

Ontario Public Library Week Launches at Hamilton Public Library

The Hon. Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to launch OPLW event at the Hamilton Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

HAMILTON, ON (October 19, 2022) – It's time to celebrate **Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW)** taking place on October 16 to 22. This year, the theme is "One Card, One Million Possibilities."

The Ontario Library Association (OLA), in partnership with the Hamilton Public Library (HPL) are excited to welcome the Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to host the launch of Ontario Public Library Week at the Valley Park Branch this Wednesday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

"Public libraries are community hubs where people learn, connect and grow. I encourage everyone to visit a library in their neighbourhood during Ontario Public Library Week to discover all it has to offer," says Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "Our government recognizes what it takes to keep libraries thriving, and I'm excited to welcome back the Ontario Public Library Service Awards after a two-year hiatus so we can celebrate these efforts and achievements together."

October is **Canadian Library Month (CLM)**. During this month, libraries and library partners across Canada raise awareness of the valuable role libraries play in the lives of people in Canada. **First Nations Public Library Week (FNPLW)** is celebrated on the first week of October to raise awareness of First Nation public library resources, services, programs, and activities. This year's theme is: "Bekaa, Bzindaachagan | Wait and Listen."

"Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource and community hubs," says Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, OLA. "Across the province, Ontario's public libraries are visited over 200 million times every year – both in person and online."

During this month, the OLA encourages members to share the joys, possibilities, and connections that libraries bring to people of all ages in Ontario. Learn more and access OPLW resources [here](#).

The new location of the Valley Park Branch includes a collaborative makerspace that encourages visitors to create, invent, and experience high-tech tools and technologies for innovative projects.

"Hamilton Public Library is honoured to host the kickoff to Ontario Public Library Week and celebrate the many ways libraries and Library Staff bring communities together to learn, listen and share," says Paul Takala, CEO and Chief Librarian, Hamilton Public Library. "This week and throughout the year we welcome everyone to visit your local Branch in person or online, get a library card and return throughout the year to discover something new."

Join the conversation and share how you use your local library space with #OPLW and #ILoveONLibraries.

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is thankful to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for their support of Ontario Public Library Week. Ontario Public Library Week is made possible with sponsorship by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and Library Services Centre.

Ontario Public Library Week Launch Event

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Time: 10:00 am to 10:40 am

Location: Hamilton Public Library – Valley Park Branch

Address: 970 Paramount Dr. Stoney Creek, ON

Website: <https://www.hpl.ca/valley-park>

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