



Mission Statement

Freedom to Belong and Discover

Strategic Priorities

Connecting to Community • Relevant and Responsive • Learning Organization

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Session

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Central Library, Board Room, 5th Floor
06:00 PM Meeting

AGENDA

1. Discussion Period

1.1 Land Acknowledgement - GB

1.2 Update on Operating Budget - PT

1.3 Verbal Delegation - Gessie Stearns

1.4 Verbal Delegation - CUPE 932

1.5 Verbal Delegation - Library Workers for Supervised Consumption Sites (LW4SCS)

1.6 Library Card Pilot Presentation - PT/CR

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the February 18, 2026 Hamilton Public Library Board Meeting - PT

Recommend

4. Declaration of Conflict

5. Presentations

5.1 Facility Master Plan Draft Presentation (Deferred from the February 18, 2026 Meeting)- CR

6. Strategic Plan

7. Consent Items

7.1 Upcoming and Outstanding Items - PT

Recommend

7.2 Digital Technology Related Vendor Of Record (VOR) Updates (Deferred from February 18, 2026 Meeting) - DQ

Recommend

7.3 Year End Report on Goals (2nd Review) - PT (Deferred from February 18, 2026 meeting)

Recommend

8. Business Arising

8.1 Piloting Improving Safety at Central Protocol (Draft) - PT/CR

Endorse

8.2 2025 Year-End Metrics Report (Deferred from February 18, 2026 meeting) - CR

Receive

9. Correspondence

9.1 Letter to Hamilton Public Library Board - CUPE 932

9.2 Letter to Hamilton Public Library Board - Library Workers for Supervised Consumption Sites

9.3 Written Delegation - Community Member, Anonymous

10. Report

10.1 Capital Variance and Project Update Report - PB

Receive

10.2 Annual Report on Partnerships - CP

Recommend

10.3 Prior Years Financial Position (Pre-Audit) - PB

Receive

10.4 Chief Librarian's Report - PT

Receive

11. New Business

11.1 Non-Union Compensation - LD

Recommend

12. Policies

13. Private and Confidential

14. Date of Next Meeting

April 8, 2026

15. Adjournment



Hamilton
Public
Library

Library Card Access at Central Library

Presented by: Paul Takala, Chad Roglich

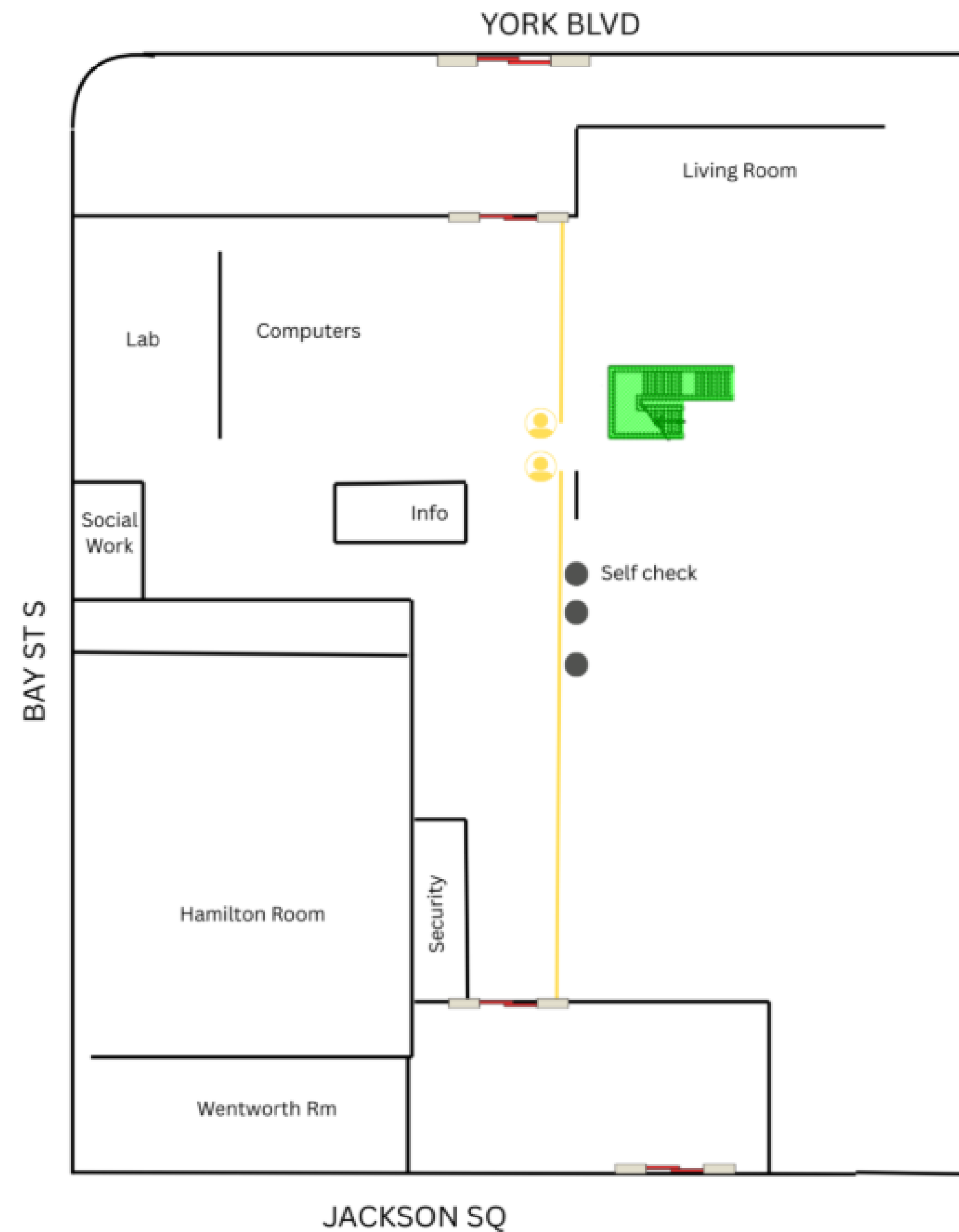
hpl.ca



Everyone is welcome to come into Central, provided they identify themselves and are willing to be accountable for their actions while at the Library

- Central Library is heavily impacted by the ongoing opioid crisis, affecting safety and service delivery, deterring people from visiting
- Despite extensive measures (security, social supports, incident-response systems), challenges have become unmanageable
- HPL will temporarily require a Library Card or to see ID for entry into the main part of Central
- HPL is joining others in collective advocacy on government partners to provide accessible health and housing supports

Library Card Access Operation



- Greeters stationed at interior entrance will scan member library cards
- Visitors will be given a pass when they show ID
- Security and Community Connectors will be nearby to support conversations, card registration, and de-escalation
- Managers and leadership will provide onsite support
- Free movement between entrances
- Social Worker access requires no card
- Pilot for two months, then evaluate, report, recommend actions going forward

Goal – To test a new process, that if successful, could be used as a temporary measure in the future to stop an accelerating crisis of drug use, without closing the branch



INSPIRE CARDS

- To register for an Inspire Card, members need to provide **one piece of ID to verify name.**
- Members that do not have any form of physical ID, can connect with an Organization to provide a letter to be their **one piece of ID to verify their name**

All forms of ID listed below can be accepted in **both physical and digital formats.**

NAME IDENTIFICATION OPTIONS

- Bank Card with full name embossed
- Birth certificate
- Car ownership or insurance
- Certificate of Indian status
- Citizenship card
- Employee ID or benefit card
- Health Card – **do not request*
- Landed immigration certificate
- Letter from Organization
- Old Age Security Cards
- Major credit card
- Passport
- Permanent resident card
- Social insurance card
- Student Card from a Hamilton Institution

ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION OPTIONS

- Bank statements
- Current utility bill with address or invoice
- Current Government cheque
- Current lease / rental agreement
- Current legal document with address (subpoena, parole, or bail)
- Mail with a cancelled stamp
- Magazine Subscription
- Student Record or Report Card



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HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Session

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Central Library, Board Room, 5th Floor

06:00 PM Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Alison Griggs, Nick van Velzen, Brie Berry, Carly Whitmore, Lynne Serviss, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, Dayna Firth, Kojo Dampsey, Gagan Batra, Jennifer Horwath and Councillor Ted McMeekin

STAFF: Paul Takala, Cindy Poggiaroni, Dijia Qin, Simona Dinu, Lisa Dupelle, Chad Roglich, Erika Pavkovic, Callie Blackburn

REGRETS: Pam Byrne

GUESTS: Sarah Gauthier, Andrew Tuck, Phillip Toms, Tyler Malone, Holly Ford, Evan Ubene

1. Discussion Period

1.1 Land Acknowledgement - GB

1.2 Verbal Delegation - Evan Ubene

1.3 Update on Central - PT, CR, SG

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the December 10th, 2025 Hamilton Public Library Board Meeting - PT

Moved By Brie Berry

Seconded By Jennifer Horwath

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the Minutes of the December 10th, 2025 Hamilton Public Library Board Meeting.

Passed

4. Declaration of Conflict

5. Presentations

5.1 HPL Ward 14 Feasibility Study - Phillip Toms, Tyler Malone, Holly Ford (Toms + McNally Design)

5.2 Facility Master Plan Draft Presentation - CR (*Deferred*)

6. Strategic Plan

6.1 Letter from the Board - 2026 Direction - PT

Moved By Carly Whitmore

Seconded By Jennifer Horwath

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the Letter from the Board - 2026 Direction for 1st review.

Passed

7. Consent Items

7.1 Upcoming and Outstanding Items - PT

Moved By Brie Berry

Seconded By Jennifer Horwath

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the Upcoming and Outstanding Items.

Passed

8. Business Arising

8.1 Report from the Nominations Committee and Election of Officers - PT

Moved By Kojo Dampthey

Seconded By Lynne Serviss

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the Report from the Nominations Committee and Election of Officers.

The approved Slate of Officers:

CHAIRPERSON: Gagan Batra

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Carly Whitmore

ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE (OLS) REPRESENTATIVE: Lynne Serviss

AUDIT COMMITTEE (3) + CHAIR: Jennifer Horwath, Kojo Dampthey, Nick van Velzen

SECRETARY: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian and CEO

TREASURER: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian and CEO as prescribed in Bylaws

Passed

8.2 Digital Technology Related Vendor Of Record (VOR) Updates – DQ (*Deferred*)

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the Digital Technology Related Vendor Of Record (VOR) Updates.

8.3 2026 Budget Update - PB

Moved By Kojo Dampthey

Seconded By Dayna Firth

Opposed: Carly Whitmore

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the 2026 Budget Update.

Passed

9. Correspondence

9.1 Written Delegation - Barry Coombs

Moved By Carly Whitmore

Seconded By Nick van Velzen

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the Written Delegation - Barry Coombs as information

Passed

10. Report

10.1 Year End Report on Goals (2nd Review) - PT (Deferred)

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the Year End Report on Goals (2nd Review).

10.2 2025 Year-End Metrics Report - CR (Deferred)

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the 2025 Year-End Metrics Report as information

10.3 Chief Librarian's Report - PT

Moved By Dayna Firth

Seconded By Lynne Serviss

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive the Chief Librarian's Report as information.

Passed

11. New Business

12. Policies

13. Private and Confidential

Moved By Dayna Firth

Seconded By Brie Berry

That the Hamilton Public Library Board move in-camera.

Passed

13.1 Safety and Security at Central Branch - PT

13.2 Legal Privacy Issue - PT

13.3 Potential Property Development - PT

14. Date of Next Meeting

15. Adjournment

Moved By Nick van Velzen

Seconded By Lynne Serviss

That the Hamilton Public Library Board Adjourn.

Passed

Date March 11, 2026
 To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
 From Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
 Subject Upcoming and Outstanding Agenda Items

2026 Library Board Meeting Schedule

Items are listed for the month they are scheduled for 1st Review.

Month	Agenda Items
January 15	No Meeting Scheduled
February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facility Master Plan Draft Presentation ✓ Letter from the Board 2026 Direction ✓ Election of Officers ✓ 2025 Year-End Metrics Report ✓ Reserve Update Report
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Central Safety Pilot ✓ Report on Prior Year Financials ✓ Capital Variance and Project Update Report ✓ Annual Report on Partnerships
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy Plan – Toxic Drug Crisis • Safety and Security Report • Library Board Bylaws
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 Metrics Report
June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Year Progress Report on 2026 Goals • Report on Staff Day 2026
July and August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Meetings Scheduled
September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2027 Capital Budget Submission • 2026 Operating Budget Variance Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Variance & Project Update Report • Holiday Closures 2027 • Q2 Metrics Reports
October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor’s Budget Direction • 2027 Operating Budget • Reserve Update Report • Staff Day 2027
November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Dates for the Following Year • Q3 Metrics Reports
December 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2027 Budget Presentation • Board Nominating Committee • Multi-Year Business Plan

Date March 11, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Dijia Qin, Director Digital Technology and Creation
Subject **DT Related Vendor of Record (VOR) Updates**

Recommendation

That the Hamilton Public Library Board approve the following VOR updates:

1. Remove MK Solutions Inc. and replace it with Lyngsoe Systems Ltd. An acquisition in January 2026, involving MK Solutions Inc. selling its assets to Lyngsoe Systems Ltd., was conducted.
2. Remove Bibliotheca Canada Inc. as the VOR for RFID Equipment and Services due to discontinued software support on the Staff Smart Station Application. No replacement vendor is currently being suggested.
3. Remove Comprise Technologies Inc. as the VOR for the supply of print management, computer booking and cost recovery software. No replacement vendor is currently being suggested.

Background

These VOR updates are required to maintain continuity of support, reduce operational and security risk from discontinued products and enable modern capabilities that better align with HPL's needs—particularly in fundraising, e-commerce and flexible payment options. The changes ensure HPL's VOR list accurately reflects the current vendor landscape and supports a competitive approach where existing vendors no longer meet requirements.

Lyngsoe Systems should replace MK Solutions as the Vendor of Record for Material Handling Systems because Lyngsoe acquired MK North America's business in January

2026. As a result of this acquisition, all MK product lines, maintenance responsibilities and support services have transitioned to Lyngsoe, and MK no longer operates as an independent vendor in the North American market. Updating the VOR ensures HPL maintains uninterrupted access to authorized support for its material handling infrastructure.

Bibliotheca should be removed as the VOR for RFID Equipment because the company has discontinued support for its RFID Smart Station software, which HPL relies on for RFID-based circulation workflows. Unsupported software introduces operational and security risks and retaining Bibliotheca as the VOR would limit HPL's ability to adopt modern, fully supported RFID solutions.

Comprise Technology Inc. should be removed as the VOR for the supply of print management, computer booking and cost recovery software, as HPL has already moved away from Comprise for public computing and printing, and the Comprise payment platform no longer meets HPL's requirements. HPL now needs a modern payment system that supports enhanced fundraising capabilities, integrated ecommerce, digital wallet payments, and improved customer transaction experiences. Removing Comprise enables HPL to identify a more capable and flexible vendor aligned with current and future operational needs.

Final Report on 2025 (2nd Review)

Date February 18, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Paul Takala, CEO and Chief Librarian

Introduction

Each year, the Library Board issues a letter to provide Staff with updates and context for the year ahead. With Strategic Plans normally approved every four years, the letter offers a chance to reflect on the current opportunities and challenges. The Board approved the current [Strategic Plan](#)ⁱ in May 2023 and the [2025 Direction](#)ⁱ was approved in February 2025.

The pandemic, the cyber disruption and the Council-declared crises have impacted on our operations and business planning processes. In 2025, we focused on staff and organizational resilience, as we continued to deliver and advance public library service. Given the collective challenges Hamiltonians have experienced over the last 5 years, we know the importance of advancing social cohesion and belonging by providing positive shared community spaces and experiences available to everyone. This year, as new economic uncertainty emerged from problems with key trading relationships, we have seen a material change in government fiscal priorities. Staff continued to work with the Library Board on ensuring we are effectively adapting to changing circumstances. Here is a high-level summary of major developments.

Library Services

This year, we focused on maintaining existing library service hours and study halls. We continued to grow library programs within existing capacity and worked with aligned partners to advance shared goals sustainably. Our focus on enhancing effectiveness and resiliency in 2025 looked at how Library Members interact with us when using our

services. As an organization, we remain committed to ensuring that the services and technology we deploy are Useful (solve a problem, advance a goal), are Usable (simple, intuitive, conform to standards) and Used (people utilize it).

We continued to see healthy growth in memberships with over 195,000 active cardholders representing 33% of our service population. In several areas, we saw continued recovery in usage from the 2024 cyber disruption. Technology usage grew, as did program attendance. Circulation of both physical and digital formats showed growth. Programs continued to be positively embraced by the community members, as staff continue to mature our program and partnership activities

Effectiveness and Resiliency

As a public library, our mandate and strategic direction challenge us to meet individuals, families and the community's current challenges. This means that while our core mission and values as a library do not change, what services we deliver and how we deliver them continue to evolve over time. To continue advancing City priorities and effectively provide library services, we need to dedicate significant focus and effort in 2025 to strengthening our organizational capacity. As we focus on improving our effectiveness as a public library, we will continue to maintain a multi-faceted approach to enhancing safety and security in our spaces, consistent with our values. We will continue to engage with trusted partners to bring support to our spaces based on need.

Information Technology Infrastructure

In 2025, we continued our collaboration with the City to advance the segregation of our network infrastructure. Our focus has been on enhancing IT security, improving service performance, and upgrading our infrastructure to meet modern IT standards. As we continued to rely on the City's enterprise financial and human resources systems, staff actively supported the City's implementation efforts.

In 2025, the Digital Technology Department made substantial progress on modernizing HPL's IT environment and improving operational efficiency. The out-of-date Cisco Wi-Fi system has been replaced with new Aruba Access Points, upgrading connectivity from Wi-Fi 3 to Wi-Fi 5/6 for faster, more reliable service. Phase one of the staff computing upgrades introduced 50 new Windows and 11 laptops. Phase two, which includes over 200 desktops and laptops, was initiated in December.

Cost optimization and digital service improvements remained key priorities. A comprehensive audit of cell phones and MiFi data plans eliminated unnecessary lines, reducing some recurring expenses. Usage analysis of self-check and RFID pads enabled a 25% reduction in devices, lowering maintenance costs for the upcoming budget cycle. The intranet SharePoint project reached 95% completion, creating a modern staff communication portal, while Phase One of the HPL.ca website project focused on content cleanup and updates. Procurement for the public website redesign is underway, with development scheduled to begin upon completion of that process.

Service Planning and Monitoring

To deliver excellent service to our community and to make smart investments in existing and new facilities, we must leverage data-driven decision-making. As we upgrade our systems for improved performance and security, it's crucial to implement robust tracking mechanisms and generate meaningful metrics. These metrics should be actively monitored by management and effectively reported to the Library Board and funders.

Staff commenced a full review of the data and metrics generated by each of our systems. The goal is to evaluate this and determine if we should generate other metrics to help us monitor system performance or better understand usage. We are also looking into better understanding and reporting on children's use of the Library. As we make changes to address challenges, it will be important to track our progress or lack thereof.

HPL participated in the Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) **Social Impact Study**. The study replicated the methodology used successfully by the Toronto Public Library. The first stage of the study, an online survey, took place in June. The second stage was conducted in late summer/autumn and involved follow-up interviews. As one of the libraries sponsoring the study, along with CULC, we will receive both the national study results and a report focused on HPL. We look forward to reporting back to the Library Board in early 2026.

Improving Workflows and Processes

With all the changes over the last several years, often driven by external factors, we need to work with Library staff to ensure processes and systems are optimized. Ensuring the tasks/processes we engage in add value to community members is an important component of increasing our impact. Staff learning and development has been a major focus of HPL for years. We need to actively engage staff in reviewing processes and procedures, ensuring that services and technology are optimized so staff can focus on program delivery and supporting library members.

2025 saw the launch of our new Service Excellence Framework, which clarified our commitment to delivering reliable and equitable service, connecting people to learning and community. The framework is grounded in four core pillars that define how we serve the public and ensure our services are consistently high quality and community-centred. Our long-term goal remains to position HPL as a lifelong presence in the lives of Hamilton residents.

Staff have been assessing current public service needs at our information desks. Staff and management have been completing surveys to assess the types of questions received and services requested. Some staffing realignment has occurred to ensure better service. Work is underway to launch a pilot service at Central and Barton, helping Members fill out government forms. Also, Social Workers will provide staff training on helping members who need help filling out government forms and navigating government services. Barton Library will pilot a version of the Community Partners

Desk, with the same goal of more effectively supporting people's access to services offered by partners.

In alignment with our focus on enhancing effectiveness and resiliency, we completed a survey across our four rural locations to better understand community needs for extended access. We also surveyed members about after-hours study hall needs. We have developed an implementation plan to reinstate replacement fees in a clear, fair and equitable way.

The Mobile Library and Courier Services (MLCS) Department launched a revised Bookmobile Service Schedule on May 3. This update introduced three new high-potential stops—Discovery Centre, Mohawk Gardens Apartments, and Prince of Wales Elementary School—while retiring three underperforming locations. Fourteen schedule adjustments were also made, including extended visits to our top-performing sites: Rosedale, Stinson and Stoney Creek Arena. The changes reduced weekly travel by 50 kilometres, easing fleet strain and enabling more sustainable service delivery. The new schedule also includes placeholders for future outreach and school visits, supporting our commitment to Useful, Usable, and Used services.

In June 2025, HPL launched an online system for members to book meeting rooms, streamlining access and reducing staff workload. Feedback was immediately positive. This method also allows for better tracking of meeting room usage. In September 2025, the service expanded with a pilot at Central and Valley Park branches, allowing existing HPL partners to request larger meeting and program spaces through the same portal, subject to Staff approval. The pilot will continue as processes are refined, with full rollout planned for Q1 2026.

Collective Wellness

As a public library, our mandate and strategic direction challenge us to meet the current challenges of individuals, families and the community. This means that while our core mission and values as a library do not change, what services we deliver and how we

deliver them continue to evolve over time. To continue advancing City priorities and effectively provide library service, we dedicated significant focus and effort in 2025 on strengthening our organizational capacity. As we focused on improving our effectiveness as a public library, we continued to maintain and advance a multi-faceted approach to improving safety and security in our spaces, consistent with our values. We continued to engage trusted partners to provide support for our spaces.

In July, we agreed and ratified a new four-year Collective Agreement with CUPE 932. Each side was able to get several positive additions to the agreement. For the Employer, the first five Sundays starting in January 2028 will be paid at straight time. For the Union, part-time staff enhancements were a major focus. Part-time staff received enhancements to vacation and paid sick time, among other key benefits. The negotiations were successful and a testament to the longstanding positive labour relations with CUPE Local 932.

Our research partnership with McMaster University on Emotional Labour in Public Libraries moved to its next phase, a national study. *Emotional Resilience in Libraries: Tools for the Modern Workplace* — funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The national study continued to examine the emotional labour experiences of frontline library work and deliver practical, research-informed tools to promote emotional resilience and well-being. Results of the study will be released in early 2026.

To meet evolving community needs and strengthen organizational capacity, Home Library Service (HLS) and Courier expanded outreach in 2025 to include an 18th long-term care facility, bringing service to 18 sites across Hamilton. This growth reinforces our commitment to accessible, responsive library service delivery, and the expanded program is going well.

To advance social cohesion and belonging, we introduced a new role within our organization called Community Connector. This role has been designed to foster

positive experiences by providing more focused customer engagement while helping them navigate the services the library has to offer in a meaningful way. The two new HPL Community Connectors roles are currently being recruited for. These are HPL staff positions requiring social service education and hands-on experience.

Connectors are trained in library policies and procedures, understand the needs of vulnerable populations and work closely with Information Staff to maintain a strong presence in public spaces. Their role will help reduce dependency on third-party security personnel by focusing on de-escalation and proactive engagement.

The Community Connectors will work together with HPL Staff, Peer Support and Social workers. Our collaboration with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Hamilton continues through the Peer Support Worker program. We are working on gathering data from this initiative to better understand its impact and inform future decisions.

In 2025, we completed a successful pilot of washroom sensors to enhance safety, alerting us in cases of lack of movement or substance detection. We are currently deploying them to the other washrooms at Central, along with buzz locks to better control access. Other measures included an enhanced incident reporting tool to improve accuracy in trending and reporting. The Step system, introduced in 2024, continued to be used in 2025 to support members and staff when there is an increase in incidents.

Finance and Financial Reporting

Our Finance Department continues to work with the City on the implementation of new financial systems. Internally, a lot of work has been done to get us ready to complete the 2023 and 2024 audits. The Finance Department has implemented internal controls, allowing us to track and monitor all the expenses we incur. At the June Board meeting, the unaudited 2024 numbers will be reported, and we look forward to continuing the process of restoring regular financial reporting to the Board in the coming months.

The Finance Office continued to work with the City of Hamilton on implementing a paperless accounts payable system. The implementation of this system is still in its early stages, but it has already reduced the number of manual processes for this task. HPL's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) continued to closely monitor and approve all vendor invoices. This ensured costs are controlled and there is a group governance of costs and priorities.

The Finance Office continued to report financial data by manually merging various financial records together to provide Budget Variance Reports (BVR). The data compiled is a combination of payroll data, NetSuite transactions, Staples transactions and journal entries for the selected period. This information enabled each manager to compare actual costs vs budget costs for the selected period. As we close the year, HPL remained dependent on the City for its financial software and until full software implementation is conducted at the City level, HPL will continue to manage its financial data manually, to the best of its ability.

The adoption of the new Capital Plan for 2026 reduced future capital cost requirements for the next 10 years by \$44.5M. Closer monitoring of capital spending will be needed to ensure that all approved capital dollars requested for the specified periods are managed and executed in a timely manner.

Starting in October, we reintroduced replacement fees on materials overdue 28 days or more. While HPL remains fine free, replacement fees have returned to encourage members to bring back their materials and ensure we have a plentiful collection for the community to enjoy. Before implementing replacement fees, more than 40,000 long-overdue items (some dating back 4 years), were removed from member accounts. This purge allows members with previously long-overdue items to borrow materials again. Since items began aging to Lost and fees began appearing in member accounts as of November 2, 3,792 items were set to lost and 3,481 items that were previously lost were returned. Of the items that aged to lost since implementation, 1,107 or 30% have already been returned.

Programs and Partnerships

Library-led programs for people of all ages are in high demand. Within existing capacity, we will continue to offer programs that provide people with positive learning and community activity. We will continue to work with partners to complement our library-led programs and to connect residents with services and support. HPL will continue to strive to animate our spaces with shared learning opportunities and free access to performances.

HPL continued to see growth in programming and attendance this year, achieving record-breaking numbers in 2025 with over 13,500 programs delivered and more than 273,000 attendees by year's end.

HPL's commitment to cultural and literary enrichment was reflected in the continued success of key initiatives. In collaboration with McMaster University, Mohawk College, and the gritLIT Readers & Writers Festival, Hamilton Reads fosters a vibrant literary culture through author visits, community discussions, and workshops. Similarly, Hamilton Public Library's Concert Series, delivered in partnership with the Hamilton Musicians' Guild, continued to grow, offering enriching musical experiences across multiple branches.

Strategic partnerships extend to essential services as well. Annual Tax Clinics, delivered with McMaster University's CVITP volunteers and the Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC), returned over \$2.4 million to local families this year. The Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence, also supported by McMaster University, nurtures local writing talent through workshops and mentorship.

In partnership with Mohawk College and Neighbour to Neighbour, HPL launched tandem programming at Terryberry in the fall, testing a new education model where student caregivers learn together in the same space. It combines academic support for

the student with developmental activities for the child, reducing barriers for caregivers and promoting shared learning experiences.

From May to October, the Mobile Library and Courier Service launched children's programming on the Bookmobile, with outdoor storytimes and StoryWalks piloted at the Discovery Centre. This initiative was designed to support underserved areas and provide more targeted and responsive programming along with borrowing and registration services.

At a broader level, programming spanned educational workshops, vibrant live music concerts, cultural celebrations, and engaging literary events, serving diverse community interests and needs. Initiatives such as the Newcomer English Conversation Club, Indigenous Storytelling series, and special events for Black History Month reflected HPL's commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive community environments. Large events continued to be a draw for our community, including the Annual Seedy Saturday for garden enthusiasts and Steel Town Love – A Festival for Romance Readers and Writers which celebrates the romance genre.

The consistently high demand for programs and enthusiastic community participation underscore the library's pivotal role as a space for lifelong learning, connection, and cultural enrichment, from our youngest learners to all ages.

Children's Programming

Hamilton Public Library's strategic focus strongly emphasizes youth activity and engagement, with targeted initiatives and investments aimed at fostering early literacy, expanding access to materials, and creating welcoming, interactive spaces for children and youth. Hamilton Public Library has been reviewing and updating programming resources system-wide, with particular attention to programming kits and the introduction of self-directed play activity equipment within children's departments. These enhancements support interactive learning, early literacy, and unstructured play, creating environments where children thrive and families feel welcome.

There is increased funding allocation toward children's and youth collections, ensuring that materials remain current, inclusive, and engaging. The expansion of express collections and the introduction of non-traditional collections that are youth-focused are also priorities, with efforts to improve accessibility and ensure that high-demand titles and resources for younger readers are readily available. The momentum of previous years continued in 2025, with a significant number of programs focused on children and youth. Data indicates continued strong attendance, demonstrating the community's enthusiasm and demand for high-quality, family-focused experiences. Campaigns that launched in 2025, such as the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten," remain central, promoting early literacy and regular library use from a young age.

HPL has deepened its collaboration with key partners to better engage youth. Notably, the library card campaign with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) was made accessible to all school-aged children through the Parent Portal, with the goal of connecting families to HPL library card sign-up and resources.

In 2025, HPL expanded its digital literacy initiatives through strategic partnerships and community engagement. Working with CityLab and Redeemer University, we began developing strategies to connect small businesses with HPL Makerspaces to foster and entrepreneurship. Our collaboration with McMaster University, led by Dr. Brian Detlor, delivered the Dementia-Friendly Tablet Training Series, providing hands-on technology education for older adults and caregivers while contributing to research on effective digital literacy practices.

A major highlight was the first-ever Makerfest in November, attracting over 500 attendees for workshops, demonstrations, and vendor showcases. Combined with staff-led training sessions and technology security awareness programs, these efforts strengthened community digital skills and positioned HPL as a leader in digital learning and innovation.

Bookmobile

Through strategic partnerships and creative use of existing resources, we expanded community engagement in 2025. Highlights included launching a new Bookmobile stop at the Discovery Centre, as noted, introducing weekly visits to Beyond the Bell programs at local schools, and participating in the City's Touch a Truck event, where over 1,100 residents engaged with library services. Additionally, surplus DVDs from Community Collections were added to Home Library Service deliveries, delighting residents in long-term care. These efforts reflect our commitment to animating spaces with meaningful, accessible programming and strengthening community connections through collaboration.

In late 2025, Hamilton Public Library secured \$500,000 in funding from the City's Climate Change Reserve, a significant milestone that underscores the Library's commitment to environmental leadership. This funding, combined with Library capital reserves, will support the procurement of two new electric Bookmobiles in 2026. The investment aligns with HPL's strategic focus on sustainability and long-term planning, reducing emissions while ensuring continued access to library services across all communities. This initiative demonstrates how thoughtful infrastructure renewal can advance both service equity and climate action goals.

Facilities Master Plan and Sustainability

In 2025, we will focus on working with the Library Board to update our Facilities Master Plan to guide us to a more sustainable and impactful future. That will include exploring past successes, current trends, and future uncertainties. Internally, a new staff Sustainability Steering Committee has been established and will begin developing a framework to integrate sustainability into our operations more systematically. Additionally, we will continue to work on the Bookmobile RFP, with plans to go to market in the last quarter of 2025. Collaborating closely with City Fleet, we are exploring more sustainable options for replacing our aging bookmobiles,

including the possibility of electric or partially electric vehicles to better serve our communities.

In 2025, HPL made progress on the updated Facilities Master Plan. Although work has taken longer than anticipated, the team has completed a deeper analysis of system-wide needs, community trends, sustainability considerations, and long-term lifecycle planning. This principle-based approach continues to guide our assessment of future investments, ensuring a balance among financial responsibility, service impact and environmental performance. A draft framework is included to support consistent, evidence-based decision-making related to our facility planning. Internal engagement advanced with Managers from across the system contributing insights on building condition, service needs, and operational priorities. The project is on track to bring a full draft to the Library Board in Q1 2026.

As part of HPL's commitment to sustainability and community resilience, a newly formed staff-led Sustainability Steering Committee has developed a draft framework focused on Operations, Engagement, and Facilities—aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the City of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. This framework and a draft Sustainability Statement were presented to the Board in September, with a full rollout planned for early 2026.

In 2025, HPL strengthened its commitment to a more sustainable and resilient future. Earlier this year, the Library Board approved HPL's sustainability statement, guiding the ongoing update to the Facilities Master Plan. This work is grounded in our three pillars, Operations, Engagement, and Facilities and informed by community needs, lifecycle planning, and a stronger sustainability lens on upcoming 2026 capital adjustments. A major achievement was securing **\$500,000** from the **Climate Change Reserve**, alongside HPL's own investment, to support the procurement of two new electric bookmobiles in 2026. Work on the RFP continues with City Fleet to ensure alignment with citywide sustainability goals.

Internally, the Sustainability Steering Committee has begun laying out the foundation for system-wide adoption of sustainable practices. Managers have been introduced to the framework, and we are now exploring effective ways to communicate our efforts through internal channels, staff engagement opportunities, as well as learning and development. The Committee is also preparing expressions of interest to identify both branch and department champions who will help embed the three pillars into day-to-day practice, ensuring sustainability becomes an active, shared responsibility across HPL.

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and responsible collection management, Hamilton Public Library partnered with Zoom Books earlier this year and launched an efficient and eco-friendly solution for removing withdrawn and surplus circulating library materials. The solution involves reselling suitable items through various channels and ethically recycling unsellable materials. In parallel, HPL will continue strengthening its community collection efforts by working with local partners to place gently used materials into community-based collections.

These initiatives ensure that withdrawn items in good condition can continue serving residents through schools, shelters, neighbourhood hubs, and other community spaces, maximizing the impact and reach of HPL's collections.

Together, these complementary strategies ensure that withdrawn materials are handled in a manner that supports environmental responsibility and extends the lifecycle of library resources.

Other Major Developments

CCBC Regional Collection

Launched this year, the Hamilton Public Library has made significant strides in providing public access to the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Regional Collection.

This unique archive comprises approximately 18,000 Canadian children's titles

published between 1976 and 2024, including works by renowned Canadian authors such as Robert Munsch, Gordon Korman, David A. Robertson and Kathy Stinson. HPL continues to prioritize this collection's careful curation and phased rollout to ensure discoverability, preservation, and long-term access. This initiative enhances public appreciation of Canadian children's literature and supports research, education and cultural engagement across generations.

Internet Archive Canada

Through the Internet Archive Canada initiative, Hamilton Public Library made progress in delivering unique local content to a global audience. HPL has digitized 602,727 pages from 3,209 items, including books and pamphlets from its Local History and Archives collections. These materials attract an average of 6,462 monthly users, demonstrating strong and growing interest in Hamilton's rich historical record. Utilizing the Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) model, HPL can lend digitized items in a manner that mirrors traditional physical lending, ensuring responsible access while preserving original materials. Work continues to expand access to unique, local Hamilton content for discovery and use by communities both near and far.

Digital Asset Management System

HPL conducted a comprehensive review of its current legacy Digital Asset Management System (DAMS), which no longer meets evolving requirements for scalability, metadata management, user experience, and public access. A modern system is essential to support ongoing digitization efforts, ensure long-term digital preservation, and enhance the discoverability of collections. A new system has been identified that offers a robust, integrated approach to digital preservation. The selected platform supports automated preservation workflows, compliance with international standards, and policy-based asset management, ensuring the sustainability and integrity of digital collections over time.

The new solution also aligns with HPL's strategic direction to reduce reliance on internal technical resources by adopting a managed, externally hosted platform. This will shift

system maintenance and infrastructure responsibilities to the vendor, enabling staff to focus on curatorial priorities and enhancing internal workflows. The purchase and implementation of the new DAMS is anticipated to begin in Q1, 2026, laying the foundation for improved digital stewardship and expanded public access to Hamilton's unique historical resources.

Ahead of the launch of the new Digital Asset Management System (DAMS), HPL implemented an interim solution to support public access to historical image research. Over 15,000 digitized images with key metadata are now accessible through a dedicated web portal. While this is a temporary and simplified solution, it bridges the gap and ensures continued public access until the full DAMS is deployed.

ii <https://granicus-azmop-peak.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/9267/MultiBusinessPlanReport2024-2ndReview.pdf>

ⁱ https://www.hpl.ca/sites/default/files/23-05-StrategicPlan_Approved.pdf

Piloting Improving Safety at Central Protocol

Date March 11, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Paul Takala, CEO and Chief Librarian
Chad Roglich, Director, Facilities and Sustainability

Recommendation

That the Library Board endorse the plan to temporarily implement an entry check-in protocol at the Central Library as outlined in this report from March 16 to May 17, 2026.

That Staff keep the Board updated on the status of the implementation and report back with an evaluation and any recommended next steps following the conclusion of the pilot period.

Purpose and Background

The purpose of these temporary measures is to address concerns about the safety and security of Staff and Library Members while minimizing disruption for residents who use the Central Library. In developing this plan, several options were considered, including temporarily closing the Central Library. However, maintaining access was identified as a priority to support residents who depend on the Central Library regularly. Equity considerations were central to this decision, particularly for individuals who cannot easily access other branches and who use the Central Library for library resources, technology and safe public space.

The ongoing damage that is being done to HPL's ability to engage residents at the Central Library requires collective action. The protocol is designed to ensure that people visiting Central can obtain a library card or pass and use the library, provided they are willing to identify themselves and be accountable for their actions within the

library.

Financial and Legal Considerations

The primary legislation governing public libraries in our province is the [Ontario Public Library Act](#)^[1]. Other legislation and regulations govern our responsibilities around health and safety and duties as an employer. In the Public Library Act, A board shall not make a charge for admission, 23 (1). By definition we are open to the public and we are not permitted to charge for borrowing material 23 (2). The Board may make rules 23 (4) (a) for the use of library services (b) for the admission of the public to the library; (c) for the exclusion from the library of persons who behave in a disruptive manner or cause damage to library property; (e) suspending library privileges for breaches of the rules; and (f) regulating all other matters connected with the management of the library and library property. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 23 (4).

The current toxic drug crisis has been damaging our ability to serve residents at the Central Library. People who rely on our services, including families with children, are being prevented from visiting because of well-founded concerns that they will witness open drug consumption, extreme intoxication and overdoses. There is a small but real risk that they might be accidentally exposed to the toxic substances.

Protocol Details

This protocol has been developed to support continued access to the Central Library by introducing an entry check-in process that requires individuals to identify themselves upon entering the library. The temporary protocol will adapt an approach HPL has used since the 2010s to manage access to public computers. With the exception of a few express computers, Members are required to log in to the computer using their Library card number. Because a standard HPL library card requires government-issued identification to verify, HPL offers a low-barrier card that lets anyone to get a card that identifies them and shows their name. This includes a wide range of documentation like

a utility bill, student card or letter from a shelter. People visiting Hamilton are given a visitor pass upon showing ID.

The entry check-in process we are proposing will scan library cards upon entry. This will be checked against our current suspended members list. The information will not be stored or shared and exit will not be monitored. Children and teens are exempt from this check-in. The check-in point will be adjacent to a staff service point, to facilitate getting cards or an appropriate pass.

Additional Details

Duration: March 16 to May 17, 2026, with a prior one-week transition period to communicate the changes to Staff and the public, familiarize people with the new process and allow individuals time to obtain a library card prior to implementation.

Where: Central Library

Process: Library staff will be checking in members, not contract security. Security staff will serve a supporting role, alongside Peer Support Workers, Community Connectors, other Staff and the management team.

Evaluation: To evaluate the effectiveness and operational impacts of this pilot, Staff will monitor and document the following measures:

- Number of Incident Reports
- Number of suspected drug overdoses (e.g., number of naloxone administrations, number of times emergency services are activated)
- Number of suspensions longer than 1 day
- Number of new Library cards created and type
- Usage patterns including visits, circulation and computer use
- Number of people checked in
- Number of people denied entry (and reason, if possible, to document)
- Feedback from Staff and public, both positive and negative
- Any unintended benefits or consequences, including impacts on service use, patron experience, or staff operations

Staff will closely monitor the situation throughout the pilot. The initiative will start for the first couple of weeks with high-level monitoring and support. For the rest of the pilot, the level of extra support will be based on what is needed, with the ability to both scale up or reduce based on actual circumstances.

As the impacts of this new protocol are being monitored, should the situation at Central worsen or serious new safety/security incidents arise, the CEO/Chief Librarian has the authority to enact an emergency temporary closure of the Central Library for up to one month.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- The current challenges the Central Library have been facing require implementing new strategies
- The authority to activate the protocol again at Central or at other locations will be dependent on the Library Board approving the ongoing policy
- Experience has shown us that prompt action when a pattern of drug use starts to appear is most effective, the longer it is allowed to go on, the harder it is to stop
- The intention is to have this protocol ready, should it prove successful, to be able to be deployed at another library location if the drug crisis gets displaced on scale. The recommendation report after the pilot will include criteria that would cause the protocol to be activated
- As Staff implement the protocol, they will periodically update the Library Board on the status. Should identified evaluation criteria prove problematic to document accurately, or elements of the procedure need to be adapted, Staff will report those to the Board proactively.

¹¹ [Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44 | ontario.ca](#)

Date February 18, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
c.c. Paul Takala, CEO and Chief Librarian
From Chad Roglich, Director of Facilities and Sustainability

Recommendation

That the Library Board receives the year-end metrics report for information and comment.

Report

The following report provides a summary of activity in 2025 related to our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with general statements provided.

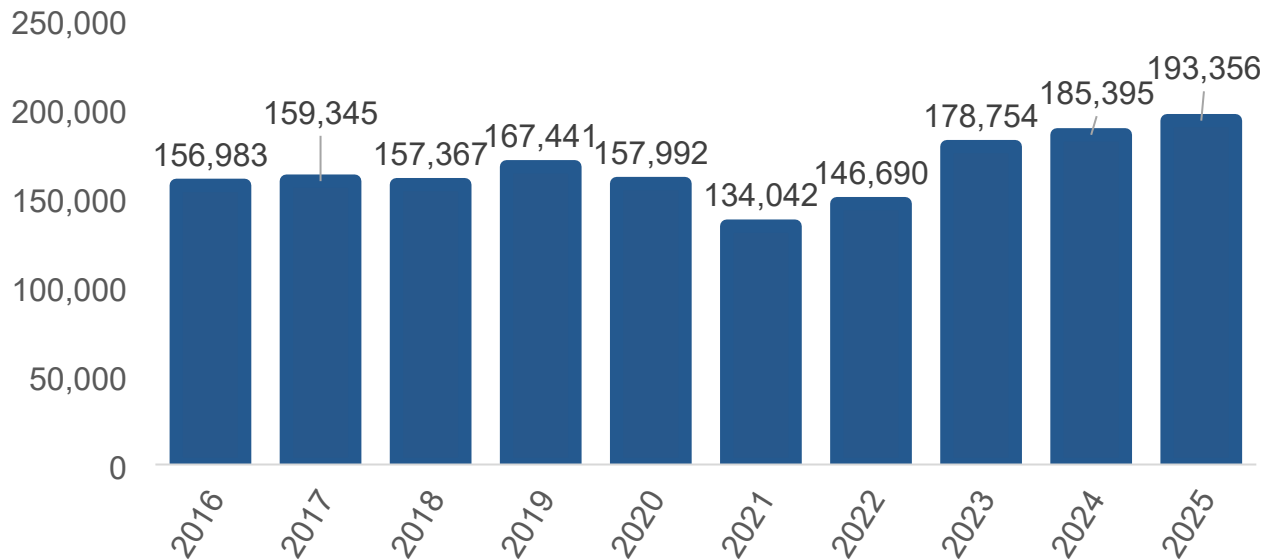
Active Cardholders

Active library cardholders are those Members who have used their library card at least once in the past 24 months. While we attract new Members each year, we also lose some active Members who do not use their card in the two-year period. We continue to see a year-over-year increase in active Members. In 2024, there was only a slight increase of 3.7 per cent over 2023. This year our increase is 4.3 per cent over 2024. We now count 193,356 active cardholders, representing 32.7 per cent of Hamilton's residents.

Regular Members

These are individuals who actively engage with HPL resources in half of the months they have had their library card this year. In 2025, we have 61,886 regular Members which is 32 per cent of our active cardholders.

Figure 1: The Number of Active Cardholders each year for the past 10 years



New Registered Cardholders

An actual count of the number of library cardholders who have registered for a new library card is recorded each month and reviewed for quarterly and annual results.

Pre-pandemic new cardholders averaged about 23,000 per year or roughly 2,000 per month. In 2024, we saw a decrease in the number of new Members partly due to the cyber incident, including no registrations in March and April. This year we recorded, 43,230 new Members. This was an increase of 25.9 per cent over 2024. Our new Member numbers this year did not exceed the high of 44,526 from 2023.

Our monthly registrations were highest in September (n= 4,673) and lowest in December (n= 2,612). Our online registrations peaked in September (n= 1,536) and were lowest in May (n= 822). As part of our promotions with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, we registered several students as New Cardholders this year. Due to how the information was transferred from the school board and processed in our system, September New Cardholder numbers have been restated. This event resulted in fewer New Members in Q3 than previously reported.

Among our new Members, 28.7 per cent registered for their card online. Besides Central (15.6% of all registrations), the Branches with the highest new Member

registrations, were Terryberry (7% of all registrations) and Turner Park (6.5%; see Figure 3 for registration numbers at each HPL location). The map (Figure 4) shows the percentage of new members who live in each Branch catchment area. Nine per cent of new Members do not live within HPL Branch catchment areas or have new postal codes.

Figure 2: The Number of New Members each Month

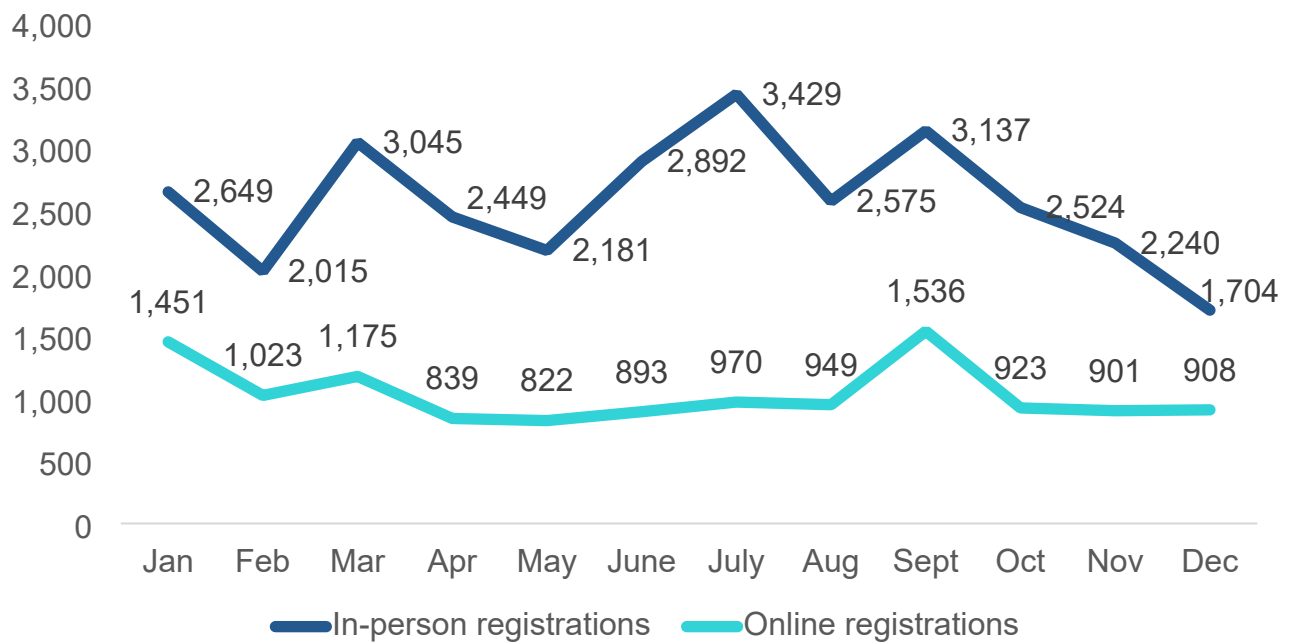
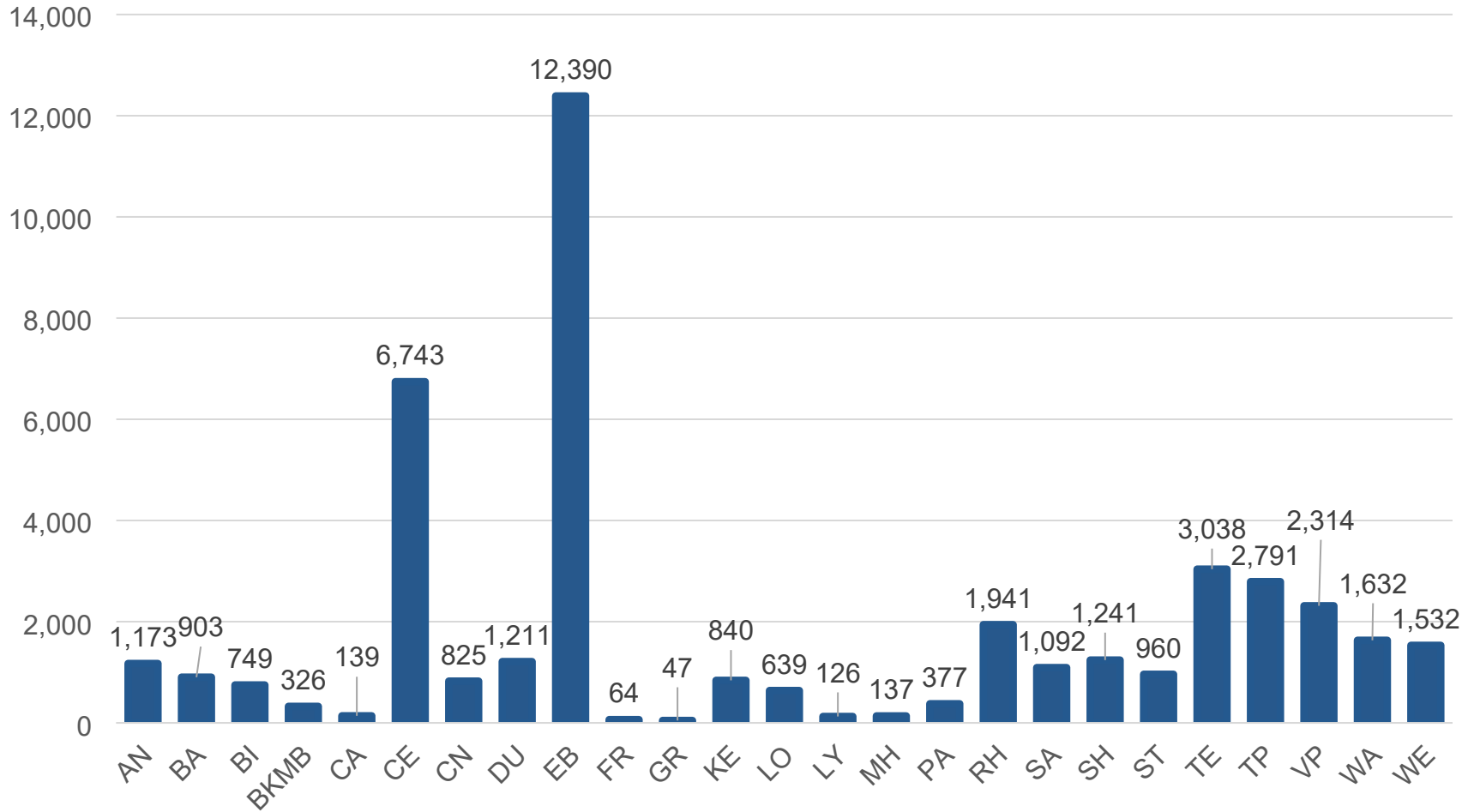


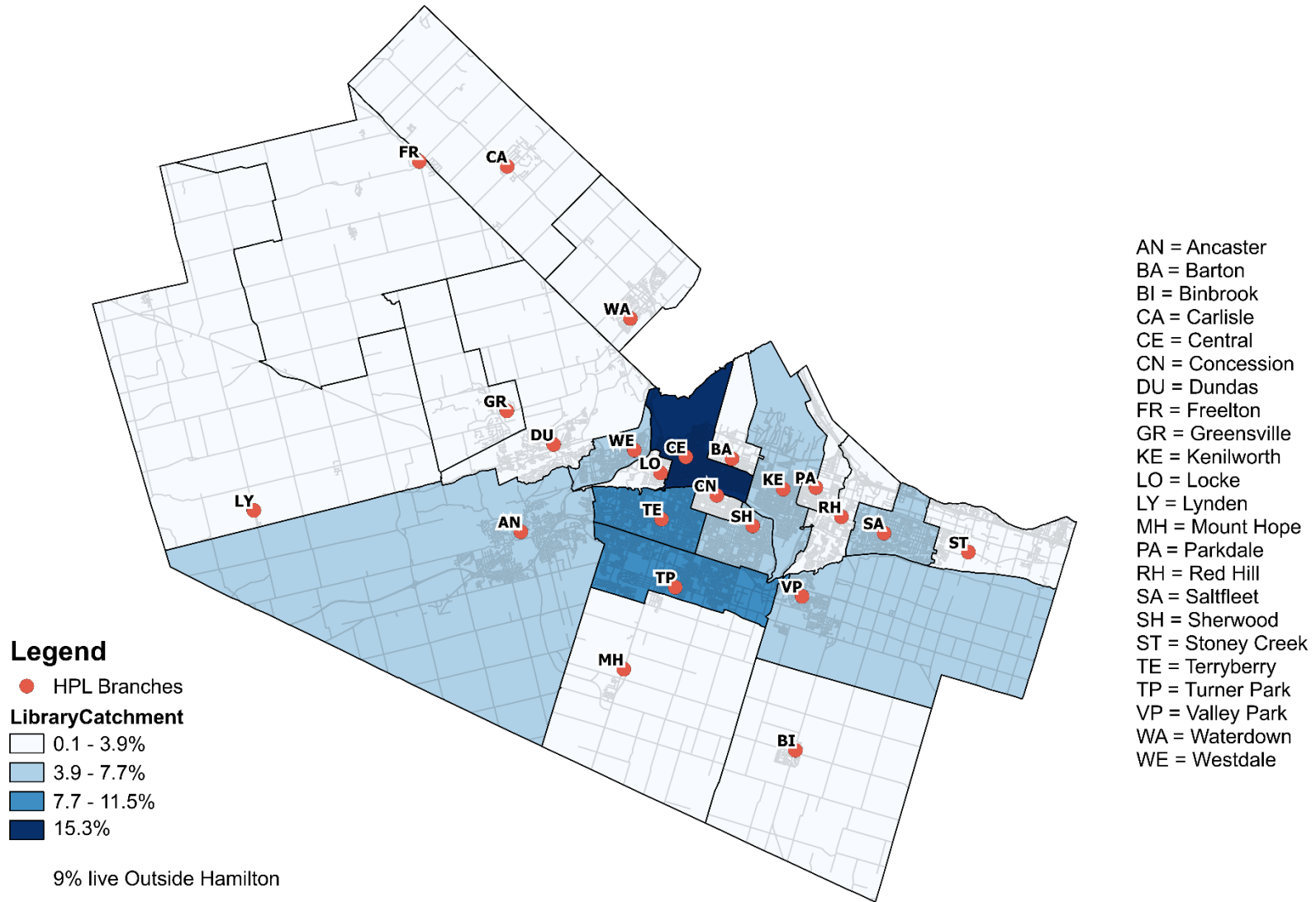
Figure 3: New Cardholder Registrations by Branch Location in 2025*



* On the graph x-axis, AN = Ancaster; BA = Barton; BI = Binbrook; BKMB = Bookmobile; CA = Carlisle; CE = Central; CN = Concession; DU = Dundas; EB = Electronic Branch; FR = Freerton; GR = Greenville; KE = Kenilworth; LO = Locke; LY = Lynden; MH = Mount Hope; PA = Parkdale; RH = Red Hill; SA = Saltfleet; SH = Sherwood; ST = Stoney Creek; TE = Terryberry; TP = Turner Park; VP = Valley Park; WA = Waterdown; WE = Westdale

Figure 4: New Cardholder by Post Code location in 2025

2025 New Library Card Members



Visits

In-person Visits

This refers to the number of people who physically visit our branches and Bookmobile stops. This number includes visitors during our Study Hall time and through our Rural Extended Access (EA) program. Overall visits to our branches were higher by 10.5 per cent compared to 2024. Our branches had 2,907,392 visitors in 2025, compared to 2,630,502 in 2024. Thirty-six per cent of our visitors come through the doors of the Central Library (36.3%). The next most frequently visited branches are Turner Park (8.7% of visitors) and Valley Park (6.4%).

Study Hall is available Monday through Thursday from 8:00p.m. until midnight at the Central Library and our regional branches. Study Hall is not offered during July and August. While most of our visitors come to our branches during our regular open hours, a proportion of Members take advantage of our EA service (available at Carlisle, Freelton, Greensville and Lynden). EA permits registered Members to access our rural locations during the hours our regional branches are open and the rural branches are unstaffed.

In 2025, we had 5,723 visits through EA and 7,106 visits during Study Hall hours (8p.m.-midnight). However, for Study Hall, Members may also arrive before 8p.m. and stay. As a result, the Library supported 26,346 people who participated in our Study Hall hours (see figure 6). EA visits grew by 74.1 per cent over in 2024. Study Hall visitors after 8p.m. increased by 41.4 per cent and our branches saw an overall increase of 32 per cent in Study Hall compared to 2024.

Figure 5: The proportion of Rural Branch visits through Extended Access

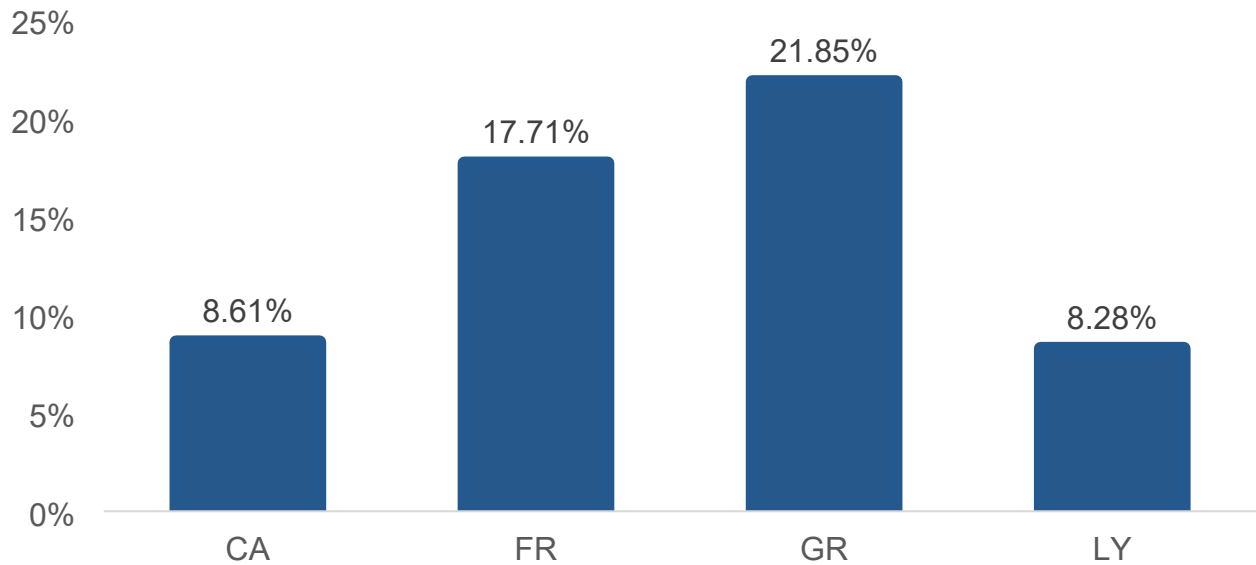
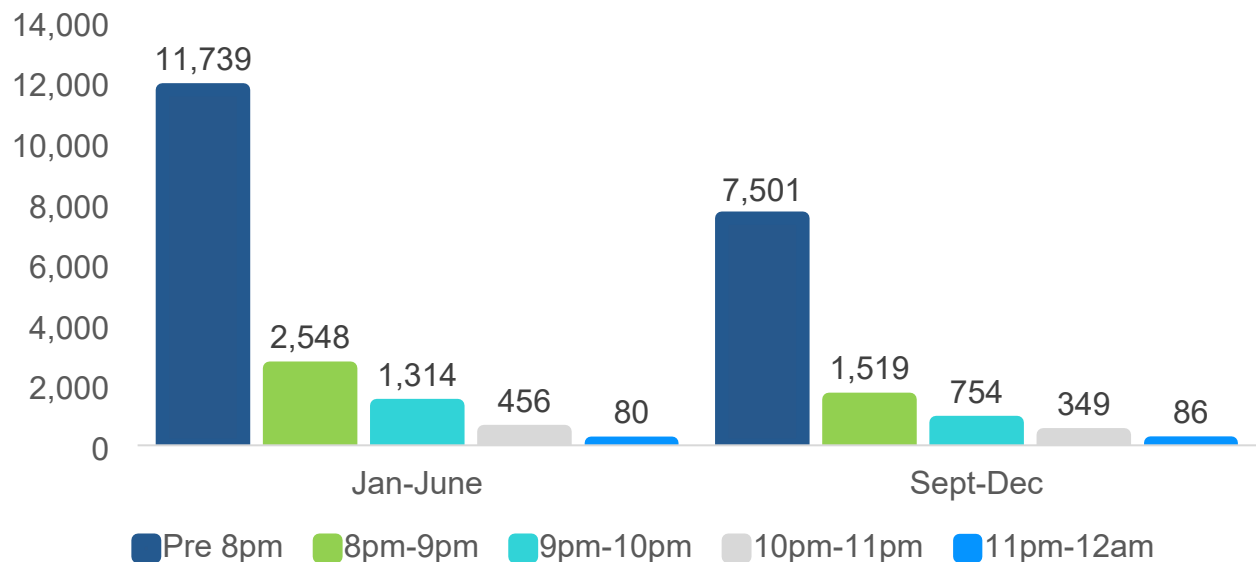


Figure 6: The number of Study Hall visitors by hour

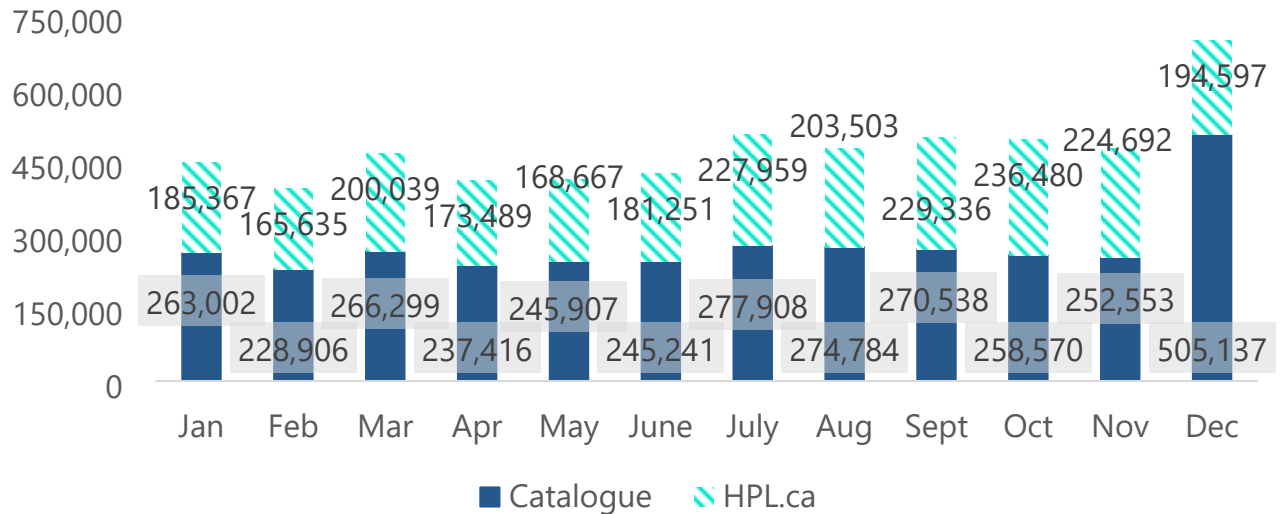


Web Visits

This refers to the number of web visits (sessions) to our digital catalogue (Bibliocommons) and our website (hpl.ca; Red Book; and our events site). We have more visits to our catalogue than our website. The number of visits to our catalogue this year was 3,326,261; an increase of 48 per cent over last year. The number of visits to our website was 2,391,015; this was 25.5 per cent higher than last year. December

was our busiest catalogue month and October was our website's busiest month. The catalogue had its fewest visits in February and our website visits were also lowest in February.

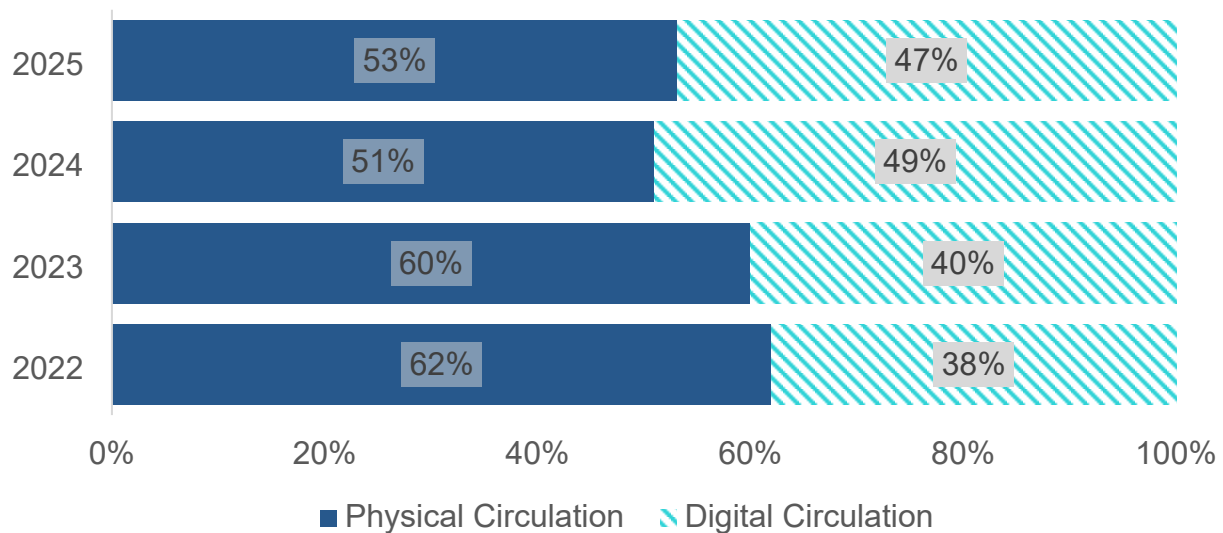
Figure 7: The Number of Monthly Visits to HPL.ca and HPL's Catalogue



Circulation

Overall circulation this year was 18.1 per cent higher compared to 2024, with 5,599,040 total items circulated in 2025.

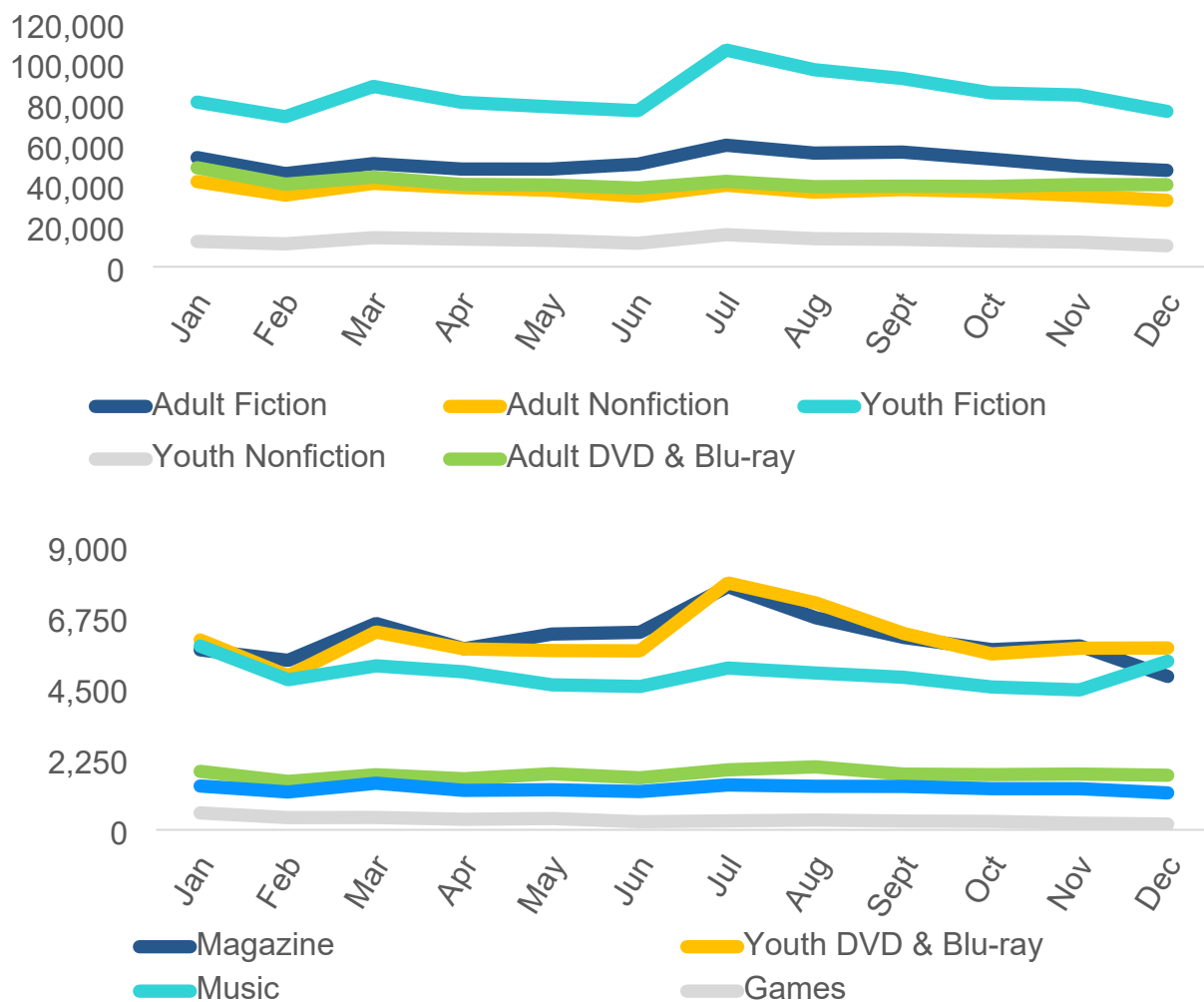
Figure 8: Library Borrowing Share by Type (2022-2025)



Physical Circulation

This measures the number of physical items borrowed/checked out from the Library's collection (holdings). Physical items that are renewed are also included in this metric; this does not include items used in the Library but not checked out. Physical circulation increased by 22.7 per cent in 2025 compared to 2024. The total number of physical items circulated in 2025 was 2,988,429. Youth Fiction items were most frequently circulated from our physical collection, followed by Adult Fiction and Adult DVD and Blu-rays.

Figure 9: The number of physical items circulated by collection type monthly in 2025

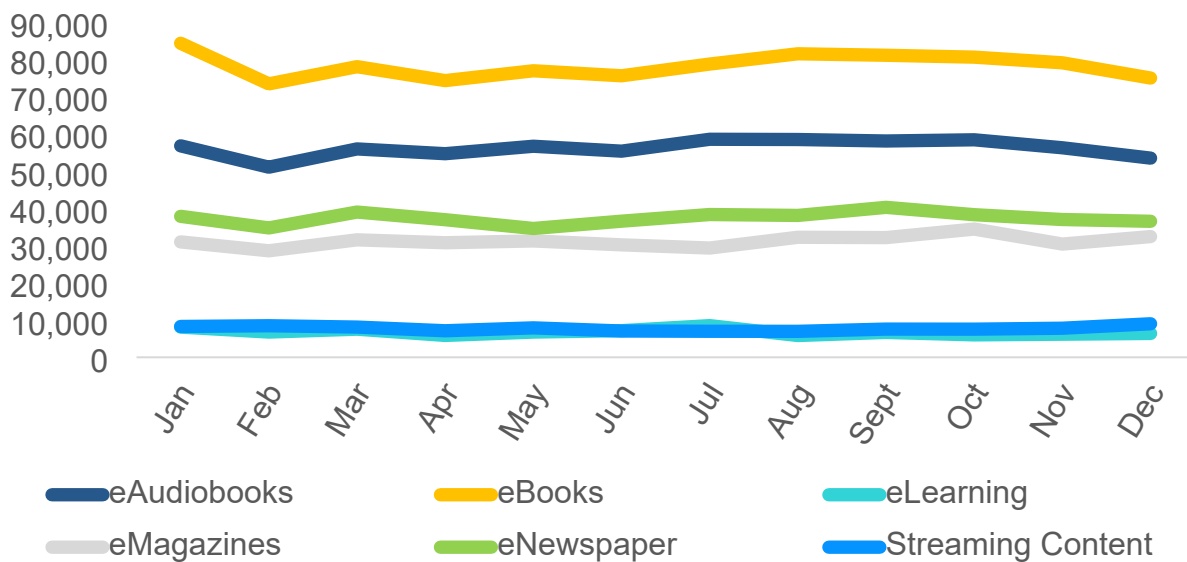


Digital Circulation

This represents the number of digital items borrowed/downloaded/checked out by active HPL cardholders* during 2025. Digital items include downloaded eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers, as well as digital streaming items such as music and videos.

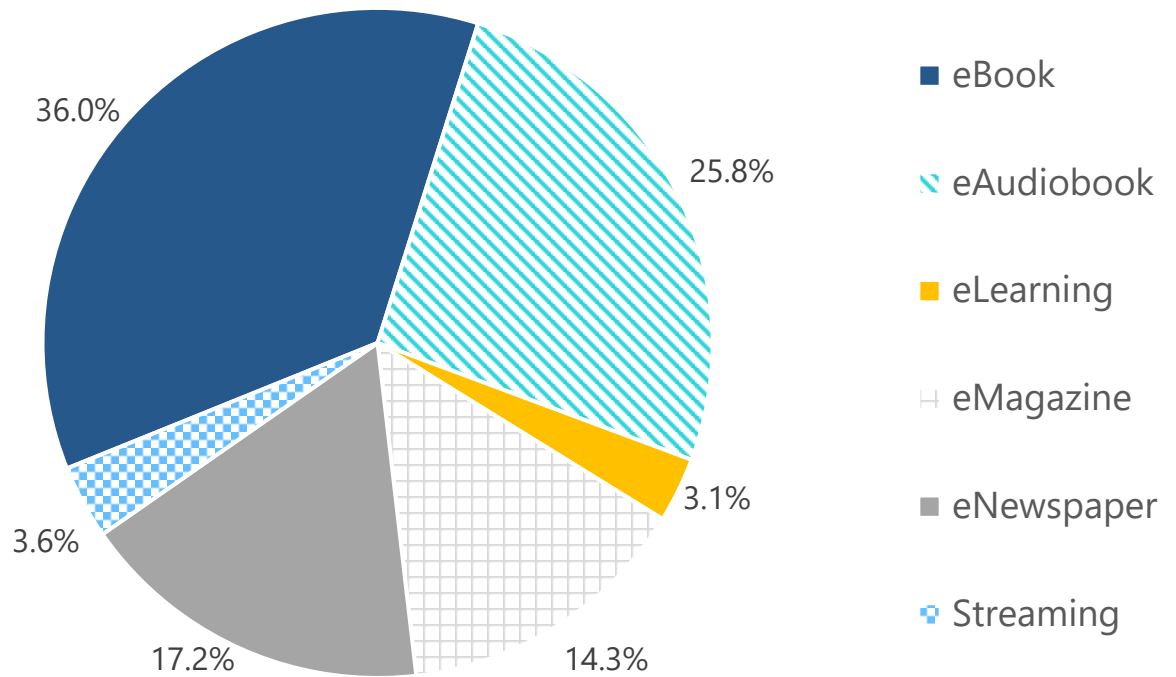
Digital circulation experienced an increase of 13.3 per cent compared to 2024, with a total of 2,610,611 items checked out in 2025. eBooks (36%) and eAudiobooks (25.8%) account for the most used digital resources, totalling 1,612,784 checkouts. eLearning courses make up the smallest amount (3.1%) followed closely by streaming content (3.6%) of digital circulation.

Figure 10: Digital Circulation by item type and month in 2025



* This includes any HPL item checked out by Members from reciprocal Libraries through Libby OverDrive.

Figure 11: Proportion of Digital Circulation by Item Type in 2025



Hamilton Reads

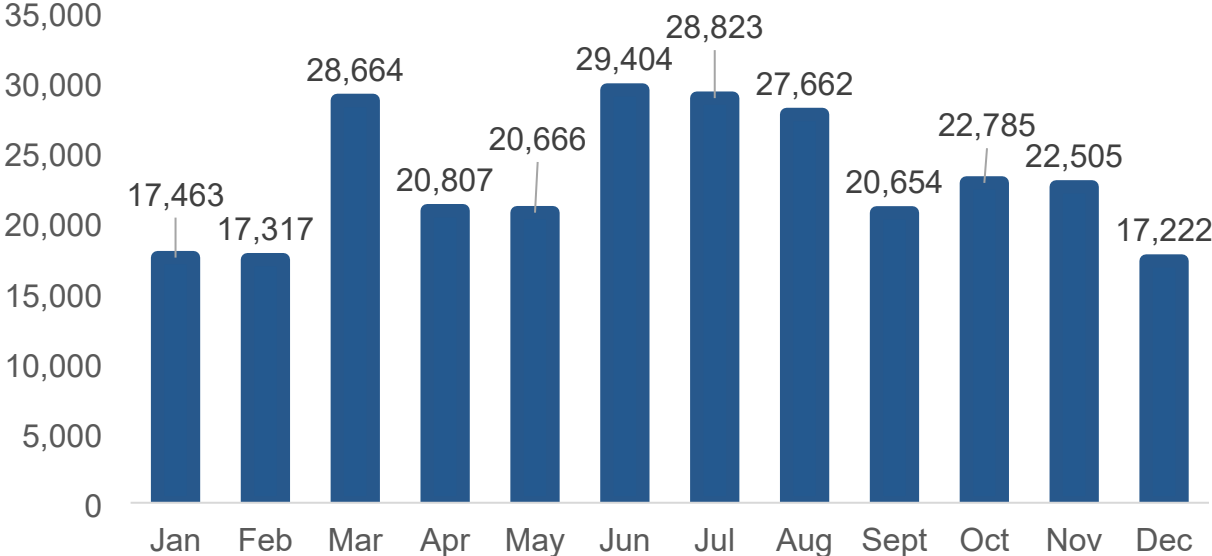
This year's Hamilton Reads selection was *All You Can Kill* by Pasha Malla. Pasha's book was checked out 3,751 times over the year. The eBook was checked out the most (n= 2,128), followed by the eAudiobook (n= 905) and the physical book (n= 718).

Programs

A program is a formal (i.e. planned and scheduled) presentation or activity offered by the Library, and presented or operated by Library Staff, or by another person or persons to whom the Library has arranged to operate the event, to a group of Library users. Program examples included children's Storytimes, visits to classrooms and auditoriums, recorded videos explaining how to use digital technology or create an art project, library tours, movie and gaming events and talks given to groups that introduce users to our materials and services. Additionally, external authors, presenters or speakers delivering a presentation to Library users within the Library itself count towards in-person numbers. Activities without an interactive component, such as exhibits, contests, or booths and the use of meeting rooms by external groups are not included in this measure.

HPL has again exceeded previous programming levels. This year we hosted 273,972 people across 13,554 programs. The number of programs increased by 19.5 per cent over 2024, and program attendance increased by 23.5 per cent. Our largest month was June (with 29,404 people in attendance). Most of our programming occurs in person, with only 0.9 per cent of programming and one per cent of attendance occurring virtually.

Figure 12: The number of Program Attendees Monthly in 2025



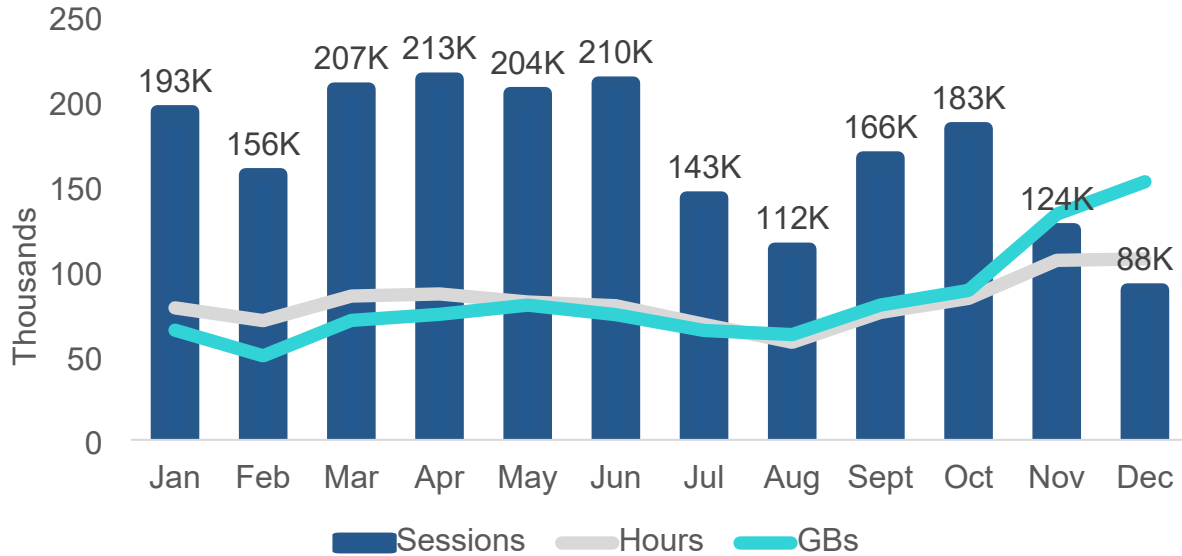
Technology Use

Wireless Network Connections (Wi-Fi)

This number refers to how often Members log on to our wireless network. We continuously expand and improve our wireless network to provide more Hamiltonians with free Internet access. Wi-Fi usage continues to be in demand due to the increasing number and affordability of mobile devices.

Wi-Fi usage exceeded 100,000 monthly sessions in every month, except December (n= 88,402). The public used our free Wi-Fi 2,001,084 times in 2025, an increase of 2.8 per cent compared to 2024. Visitors logged just under 1 million hours on our Wi-Fi (n= 976,201 hours) and under 1 million gigabytes of data use (n= 991,494 GB).

Figure 13: Monthly Wi-Fi usage in 2025

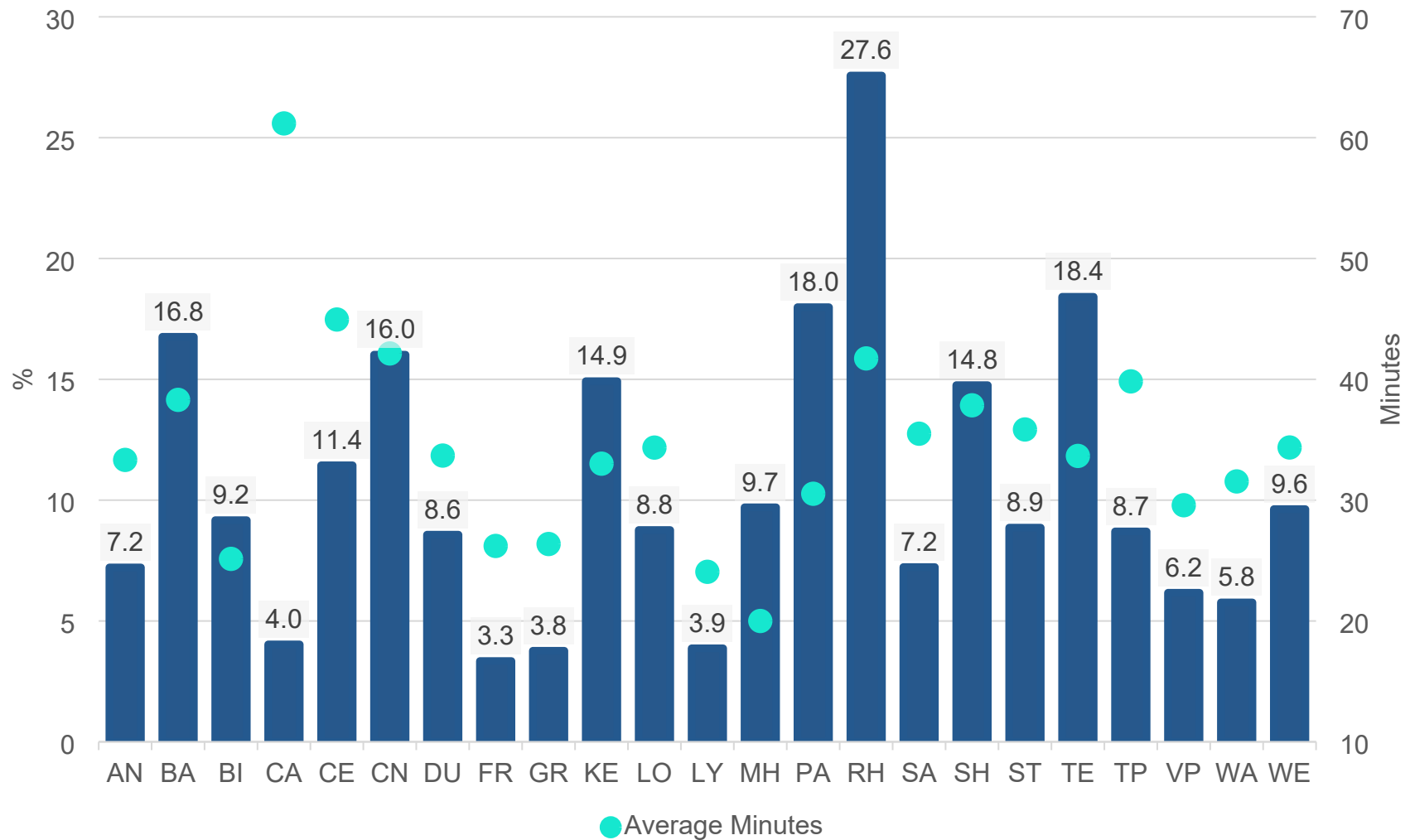


Computers

A computer session is defined as a Member login from a Library workstation (computer) during the year. Cardholders who book/sign up in advance to utilize computer time, and those who utilize computer time on an ad-hoc basis are counted. The time the Member spends using the computer is not counted in this performance metric. For example, if someone used a workstation for 30 minutes in the morning and then 30 minutes in the afternoon, the Library computer session use count for this person would equal two.

Computer use was significantly higher this year than last, because computers were greatly impacted by the cyber incident in 2024. Our computers were used 323,813 times in 2025 for over 211K hours.

Figure 14: Computer Sessions as proportion of Visitors and average time computers used (in Minutes) in 2025*



*On the graph x-axis, AN = Ancaster; BA = Barton; BI = Binbrook; CA = Carlisle; CE = Central; CN = Concession; DU = Dundas; FR = Freulton; GR = Greenville; KE = Kenilworth; LO = Locke; LY = Lynden; MH = Mount Hope; PA = Parkdale; RH = Red Hill; SA = Saltfleet; SH = Sherwood; ST = Stoney Creek; TE = Terryberry; TP = Turner Park; VP = Valley Park; WA = Waterdown; WE = Westdale

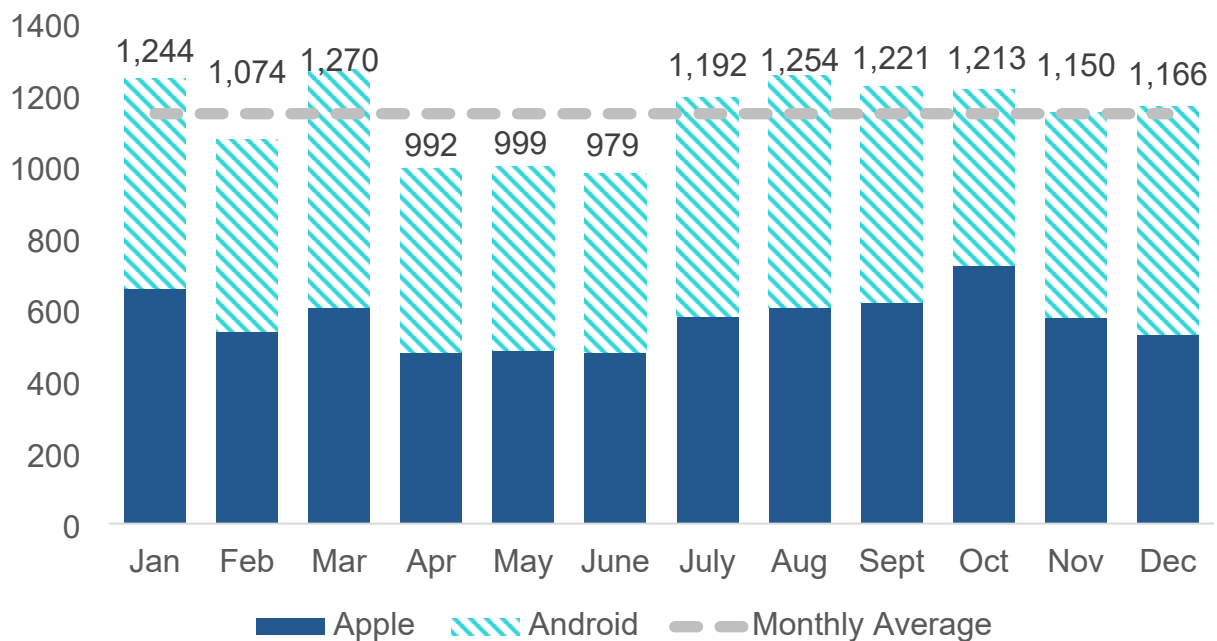
Printing

The Library offers photocopying and printing services to our Members. Members can print up to ten free black and white pages daily; anything above that is a small charge per page to the Member. The Library counts both print jobs (the number of copies of items printed or copied) and the total number of pages printed. Printing can be scheduled from one of our computers while in the Library or wirelessly while at home or in a branch through our Print on the Go system. This year the public sent 840,394 jobs to our printers and photocopiers for a total of 2,513,823 pages printed.

HPL App

The HPL App is an extension of our catalogue that lets Members can access all their information on the go, including checking out new books, viewing their borrowing history and finding our branches. In 2025, the App was downloaded 13,754 times; of these, 9,054 were to new devices (65.8%).

Figure 15: The number of monthly device downloads of the HPL App in 2025



AskHPL

AskHPL is our Library support system. The public can call, text, or chat with our Library Staff to ask about Library services, to book an appointment to get help with technology,

or to ask specific questions that may require our Librarians to search historical and current databases to provide an answer.

This year, our Staff supported 66,024 requests, a decrease of 8.3 per cent from 2024. Monthly volumes ranged from 4,744 (December) to 6,458 (March); on average Staff received 5,502 requests a month. Most questions come via phone (84.6%).

Figure 16: The Number of Monthly Requests received by AskHPL in 2025

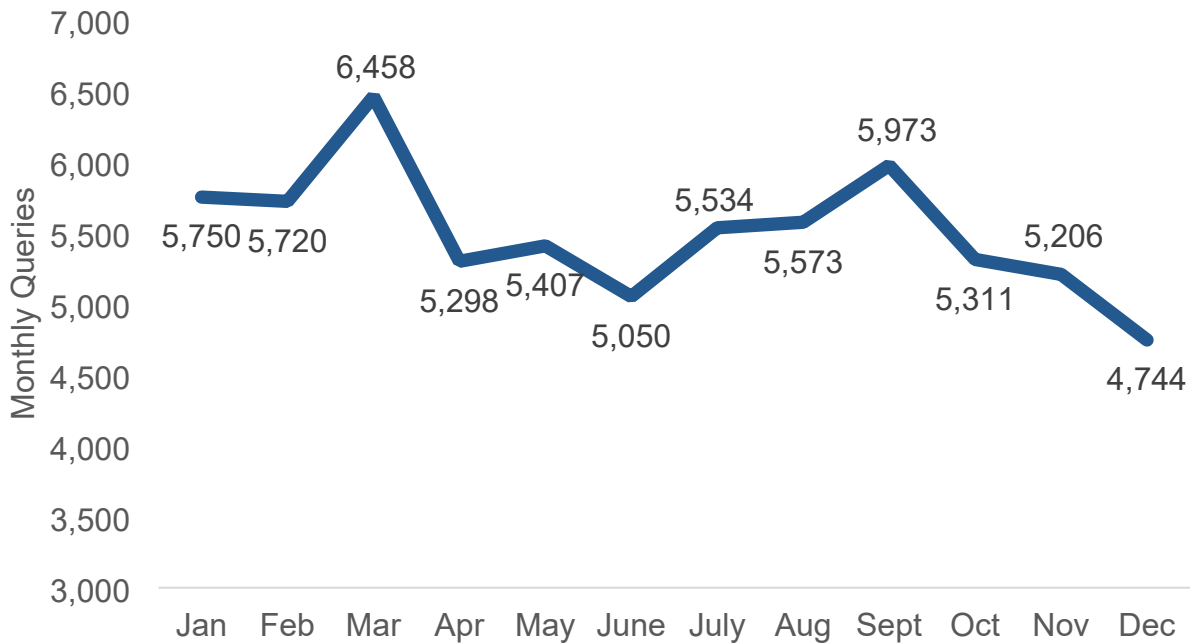
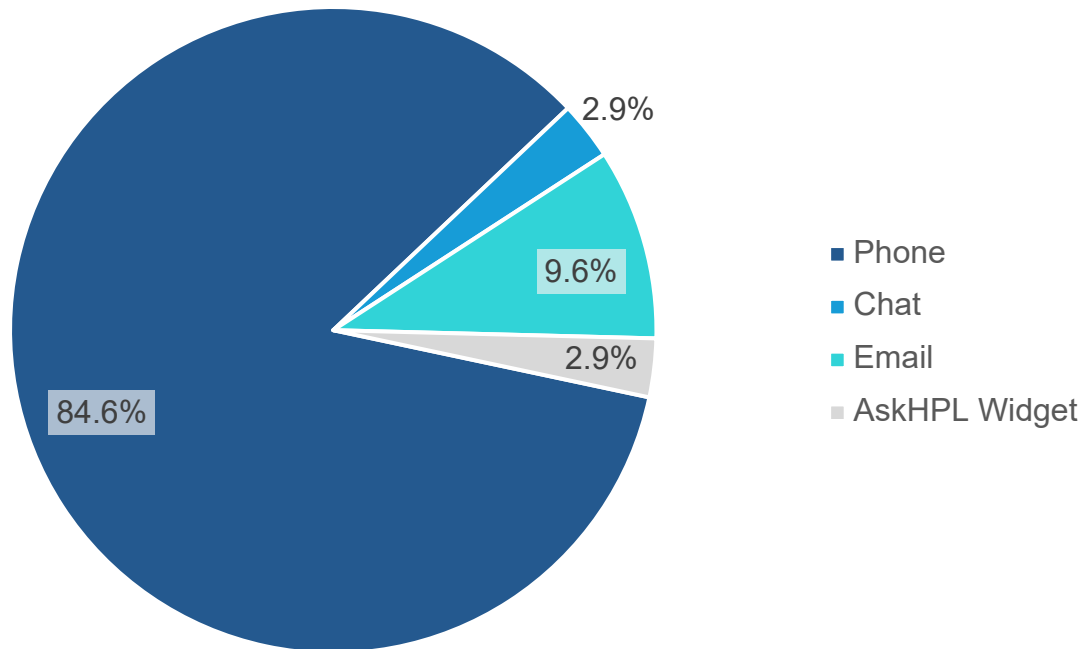


Figure 17: The percentage of AskHPL Requests in 2025 by Source



Social Media Fans

This refers to the aggregate total of the number of fans and followers of Hamilton Public Library on social media platforms, including Meta and X. This metric is taken as a snapshot at the end of the given period. Followers increased by 14.7 per cent in 2025 to 44,008. HPL is active on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and X and we continue to build audiences on these platforms.

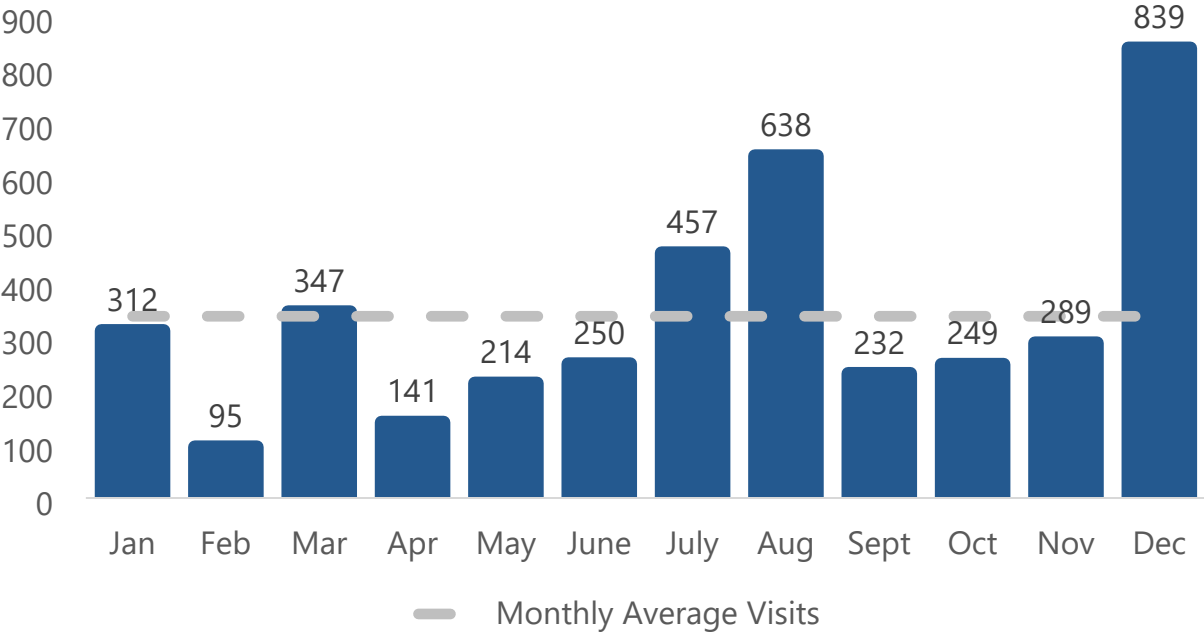
Hamilton Civic Museums

The Hamilton Public Library and the City of Hamilton developed a partnership to provide HPL Members with free access to Hamilton Civic Museums through their library card. HPL Members visited City museums* 4,063 times in 2025. More Members visited a museum in December followed by August and July. Library Members were most interested in visiting Dundurn National Historic Site (72.5% of all visits). On average, there were over 339 visits a month to Hamilton Civic Museums by HPL Members.

* Battlefield House Museum and Park; Dundurn National Historic Site; Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum; Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology; Whitehern Historic House and Garden.

Twenty-one per cent (21.1%) of museum visitors were under the age of 18 and ten per cent were over the age of 64 (10.1%).

Figure 18: Monthly Museum Visitors and average in 2025





Annual Summary 2025

Population Served: 592,000
 Active Library Cardholders: 193,356
 Active Cardholders per Pop.: 32.7%

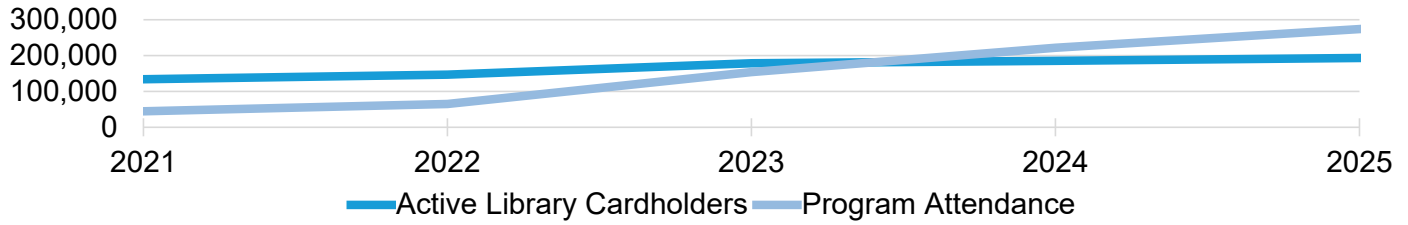
Membership	2025 % change 2024	2025 % change 2023	2025	2024	2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
New Registered Cardholders	25.9%	-2.9%	43,230	34,350	44,526	11,358	10,076	12,596	9,200
Active Library Cardholders	4.3%	8.2%	193,356	185,395	178,754	189,930	191,512	195,349	193,356
Performance Measures	2025 % change 2024	2025 % change 2023	2025	2024	2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
In Person Visits	10.5%	9.2%	2,907,392	2,630,502	2,662,164	726,443	696,534	711,616	772,799
Website Visits	25.2%	13.7%	2,391,015	1,909,571	2,103,467	551,041	523,407	660,798	655,769
Catalogue Visits	48.0%	31.4%	3,326,261	2,247,983	2,530,672	758,207	728,564	823,230	1,016,260
AskHPL	-8.3%	16.9%	66,024	71,962	56,458	17,928	15,755	17,080	15,261
Number of Programs	19.5%	59.6%	13,554	11,346	8,492	3,275	3,398	3,535	3,346
Program Attendance	23.5%	77.9%	273,972	221,923	153,983	63,444	70,877	77,139	62,512
Computer Sessions	191.1%	-24.2%	323,813	111,241	427,033	77,905	82,017	84,066	79,825
Wireless Network Connections	2.8%	9.6%	2,001,084	1,946,541	1,825,870	556,691	627,318	421,298	395,777
Wireless Network Hours	-46.0%	-70.1%	976,201	1,807,680	3,268,593	232,959	246,440	200,778	296,024
Wireless Network Usage (GB)	-25.6%	-48.1%	991,494	1,332,090	1,909,609	184,671	227,319	206,098	373,407
Social Media Fans	14.7%	28.4%	44,008	38,374	34,270	39,853	41,091	43,137	44,008
Circulated Items (Physical)	22.7%	-9.0%	2,988,429	2,435,516	3,285,337	745,737	711,957	815,818	714,917
Circulated Items (Digital)	13.3%	20.7%	2,610,611	2,304,190	2,162,411	649,916	635,889	669,701	655,105
Circulated Items (Total)	18.1%	2.8%	5,599,040	4,739,706	5,447,748	1,395,653	1,347,846	1,485,519	1,370,022

Last Updated: 1/12/2026

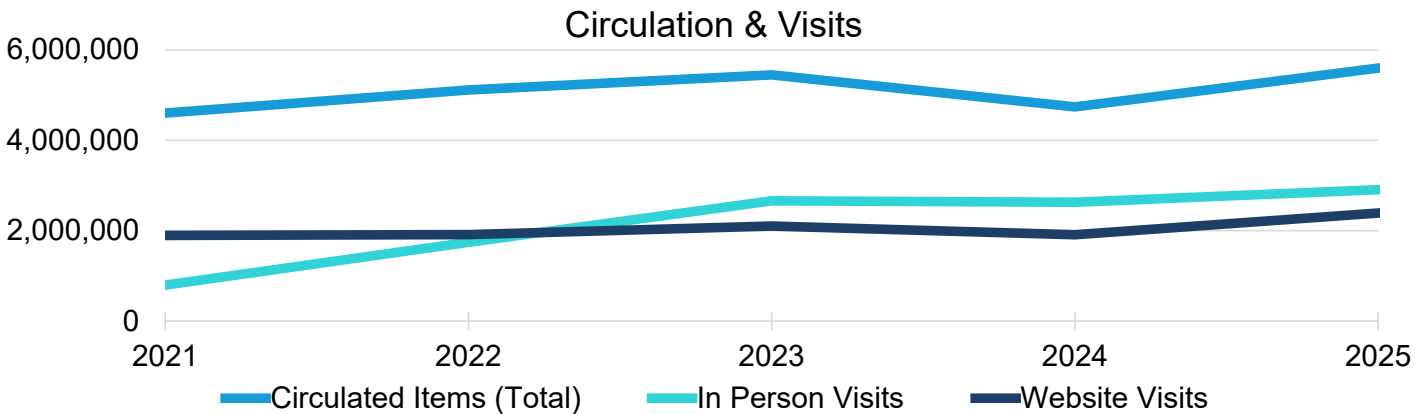


5 Year Summary

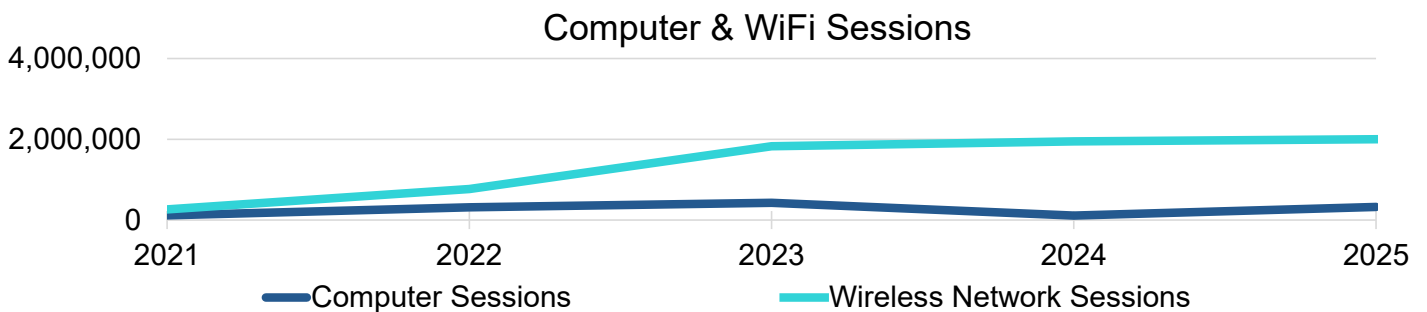
Cardholders & Program Attendance



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New Registered Cardholders	18,420	33,809	44,526	34,350	43,230
Active Library Cardholders	134,042	146,690	178,754	185,395	193,356
Number of Programs	1,425	3,307	8,492	11,346	13,554
Program Attendance	44,653	64,978	153,983	221,923	273,972



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Circulated Items (Physical)	2,578,886	3,177,831	3,285,337	2,435,516	2,988,429
Circulated Items (Digital)	2,023,700	1,936,016	2,162,411	2,304,190	2,610,611
Circulated Items (Total)	4,602,586	5,113,847	5,447,748	4,739,706	5,599,040
In Person Visits	795,498	1,743,222	2,662,164	2,630,502	2,907,392
Website Visits	1,894,910	1,912,464	2,103,467	1,909,571	2,391,015
Catalogue Visits	1,649,820	1,849,964	2,530,672	2,247,983	3,326,261

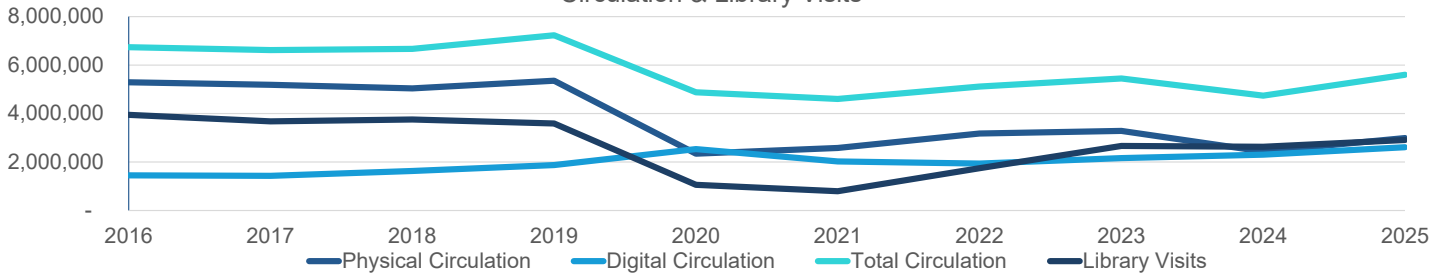


	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Computer Sessions	115,532	315,533	427,033	111,241	323,813
Wireless Network Sessions	264,066	767,605	1,825,870	1,946,541	2,001,084
Social Media Fans	28,926	31,639	34,270	38,374	44,008



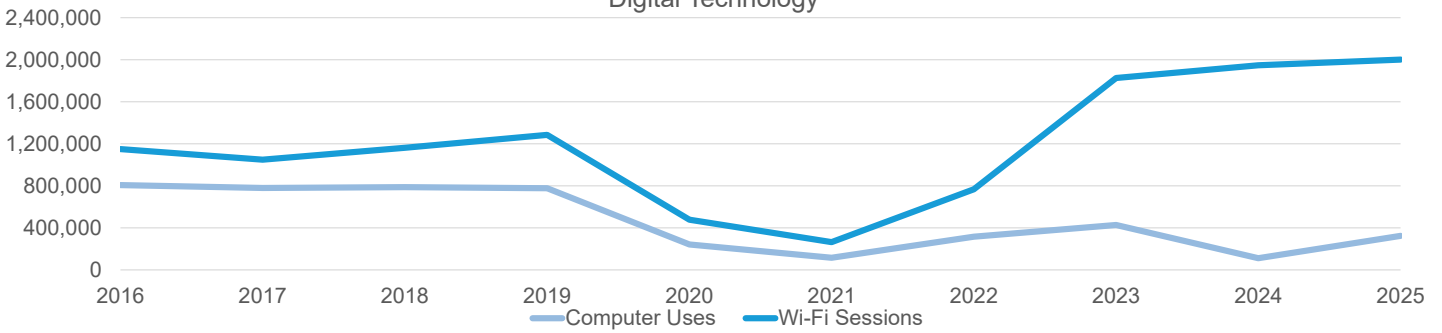
10 Year Summary

Circulation & Library Visits



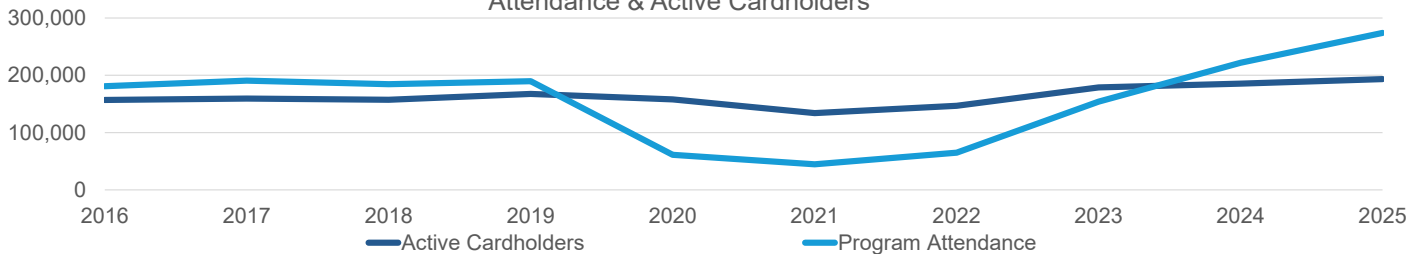
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Physical Circulation	5,288,961	5,186,860	5,039,069	5,355,146	2,344,024	2,578,886	3,177,831	3,285,337	2,435,516	2,988,429
Digital Circulation	1,449,909	1,430,728	1,628,951	1,874,764	2,532,708	2,023,700	1,936,016	2,162,411	2,304,190	2,610,611
Total Circulation	6,738,870	6,617,588	6,668,020	7,229,910	4,876,732	4,602,586	5,113,847	5,447,748	4,739,706	5,599,040
Library Visits	3,946,440	3,680,038	3,753,908	3,592,052	1,061,164	795,498	1,743,222	2,662,164	2,630,502	2,907,392

Digital Technology



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Computer Uses	806,925	779,811	787,781	776,777	242,191	115,532	315,533	427,033	111,241	323,813
Wi-Fi Sessions	1,149,739	1,048,972	1,162,246	1,284,454	477,105	264,066	767,605	1,825,870	1,946,541	2,001,084

Attendance & Active Cardholders



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active Cardholders	156,983	159,345	157,367	167,441	157,992	134,042	146,690	178,754	185,395	193,356
Program Attendance	181,019	190,699	184,530	189,732	61,238	44,653	64,978	153,983	221,923	273,972

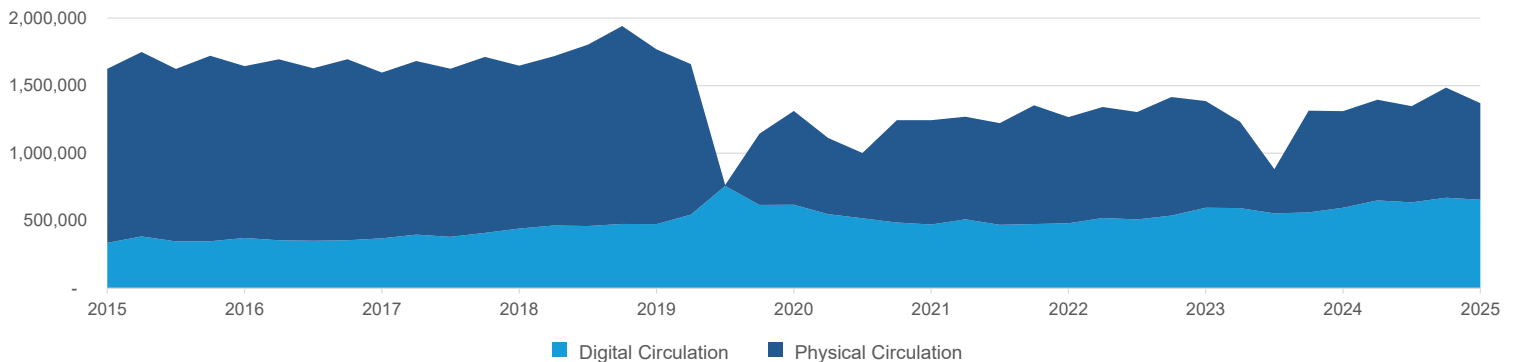
Last Updated: 1/12/2026



Q4 2025

Population Served: 592,000
 Active Library Cardholders: 193,356
 Active Cardholders per Pop.: 32.7%

Performance Measures	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% Change 2025-2024 YTD	Q4, 2025	Q4, 2024	Q4, 2023	Q4 % Change 2025-2024
New Registered Cardholders	43,230	34,350	25.9%	9,200	8,999	11,249	2.2%
Active Library Cardholders	193,356	185,395	4.3%	193,356	185,395	178,754	4.3%
In Person Visits	2,907,392	2,630,502	10.5%	772,799	664,543	721,273	16.3%
Website Visits	2,391,015	1,909,571	25.2%	655,769	471,527	581,713	39.1%
Catalogue Visits	3,326,261	2,247,983	48.0%	1,016,260	674,699	795,428	50.6%
AskHPL	66,024	71,962	-8.3%	15,261	15,600	12,334	-2.2%
Number of Programs	13,554	11,346	19.5%	3,346	2,757	2,299	21.4%
Program Attendance	273,972	221,923	23.5%	62,512	48,389	37,620	29.2%
Computer Sessions	323,813	111,241	191.1%	79,825	40,865	108,826	95.3%
Wireless Network Sessions	2,001,084	1,946,541	2.8%	395,777	569,022	670,519	-30.4%
Wireless Network Hours of Use	976,201	1,807,680	-46.0%	296,024	242,747	1,005,097	21.9%
Wireless Network Usage (GB)	991,494	1,332,090	-25.6%	373,407	253,410	741,699	47.4%
Social Media Fans	44,008	38,374	14.7%	44,008	38,374	34,270	14.7%
Circulated Items (Physical)	2,988,429	2,435,516	22.7%	714,917	714,812	789,650	0.0%
Circulated Items (Digital)	2,610,611	2,304,190	13.3%	655,105	596,213	595,896	9.9%
Circulated Items (Total)	5,599,040	4,739,706	18.1%	1,370,022	1,311,025	1,385,546	4.5%



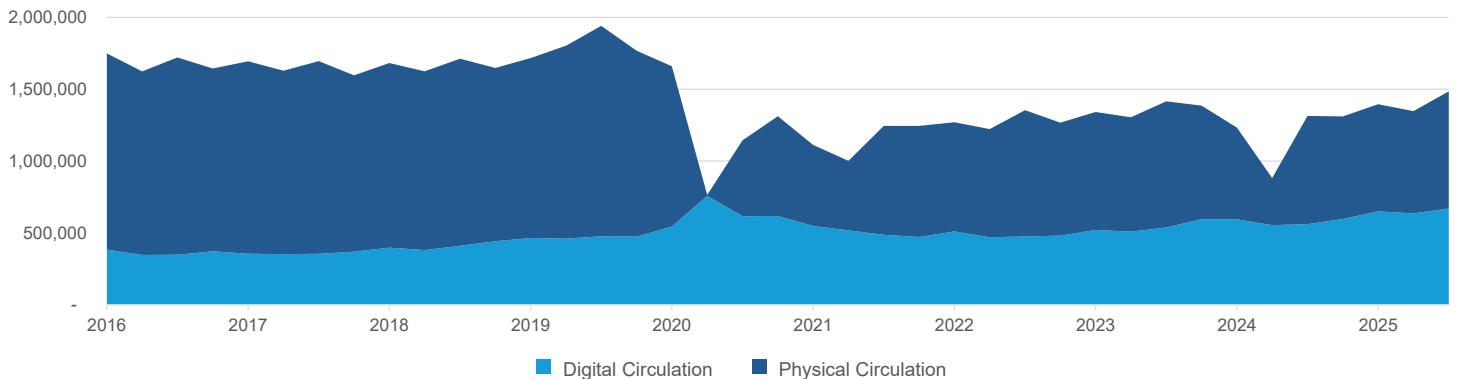
Last Updated: 1/12/2026



Q3 2025

Population Served: 592,000
 Active Library Cardholders: 195,349
 Active Cardholders per Pop.: 33.00%

Performance Measures	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% Change 2025-2024 YTD	Q3, 2025	Q3, 2024	Q3, 2023	Q3 % Change 2025 to 2024
New Registered Cardholders	34,030	25,351	34.2%	12,596	10,966	13,023	14.9%
Active Library Cardholders	195,349	183,261	6.6%	195,349	183,261	172,191	6.6%
In Person Visits	2,134,593	1,965,959	8.6%	711,616	606,260	663,766	17.4%
Website Visits	1,735,246	1,438,044	20.7%	660,798	437,030	587,562	51.2%
Catalogue Visits	2,310,001	1,573,284	46.8%	823,230	628,113	696,844	31.1%
AskHPL	50,763	56,362	-9.9%	17,080	19,382	16,068	-11.9%
Number of Programs	10,208	8,589	18.8%	3,535	2,987	2,518	18.3%
Program Attendance	211,460	173,534	21.9%	77,139	64,841	42,020	19.0%
Computer Sessions	243,988	70,376	246.7%	84,066	3,041	107,812	2664.4%
Wireless Network Sessions	1,605,307	1,377,519	16.5%	421,298	451,362	513,511	-6.7%
Wireless Network Hours of Use	680,177	1,564,933	-56.5%	200,778	297,215	800,000	-32.4%
Wireless Network Usage (GB)	618,088	1,078,680	-42.7%	206,098	228,114	509,770	-9.7%
Social Media Fans	43,137	34,856	23.8%	43,137	34,856	33,314	23.8%
Circulated Items (Physical)	2,273,512	1,720,704	32.1%	815,818	753,434	878,488	8.3%
Circulated Items (Digital)	1,955,506	1,707,977	14.5%	669,701	560,815	537,400	19.4%
Circulated Items (Total)	4,229,018	3,428,681	23.3%	1,485,519	1,314,249	1,415,888	13.0%

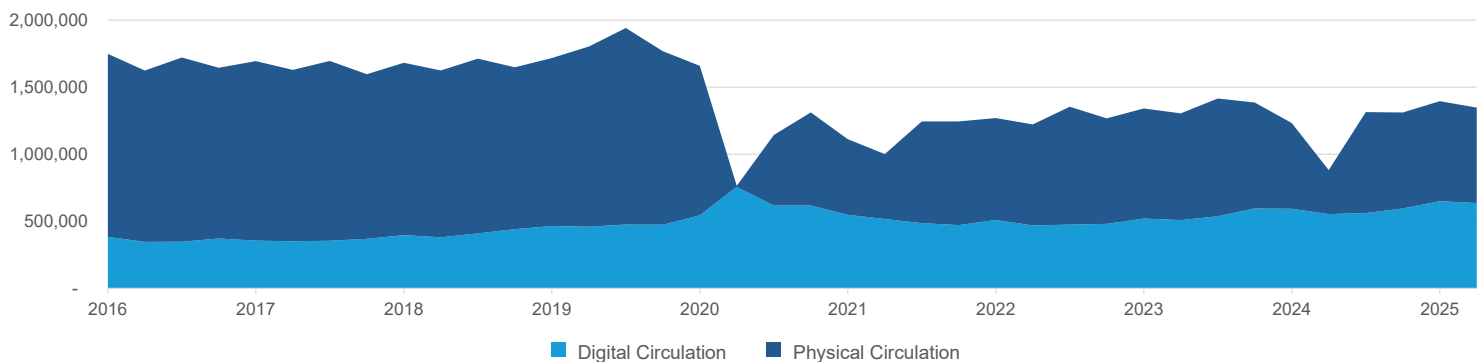


Last Updated: 1/12/2026

Q2 2025

Population Served: 592,000
 Active Library Cardholders: 191,512
 Active Cardholders per Pop.: 32.4%

Performance Measures	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% Change 2025-2024 YTD	Q2, 2025	Q2, 2024	Q2, 2023	Q2 % Change 2025 to 2024
New Registered Cardholders	21,434	14,385	49.0%	10,076	6,155	9,660	63.7%
Active Library Cardholders	191,512	181,100	5.7%	191,512	181,100	162,348	5.7%
In Person Visits	1,422,977	1,359,699	4.7%	696,534	592,650	633,608	17.5%
Website Visits	1,074,448	1,001,014	7.3%	523,407	426,480	457,586	22.7%
Catalogue Visits	1,486,771	945,171	57.3%	728,564	259,604	494,736	180.6%
AskHPL	33,683	36,980	-8.9%	15,755	20,246	13,160	-22.2%
Number of Programs	6,673	5,602	19.1%	3,398	2,779	1,862	22.3%
Program Attendance	134,321	108,693	23.6%	70,877	55,910	30,729	26.8%
Computer Sessions	159,922	67,335	137.5%	82,017	0	104,383	N/A
Wireless Network Sessions	1,184,009	926,158	27.8%	627,318	448,472	327,578	39.9%
Wireless Network Hours of Use*	479,399	1,267,718	-62.2%	246,440	626,051	746,104	-60.6%
Wireless Network Usage (GB)*	411,990	850,566	-51.6%	227,319	413,560	329,369	-45.0%
Social Media Fans	41,091	33,858	21.4%	41,091	33,858	33,298	21.4%
Circulated Items (Physical)	1,457,694	967,270	50.7%	711,957	327,936	795,774	117.1%
Circulated Items (Digital)	1,285,805	1,147,162	12.1%	635,889	553,756	509,235	14.8%
Circulated Items (Total)	2,743,499	2,114,432	29.8%	1,347,846	881,692	1,305,009	52.9%



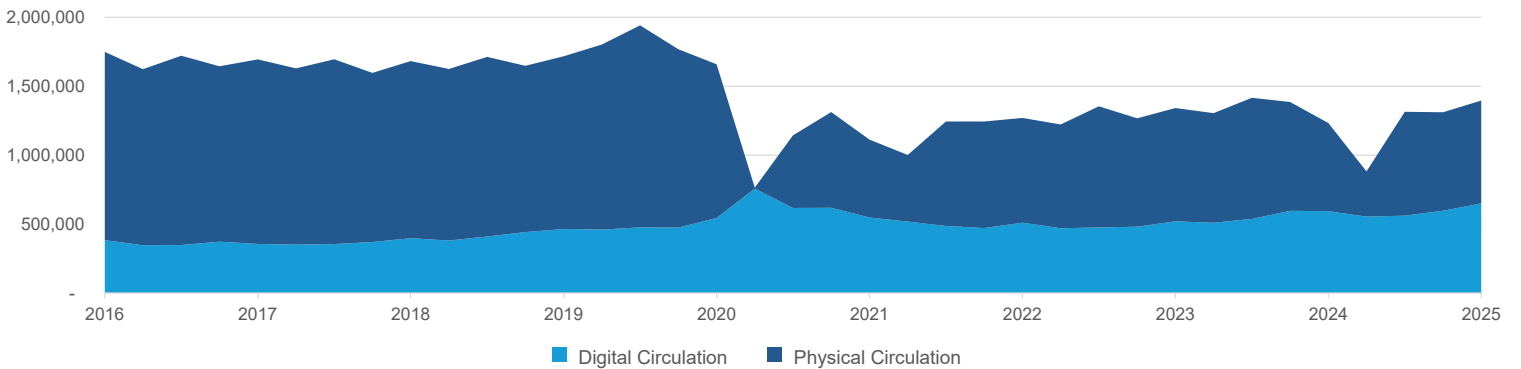
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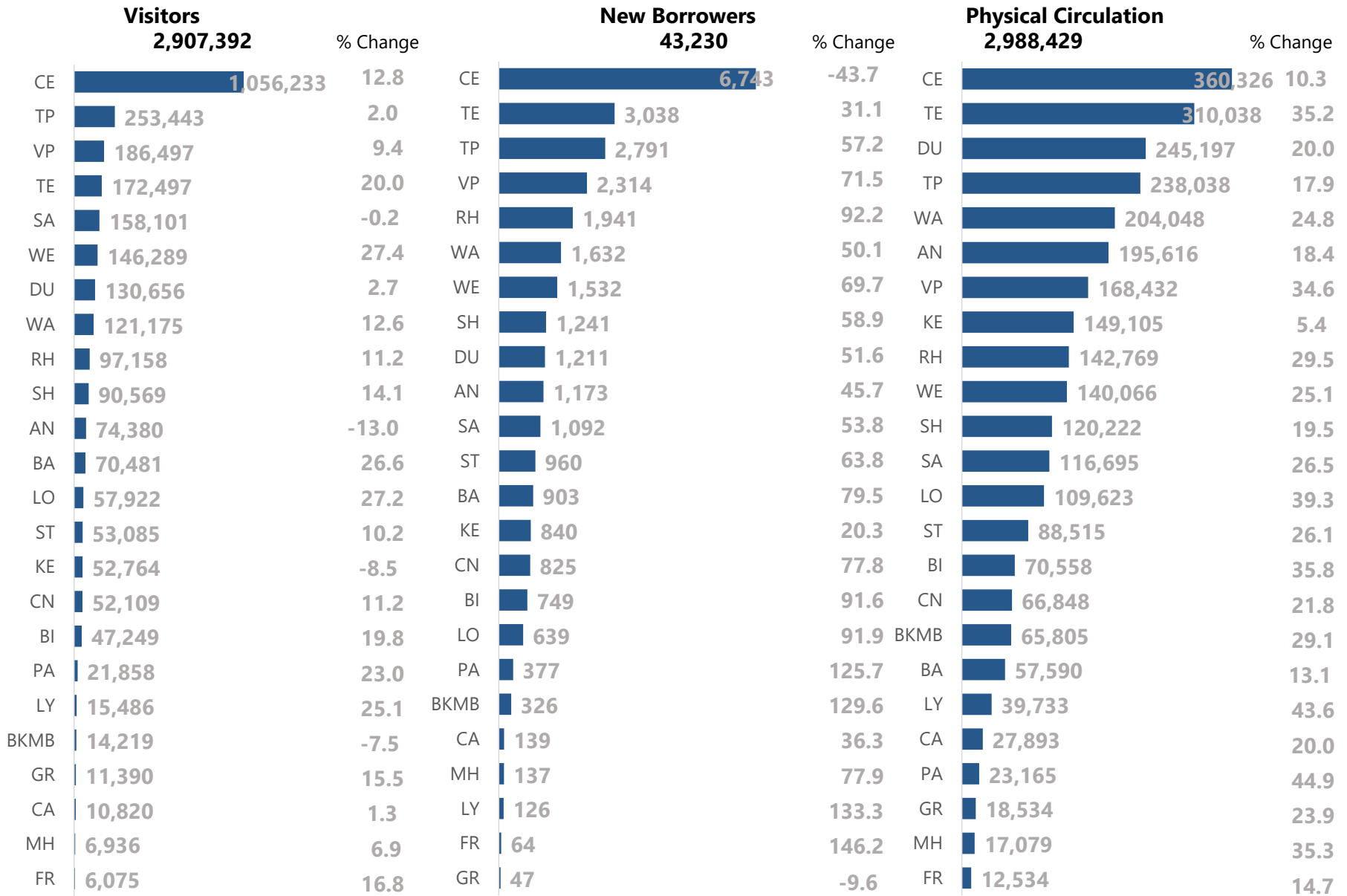
Q1 2025

Population Served: 592,000
 Active Library Cardholders: 189,930
 Active Cardholders per Pop.: 32.1%

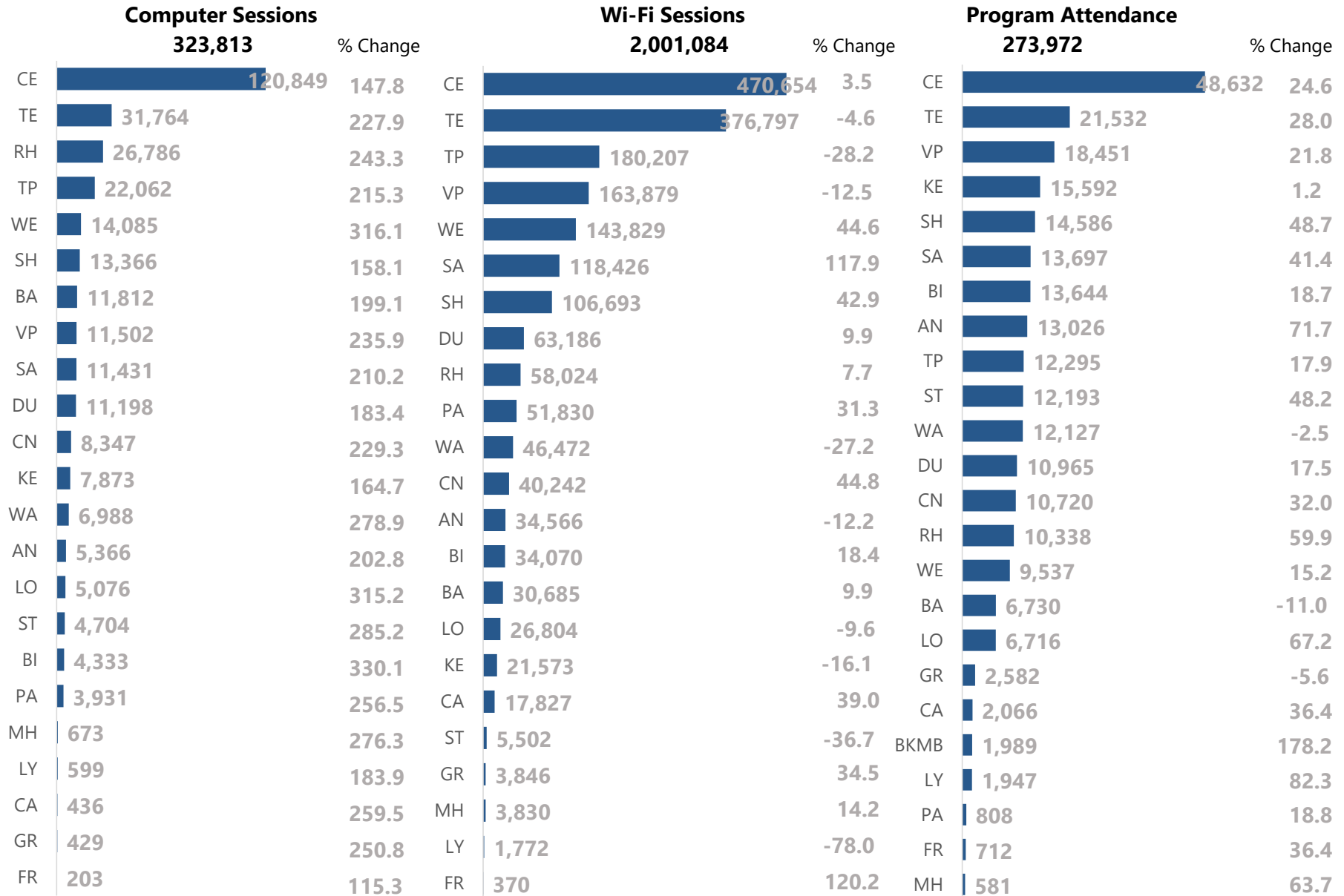
Performance Measures	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	% Change 2025-2024 YTD	Q1, 2025	Q1, 2024	Q1, 2023	Q1 % Change 2025 to 2024
New Registered Cardholders	11,358	8,230	38.0%	11,358	8,230	10,594	38.0%
Active Library Cardholders	189,930	182,127	4.3%	189,930	182,127	155,364	4.3%
In Person Visits	726,443	767,049	-5.3%	726,443	767,049	643,517	-5.3%
Website Visits	551,041	574,534	-4.1%	551,041	574,534	476,606	-4.1%
Catalogue Visits	758,207	685,567	10.6%	758,207	685,567	543,664	10.6%
AskHPL	17,928	16,734	7.1%	17,928	16,734	14,896	7.1%
Number of Programs	3,275	2,823	16.0%	3,275	2,823	1,813	16.0%
Program Attendance	63,444	52,783	20.2%	63,444	52,783	43,614	20.2%
Computer Sessions	77,905	67,335	15.7%	77,905	67,335	106,012	15.7%
Wireless Network Sessions	556,691	477,686	16.5%	556,691	477,686	314,262	16.5%
Wireless Network Hours of Use	232,959	641,667	-63.7%	232,959	641,667	717,392	-63.7%
Wireless Network Usage (GB)	184,671	437,006	-57.7%	184,671	437,006	328,771	-57.7%
Social Media Fans	39,853	32,916	21.1%	39,853	32,916	32,441	21.1%
Circulated Items (Physical)	745,737	639,334	16.6%	745,737	639,334	821,425	16.6%
Circulated Items (Digital)	649,916	593,406	9.5%	649,916	593,406	519,880	9.5%
Circulated Items (Total)	1,395,653	1,232,740	13.2%	1,395,653	1,232,740	1,341,305	13.2%



Last Updated: 1/12/2026



* Change compares the value to 2024



* Change compares the value to 2024



CUPE 932

Proudly representing the workers of Hamilton Public Library
932.cupe.ca | 932cupe@gmail.com

March 8, 2026

Dear Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board,

CUPE 932, the union representing the workers at Hamilton Public Library, do not support the requirement of an HPL card to enter Central Library.

While we are pleased the employer is acknowledging the terrible situation for workers at Central, this is a misguided response.

Public libraries are a cornerstone of democracy, grounded in an unwavering commitment to equity, access and inclusiveness. The seemingly simple act of requiring a library card can create an exclusionary and elitist space. This is an imposition that contradicts HPL's Mission, Vision and Values. Freedom to Discover and Belong becomes a vacuous slogan when entry is limited in a public building. The value of inclusion, which in part states: "Equity informs our program design, so we can create fairer access to opportunities and help build a more just society" — also rings hollow under this carding proposal. When times get tough, adhering to our values is paramount.

To impose carding on the majority because of the bad behaviour of a minority is unfair and onerous for Members and Staff. Carding sanctions discrimination. Staff worked as gatekeepers during the pandemic, due to a provincial mandate. They faced verbal abuse and tense interactions with angry Members back then. This pilot is likely to produce the same reactions.

This suggested process also assumes drug users, dealers and troubled people don't have library cards. Also, if they can't get into Central, they may migrate to other branches. What then?

We are stymied as to why only two solutions to this current crisis are being presented. There are other less drastic solutions than carding or closing worth considering. We know this board cares about library Staff. The Union welcomes an opportunity to discuss ways to mitigate current issues while minimizing risk and upholding HPL's values.

Overdoses, homelessness and mental health struggles are congregating issues in public libraries across the country, yet none have opted to introduce the inequitable idea of carding. And those libraries that did close all reported the issues arose again when the cold weather months returned.

Carding or closing pushes the marginalized out and onto the streets where we know supports are lacking. In HPL's 2025 Strategic Plan, the Board stated their commitment to "enhancing safety and security in our spaces, consistent with our values. We will continue to engage with trusted partners to bring support to our spaces based on need." We ask you to remain firm to your commitment to collective wellness. Let members into Central without barriers or discrimination while we continue to press other levels of government to do their part better. We can't fix a problem by creating another harm.

Sincerely,

CUPE 932 Executive

Lisa Hunt, Erin Olmsted, Melanie Cummings, Deb Scarfone-Shaw, Marg Mandula, Paul Martin and Jennie Hamilton

March 8, 2026

To: Chief Librarian Paul Takala
Cc: the Hamilton Public Library Board

We are writing to you as Library Workers for Supervised Consumption Sites (LW4SCS), a growing collective of library workers and students across Ontario who are concerned about the impact of the toxic drug supply crisis on our patrons, communities, and our work conditions.

We appreciated you taking the time to meet with us last week, and we believe that we all want the same thing: for people to have what they need to live full and healthy lives, and for the library to be the cornerstone of an engaged and caring community that is welcoming and truly accessible for all.

However, we strongly disagree with the decision to restrict access to certain library areas for people without a library card and urge HPL to reconsider this policy. Creating members-only spaces will have a profound impact on library workers, patrons, and most significantly, marginalized community members.

As frontline public library workers in Ontario, we know intimately the impacts of the toxic drug supply crisis in our spaces. Daily, we watch our patrons navigate housing instability, profound poverty, social exclusion, and yes, a toxic drug supply. As you have said, the closure of Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) and the defunding of harm reduction services has meant we are seeing more drug use and drug poisonings in our libraries, something that this collective foresaw when Bill 223 was proposed in 2024. This removal of life-saving services is not just a policy failure, but an intentional attack on poor and racialized people who are forced to use drugs in public. The toxic drug supply crisis is intensified when institutions and communities deflect responsibility onto one another, pushing people who use drugs further to the margins and deepening the isolation, criminalization, and preventable harm they already face.

Just like you, we know the complexity and difficulty of what public libraries are being asked to do — to be — in this moment. The library is an imperfect lifeline for people being actively abandoned by the state. We applaud your commitment to keeping the library open in trying times, and we fully support this decision. However, we reject the idea that HPL has only two options to address the toxic drug supply crisis: closing or carding. We believe that the HPL has a wealth of knowledge in its frontline workers and community partners that can be harnessed to come up with brave and compassionate strategies that do not leave behind those most harmed by the toxic drug supply crisis.

In our meeting you expressed concern that the library was no longer a safe place for children. In addition to members of LW4SCS who are children's librarians and parents, we all value the presence and participation of children in our libraries. However, framing library safety as a choice between children and members who use drugs, are unhoused, or experiencing mental health issues creates a harmful false binary. This rhetorical framing appeals to emotion over reason, and adds to the stigma and marginalization of people who have every right to access library spaces. We do not mean this as a denial of risk. In fact, children are harmed by the toxic drug supply crisis all the time, either through their own drug use or the loss of a loved one. However, we hope to complicate the binary that we must choose the wellbeing of children or the wellbeing of our patrons who use drugs. HPL is already engaging in risk mitigation strategies, for example family bathrooms and moving the children's area. Actions like these are harm reduction in action, and we believe that additional strategies can be pursued without reinforcing a harmful narrative.

We agree that libraries are not safe places to use drugs. Libraries do not provide sterile spaces nor supervised support for drug use, vital services provided by SCS. However, this policy of carding will only further isolate people made vulnerable to premature death due to the prohibitionist policies of the Ontario Government. We have no expectation that libraries will solve the toxic drug supply crisis. We do, however, expect libraries to center those most harmed. Those of us who work in HPL's Central Library know many patrons who would face challenges in acquiring and keeping a library card. If you go forward with your plan, these patrons will lose access to community, to a place to warm up, to basic sanitation services. This is not a matter of preference for many people, but of life and death. And to be clear, the ultimate harm of the toxic drug supply crisis is death.

As you noted in our conversation, HPL is committed to the advancement of human rights as outlined in its Mission Statement and Values, which affirm HPL's dedication to "supporting the value and dignity of all individuals [and] working to overcome the legacies of colonization, racism and other forms of discrimination." Honoring this commitment requires taking seriously how a carding policy would undermine the very principles that define HPL's public mission — among them, privacy, equity of access, and inclusion.

A members-only model, introduced in the midst of a housing crisis, would fall hardest on those who already have the least. For the unhoused person whose belongings are repeatedly stolen, the person fleeing domestic violence with no fixed address, or anyone who has been pushed out of most other spaces in the city, the library's

low-barrier access is not a convenience — it is a lifeline. Getting and keeping a library card is a genuine and recurring obstacle for many in Hamilton. Even with accommodations in place to ease card creation, a carding policy will inevitably introduce new barriers and exclude a significant number of the people HPL's mission is most clearly meant to serve.

Additionally, requiring a library card to enter a public space fundamentally changes the nature of that space — it is no longer truly public. For many people, particularly those who use drugs or sleep rough, constant surveillance is already an exhausting daily reality. Subjecting patrons to ID checks at the library door entangles people further in a web of institutional monitoring that tracks their presence across the city. This concern extends well beyond people who use drugs; it applies equally to undocumented immigrants, survivors of domestic abuse, and others for whom anonymity is not a preference but a protection. The right to move through public space without being identified or recorded is foundational — and it is one HPL must continue to uphold.

A carding policy does not merely risk inconveniencing some patrons. It risks entrenching the very patterns of exclusion and criminalization of poor and racialized people that HPL has committed to dismantling.

We recognize the need to adapt our strategies to contend with the impacts of the toxic drug supply crisis in our libraries. However, we do not believe that carding will be effective in addressing the problems HPL is experiencing. Though we do not have the answers, we believe that frontline HPL workers and patrons impacted by the toxic drug supply crisis are the most knowledgeable about what this moment requires. We urge you to engage in meaningful consultation with your workers, patrons, and community organizations before making decisions that may irreparably rupture trust with your community.

Because members of LW4SCS work in public libraries throughout Ontario, including HPL's Central Library, we are distinctly aware of the challenges library workers and patrons face. The degradation of harm reduction services and support in Ontario have changed the way we do our work, but we refuse to let it change what we value. We will not let our right to safe, supportive and fairly compensated work be used to demonize people who use drugs. Our desires for safety and respect are in fact, what our patrons who use drugs also desire.

In light of the complexity and nuance of the situation, we implore you: don't correct a mistake with another mistake. We ask that you reconsider the decision to implement a

members only policy in the library, and devote more energy to generating ideas in collaboration with staff and advocacy staff.

We are eager to have further conversation about what we have learned over the last two years of talking to library workers about this crisis. We know that together, with time and attention, we can develop human centered approaches that recognize and do not displace the primary harm of the toxic drug supply crisis while facilitating a library that welcomes all people, whether they use drugs or not.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to continuing this conversation,

Library Workers for Supervised Consumption Sites

I met a young person through a mentorship program about eight years ago, when this individual was nine. This young person had spent early childhood with parents who struggled with addiction and were unable to provide consistent care. School attendance was rare, and this young person and an older sibling often had to search for food in unsafe ways.

By the time we met, school was a significant challenge because those early educational years had been missed. Now, at seventeen, this young person has been accepted into multiple post-secondary programs — the first in the extended family to reach that milestone. Much of this progress came from time spent studying together at a local public library.

One day last winter, we were at the library working on a project and preparing for a test. The young person became overwhelmed and anxious, which is common due to past trauma. While we were sitting in a quiet spot, I noticed an estranged family member — someone connected to the young person's past — in the same area. This individual appeared to be under the influence and surrounded by personal belongings. The young person had not seen this family member in years, and an encounter under these circumstances would likely have been deeply traumatic.

I did everything possible to keep the young person calm and focused, redirecting attention and moving us away without causing alarm. When we later left the area, I thought the situation had been avoided. But on another floor of the building, we came across the same family member again, this time clearly unwell and disoriented near the washrooms. Fortunately, the young person did not notice, and we exited quickly. We have not returned to the library to study since that day.

I still visit the library occasionally, but during those visits I have personally witnessed multiple medical emergencies related to substance use inside the building.

I understand that public libraries serve everyone. However, it is important to recognize how the housing and addiction crises also affect young people who rely on these spaces as safe, stable environments — individuals who have already experienced instability and who use the library because they lack other supports and are trying to build better futures.

At the moment, the environment inside the library does not feel safe for these young people. For many, it resembles the unpredictability and chaos they are striving to overcome.

I support efforts to make libraries safer for all community members, and I believe that introducing basic entry requirements — such as presenting identification or a library card — could be one meaningful step toward creating a more stable environment.

2026 Capital Variance Report – March 2026

Date March 11th, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Pam Byrne, Director of Finance

Two Electric Mini Bookmobiles – 75002636015 – Reserve Funds from 2025

Board-approved funds to allow HPL to begin the Request for Proposal process to purchase two new electric bookmobiles. The City updated the project status to HPL in early February, noting that the General Manager still needs to review the paperwork before the Request for Proposal process can start.

Funds Approved: \$1,100,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$0.00

Discovery Centre Pop Up Library – 7502636016 – Reserve Funds from 2025

Board-approved funds to animate part of the Discovery Centre building while the completion of the feasibility study for the full animation of the Discovery Centre is being completed. These funds were reallocated from an existing project to this new project to expedite the opening of a Pop-Up Library. The Architect, McCallum Sather, now has a purchase order and concept plans are in the works for a late February review with our strategic partners and planning team. We are working toward an ambitious target of a summer opening.

Funds Approved: \$250,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$0.00

Partner Research Initiatives – 7502555100 – Reserve Funds from 2025

(Reallocation)

Board-approved funds to allow HPL to support research initiatives in collaboration with partners such as McMaster University's Community Research Platform (CRP) and similar programs.

Funds Approved: \$21,798

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$4,640

Children’s Area Enhancements – 7502541001 – City Sponsored from 2025

The Project Management team, in collaboration with HPL, are reviewing both a retrofit of the existing space and a relocation of the space to the second floor. Timing and final layout still to be determined.

Funds Approved: \$200,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$0

Children’s Collection Project – 7502558001 – Reserve Funds from 2025

Board-approved donations dedicated to enhancing children’s programming resources, such as supplies, technology, kits and play furniture for all branches and bookmobiles, with priority given to high-need locations.

Funds Approved: \$200,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$0

Dundas Donation Project – 7502558002 – Reserve Funds from 2025

Staff began purchasing items to enhance library services in the community. So far, a large-format printer and a vinyl cutter are in use. Other items in the process of being ordered include STEAM elements for children’s programming and upgraded furniture for the children's area. The spending of these funds is on track.

Funds Approved: \$50,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$37,471

** note an additional \$50,000 had been donated in early 2026 but it has not yet been recorded in the City records**

Ward 14 Feasibility Study – 7502455100 – Reserve Funds from 2024

Toms and McNally have completed the Feasibility Study for the proposed branch. This was presented to the board in February 2026. A small amount of the reserves in this account will be maintained for various administrative costs while we continue to explore

options for a site and or partnership for this potential branch. The remaining funds – roughly \$100k will be transferred back into the reserves upon completion.

Funds Approved: \$150,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$13,941

Staff Computer Renewal – 7502457100 – Reserve Funds from 2024

Funds have been approved for replacing staff computers in Staff workrooms and information desks. The computers have arrived, and DT is in the pilot phase to evaluate the new devices at two branches.

Funds Approved: \$340,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$29,423

Server Upgrade Project – 7502251000 – Reserve Funds from 2023

The remaining funds in this project will be used to cover the necessary server licensing upgrade costs. The specific plans for the upgrade are currently under review. This investment is key to maintaining our system's performance and security.

Funds Approved: \$450,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$412,707

Cyber Security Recovery Fund – 7502457101 – Reserve Funds from 2024

The Board approved funds to re-stabilize the HPL information network after the Cyber Attack. The remaining funds will be strategically allocated through a carefully assessed multi-year budget. This fund is dedicated to critical infrastructure upgrades, primarily focused on phased network modernization and the purchase of new equipment to support long-term operational goals.

Funds Approved - \$1,800,000

Funds Spent Year to Date - \$450,000

Discovery Centre Project (West Harbour)- 7502341300 – Reserve Funds 2023

Funds approved to support the Program Design and Development Study at the former Canadian Marine Discovery Centre. Plans for the site include a library, an Indigenous

gathering space, a space for heritage-based exhibitions and displays, a cafe and visitor amenities. In November 2023, City Council approved HPL to lead the Study. The cybersecurity incident delayed the issuance of the Request for Proposal for consulting services to December 2024. The successful consultant was hired in July 2025 after a competitive review process, and the engagement phase of the Study began in the fall. Up to \$35,000 from these funds has also been allocated to provide honorariums to Indigenous Working Group members who will help work through the Study's work packages and provide expertise in Indigenous-focused engagement.

Funds Approved: \$250,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$32,584 - Funds towards honorariums (up to \$35,000)

Exhibitions Spaces – 7502351303 – Reserve Funds from 2023

The release of reserve funds was approved in December 2023. This was approved to support the purchase of HPL's exhibit fixtures, technology and displays for long-term use and included the cost to build, run and maintain exhibits from 2024 to 2025 in the Discovery Centre. The original plan to animate the Discovery Centre's space with exhibits will not proceed. Focus will be on using the funds to support exhibit expansion and updates in the Library's existing space and to extend to partner spaces where appropriate. \$250,000 reallocated to the Discovery Centre Pop-Up Library

Funds Approved: \$310,000 ** reallocation in Dec 2025 left \$60,000 for this project**

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$ 0

Concession and Sherwood Renovations – 7502341601 - Reserve Funds from 2023

The release of reserve funds was approved in December 2023. This was to support updates to two branches, the Concession and Sherwood branches. The objective of the project is to enhance public spaces and study rooms. The project was split into two components: the basement refresh and a computer lab/info desk refresh at Sherwood. This part of the project is now 100% complete. The second portion of the project involves the 2nd Floor study rooms at Sherwood and Makerspace upgrades at Concession. The second phase of both projects commenced in early March 2026, with anticipated completion dates in late Spring.

Funds Approved: \$900,000

Funds Year to Date: \$ 279,444

Central Exterior Refresh Project – 7502241001 – Reserve Funds from 2022

The last component of this Exterior Refresh project is the decorative Façade lighting on the building's York- facing façade. Conversations are underway with the City's project management team to determine the best course of action and the appropriate lighting options. Corporate Facilities and Energy Management is working on pricing as of February 2026, as a viable solution has been found. We are anticipating a solution within our budget that meets the needs and is to be completed prior to the end of 2026.

Funds Approved: \$200,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$85,378

Mount Hope – 7501941800 – Reserve Funds from 2019

The Board has approved funds for a feasibility study to review potential options for a new or renovated Mount Hope Library. The first application for federal grant funding to assist with the cost of the new build to a net-zero carbon standard was unsuccessful with the Green and Inclusive Community Building (GICB) fund. A second round of grant funding from the GICB was announced in 2024 to which HPL submitted a new application related to the Mount Hope Project. The second submission was relayed to the GICB in the fall of 2024. The GICB team indicated to HPL early February 2026 that the second application was again denied.

The approved City and HPL contributions will achieve a total project value of \$5.2M, working towards the objective of Mount Hope Library and Community Centre being the City's first Municipal Net Zero Building. The project is on track to break ground in early Summer 2026.

Funds Approved: \$1,075,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$333,093

Logo and Brand Implementation – 7501451402 – Reserve Funds from 2014

The remaining activity related to this project is the Terryberry exhibit display. Funds to support this project total \$35,000 and have been completed in early 2026.

Funds Approved: \$135,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$116,735

Further Funding Requested – Mar 2024: \$140,000

To align with the new logo and tag line, signage must be ordered and installed at all branches. These funds, initially approved last year, align with the Strategic Planning goal of being consistent with the signage presented to the public. These signs were replaced at the end of February, marking the completion of this project.

Funds Approved: \$140,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$0

Security Camera Installation – 3501351303 – Reserve Funds from 2016

New high-resolution cameras will be installed at select locations. The remaining funds will be allocated towards additional camera installations and upgrades across various branches. This will result in a cloud-based software system that will allow live viewing at both the dispatch and branch levels.

Funds Approved: \$325,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$295,938

Library Study Pod – 7502351100 – Reserve Funds from 2024

Funds Approved: \$60,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$47,899

This project is now complete.

Pop Up Library Kits – 7502351200 – Reserve Funds from 2024

Board-approved funds to purchase, update and expand Pop-Up Libraries outreach kits, including technology, branded material, tents, programming equipment and transport and storage units.

Funds Approved: \$40,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$34,439

The project will now be closed out.

Internet Archives Digitization Pilot – 7502357100 – Reserve Funds from 2023

Board-approved funds to partner with Internet Archive Canada to digitize local content in-house for global access through controlled digital lending. The one-year pilot project included acquiring scribe equipment, hiring a scribe operator and establishing in-house workflows to digitize the Local History and Archives collection. The one-year pilot project has since been completed and is now part of HPL operations.

Funds Approved: \$72,000

Funds Spent Year to Date: \$70,000

The project will now be closed out.

Library LED Upgrade Project

The project is in the post-completion phase. This was a city-led project to re-lamp interior lighting systems with energy-efficient LEDs at various Library branches to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The City Office of Energy Initiatives estimates that the project will result in annual savings of \$38,500. The project was funded upfront from city reserves and is being repaid by the Library over five years through savings achieved in the operating budget. The first repayment was made in 2022. A repayment of \$55,700 was made in 2023. The remaining repayments totaling \$73,900 are to be made between 2024 and 2027.

The project will now be closed out.

Carlisle Branch Library – 7501841700 – Reserve Funds from 2018

Renovation of the former bank on the corner of Carlisle and Centre Roads is now complete and the branch has opened to the public. Exterior site works included a new partially covered patio and landscaping around the branch. Work also included a new roof and rooftop HVAC unit. Extensive work was done related to the interior of the building to convert the facility into functional library space, including renovations to the former bank vault to convert it into a quiet study room.

The project will now be closed out.

Greensville Library – 7501741610 -Reserve Funds from 2017

Construction of a new Greensville Library on the site of the new public elementary school located at 625 Harvest Road. Outstanding construction deficiencies have been addressed. Now the new library has been open to the public since September 2021.

The project will now be closed out.

Valley Park Library Expansion – 7501741601

Construction of a new, expanded branch on the same site at 970 Paramount Drive. Work is complete, and the branch opened to the public in May 2022. The new branch is approximately 11,500 square feet and includes two 1,500 square-foot multi-purpose rooms funded by a generous \$1,250,000 contribution from the Heritage Green Community Trust. The branch also features a state-of-the-art Makerspace and an open-air interior courtyard. The branch was recently awarded the prestigious LEED Gold certification.

The project will now be closed out.

Binbrook Library Branch – 7501241200

The project was in the post-completion phase in early 2024. It was completed in January 2018 and it received the 2019 Ontario Library Association's New Library Building Award.

The project will now be closed out.

Dundas Library Renovation – 7501341301

The project was in post-completion phase early 2024. Project completion was March 2018, resulting in a 2019 City of Hamilton Urban Design & Architecture Award for Open Spaces, Public Spaces and Green Infrastructure.

The project will now be closed out.

Waterdown Branch Library – 7500641101

The project was in the post-completion phase during the March 2024 Board Report.

The project will now be closed out.

Date March 11, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Cindy Poggiaroni, Director Collections and Program Development
Paul Takala, CEO/Chief Librarian
Subject Annual Report on Partnerships – CP/PT

Recommendation

That the Hamilton Public Library Board receive this report for information.

Background

The Hamilton Public Library (HPL) continues to prioritize partnerships that enhance programs and services, extend our reach, while strengthening ties with the local and city-wide community. Collaborating with organizations that share our core values allows HPL to:

- Expand services sustainably across Hamilton
- Reduce duplication and maximize community resources
- Support city-wide initiatives that enrich Hamilton's cultural, social and economic life
- Complement library programs with specialized expertise from partner organizations

Our [Working with Us Policy](#) (2021) provides an overall framework for building and renewing partnerships. It emphasizes collaboration based on mutual goals and community benefit.

Since 2016, Hamilton Public Library (HPL) has provided the annual partnership report to highlight key collaborations and developments. The partnership list is a working document that is maintained internally and serves as a guide for staff engaging with community organizations.

HPL remains committed to cultivating partnerships that reflect community needs and aspirations.

A strategic priority for the Hamilton Public Library this year is to leverage and deepen strategic partnerships to help shape the Library's role over the next five years, ensuring our services, staffing, and community impact are scalable, measurable, and aligned with evolving resident needs. This work will build on the strong partnership activity already underway, while positioning the Library to be intentional about where it can have the greatest impact as a foundational community institution.

As a first step in this process, the Hamilton Public Library Leadership will host a strategic partner summit this Spring and facilitate discussions with partner senior staff. From this summit and additional partner meetings, the Library aims to establish alignment set expectations and foster long-term collaboration with key partners. This work will be reviewed throughout the year and will help guide planning for the Library's Strategic Plan 2027-2030.

Partner/Organization Name	Board Report Summary
100% Certainty Project	The 100% Certainty Project is an initiative sponsored by the Division of Palliative Care at McMaster University in partnership
	with Epic Books, PX Dermody Funeral Homes, Hamilton Public Library, Heart House Hospice and C. Elizabeth Dougherty Consulting. Hamilton Public Library sits on this committee and helps with the annual book selection, as well as organizing events at the library.
211 Ontario	HPL Red Book provides local community and social services data to 211 Ontario.
541 Eatery & Exchange	541 Eatery & Exchange is a non-profit organization that seeks to create a diverse community of belonging around good food at the table. They do this through a pay-it-forward cafe, youth programming, and volunteer opportunities. They are a resource for HPL programming and events.
Affiliated Services for Children & Youth (ASCY)	ASCY is a non-profit agency funded through The City of Hamilton and The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the County of Haldimand Norfolk. HPL seeks guidance from the agency to deliver sensory-friendly programming.
Age-Friendly Hamilton Collaborative Committee	A committee dedicated to implementing Hamilton's Age Friendly Plan, 2021-2026 with members across multiple disciplines and organizations. HPL has a staff member that sits on this committee.
All Out Collective	All Out Collective is a Hamilton-based grassroots non-profit that provides inclusive, affirming, safer spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ children and youth through programming, community building, education and the arts. HPL partners with the All Out Collective to offer the Queer Parent Meetup at HPL.
Alzheimer Society	The Alzheimer Society of Brant, Haldimand Norfolk, Hamilton Halton is the local community agency dedicated to supporting families living with dementia. They do programs (in person and virtual), including Sit to Be Fit and Relaxation and Wellness.
Ancaster Community Services (ACS)	Established in 1969, Ancaster Community Services (ACS) links Ancaster community members to services, information and volunteer opportunities that enhance quality of life and overall well-being. HPL provides technical support and email services for Ancaster Community Information in an in-kind partnership. Ancaster Community Information is housed in the same building as the Ancaster branch.
Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH)	The AGH is the oldest and largest museum in southwestern Ontario and has been operating since 1914. HPL circulates AGH passes to our members. HPL collaborates with the AGH on

2026 PARTNERSHIP LIST

	programming and research support including a planned book club, and the <i>Made in Hamilton</i> exhibit in 2026.
Asociación Fraternidad Hispana Hamilton (AFH Hamilton)	AFH Hamilton is a grassroots, non-profit organization, run and staffed by volunteers, with a goal to promote personal, social and cultural development, unity and inclusion of Hispanics in Canadian society. AFH hosts a Spanish/English conversation club, a Seniors Spanish Book Club and the youth program, Spanish Books Out Loud, at HPL.
Barton Village BIA	The Barton Village BIA works on behalf of the businesses of Barton Village to support and promote local communities and businesses, and initiates events and street beautification. HPL has a Staff member who sits on this committee. Barton branch supports Barton Village BIA initiatives throughout the year.
Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC)	The Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) is a registered charitable corporation that represents the public interest in the revitalization of Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. They provided pre-pandemic workshops at branches and virtual programs for the Summer Reading Club (SRC). Most recently BARC ran an information session for Staff.
Bel Canto Strings Academy	Bel Canto Strings Academy provides fun and educational group programs at their music school, with students learning a variety of music from classics like Bach and Beethoven to movie themes, Pop radio hits, Bluegrass and Celtic fiddling. Their ensembles perform free concerts throughout the year in the community. They collaborate with HPL on music programming.
BLK Owned	BLK Owned celebrates, showcases, explores, and supports Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in the Greater Hamilton Area. HPL collaborates with BLK Owned on youth programming and the youth market showcase.
Burlington Public Library	Reciprocal lending agreement holder for the OverDrive eBook and eAudiobook collections, expanding access to unique titles at each library to members across the province.
Cable 14	Cable 14 is a local specialty channel serving the Hamilton and Haldimand communities. Cable 14 has aired content on HPL program and services for public viewing.
Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Outreach Department	CRA Outreach provides free tax information sessions to community organizations. HPL has partnered with CRA to offer tax programming to our members.

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<p>Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS)</p>	<p>CARAS is a notforprofit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting Canadian music. Founded in 1975 to oversee the JUNO Awards, it now leads three key initiatives: the JUNO Awards, MusiCounts, and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. HPL has partnered with CARAS to host the Junior Junos in March 2026 at the Central Library.</p>
<p>Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC)</p>	<p>The Canadian Children's Book Centre maintains collections of almost every Canadian children's book published since 1976. HPL hosts one of six regional collections.</p>
<p>Canadian National Institute For The Blind Foundation (CNIB)</p>	<p>CNIB Foundation is a Canadian charitable organization and volunteer agency dedicated to assisting Canadians who are blind or living with vision loss, and to provide information about vision health for all Canadians. CNIB collaborates with HPL on providing accessible resources and technology for Hamilton residents who have a visual impairment.</p>
<p>Career Foundation</p>	<p>The Career Foundation supports community members facing employment barriers by offering job search assistance, skills training, and resources, with a focus on youth and individuals with disabilities. Career Foundation sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.</p>
<p>Centre for Diverse Learners</p>	<p>The Centre for Diverse Learners is a nonprofit organization that supports neurodiverse children and youth through educational programs and specialized learning services. HPL has partnered with the organization to deliver their Leaps in Literacy program for neurodiverse students in grades 2-8 at select branch locations.</p>
<p>Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)</p>	<p>CELA is an accessible library service providing books and other materials to Canadians with print disabilities. Through CELA, HPL circulates titles to members with print disabilities and facilitates registration for on-demand access to CELA materials.</p>
<p>Centre for Free Expression (CFE)</p>	<p>The Centre for Free Expression at the Toronto Metropolitan University is a hub for public education, research and advocacy on free expression and the public's right to know. HPL contributes to their national database by submitting challenges related to titles, displays, programs, room bookings, and computer access. HPL has also partnered with CFE for the Tower of Banned Books exhibit at Waterdown.</p>

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Centre francophone Hamilton	Centre francophone Hamilton is a multidisciplinary and inclusive centre that promotes the French language through programming and services. Centre francophone Hamilton works with HPL to provide programming and services to francophone Hamiltonians, and to those seeking to learn or improve their French language skills.
CHCH-TV	HPL continues to work in collaboration with CHCH-TV to digitize historical local news and sports footage, making it available to HPL members at no charge for research, private study and education.
Children's International Learning Centre (CILC)	The Children's International Learning Centre (CILC) is a not-for-profit organization that delivers programming to the community that focuses on diversity and inclusivity. CLIC delivers Festival of Lights programming at the Central branch.
COH - Animal Services	The City of Hamilton Animal Services works to ensure the health and safety of animals and pets in the community. They provide information on dog licensing, pet ownership responsibilities, adoption and fostering, lost and found pets, and local wildlife. Animal Services offers programming on pets and wildlife for all ages at HPL.
COH - Child & Youth Network (CYN)	Established in 2023, the CYN is a collaborative that brings together community organizations, agencies and institutions committed to enhancing local outcomes for children, youth, and their families. Members of the Network are Senior Leaders from local organizations, agencies and institutions. HPL sits at the senior level with managers participating in working groups.
COH - EarlyON	EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide opportunities both in person and virtually for children from birth to 6 years of age to participate in play and inquiry-based programs, and support parents and caregivers in their roles. EarlyON collaborates with HPL to offer programming at select branch locations, and Bookmobile visits designated EarlyON sites. An HPL staff member also sits on the EarlyON's Operation Committee, which brings together City partners dedicated to supporting early years families.

2026 PARTNERSHIP LIST

COH - Fire Prevention Office	The Fire Prevention Office provides fire prevention and safety education to Hamilton residents. The Office has offered educational programs to be featured on HPL's YouTube Channel.
COH - Hamilton Civic Museums	Hamilton Civic Museums has partnered with HPL so that physical or digital Hamilton Public Library card gives members free access to Hamilton's eight City-owned museums.
COH - Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC)	HIPC is a community table established in 2009 as one of Canada's first local immigration partnerships. HIPC focuses on creating a seamless settlement experience for immigrants in Hamilton. Staff members sit on this committee and host newcomer focused programming and events at the library.
COH - Hamilton Music Advisory Team	HPL holds a non-voting seat on the Hamilton Music Advisory Team that supports and promotes the city's music strategy. The Team is going through a reorg process. HPL continues to be at the table as a partner and supporter of local music and musicians.
COH - Hamilton Paramedic Service	Hamilton Paramedic Service provides outreach visits to the library to teach children about paramedic services. Their goal is to familiarize children with paramedics to alleviate fear and anxiety in the unfortunate event that a child would need these services. They also educate children on how to call 911.
COH - Hamilton Parks and Cemeteries	HPL partners with City of Hamilton Civic Museums, Parks and Cemeteries and Canada Parks on Experience Commons, augmented reality program that highlights the past, present and future of important regional architecture and artifacts. The joint project invites Hamiltonians to share, discuss and learn more at https://arvr.hpl.ca/
COH - Indigenous Relations Division	HPL works with the City of Hamilton's Indigenous Relations Division on Indigenous programming, exhibits and service initiatives for members and staff. HPL is also working collaboratively with the Indigenous Relations Division on the Discovery Centre Program Design and Development Study for the re-envisioned site, and the interim pop-up library branch at the former Canada Marine Discovery Centre.

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COH - Macassa Lodge	Macassa Lodge is one of two long-term care facilities owned and operated by the City of Hamilton. It is located in a residential area of Hamilton. HPL supplies a local community collection for the facility.
COH - Neighbourhood Development Strategy	An initiative developed from the Neighbourhood Development Strategy, the Xperience Annex is designed to support at-risk youth by connecting them to education and employment services beyond traditional college courses and student support. The program was developed with input from Hamilton Public Library staff, who remain key partners in its implementation. Xperience Annex staff offer their services at the Central Library.
COH - Placemaking, Public Art & Projects	HPL works collaboratively on initiatives with the Placemaking team to activate underutilized public space with programming and exhibits. HPL's focus is on providing family-friendly programming, music concerts, bookmobile visits, and exhibits at Pier 8 and the former Canada Marine Discovery Centre.
COH - Public Health	HPL works closely with Hamilton Public Health to provide access to Public Health Services as needed. This has included hosting vaccine clinics and seconded staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as offering cooling and warming centers on extreme weather days. Partnership also includes offering programs at HPL.
COH - Seniors Advisory Committee	The Seniors Advisory Committee serves as a communication channel on issues affecting the quality of life for older adults in the City of Hamilton. It provides a forum for seniors, service providers, and community members to identify challenges, explore solutions, and support their implementation. HPL has a staff member that sits on this committee.
Community Action Plan for Children (CAPC)	Hamilton CAPC provides supports and programs to families with children aged newborn to six in east Hamilton and assist families in the areas of child health, parenting strategies and community engagement. Programs and services at HPL are provided through this partnership. CAPC also offers HPL funding to support children's programming in CAPC's catchment area.
Concession Street BIA	Concession Street BIA supports and promotes local communities and businesses and initiates events. Concession branch supports Concession Street BIA initiatives throughout the year.

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<p>Create for Kids Hamilton (CFKH)</p>	<p>Create for Kids Hamilton (CFKH) is a non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting and inspiring pediatric patients through creative arts. CFKH partners with Central to offer a crafting session, where families make crafts that are then donated to pediatric patients at Ron Joyce Centre for Children and McMaster Children's Hospital.</p>
<p>Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST)</p>	<p>COAST is a partnership between mental health professionals from St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and specially trained officers from the Hamilton Police Service, providing support to individuals experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis. HPL hosts information tables for COAST to share details about their publicly available mental health services.</p>
<p>Dundas Community Services</p>	<p>Dundas Community Services is an organization that supports individuals, families, seniors, and persons with disabilities through a wide range of programs, services and information. HPL provides technical support and infrastructure like email services for Dundas Community Information in an in-kind partnership.</p>
<p>Dundas Museum & Archives</p>	<p>The Dundas Museum and Archives is a community museum driven to help visitors learn, discover, and experience stories of the past. Local History and Archives partners with local historical societies and archives to provide cross organizational research support and programming. Dundas Branch also supports the Dundas Museum & Archives for local outreach events.</p>
<p>Dundas Valley School of Art (DVSA)</p>	<p>Dundas Valley School of Art (DVSA) is an independent not-for-profit art school serving the Hamilton region since 1964. DVSA partners with HPL to offer art programs at the Dundas branch.</p>
<p>Emmanuel House Hospice</p>	<p>Emmanuel House is a residential hospice that provides compassionate, 24-hour care for individuals with life-limiting illnesses. Emmanuel House Hospice offers grief group sessions at Concession branch.</p>
<p>Empowerment Squared</p>	<p>Empowerment Squared is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering newcomer, racialized, and marginalized communities through education, mentorship and access to opportunities. HPL has partnered with Empowerment Squared to provide library layout and operations consultation and training for the Liberian Learning Centre in Paynesville, Liberia.</p>
<p>Endometriosis Events</p>	<p>Endometriosis Events is a registered charity for individuals living with endometriosis. They raise awareness by providing workshops, school programs, support groups and events. Endometriosis Events has collaborated with HPL on programming.</p>

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Epic Books	Epic Books is a bookstore located at 226 Locke St S. They arrange a variety of literary events in their store and across the city. They frequently collaborate with HPL to plan author events and workshops with the goal of promoting the literary arts in Hamilton.
Fedcap Canada	Fedcap Canada is a nonprofit that is committed to strengthening the workforce and the economy through employment services. Fedcap Canada manages the community organizations in the GTA (Wesley, PATH Employment Services, Agilec Employment Services) that deliver the Power of Possible workshops at Central (and potentially other library locations as the partnership grows).
Fibromyalgia Support Group	The Fibromyalgia Support Group offers support to those with fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue in the Hamilton community. The Fibromyalgia Support Group offers support group sessions at Sherwood branch.
Filipinas of HamOnt	Filipinas of HamOnt is a grassroots collective founded in June 2020 to create dedicated spaces for Filipina/xs in Hamilton and beyond. The Collective aims to build community and drive transformative change for Filipinas, racialized women, and nonbinary individuals. The Collective has collaborated with HPL on Author Events and hosts a monthly Conversation Circle.
First Book Canada (FBC)	First Book Canada (FBC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing access to high-quality books and educational resources for children in need. FBC supports regular book donations to various community partners. HPL works with FBC on book donations or purchasing at significant discount for partners.
Flamborough Archives & Heritage Society	Founded in April 1973, the Society is a non-profit organization, affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society. Local History & Archives partners with local historical societies and archives to provide cross organizational research support and programming. The Flamborough Archives is located within the Waterdown Branch and has display space throughout the library.
Flamborough Connects	Flamborough Connects is a registered charity offering free and low-cost programs to enhance community well-being. Their services include support for seniors, community resources, and volunteer opportunities. HPL provides space at the Waterdown Branch.
Friends of Lynden Agricultural Workers	The Friends of Lynden Agricultural Workers provide supports to workers in the Lynden and Burford areas. HPL has partnered on shared initiatives including hotspot lending.
Glanbrook Heritage Society	Glanbrook Heritage Society is a non-profit heritage society that collects, maintains, and preserves the creation and history of the former Townships of Binbrook and Glanford. HPL recognizes the critical importance of ensuring long-term preservation and public

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	access to local history collections across Hamilton and seeks to raise awareness of this need within the broader community and among decision-makers.
Goodwill Industries	As part of the merger with Goodwill Industries, Goodwill Amity is a non-profit social enterprise serving Hamilton and Halton. It offers free employment services, including job search assistance, career counseling, and training programs. HPL provides space for Goodwill Amity to share information about their services through hosted information tables and at the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA)	The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) operates a wide range of programs in land management, recreation and education. The GRCA has partnered with HPL to offer their Parks Pass to members. This allows day use at 10 of their parks and the Luther March Wildlife Management Area.
Green Venture	Green Venture is a non-profit environmental organization in Hamilton and offers programs on home energy efficiency, stormwater management, and youth education. HPL has partnered with Green Venture on programming and community events including hosting Seedy Saturday at the Central Branch. HPL also worked with Green Venture and Barton Village BIA on the Barton Branch landscaping beautification project.
Greensville Elementary School	Greensville Elementary School and Greensville Branch share a facility at 625 Harvest Rd.
Greensville Recreation Centre	City Recreation shares a facility with the Greensville Branch.
gritLIT	gritLIT is Hamilton's annual literary festival, a four-day celebration of diverse voices among Canadian and local Hamilton writers, authors and audiences. The festival includes readings at local schools including French language presentations. HPL collaborates with gritLIT for the Literary Awards, Hamilton Reads, and various outreach and programming initiatives.
Hamilton & District Injured Workers Group	Hamilton and District Injured Workers' Group is a non-profit organization in Hamilton that helps disabled or injured workers and family, friends and co-workers of workers injured or killed on the job through community educational seminars, workshops, clinics, guest speakers, and information on current and pending legislation. HPL provides space for the non-profit to share information about their services through hosted information tables.

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Hamilton ACORN	ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) Canada is a multi-issue, membership-based community union of low- and moderate-income people. HPL provides space for Hamilton ACORN to share information about their services through hosted information tables.
Hamilton Amateur Astronomers	The Hamilton Amateur Astronomers is a non-profit organization committed to helping people learn more about astronomy. Along with monthly meetings, the organization offers several different programs on astronomy and telescopes, including a telescope loaner program.
Hamilton Arts Council	The Hamilton Arts Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the role of arts and culture in Hamilton. It offers programs such as Artist in Residence, Arts Week, and the Arty Crowd platform to support and promote local artists and their work. HPL collaborates with the Council in hosting the Hamilton Literary Awards ceremony and supports outreach events.
Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art (HAALSA)	The Hamilton Association is one of Canada's oldest independent, not-for-profit, cultural organizations. Many prominent Hamilton and area educational and cultural organizations had their beginnings in or received early support from. An HPL staff member sits on the committee.
Hamilton Child and Family Supports (HCFS)	Formerly the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, the HCFS offers services in the safety, protection and well-being of children. The HCFS sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Hamilton Children's Choir (HCC)	Hamilton Children's Choir (HCC) is a non-profit organization that provides youth with choral music education and performance opportunities. HCC and HPL have partnered to offer free music programming at select HPL locations.
Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF)	Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) is a generous sponsor of select HPL programs such as the PRESTO card program in collaboration with the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR). The Library also has a long-standing partnership with the HCF in managing its endowment funds.

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Hamilton Community Legal Clinic	Hamilton Community Legal Clinic is a non-profit that serves low-income residents of Hamilton. HPL partners with the Clinic to host the Black Justice Network's annual Black History Month celebration at the Central Library. The Clinic also sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA)	The Hamilton Conversation Authority (HCA) has partnered with HPL to offer their Park Pass to members. This allows free admission into HCA conservation areas.
Hamilton Council on Aging	A non-profit organization dedicated to advancing positive aging in the city through advocacy, education and the promotion of social inclusion. HPL Leadership sits on the Age-Friendly Collaborative Committee.
Hamilton Family Health Team	The Hamilton Family Health Team is comprised of interdisciplinary healthcare professionals and administrative staff who support primary health care in Hamilton. The Team runs programs for adults at HPL and sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Hamilton Farmers' Market	The Hamilton Farmer's Market is an indoor market dating from the 1800s and open year-round. HPL partners with the Farmers Market on programming and historic images.
Hamilton Housing Help Centre	The Housing Help Centre is a non-profit social service agency providing housing access, stabilization, and eviction prevention. HPL provides space for the Centre to share information about their services through hosted information tables and at the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild	The Hamilton Mountain Writers' Guild is a non-profit organization that supports writers of all experience levels through a Board of Directors, sub-committees, and writing team leaders. The Guild hosts workshops at the Terryberry Branch.
Hamilton Music Collective	The Hamilton Music Collective (HMC) is a charitable organization led by a local group of musicians, educators and community supporters. The Collective carries out professional live performances, education, events, workshops and exhibits. They are best known for their program <i>An Instrument For Every Child</i> which provides free high quality music lessons to children in Hamilton's highest-needs schools and community centres. HPL partners with the Collective to deliver musical programs at branch locations.

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Hamilton Musicians' Guild	The Hamilton Musicians' Guild is a non-profit organization serving professional musicians in Hamilton, Halton and Haldimand regions since 1903. The Guild collaborates with HPL on live jazz performances at select HPL locations during Jazz Appreciation Month.
Hamilton Naturalists' Club	The Hamilton Naturalists' Club is dedicated to the study, appreciation and conservation of local wild plants and animals. The Club collaborates with HPL on programming.
Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO)	The Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO) is one of Canada's major professional orchestras. The HPO provides professional orchestral services and music education programs. HPL has a long-standing partnership with the HPO that includes both in person and virtual performance and educational programs.
Hamilton Poetry Centre	Established in 1983, the Hamilton Poetry Centre works to support and encourage the writing and appreciation of poetry. The Hamilton Poetry Centre conducts workshops for HPL.
Hamilton Police Heritage Society	The Hamilton Police Heritage Society is a not-for-profit organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Local History & Archives provides up to 50 images per year at no charge for society newsletters, exhibitions and interpretation.
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC)	Since 1972, the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre has provided a gathering space and culturally safe services, supporting Indigenous healing, belonging, and self-determined community care. HPL collaborates with the Centre on various programs and outreach events aimed at supporting Hamilton's Indigenous community.
Hamilton Shoebox Project	Hamilton Shoebox Project is a non-profit that distributes Shoeboxes of essentials to women in need through shelters and community services. HPL serves as a drop-off location for donations.
Hamilton Spectator	One of the largest Canadian newspapers by circulation, the Hamilton Spectator is owned by Metroland Media Group, Torstar. HPL works with Metroland/Torstar to streamline licensing of photographs under copyright.
Hamilton Street Railway (HSR)	The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is the public transport agency for Hamilton. The HSR works with HPL on several joint initiatives including the PRESTO card program, information tables and local history projects with Local History & Archives.

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Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre	Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre provides primary healthcare, community health & harm reduction services. Urban Core sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Hamilton Verse	Hamilton Verse is a non-profit that supports young writers in Hamilton by offering programs and public performance opportunities. Hamilton Verse collaborates with HPL on the Write Like Festival.
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) - Education Archives	Local History & Archives partners with local historical societies and archives to provide cross organizational research support and programming.
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) - Gifted Program	Youth Services, Local History & Archives, Digital Technology and Makerspace staff collaboratively plan class visits for students in the HWDSB gifted program.
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) - Learning Commons	HPL Youth Services works with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Learning Commons staff on major projects such as the library card campaign.
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) - School Naming	Local History & Archives provides research support including historical significance for potential names provided through public consultation process.
Head Injury Rehabilitation Ontario (HIRO)	HIRO provides evidence-based, client and family centered acquired brain injury rehabilitation care in the community. HIRO sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Helping Hands Street Mission	Helping Hands Street Mission is volunteer driven and relies on the generosity of the community and neighboring communities to help meet the needs of those living in the Barton Street Community. They have worked with Barton Branch to support the iPad lending initiative and other community projects.
Heritage Green Community Trust	The Heritage Green Community Trust contributed \$1.25 million towards the cost of construction for two new multi-purpose rooms as part of major renovations to the Valley Park Library.
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	IRCC provides HPL with funding for the Newcomer Learning Centre. The Newcomer Learning Centre has three full time staff and runs various language learning programs, including the high demand tutoring program. The grant is renewed every five years.

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Indwell	Indwell is an Ontario-based charity headquartered in Hamilton that creates and operates affordable, supportive housing communities for people seeking health, wellness, and belonging. Indwell has partnered with HPL to provide a full-serve library branch at McQuesten Lofts 213 that serves both the building and the neighbourhood.
InformCanada	InformCanada is the national organization of information and referral (I&R) providers in Canada. They provide member certification in I&R, develop national standards and best practices and operate as the Canadian affiliate of the Alliance of Information & Referral System (InformUSA). HPL Red Book service is a member of InformCanada.
Institute for Advancements in Mental Health (IAM)	The Institute for Advancements in Mental Health (IAM) assists in helping caregivers, individuals, and communities affected by serious and complex mental health issues navigate the system in Canada through one-on-one expert guidance and education. IAM sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
International Dyslexia Association Ontario (IDA)	The International Dyslexia Association provides research-driven social, emotional and literacy support to individuals with dyslexia. <i>Page Partners</i> is a program designed to facilitate 1:1 reading support for children in grades 1 to 3 to help build reading habits with structured phonics support. This partner program is supported by teen volunteers.
Internet Archive (IA)	Internet Archive (IA) is a non-profit that aims to digitize, preserve, lend and share multi-media content for the global community. HPL is working with Internet Archive as part of their "Community Webs" initiative to help GLAM organizations build capacity in web archiving using IA's Archive-It platform.
Internet Archive Canada (IAC) Digitization	Internet Archive Canada (IAC) is the not-for-profit digital library that works closely with Internet Archive (IA) in the States. The IAC digitizes, preserves, lends, and shares content for the global community. HPL works with IAC to digitize the Local History & Archives collection, making it available to HPL members and researchers at no charge for research, private study and education through the IA lending platform. The current 3-year project focuses on the digitization of Hamilton area Government Documents.

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Interval House of Hamilton	The Women's Education and Rural Support Program (W.E.A.R.S.) at the Interval House of Hamilton offers counseling, system navigation, and support for rural women, specializing in services for those experiencing violence and abuse. The program offers support group sessions at the Binbrook Branch.
Jamaica Foundation Hamilton	The Jamaica Foundation Hamilton supports the Jamaican community in Hamilton and surrounding regions through education, aid and cultural engagement, including disaster relief and assistance to the Jamaica National Children's Home. The Foundation collaborates with HPL on programming for Black History Month.
John Howard Society Hamilton	The John Howard Society of Ontario is a non-profit organization with 19 offices that deliver evidencebased programs focused on crime prevention, intervention, and reintegration. Its services support youth, families and individuals involved in the justice system, and its policy work promotes equitable and effective approaches to criminal justice. The John Howard Society partners with Barton Library for their Barton gardens.
Kingston Frontenac Public Library	Reciprocal lending agreement holder for the OverDrive eBook and eAudiobook collections, expanding access to unique titles at each library to members across the province.
L'Arche	L'Arche Hamilton is a non-profit organization that provides inclusive housing, day programs, and community initiatives for individuals with intellectual disabilities. L'Arche Hamilton visits the Makerspace on a monthly basis with a small group of members and builds their skills with materials such as button making, sticker making, poster creation and more.
Learning Connections Hamilton (formerly Adult Basic Education Association, ABEA)	Learning Connections Hamilton with the Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery (formerly Adult Basic Education Association, ABEA) is a non-profit organization that acts as the adult learning network in Hamilton. Learning Connections Hamilton has a co-location agreement with HPL on the 4th floor of the Central Library.
London Public Library	Reciprocal lending agreement holder for the OverDrive eBook and eAudiobook collections, expanding access to unique titles at each library to members across the province.

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Mathstronauts	Mathstronauts is a Hamilton-based non-profit that provides accessible STEM education for youth in grades 4 to 12 through programs like camps, classes, and competitions. Mathstronauts collaborates with HPL on Spark+Math programming for children.
McMaster University - Children and Youth University (MCYU)	Based out of McMaster's Department of Pediatrics, Children and Youth University (MCYU) delivers free programming for children and youth ages 7-14 in all areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). HPL collaborates with MCYU to deliver STEAM-based programming at select branch locations.
McMaster University - Community Research Platform (CRP)	The Community Research Platform (CRP) is a partnership between McMaster University's Faculty of Social Sciences and five community organizations including the Hamilton Public Library. The CRP fosters collaborative research to enhance societal health and well-being by building shared infrastructure and strengthening partner relationships. HPL actively collaborates with the CRP on multiple studies, integrating research findings into practice, and co-delivered the 2025 Research Symposium.
McMaster University - Department of Anthropology	This partnership aims to introduce McMaster University's popular Anthropology Department speaker series to a wider audience. The Speaker Series is run by the Speaker Series Coordinator(s) who arrange for speakers both internal and visiting to present their research. HPL hosts the speaker series at the Central Library.
McMaster University - EMPOWrD	As part of the research program from the McMaster Digital Transformation Research Centre, EMPOWrD aims to promote social inclusion through technology for people living with dementia and their caregivers in Hamilton. HPL has collaborated with the EMPOWrD Research team to deliver Tech Club programming for adults with dementia.
McMaster University - Faculty of Engineering - Outreach Department	The McMaster Engineering Department does outreach and delivers "Early Years Engineers" programs at multiple HPL branches. HPL also collaborated with the Department on the development and circulation of Early Years Engineering Kits designed to help caregivers engage in STEAM-based play with their children.
McMaster University - McMaster iGEM	McMaster iGEM is a genetics engineering team composed of students from five of McMaster's Faculties. They are leading <i>Decode Your DNA</i> youth programs at HPL where participants explore the building blocks of life through interactive activities.

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<p>McMaster University – Libraries - Mills Library</p>	<p>HPL has coordinated with McMaster's Mills Library to provide a weekly Bookmobile stop on campus during the Fall and Winter Semesters.</p>
<p>McMaster University – Libraries - Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship</p>	<p>The Sherman Centre provides consulting, instruction, and technical support to faculty, staff, students, and community members for all aspects of digital scholarship. HPL is collaborating with the Sherman Centre on hosting their digital scholarship workshops at multiple branch locations.</p>
<p>McMaster University – Libraries and McMaster English and Cultural Studies Department</p>	<p>Every year the Department of English and Cultural Studies collaborates with the McMaster University Libraries and the Hamilton Public Library to host a writer as the Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence for a period of eight months. The residency invites a well-published Canadian author to work at the Hamilton Public Library and on the McMaster Main Campus to mentor creative writers from the University and from the Hamilton community.</p>
<p>McMaster University - McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA)</p>	<p>McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) conducts research on the older adult community, their families, healthcare providers and other key interested parties. HPL collaborates on programming for older adults.</p>
<p>McMaster University - Medical Student Council Interest Group</p>	<p>McMaster’s Medical Student Council's (MMSC) Teddy Bear Clinic - Hamilton Interest Group offers programming for school-aged children aimed at alleviating anxiety around healthcare and promoting engagement in health and medicine. HPL has collaborated with the Interest Group on offering Teddy Bear Clinic programming at select branch locations.</p>
<p>McMaster University - DeGroot School of Business</p>	<p>HPL partners with the DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University for experiential learning projects during the Winter 2025 and Winter 2026 terms. In the Winter 2026 term, HPL is working with 4th year Bachelor of Commerce students to explore how HPL can better promote our physical and digital collections to the community. This project is building off of the work begun by the</p>

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	<p>Winter 2025 cohort, who were tasked with communicating the value of library membership to users.</p>
<p>Métis Nation of Ontario – Métis Family Wellbeing Program (MFWB)</p>	<p>Metis Nation of Ontario - Métis Family Wellbeing Program (MFWB) facilitates access to peer counselling, provides advocacy and referral services, helps clients navigate the system, and helps to connect them with traditional knowledge and practices for children and youth ages 0 – 18 and their families. The MFWB sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.</p>
<p>Metrolinx</p>	<p>Metrolinx partners with HPL on delivering pop-up information sessions on the LRT corridor at library locations.</p>
<p>Milton Public Library</p>	<p>Reciprocal lending agreement holder for the OverDrive eBook and eAudiobook collections, expanding access to unique titles at each library to members across the province.</p>
<p>Mindfulness Hamilton</p>	<p>Mindfulness Hamilton is a volunteer-led, community organization that provides free community meditations, affordable learning opportunities and free or paid access to mindful resources. Mindfulness Hamilton delivers weekly Mindfulness & Meditation workshops at Central, Sherwood and Stoney Creek Branches.</p>
<p>Ministry of Attorney General</p>	<p>Members are able to attend court hearings virtually from the Central Library.</p>
<p>Mishka Social Services</p>	<p>Mishka Social Services is an agency that aims to bridge the gap between social services and Muslims, newcomers, immigrants and refugees. Everyone is welcome regardless of faith. Mishka Social Services sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.</p>
<p>Mississauga Public Library</p>	<p>Reciprocal lending agreement holder for the OverDrive eBook and eAudiobook collections, expanding access to unique titles at each library to members across the province.</p>
<p>Mohawk College - College Student Success Innovation Centre</p>	<p>Joint initiative between the College Student Success Innovation Centre and HPL on developing, implementing and testing the Student-Caregiver tandem educational programming at select branch locations. This multi-year pilot runs from 2024-2026.</p>
<p>Mohawk College - Cummings Library</p>	<p>HPL has coordinated with Mohawk College Cummings Library to provide a weekly Bookmobile stop on campus during the Fall and Winter Semesters.</p>

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Mohawk College -Intern Program	HPL Communications Department partners with Mohawk College to host program interns each semester.
Monday Press	Monday Press is a collective of writers, artists, designers and book enthusiasts whose aim is to offer literary events within the Hamilton community. HPL partners with Monday Press to deliver bi-monthly poetry reading series, often paired with local musicians, at the Central Library.
Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N)	Neighbour to Neighbour Centre (N2N) provides literacy and math support programs for children in Hamilton, including one-on-one tutoring and after-school math sessions. N2N offers Math Success tutoring program for grades 5-8 students at select branch locations.
North End Breezes	Local History & Archives provides up to 24 images a year to North End Breezes, a monthly newsletter that promotes community connectivity and mutual support to the Hamilton North End Neighbourhood.
Ontario Ancestors (formally Ontario Genealogical Society)	Local History & Archives houses the Ontario Ancestors - Hamilton Branch collection.
Ontario Bar Association (OBA)	The Ontario Bar Association (OBA) represents lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers and law students from across the province. OBA has partnered with HPL to offer free programs on legal matters such as <i>Make a Will</i> .
Ontario Culture Days	The Ontario Culture Days Festival is an annual celebration of arts, culture and heritage taking place each fall across the province. HPL participates by hosting programs at its branch locations.
Ontario Parks	Ontario Parks has partnered with HPL to offer the Ontario Park Pass. Library members can borrow a pass that provides a daily permit free of charge at more than 100 provincial parks.
Our Loss	A Hamilton-based community project, Our Loss provides grief education and offers Grief Storytimes in the Hamilton community. HPL has partnered with Our Loss to deliver Grief Storytimes for children and their families. Programs are delivered by a trained Registered Early Childhood Educator and Death Doula.
Positive Health Network	The Positive Health Network is a charitable organization that provides education and support for individuals and communities regarding HIV/AIDS and related issues. HPL provides space for the Network to share information about their services through hosted information tables.

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Redeemer University - Peter Turkstra Library	HPL has coordinated with Redeemer's Peter Turkstra Library to provide weekly holds delivery on campus for the 2025-2026 school year.
Regina's Place	Regina's Place is a transitional housing program for young parents (21 and under) and their children, offering 15 furnished units along with supports and programming, such as life skills, goal setting, and child development. Regina's Place sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Rotary Club of Hamilton	Rotary members support literacy breakfasts at Cathy Wever elementary school with books donated by HPL, along with promotional material about getting a library card and visiting the library.
Rotary Club of Hamilton AM	Rotary members support literacy breakfasts at Hess Street elementary school with books donated by HPL, along with promotional material about getting a library card and visiting the library.
Routes Youth Centre	Routes provides free drop-in services and informal programs focused on supporting youth mental health, healthy lifestyles and personal growth in the Dundas and surrounding area. Routes collaborates with HPL on programming.
Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) Library/Archives	Local History & Archives partners with local historical societies and archives to provide cross organizational research support and programming.
Royal Ontario Museum	The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) has partnered with Hamilton Public Library to provide Family-level passes that library members can borrow. These passes allow free admission to the ROM when presented with a valid library card and are provided to HPL at no cost.
Seniors at Risk in Hamilton	Seniors at Risk in Hamilton collaborative is a partnership between Good Shepherd, Alzheimer Society and St. Matthew's House. The collaborative provides a centralized referral and intake system that connects seniors to timely supports for dementia, abuse, health challenges, precarious housing, food insecurity, and social isolation. Seniors at Risk sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Service Canada	Service Canada staff help people navigate the forms to access federal government benefits. HPL provides space for Service Canada to share information about their services through hosted information tables at branch locations and at the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.

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Sex Workers' Action Program (SWAP) Hamilton Digitization	SWAP Hamilton donated its collection to Local History & Archives to digitize and preserve.
Shaw Festival	A charitable theatre festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shaw Festival provides programming for HPL members in conjunction with the festival program each year.
Six Nations Public Library	Six Nations Public Library and HPL have partnered on reciprocal borrowing for both systems. HPL also offers biweekly bookmobile service to the Six Nations Public Library.
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (SPRC)	The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (SPRC) is a non-profit, registered charity that conducts research and facilitates community development and planning in Hamilton, focusing on issues like poverty reduction, housing, equity, and healthy development. SPRC delivers Tax related programming for HPL members.
St. John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School	Saltfleet Branch shares a site with St. John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School.
St. John's Ambulance	St. John's Ambulance therapy dogs visit branches to offer opportunities for teens and young folks in the library to destress during high school exam periods.
Stoney Creek Community Food Bank	Stoney Creek and Saltfleet Branches collect food donations for the Stoney Creek Community Food Bank. HPL also supplies a Community Collection shelf in the food bank.
Stratford Festival	A theatre organization that operates in Stratford, the Stratford Festival provides programming for HPL members in conjunction with the festival program each year.
Supercrawl	A not-for-profit arts organization, Supercrawl is Hamilton's premier multi-arts festival, fusing new and independent music with art installations, fashion, performance, literature, theatre, and artisanal craft. HPL hosts related programming and workshops in celebration of the event.
TD Summer Reading Club (SRC)	TD Summer Reading Club (SRC) is Canada's largest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests and all abilities. This free program is co-created and delivered by more than 2,000 public libraries across Canada. TD SRC provides libraries across Canada, including HPL, with an annual theme, resources, and marketing material in order to create Summer Reading Club programming annually.

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Telling Tales	Telling Tales delivers its annual children’s literary festival with the goal of providing children and youth with outstanding literary programming. HPL collaborates with Telling Tales on committee support, planning, promotion and programming.
The Period Purse	The Period Purse is a non-profit organization in Toronto that provides period products to people in need and offers educational programs. HPL has partnered with the Period Purse on youth programming at select branch locations.
Therapy Tails of Ontario	Therapy Tails of Ontario is a local non-profit organization that provides therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers for our Tell Tails program, a program that helps reluctant readers discover the joy of reading.
Tower Poetry Society (TPS)	The Tower Poetry Society (TPS) is a non-profit organization established to promote poetry and encourage poets. TPS delivers poetry workshops for HPL.
Victorian Order of Nurses (VON)	Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) is a non-profit charitable organization that provides home care nursing services as well as community support services in Ontario. VON partners with HPL for programming at branch locations and sits on the Community Partner Desk at the Central Library.
Vintage Hamilton	A collaborative project to provide access to historical images of Hamilton through the Vintage Hamilton Facebook page, supporting research, private study and education about the city's history. HPL provided historical images.
Waterdown BIA	The Waterdown BIA works to support and promote local communities and businesses and initiates events and neighbourhood beautification. Waterdown branch supports Waterdown BIA initiatives throughout the year, primarily the Scarecrow Walk each October.
Wesley Employment Services	Wesley is a long-standing local non-profit, offering services for people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and barriers in Hamilton, Halton and Brantford. Wesley delivers employment information services at select branch locations.
Westdale Village BIA	Westdale Branch works with the Westdale Village BIA to support neighbourhood initiatives and events. HPL staff member regularly attends meetings.
Wolsak and Wynn	Wolsak and Wynn is a small publisher located in Hamilton. HPL collaborates with Wolsak and Wynn on author events. They also supply HPL with books for giveaways.

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YMCA Les Chater Family	Les Chater Family YMCA offers a variety of health and fitness programs for individuals and families. The Turner Park Branch and the YMCA share a facility.
YWCA Hamilton	The YWCA presents monthly information sessions to members across the library system on topics related to Settlement Services. The YWCA also delivers monthly citizenship prep courses at the Central Library. The YWCA also delivers YWeConnect programs for seniors that focus on health, wellness and social connections with translators for seniors who do not speak English.
Zineposium	Hamilton Zineposium celebrates zines and zine culture in Hamilton. They host a monthly zine club at Central Library and an annual zine fair where attendees can browse, buy or trade and print and create with zinesters, artists, illustrators and writers.
Zula Presents Something Else!	Zula Presents is a non-profit arts organization that presents diverse music and arts performances. They host the annual Something Else! Festival and a year-round music series, showcasing creative music, jazz, improvisation, and avant-garde art forms. HPL hosts their music series at the Central Library.

Date March 11, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Pam Byrne, Director of Finance
Subject Review of the Last Three Years of Financial Statements

Recommendation

That the Library Board receive this information for review and comment.

Background

This memorandum provides a summary of the Hamilton Public Library's last three years of unaudited financial statements referred to as the Budget Variance Report. The fiscal year end for the Hamilton Public Library is December 31, and the three-year data relayed within this document pertains to 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Financial Overview

Over the past three fiscal years, the Hamilton Public Library has experienced consecutive operating shortfalls, reflecting a combination of cost pressures, Cyber Events, external factors and funding constraints. In 2023, the organization overspent its approved funding by approximately \$1.2M, which was addressed through the use of reserves and has been carried forward into the current 2026 financial position. These results remain unaudited but reflect the underlying operating reality for that year. The main categories that led to overspending were security, people costs and contractual expenses.

The financial results in 2024 and 2025 showed that expenditure growth continued to outpace approved funding increases but at a declining rate. While short-term mitigation measures, including the use of reserves and timing adjustments, allowed the

organization to maintain service levels, these measures are not sustainable and have progressively reduced our financial flexibility – meaning our reserve balances.

The primary drivers of these losses include:

- Structural expenditure growth, particularly in compensation, benefits and people costs, continues to be the biggest driver in our year-over-year cost increases
- Inflationary and service-demand pressures are impacting supplies, utilities and charged-back delivered services
- Reliance on one-time or non-recurring funding (reserves) to support basic operations, masking underlying imbalances between funding and expenditures

For the fiscal year ended 2024, the Hamilton Public Library had overspent on its funding for the year by approximately \$740K. The \$740K shortfall was adjusted against the reserves and has been accounted for in the current 2026 report. To date the 2024 year-end statements have not yet been audited, as we are waiting for the City to schedule. The main contributors to the overspending have been determined to be the following: security and contractual service and the loss of printing revenue due to the Cyber Event. It was only during the third quarter of 2024 that we were able to reconcile vendor balances and create our own internal reporting to manage our finances. Unfortunately, too much time had lapsed within the year and HPL was unable to recover from the overspending.

For the fiscal year ended 2025, the Hamilton Public Library overspent its funding by approximately \$250 - \$300K. The \$300K shortfall was adjusted against the reserves and has been accounted for in the current 2026 report. To date, these 2025 year-end statements have not yet initiated the audit process. There is no main contributor to the overspending in 2025.

As a result, the organization has entered the 2026 fiscal year with reduced reserve capacity and limited ability to absorb further operating pressures without corrective action. Continued reliance on reserves would increase financial risk and constrain the

Library's ability to respond to future service demands, capital needs, or economic uncertainty. In the past 3 years, unplanned operational expense use of reserves is estimated at \$2.24M. This is in addition to the planned use of reserves for operational expenses totalling \$1.8M for the same period.

Chief Librarian Report

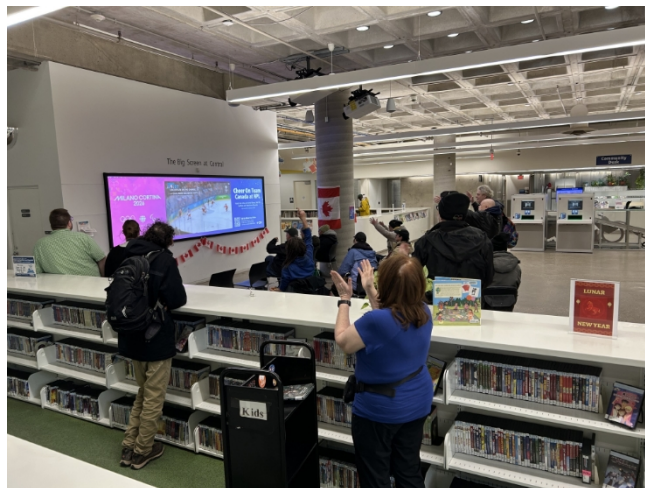
Date March 11, 2026

To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board

From Paul Takala, CEO and Chief Librarian

Winter Olympics at HPL

With the support of CBC, HPL aired the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Winter Games at four branches: Central, Red Hill, Saltfleet and Waterdown. Members planned their trips to these branches around various competitions, while others watched in passing. We will air the Paralympic Winter Games from March 6-15 and the ever-popular Falcon Watch in the Spring.



Seedy Saturday

On February 7, Seedy Saturday took place at Central Library in partnership with Green Venture, welcoming 1,272 participants across the vendor floor, children's activities, and workshops. The event created a lively and welcoming atmosphere, bringing residents together to share knowledge, explore sustainable practices and connect with local growers and organizations. The day fostered strong community engagement, with seed swapping, hands-on activities, and educational sessions reinforcing the library's role as a hub for connection and lifelong learning. Participating vendors included local not-for-profits, community organizations and small businesses focused on gardening, sustainability and environmental education. By connecting residents directly with local expertise and resources, the event supported both community resilience and the local economy.

Coffee with a Cop



Hamilton Police Service Officers Henry (right), Stanges and Meyer chat with Member Gabor at Central Library on February 25. The informal [coffee and community engagement](#) sessions encourage the public to offer feedback and ideas. HPS officers return to Central on March 11 and April 22, 10:30-11:30am and head to Valley Park on

March 10, 10:00-11:00am.

Partnerships

The YWCA of Hamilton currently runs a Prepare to Apply for the Canadian Citizenship Test workshop at the Central Library. The workshop saw its best attendance yet in January, with nine newcomers attending to learn about the ins and outs of the Canadian Citizenship test from YMCA's knowledgeable and skilled instructor. YWCA citizenship test prep workshops continue this winter.

Waterdown Cluster Staff conducted 3 outreach visits this month to the Legion and a local retirement home to educate older adults about what the library can offer. The branch saw many folks from these outreach events in our space this month, signing up for library cards! Waterdown is also hosting a new recurring meeting led by Flamborough Connects - the Community Connector Meeting. Colleen from Flamborough Connects has worked to bring representatives from many local non-profit and community organizations together to share information and problem-solve. HPL is proud to host this meeting and maintain a seat at this table as a core community resource in Flamborough.

Kenilworth Branch partnered with the All Out Collective—a grassroots organization in

Hamilton that provides free programming, support and community building to 2SLGBTQ+ children, youth and their families. The coordinated promotion and program delivery resulted in a successful Valentine's Day Queer Parent Meet Up at the Kenilworth library. The attendance, while small (8 Members attended with their children—yet our highest attendance since Pride 2025), was impactful for those families, as they were able to connect with one another and with this new community resource.

For Black History Month, program highlights include Youth Services staff collaborating with Let's Talk Science's Black Volunteers Collective to distribute Black History Month Kaleidoscope kits at Kenilworth Branch. The project saw 60 kits made for distribution to children ages 6-12. The kits aimed to integrate core science concepts (such as light and reflection) with themes of diversity, equity, inclusion, and Black excellence. At Valley Park, the Jamaica Foundation hosted a Kente fabric design program where 15 Members, ages 8 –13, learned about the history and philosophy involved in the design of traditional cloth.

Write Like 2026: Camp Folklore



On February 13 and 14, Central Library hosted the annual Write Like Festival, in partnership with local teen and young adult literary organization, Hamilton Verse. The literary genre folklore was the 2026 festival theme, and 70 Members, mostly local secondary students, attended the 8 writing workshops that made up the Camp Folklore part of the program. They were joined by another 105 Members who attended the festival's author and book launch events, headlined by Ottawa-based author Amal El-Mohtar.

Hamilton Verse supports young writers of diverse African and Black heritage in discovering and harnessing their stories through written and verbal arts. Hamilton Verse serves the greater Hamilton region and its young people. They offer unique programs that uplift racialized storytellers and their literary forms and storytelling traditions.

Board Game Launch

The Collections and Technical Services team has finalized all processing and preparations for the launch of HPL's new Circulating Board Game Collection, which will debut on March 16 in readiness for March Break. The distribution plan allocates three to ten games per branch, including the Bookmobile, ensuring system-wide access to this new offering. This initiative was originally proposed at the 2025 Dragon's Den Staff Day by Lindsey Green, Information Clerk at the Terryberry Branch. The collection features games for all age groups and a wide range of genres. Popular titles such as Carcassonne and Ticket to Ride are included alongside options for younger players, including Magic Mountain and First Orchard. In addition, the collection highlights Canadian-created and published titles, such as the award-winning games 5-Minute Dungeon and Creature Comforts. All games will be available for browsing on open shelves and can be borrowed for a seven-day loan period.

Exterior Signage Project



The system-wide exterior signage project is almost at completion. This work is a collaborative effort between: City Project Managers, HPL Communications Team and Sunset Sign Co. Ltd.

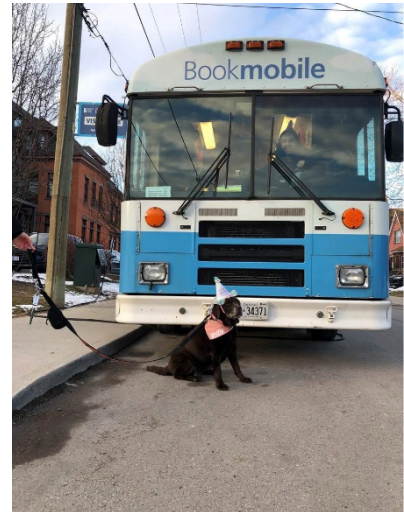
Bookmobile Update

On February 23, Chili the Dog celebrated her 14th birthday at her favourite place - the Bookmobile!

Her human, Pam, is an HPL super user and tells us that when she has to miss their

weekly Stinson Stop, Chili is very sad about it. Small acts of kindness, like celebrating a birthday or always having dog treats available for our puppy friends, highlights the incredible connection the Bookmobile Team has with our Members.

On February 24, Bookmobile made a stop at Shalom Village for our monthly community outreach visit. On days with poor weather, we set up a table in the foyer, so residents don't have to battle the elements. Jo-Ann (89 years old), an HLS Member at Shalom, insisted the frigid temperatures would not slow her down. She was adamant about making her way out to the Bookmobile for a visit (see attached photo). Another testament to the joy the Bookmobile brings people in our community.



The Home Library Service (HLS) Team received a lovely comment from a Member, who after years of using HLS is transitioning into palliative care due to declining health:

"I think home library service has been a wonderful service for seniors in long term care. Thank you for all you do, it has been incredibly meaningful in my life."

March Tax Clinics

With the 2026 tax season upon us, trained volunteers from the [Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) are offering free drop-in tax clinics for eligible families and individuals. HPL branches are offering [several of these sessions](#) at Central, Barton Terryberry, Red Hill, and Dundas branches. It is important to note this year that there is no drop-off service and that all tax clinics are in-person.

Coldest Night of the Year

On February 28, Barton Branch participated in the Coldest Night of the Year initiative, a family-friendly fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

Freedom to Read Week

Artist Kelly McCray and his Tower of Banned Books depicts the weight of censorship through the ages - from dictionaries to children's stories. Kelly spoke about his sculpture at the Waterdown Branch February 25th, as part of [Freedom to Read Week](#). Kelly said he was most surprised to put E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* among the 600 challenged books in his Tower. Head to the Waterdown Branch before March 10 to see all the other surprising titles in the Tower.



2025 Annual Report

Hamilton Public Library's 2025 Annual Report has been completed and highlights a year of strong community impact, innovation and service. The report showcases key achievements, major initiatives and system-wide milestones from the past year, illustrating how HPL continues to support literacy, learning, creativity and connection for Hamilton residents. The report will be published on the HPL website and shared with key partners, stakeholders and community leaders, with printed copies distributed in advance of the March Board meeting to support broader awareness of the Library's work and contributions to the community.

Media Hits

Drug use and overdoses run rampant in Canada's public libraries

By: Adrian Ghobrial, *CTV National News*, February 27, 2026

[Drug overdoses rampant in Canada's public libraries](#)

Opinion | The library isn't the crisis, it's the symptom

Upper levels of government have failed to act with the urgency the moment demands, Coun. Cameron Kroetsch writes. By: Cameron Kroetsch, Ward 2 Councillor, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 26, 2026

[The library isn't the crisis, it's the symptom](#)

Opinion | Welcome to HamiltonLIVE — your guide to living your best life in the city

From food, to music, to books, to visual arts, we'll help you discover Hamilton's interesting people, cool events and culinary scene.

By: Natalie Paddon, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 26, 2026

[Welcome to HamiltonLIVE, your guide to living your best life](#)

Hamilton book influencer Morgann Book to participate in special Canada Reads event at Central library

CBC Canada Reads event scheduled for March 14

By: Desmond Brown, *CBC News Hamilton*, February 26, 2026

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/canada-reads-hamilton-public-library-9.7105991>

Listen in about Central Library's potential closure

[Metro Morning | Live Radio | CBC Listen](#) - February 23, 2026

Closing Hamilton Central Library 'off the table' for now as staff look at other ways to stop on-site drug use

Hamilton Public Library considering card checks, changing layout in downtown branch

By: Justin Chandler, *CBC News Hamilton*, February 23, 2026

[Closing Hamilton Central Library 'off the table' for now as staff look at other ways to stop on-site drug use | CBC News](#)

With 32 more deaths, researchers behind Hamilton homeless mortality-data project make call for action

The total count over the four-year initiative reached 148 people without housing who have lost their lives.

By: Teviah Moro, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 23, 2026

[Hamilton homeless mortality-data project calls for change](#)

Opinion | Feb. 23: It's hard to pick Hamilton's worst road and other letters to the editor

When supervised sites close, drug use doesn't stop. It simply moves into public buildings like the library, a reader writes.

The Hamilton Spectator, February 23, 2026

[Feb. 23: Hard to pick city's worst road and other letters](#)

Opinion | The last true commons: How libraries are holding us together

Why our libraries deserve more recognition and resources as the backbone of our community life.

By: Nicole K. Dalmer, Acting Director of the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging at McMaster University

The Hamilton Spectator, February 21, 2026

[The last true commons: Libraries are holding us together](#)

Valley Park Branch was featured on *CHCH Evening News*, February 21, 2026.

Watch: [Black History Month events spotlight culture, creativity across Hamilton and Burlington](#)

The week in review: Alarming HPL concerns + Justice system 'failed' family of George Barresi

Here's what's happening in Hamilton this weekend and the week's top 10 stories from Hamilton Spectator reporters.

The Hamilton Spectator, February 21, 2026

[Top Hamilton Spectator stories of the week](#)

Tough times for Hamilton Public Library as it contemplates temporary closure of main branch

Drug crisis is deterring visits by families

By: John Best, *The Bay Observer*, February 21, 2026

<https://bayobserver.ca/tough-times-for-hamilton-public-library-as-it-contemplates-temporary-closure-of-main-branch/>

Temporary closure of downtown Hamilton library a 'last resort' amid drug problems

"We're a library. We're a family environment ... It's not a good situation," CEO says.

By: Teviah Moro, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 20, 2026

[Temporary closure of downtown Hamilton library on table](#)

Hamilton-area Today: Situation at downtown library is 'unsustainable' + Builder 'lacks funding' to complete Stoney Creek tower

Here is what's happening in Hamilton and area this morning with your top news, weather and traffic. This article is live from 6 to 9 a.m.

The Hamilton Spectator, February 20, 2026

[Hamilton-area Today: Local news this morning](#)

Temporary closure of downtown Hamilton library on table amid 'unsustainable' drug problems

'We are in a crisis and there needs to be help,' library CEO says.

By: Teviah Moro, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 19, 2026

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/hamilton-library-drugs-homelessness/article_cd238914-1949-51e7-a0d7-6b788a9e243c.html

Hamilton budget left in mayor's hands after 'frustrating' city council meeting

Reported By: Eric Vienneau, *CHCH News*, February 19, 2026

Watch: [Hamilton budget left in mayor's hands after 'frustrating' city council meeting](#)

Hamilton's downtown library may temporarily close amid safety concerns

Reported By: Annette Hamm, *CHCH News*, February 19, 2026

Watch on YouTube: [Hamilton's downtown library may temporarily close amid safety concerns](#)

Hamilton's downtown library may temporarily close amid safety concerns

By: Staff, *CHCH News*, February 19, 2026

[Hamilton's downtown library may temporarily close amid safety concerns](#)

Morning Live celebrates 25 years! - CHCH Morning Live February 19, 2026

Listen in at the 6:30 mark regarding Central Library.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/morning-live-celebrates-25-years-chch-morning-live/id1679827094?i=1000750476010>

Community Engagement on Reddit

Comments in real time starting from February 18/19, 2026.

[Hamilton's Library Board Considers Temporary Closure of Central Library in Response to Problematic Drug Use : r/Hamilton](#)

Hamilton's Library Board Considers Temporary Closure of Central Library in Response to Problematic Drug Use – TPR Hamilton | Hamilton's Civic Affairs News Site

By: Joey Coleman, *The Public Record*, February 18, 2026

[Hamilton's Library Board Considers Temporary Closure of Central Library in Response to Problematic Drug Use – TPR Hamilton | Hamilton's Civic Affairs News Site](#)

Joey's Liveposts Replay: Hamilton Public Library Board of Directors on February 18, 2026

By: Joey Coleman, *The Public Record*, February 18, 2026

[Joey's Liveposts Replay: Hamilton Public Library Board of Directors on February 18, 2026 – TPR Hamilton | Hamilton's Civic Affairs News Site](#)

STORM CLOSURES: Hamilton area cancellations and updates

If your community organization is closing or cancelling an event or activity, email news@thespec.com.

The Hamilton Spectator, February 18, 2026

[Hamilton storm closures and cancellations](#)

Hamilton libraries, rec centres closed as Environment Canada warns of slippery commute

Public schools in Hamilton and Brantford were closed Wednesday, while Catholic boards remained open

By: Samantha Beattie, Eva Salinas, *CBC News Hamilton*, February 18, 2026

[Hamilton libraries, rec centres closed as Environment Canada warns of slippery commute | CBC News](#)

[Hamilton libraries, rec centres closed as Environment Canada warns of slippery commute](#)

Here's what's open and closed in the Hamilton, Niagara regions for Family Day

By: Staff, *CHCH News*, February 16, 2026

[Here's what's open and closed in the Hamilton, Niagara regions for Family Day](#)

What's open and what's closed on Family Day

Monday is the Family Day holiday.

By: Jennifer Moore, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 14, 2026

[What's open and what's closed on Family Day](#)

Obituary of a former HPL Board Member

The Hamilton Spectator, February 14, 2026

<https://obituaries.thespec.com/obituary/jacqueline-isbester-1093533772>

Heated Rivalry Is Not For Tweens. How to Find Sweet Romance Titles That Are

By: Alicia Cox Thomson, *Today's Parent*, February 12, 2026

[Heated Rivalry Is Not For Tweens. How to Find Sweet Romance Titles That Are - Today's Parent](#)

Hamilton sets new record for opioid overdose calls — again

Between January 2017 and 2025, the monthly overdose call average was 44.89. January 2026 more than tripled that

By: Sebastien Bron, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 12, 2026

[Hamilton sets new record for opioid overdose calls — again](#)

Councillors set to continue city-funded business recycling for rest of 2026

Councillors voted to continue business recycling, top up the library budget, and defer bike lanes at Friday budget meeting.

By: Mac Christie, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 9, 2026

[Councillors vote to continue city-funded business recycling](#)

Hamilton Public Library offering unlimited 'Heated Rivalry' ebooks and audiobooks

Hamiltonians have checked out the ebook edition of "Heated Rivalry" 176 times since the beginning of the year.

By: Fallon Hewitt, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 6, 2026

[HPL offering unlimited ebook copies of 'Heated Rivalry'](#)

With Salvation Army exploring relocation, city looks for new approach to homeless shelters

Billions have been spent on the growing crisis in Ontario. Shelters remain on the front lines. Is there a better way?

By: Teviah Moro, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 5, 2026

[Salvation Army explores new site; city talks new approach](#)

Salvation Army 'actively exploring' options for new men's shelter site

"These discussions remain at an early stage, and no decisions have been made," said Salvation Army spokesperson.

By: Teviah Moro, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 5, 2026

[Salvation Army 'actively exploring' options for new shelter](#)

Opinion | Feb. 5: Average family's needs being ignored, improve health care efficiency and other letters to the editor

Canadians should learn from what we see in Minnesota, where citizens and political leaders are fighting back to achieve justice, a reader writes.

Community recognition is vital

Re: Hamilton nurse, doctor and local Black artist to be honoured for Black History Month, Jan. 31

The Hamilton Spectator, February 5, 2026

[Feb. 5: Average family's needs ignored and other letters](#)

City considers offering free Wi-Fi in more downtown Hamilton parks

Ward 2 councillor says expanding internet access is a step toward 'digital equity'

By: Saira Peesker, *CBC News Hamilton*, February 3, 2026

[City considers offering free Wi-Fi in more downtown Hamilton parks | CBC News](#)

Opinion | Hamilton's musical heritage is something to sing about as Junos come to town

The city has produced an impressive pedigree of musical talent, along with great moments of inspiration and memorable events. Yet most local musicians will tell you it's extremely difficult to make a living here.

By: Mark McNeil, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 3, 2026

[Hamilton's musical heritage is something to sing about](#)

Black History Month events throughout Hamilton

The 2026 Hamilton BHM theme is "Honouring Our Past. Healing Our Futures."

By: Jennifer Moore, *The Hamilton Spectator*, February 3, 2026

[Black History Month events throughout Hamilton](#)

Lecture series will give a 'taste' of Black communities' histories in Hamilton

The Unnoticed Histories of Black Communities in Hamilton series, runs over 4 weeks in Black History Month. By: Desmond Brown, *CBC News Hamilton*, February 2, 2026

[Lecture series will give a 'taste' of Black communities' histories in Hamilton | CBC News](#)

[Don't miss a medal moment! | CBC.ca](#)

A few HPL Branches are mentioned featuring the Winter Olympics' Watch Parties on February 6.

[North End Breezes Archives | North End Breezes](#) - February edition

Libraries are offering unlimited 'Heated Rivalry' audiobook downloads. Here's how it works.

By: Nicole Thompson, *The Canadian Press*, January 31, 2026

[Libraries are offering unlimited 'Heated Rivalry' audiobook downloads. Here's how it works](#)

Date March 11, 2026
To Chair and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board
From Lisa DuPelle, Director, Human Resources & Information Services
Subject **2026 Non-Union Compensation**

Recommendation

That effective January 1, 2026, the salary schedule for the Library Non-Union Management and Professional Exempt employee group be aligned with the City of Hamilton Non-Union compensation structure, which is our comparator, in order to maintain pay equity compliance, as adopted by City Council on February 24, 2026. This alignment would result in a 3.0% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

That effective July 1, 2026, the salary schedule for the Library Non-Union Part-Time Employee group receives a COLA consistent with the Non-Union Management and Professional Exempt employee group and City of Hamilton in order to maintain pay equity compliance. This alignment would result in a COLA of 3.0% for the Library Non-Union Part-Time Employee group, effective July 1, 2026.

Financial/Staffing/Legal Implications

Non-Union Management and Professional Exempt and Non-Union Part-Time Employees

On February 24, 2026, City Council adopted the 2026 Tax (Operating and Capital) Supported Budget, which included a 3.0% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all Non-Union Management and Professional Exempt and Non-Union Part-Time wage employees. This adjustment was budgeted into HPL's 2026 overall budget request.

Background

The Hamilton Public Library Board has a province-approved non-union pay equity plan that requires the Library Board to use City of Hamilton as their salary comparator.

The Library's Non-Union Management and Professional Exempt employees include the Chief Librarian/CEO, Senior Leadership (Directors), all branch and department Managers and Coordinators, the Administrative Assistant to the CEO and all professional and administrative staff positions in the Human Resources department. The Library's Non-Union Part-Time employees include but are not limited to Library Pages and Summer Literacy Workers.