

CEO Update

February 20, 2025



Oakville
Public
Library



Sixteen Mile Construction Project

Status	YELLOW
Strategic Pillar	Enriching lives and building healthy communities
Budget	On Budget
Completion Date	Q4 2025
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPL is working on a recruitment plan to ensure the successful staff of the facility• The RFP for an opening day collection is in progress



New Central Project

Status	YELLOW
Strategic Pillar	Enriching lives and building healthy communities
Budget	On Budget
Completion Date	2028
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waiting on structural report before resume concept design• Asbestos removal complete• Clarifying top of bank requirements with Conservation Halton



Newspaper Digitization Project

Status	GREEN
Strategic Pillar	Promoting Digital Discovery
Budget	On Budget
Completion Date	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract has been finalized first week of February• Kick-off meeting with vendor set for second part of February.• OPL is following up with other libraries current negotiating with TorStar on public access and will provide an update in March.












Trafalgar Urban Core South Branch

Status	GREEN
Strategic Pillar	Enriching lives and building healthy communities
Budget	On Budget
Completion Date	2028/29
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal and Branthaven continue to finalize the purchase agreement



OPL Celebrates Black History Month

Join us in celebrating Black voices, stories, and contributions throughout the month! Featured programs this month include:

- Children's Programs – Celebrating Black history through stories, crafts, and activities at various branches.
- Tween Maker Sessions: Inspired by Alma Thomas
- Featured Speaker: Nikki Clarke – "Black Canadian Innovation: Looking to the Past to Face the Future"
 Saturday, February 22 |  1-2:30 PM |  Glen Abbey
- Bronte Book Club Discussion: *The Vanishing Half*
 Thursday, February 27 |  10-11 AM |  Taste of Columbia Café
- Featured Speaker: Journalist Genelle Levy – "We Have Always Been Here: Oakville's Hidden Black History"
 Wednesday, February 26 |  7-8 PM |  Virtual Event



OPL History Timeline

For nearly 190 years, Oakville Public Library has been at the heart of our community, connecting people, information and ideas to enrich lives and foster vibrant, healthy communities. Established in 1836 as a small reading room, OPL has grown into a modern library system with multiple branches and community access points serving Oakville.

Visit OPL's digital timeline, complete with fascinating archival photographs and news clippings at:

opl.ca/About-OPL/OPLHistory

History of the Oakville Public Library



Please enjoy this brief timeline of events in the history of the Oakville Public Library

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1836: Public Reading Room Established



1895: Officially Oakville Public Library



The name "Oakville Public Library" is first used as a result of an amendment to the 1882 Provincial Free Libraries Act.





What is Freedom to Read?

Oakville Public Library is celebrating Freedom to Read Week, an annual national event that encourages Canadians to reflect on and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom.

Public libraries play a crucial role in protecting books and other materials from censorship. By ensuring access to a diverse range of knowledge, ideas, and opinions, libraries help uphold democracy. This is more important than ever in today's information-driven world.



Intellectual Freedom @ OPL.ca

Intellectual Freedom at OPL

Oakville Public Library is committed to protecting and defending intellectual freedom across our collections, programs and spaces.

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Libraries are facing increasing intellectual freedom challenges on a wide range of issues, not just with physical materials like books and movies, but also with programs, e-content, internet access, room bookings and exhibits. Intellectual freedom challenges can limit access to information, suppress civic engagement, and silence voices, especially those of more historically underrepresented communities. As a library, we play a critical role in ensuring that everyone has the right to seek, receive, and share ideas without restriction.

Our collection includes materials that cover diverse topics, beliefs, and opinions, allowing readers to explore, learn, and grow.

We also provide use of public computers, laptops, tablets, networks, Creation Zone equipment, digital devices and services to support access to information. [Please view OPL's Internet Access and Acceptable Use Policy here.](#)

**FREEDOM TO
READ WEEK**

Learn More

Banned Books Tower

Art Display at Central Branch

As part of **Freedom to Read Week** and as a start of **Intellectual Freedom** conversations at OPL, the Central Branch will host the **Banned Books Tower**, a thought-provoking installation by artist **Kelly McCray**.

Built from 400 used books, mirrors, surveillance elements, and other meaningful materials, the piece explores censorship, control, and the fight for intellectual freedom. By juxtaposing banned books with themes of surveillance, the installation challenges us to reflect on the power of literature and what's at stake when access to ideas is restricted.

The display will be unveiled on February 24 and will be available for visitors throughout the spring.

