

Pickering Public Library Board 2019 Report to the Community

Message from the Board Chair



After hearing from the community for the last several years that an expansion of the Central Library is essential to the success of all residents within Pickering, the Library Board is pleased to announce that the design work for a new Library is now underway. The City Centre Library will be part of an exciting new City precinct with a target opening date in 2023.

As part of the next generation library, this bigger library anticipates the needs of a generation that reads, thinks and learns differently. To support 21st century learning, the Library will: feature an expanded makerspace; contain more collaborative rooms for group productivity, provide a variety of silent study spaces for individual learning, lend more than books and offer a unique partnership hub. With a rooftop reading room and terrace, a featured staircase that invites interaction, a large balcony with interesting views of the new piazza, a meditation room and a dedicated children's area, this public space will invite you in and inspire you to stay. The Library continues to value traditional collections and customer service. This will not change. However, we look forward the next version of the Pickering Public Library.

Sincerely,



Sarah Sheehy
Pickering Library Board Chair

2018 – 2019 Notable Highlights

- In 2019, the Library won the Minister's Award for Innovation for its Connect program and recently retired CEO, Cathy Grant, won the Librarian Year of the Award from the Ontario Library Association.
- Prime Minister Trudeau came for a tour of the Library's Makerspace.
- The Library held its first Makerfest to celebrate hands-on digital learning.
- The Library was one of the first locations in Canada to offer the highly recognized Girls Who Code program.
- The Library introduced an annual bursary that is given to a deserving teen library volunteer.
- Regular programming now includes a Knitting circle and a Makers and Artisans group.
- The Library offered Bibliotherapy in partnership with the Literacy Network of Durham Region.
- The Library expanded its collection to include Vox Books (picture books with an audio player) and Playaway Launchpads (tablets for children preloaded with educational games and apps).

- Local schools brought home a silver medal for the Juniors and a gold medal for the Seniors in the Regional Battle of the Books.
- The Library added a financial literacy storytime to its preschool literacy programming.
- In partnership with the City and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Library continued to host a salmon egg hatchery in the Central Library. The fry are released into a local stream each spring.

Feedback from Library clients:

"Pickering Public Library staff care about their community. I came to visit the library after not coming in for about 10 years and I was so amazed and pleased with everything the library has done to stay relevant especially to young people. Thank you to staff for taking the time to give me a tour. I will most definitely be coming back and telling my friends!" - Pickering Resident

"Please pass on my thanks to your librarian. They keep on top of the collections and I find practically everything I'm looking for. And if I can't, your staff have been excellent at finding the item for me at another library and making it happen! I'm a local author and I encourage you to keep up the great work." - Pickering Resident and Local Author

"The Maker Space at the library is the best in Durham and your staff are amazing! I can't believe how the one- on-one assistance has helped me understand my computer and its capabilities in ways I never knew. My kids get tired of me asking questions, but the staff member was patient as a saint!" - Pickering Resident, Senior Social Attendee

Here is how the Library is used **every week:**

9,909 in-person visits
 5,844 visits to our web site
 393 program attendees
 32,915 computer workstation uses
 261 Tech Support Sessions
 157 Preschool Storytime attendees
 14,256 Physical Items borrowed
 4,544 Digital items borrowed

2018 Revenue

Fees & Other Receipts:	\$136,720
Federal Support:	\$9,234
Provincial Support:	\$138,049
Municipal Support:	\$5,852,770
 Total:	 \$6,166,773

Information from the Audited Financial Statements of the City of Pickering Public Library Board, December 31, 2018.

Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 4th Thursday of each month from August to May. Meeting minutes are available on the Library website. Contact the Board at board@picnet.org.