



# 2025

## Annual Report

**hhpl** halton hills  
public library



# Table of Contents

## Land Acknowledgement

Halton Hills Public Library is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as well as the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat. We are within the bounds of Treaty 19, also known as the Ajetance Treaty, agreed upon by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown in 1818.

- 4 Library Board
- 5 A Message from the Board Chair and Chief Librarian & CEO
- 6 Strategic Priority 1: Welcoming and Inclusive
- 8 Strategic Priority 2: Community Connection
- 10 Strategic Priority 3: Enriching Lives
- 12 Your Favourites
- 14 Stronger Together: Volunteer Impact
- 15 Investing in Your Library's Future: HHPL Foundation

## Our Mission

To empower our community through ideas, creativity, and connection in a welcoming, safe and supportive environment.

## Our Vision

To enrich the lives of everyone in our community.

## Our Values

- Building Community
- Collaboration
- Inclusivity
- Innovation
- Intellectual Freedom
- Service Excellence
- Learning, Literacy and Discovery



# Strategic Priority 1: Welcoming and Inclusive

## Stories That Reflect Us

We created opportunities to hear from authors whose stories reflect their own experiences. These conversations brought people together and helped build understanding, connection, and a sense of belonging.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, we welcomed Indigenous storytellers to Halton Hills. Author David A. Robertson shared a practical approach to reconciliation through his book *52 Ways to Reconcile*, part of our One Book, One Halton Hills program. In conversation with CBC's Elamin Abdelmahmoud, he encouraged ongoing reflection and learning. Illustrator Jennifer Faria also joined families for Storytime. She used her art to connect children with Indigenous worldviews.

We also welcomed Kyne, author of *Math in Drag*, who inspired youth to challenge stereotypes and explore STEM with creativity and confidence.

Book Bash celebrated diverse voices by bringing together ten Canadian children's authors, showing every child that they can see themselves reflected in stories.



## Key Accomplishments

- Celebrated Black History Month with Juno-nominated musician Njacko Backo and contemporary artist Paul Dias.
- Launched Treaty Resource Kits to share the history and culture of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
- Advanced the Town of Halton Hills' Safe and Welcoming Community initiative through outreach and community engagement.
- Improved access to dyslexia-friendly books with easy-to-search tags and new Reading Overlay Kits to help build more confident readers.
- Enhanced the online experience with a new library system, app, text notifications, and themed reading lists.

"Reading is a way of learning about the world. Engaging with different perspectives can change the way you think or how you view something."



# Strategic Priority 2: Community Connection

## Connecting People to Opportunities

With the help of our partners, residents connected to career, volunteer, and post-secondary opportunities through two new information fairs. These events gave attendees the tools and guidance needed to plan their next steps.

Our first Volunteer and Career Support Fair brought together more than 20 community partners to offer resume support, volunteer opportunities, and information about workers' rights. Attendees connected directly with organizations, strengthened their resumes, and learned about opportunities to gain experience or give back to the community.

We also expanded access to post-secondary information in North Halton by hosting a two-day University and College Fair. Local youth met with school representatives, explored program options, and attended sessions on scholarships and life after high school.



**75** community partners delivered programs, services, and supports to residents

## New in Local History:



Visit our YouTube channel for Local History Lessons with the Esquesing Historical Society and Vintage Acton



Celebrate Acton's Bicentennial with a digital exhibit on Halton Hills Images



“Public libraries play an essential role in protecting democracy, ensuring educated citizens, assisting less fortunate members of our community, supporting society, and strengthening civilization.”

## Key Accomplishments

- Connected people through film by bringing Canadian stories into nine neighbourhoods during the inaugural Halton Hills Film Festival.
- Unveiled a Garden of Hope at the Georgetown Branch on World Suicide Prevention Day, in partnership with the Halton Suicide Prevention Coalition. Community members shared messages of resilience and hope through painted rocks.
- Built cycling knowledge and confidence through workshops on safety, rights after a collision, and how to fix your bike.
- Created space for community conversation about the regional impact of opioid use. The Canadian Mental Health Association shared practical information about naloxone and overdose prevention.
- Expanded the reach of community services into Halton Hills through new partnerships with ROCK Caregiver Cafe Program and Punjabi Community Health Services.

# Strategic Priority 3: Enriching Lives

## Building Skills Through Creativity

There were more ways to learn new skills and bring ideas to life through the expanded Creativity Centre. Sewing and embroidery machines supported exploration of design, repair, and self-expression in a hands-on, welcoming environment for people of all ages.

Young creators used the space to build skills in design and entrepreneurship. They created products for school Maker Fairs and launched first businesses, turning ideas into customized fashion and accessories. Others focused on sustainability, choosing to repair items rather than replace them.

These experiences were supported through learn-to-sew workshops, Discovery Days, Repair Cafés, and one-on-one staff support. From early ideas to finished prototypes, you were able to turn your ideas into something you could use or share. The Creativity Centre supports learning, creativity, and independence at every age.



“I was new to Canada and didn’t know anything about libraries. A librarian helped me get my card and showed me everything I could do. The programs made it way easier to meet people and make friends.”



234%  
3D printing



## Key Accomplishments

- Engaged more than 800 children in the TD Summer Reading Club, logging 12,000 days of reading—the equivalent of 32 years.
- Connected readers with authors through special Storytimes, a literacy festival, and virtual author talks.
- Helped families build a love of reading through bilingual Storytimes in French, Spanish, and Punjabi, and a new Spanish children’s collection.
- Made cultural experiences more accessible by offering free admission passes to the Royal Ontario Museum for up to four visitors.
- Introduced children to the natural world through programs featuring birds of prey, small mammals, and reptiles.
- Became the first library in Canada to offer Toybox 3D Printing for Kids, allowing over 100 children to discover how to create a 3D printed toy.

# Your Favourites

Adult Fiction



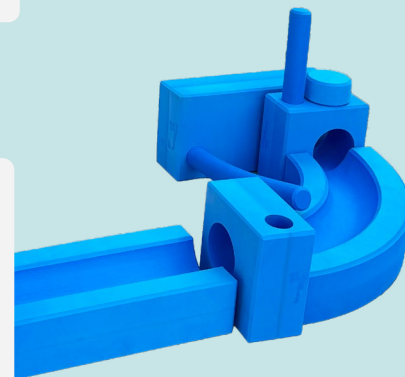
New Item:  
ROM Passes



Library of Things:  
Coding Critter  
Bopper, Hip & Hop



Risky Play:  
Big Blue Blocks



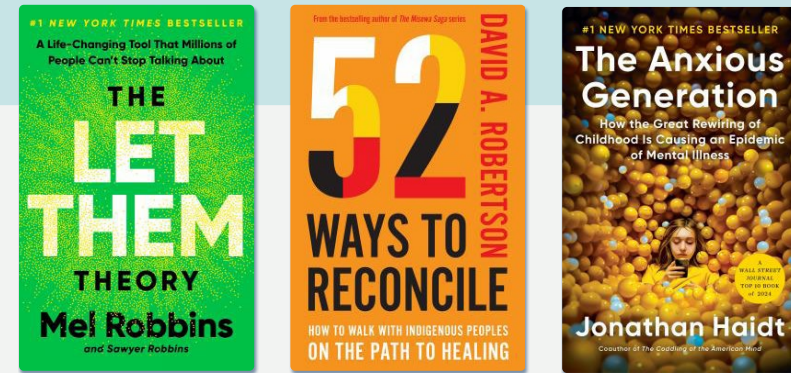
Creativity Centre:  
Sewing Machine



Author Talk: David A. Robertson



Programs:  
FanFest  
Book Bash  
Winter Wonder



Adult Non-Fiction



YA Fiction



Children's Fiction



Learning Topic:  
Building an  
Ecommerce Website



Official Town Bird Vote  
Winner: Northern Cardinal

62% of in-person ballots were cast at HHPL during the final round of voting



# Stronger Together: Volunteer Impact

Because of you, HHPL does more.

Volunteers. Partners. Donors.

You help us:

- Connect residents to essential services
- Deliver books to homebound members
- Mentor young readers
- Support the Seed Library
- Bring programs and events to life
- Expand special initiatives through your generosity

Your support strengthens learning, connection, and belonging across Halton Hills.



# Investing in Your Library's Future: HHPL Foundation

The Halton Hills Public Library Foundation helps bring more to your library—supporting programs and experiences beyond what core funding provides. With community support, you help make possible memorable events, inspiring guest speakers, and hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Share your library love by visiting our branches to shop for HHPL merchandise. Proceeds support the HHPL Foundation and help bring more of these experiences to the community.



**Make an  
Impact**

With more than 250,000 visits each year, Halton Hills Public Library is a trusted and valued community resource.

**To learn more about the Foundation  
or make a gift, visit [hhpl.ca](http://hhpl.ca).**



## Friends of the Library

Through fundraising and advocacy, the Friends make the following possible:

- Book Bash
- One Book, One Halton Hills
- Halton Hills Lecture Series
- Art at the Library
- INC Project
- FanFest
- Reading Overlays (tools that support confident, accessible reading)

Their leadership and generosity continue to enrich our community. We are grateful for their ongoing support.



## Double Your Impact

During the Community Foundation of Halton North's annual Giving Challenge, donations directed to the HHPL Foundation are matched by CFHN, doubling the impact of each gift.

In 2025, the Foundation received \$4,400 through the Giving Challenge. We are grateful to the donors who helped build momentum for the HHPL Foundation's future.

The next Giving Challenge is Saturday, September 26, 2026.



# Locations

## Georgetown Branch

9 Church Street, Georgetown, ON L7G 2A3

## Acton Branch

17 River Street, Acton, ON L7J 1C2

## Library Lockers

Gellert Community Centre,  
10241 8th Line, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S5