

Municipal Budget 2016

Fact Sheets



HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Halifax Public Libraries has 14 branch libraries, collectively representing a vital community gathering place for the municipality. Through personal assistance at the many branches, Borrow by Mail and Home Delivery services, Interlibrary Loans, as well as a website (halifaxpubliclibraries.ca), Halifax Public Libraries connects people, enriches communities and inspires discovery.

Last year, the 172,500 registered borrowers, representing 45 per cent of Halifax's population, made over 2.8 million in-person visits to the library and nearly 1.9 million visits via the website.

Highlights:

- An inventory of more than one million items including books, CDs, DVDs, videos, newspapers and magazines
- Nearly 40,000 downloadable audio books, e-books and videos
- 24/7 online access to reading suggestions, program information, homework help resources and story books
- Access to databases covering local history, genealogy, do-it-yourself, health and statistics as well as news paper and magazine archives
- Online catalogue allowing residents to search the collection, place items on hold, renew checked out items and check account information
- Nearly 8,100 programs delivered, largely in partnership with some 300 community groups, including author readings, information technology training, university courses, arts and culture performances, after school drop-ins and homework help, puppet shows and story times
- Adult and youth literacy programs and tutoring, English Language Learning (ELL), and reading support programs used by more than 18,500 residents
- Over 600 public access computers including assistive technology stations, family and research computers, five permanent learning labs and six portable learning labs and two media studios. All branches also provide wireless internet access, which saw over 350,000 connections
- 6,067 bookings were made by the public, community groups and local businesses to use the 22 meeting spaces and eight study rooms across the library system, including the Halifax Central Library's Paul O'Regan Hall