds, which is why we offer programs that help inspire their imagination, such as *Write2Xpress*, an annual contest that allows teens to submit creative writing pieces inspired by a photograph.

Last year we introduced our *Digital Discovery* program where our Teen Tech Team – a group of teen volunteers – teach individuals how to use various technology. From setting up an email account, to using a smart phone, this intergenerational program is a great way for our volunteers to get involved in the community while boosting their own confidence and social skills.

The future of the world is in the hands of our youth, and we hope to inspire them to do great things as they grow.

83
youth programs

1,743
participants



913

adult programs

5,770

participants



Engaging our adults

Adults serve our community.

In this day and age, attaining a great work-life balance is extremely difficult. With this in mind, we try our best to introduce and provide options to excite adults and keep them engaged with the library.

The library develops a variety of programming for our adult customers, and we continually see a large amount of interest in our offerings. Some of our most desired services for adults are our 3D printing certification classes, our *TechConnect series*, as well as our *Expert Lecture Series* which covers topics ranging from current events to emerging health research.

In 2016, the library saw an overwhelming response to our more traditional programming, such as our book clubs, games nights, and our well-attended author events. Last year we had the pleasure of welcoming esteemed authors such as Margaret Atwood and Charlotte Gray at our *In Conversation with...* series, which drew in huge crowds of enthusiastic fans.

We encourage adults to continue to utilize the library throughout their lives. Whether they are interested in learning new skills, researching a specific topic, looking to network, or have an interest in a particular topic, we have so many programs and services that adults can take advantage of.

We understand how busy life can be, but it is important for you to take some time to reconnect with yourself, and we aim to offer great options for adults to do so.

Educating our seniors

Creating a foundation of support for our seniors.

The Town of Oakville has a large and growing elderly population, and, in more recent years, our library has aimed to develop programming and services of interest to this demographic.

As these individuals reach the age of retirement, it is important for them to have a foundation of support to not only assist them during their times of need, but to teach, encourage, and motivate them to be proactive in their advancing years.

Over the years, the Oakville Public Library has introduced many programs and services to assist our community's seniors in their everyday life. Our *Senior's Series* presents various engaging and of-interest topics that allows individuals to connect with fellow members of the community and discuss issues, ask questions, and have fun.

Last year, the library held discussions on subjects ranging from taxes and public transit, to meditation and reading, and saw more seniors sign up for our *Digital Discovery* sessions to learn more about emerging technology.

To provide our senior population with access to easily accessible information, Halton Information Providers (HIP) introduced a Senior's Directory on the HIP Services database. This designated section of the website includes information on resources for end of life care, memory loss and dementia, veteran's services, and much more.

Often times it is difficult to find support during retirement, which is why the library has made a commitment to provide resources and activities for these individuals. The library has become an integral resource for our seniors, which has been highlighted, year over year, in Oakville's 2016 Age Friendly Survey. In 2016, the Oakville Public Library received an outstanding 91 per cent satisfaction rating for its senior's programs and services.

Our seniors are very important to us, and the library will continue to put an emphasis on programming and will expand our senior services.

17
seniors
programs

254
participants



Statement of Operations & Accumulated Surplus

Revenue	2015	2016
Town Grants	8,656,400	8,430,800
Provincial Grants	206,453	208,840
Federal Grants	5,280	12,953
Library Generated Revenue	448,092	437,888
Total	9,316,225	9,090,481
Expenditures	2015	2016
Human Resources	7,183,167	7,218,153
Collections	276,769	293,189
Operating Supplies	149,269	165,898
Purchased Services/Utilities	842,788	1,083,846
Amortization	808,447	757,604
	9,260,467	9,518,690
Transfers from the Town of Oakville	397,624	(67,635)
Total	9,658,091	9,451,055
Annual Surplus/(Deficit)	(341,866)	(360,574)
Accumulated Surplus - Start	3,735,349	3,393,483
Accumulated Surplus - Year-End	3,393,483	3,032,909



"I support the Oakville Public Library because I believe in the power of literacy.

Reading can increase an individual's knowledge of history, vocabulary, geography, and social issues, as well as act as a personal comfort. It is not only an essential tool for childhood development, but is an integral part of lifelong learning."

Elsie Kossatz

Donor, Volunteer, Former Board Member of the Oakville Public Library and Friends of the Library

Thank you for your ongoing support

Donors, partners, and volunteers are the backbone of the Oakville Public Library.

The Oakville Public Library receives municipal, provincial, and federal grants that provide funds to cover the library's expenses for its operation, administration, infrastructure, and maintenance. Through donations from individuals, corporations, trust funds, and civic organizations, the library is able to enhance its core resources beyond what its basic operating budget allows.

Oakville Public Library stands strong from the generosity and selflessness of our supporters. With the help of these individuals, we are able to provide more beneficial services and meaningful experiences to our community.

It is important for us to acknowledge those who have made an impact in our library,

as well as recognize the importance of their roles within our organization.

We are grateful to our donors for their generous financial contributions, and to the individuals who volunteer their time and talents, including those on our Board of Directors, our Friends of the Oakville Public Library, our Teen Advisory team, our Book-a-Tech coaches, and our Summer Reading assistants.

Their generous contributions enable the Oakville Public Library to continue providing the most up-to-date resources that support the needs of our community and promote lifelong learning.

Thank you to our advocates.

Our Donors

- The Tom and Janet Alton Family Fund (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)
- Ampersand Inc. - Lauren Cusack
- Ardis Archer
- Michael Arseneau
- Joan Barber
- Richard and Barbara Birkett - The Oakville Public Library Birkett Family Fund (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)
- Bit-Byte Nibbling Consultants
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- The Ontario Endowment for Children and Youth in Recreation Fund (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)
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- Jack and Joan Wood Oakville Public Library Fund (a fund held within the Oakville Community Foundation)
- Dianne Woodruff
- Joan Wright
- Margaret and Eric Wyler
- YMCA of Oakville
- Norman Young
- David and Evelyn Yu
- 64 Anonymous Donors

This list provides an overview of donors who contributed \$100 or more in 2016. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate listing of our donors. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

500+
volunteer hours contributed

362
donors

60+
volunteers

Looking forward

Great things are coming.

The Oakville Public Library is going through a very exciting phase of change and growth. With our 2016-19 Strategic Plan well underway, our community will be seeing many new initiatives, technology, and projects implemented that will expand our existing inventory of services and resources.

The Library is always searching for ways to complement our community, and it is important that we provide our customers with exceptional service.

We are passionate about the direction we are taking and we are eager to show to our community what the future has in store.

Our Iroquois Ridge branch is currently in the midst of a major renovation to introduce a Creation Zone equipped with new and emerging technology. Iroquois Ridge, which will reopen in early July 2017, is our second busiest branch, welcoming averaging approximately 16,000 visitors a month, and circulating almost 400,000 items annually. The need for this renovation stems primarily from the increasing demand for access to technology, collections, and programming

space, as well as the changing use and role of our Library within the community.

To meet these pressing needs, the renovated branch will add new community-oriented and technology-centric spaces along with expanded group collaboration and quiet study spaces. The Creation Zone will serve as a gathering point where individuals and groups of all ages can connect to work on innovative projects, using both new technologies and traditional tools.

This renovation has become a gateway for creating more accessible learning spaces, and will allow us to introduce state-of-the-art technology that encourages creative thinking.

In the coming months, we will keep you informed on the various sponsorship and naming opportunities available including several creative ways that you can support these new initiatives.

We are excited to introduce the Library's new initiatives to our community, and look forward to engaging you in all of our future endeavors in support of lifelong learning.

