

# Library usage surges at revamped Georgetown branch

Six months after re-opening the expanded and renovated Georgetown branch library, an internal study reveals that residents are using the library more than ever.

More than 40,000 people have visited the renewed Georgetown branch.

Thanks to the larger, more comfortable space and enhanced collections, library use has jumped in some cases as much as 70 per cent. Children's programs, eBooks and new library memberships top the list compared to previous years.

"We are thrilled about what this new facility clearly means to our community," said Jay Jackson, Library Board Chair. "The renewed Georgetown branch gives residents access to the programs and services that they need and want."

The study shows Halton Hills residents are eager to learn, value early literacy development and are embracing new technology. Highlights of the report include:

- 22% increase in attendance at children's programs
- 70% increase in eBooks borrowed
- 60% increase in the number of questions asked

- 53% increase in number of new library cards issued
  - 12% increase in items borrowed.
- This means approximately 20,000 more items (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.) have gone out and come back in the first six months than in the first half of 2012.

Through community partnerships, Library Services have also embraced employment counseling, small business support and adult literacy education.

"We are providing unprecedented access to the help that can make a difference in people's lives," said Jane Diamanti, Director of Library Services.

Some of these free services include:

- Helping teens and adults find a job with resume writing and interview coaching (offered by vpi-inc.)
- Tutoring adults in reading and writing (Offered by Literacy North Halton/Adult Learning Centre)
- Providing information and support to those starting or expanding a small business (offered by Halton Region Small Business Centre)
- Answering questions to help new-

comers settle into our community (offered by The Centre for Skills Development and Training)

These services are provided in the Partners Space on the lower level of the Georgetown branch and can be arranged by appointment through the library's service desks.

The Halton Hills Public Library

(HHPL) provides free access to best-selling books, eBooks and eReaders, newly released DVDs, CDs and more. Every week, approximately 2,220 people come through the library's doors, in addition to the more than 3,000 who visit electronically.

For more information visit [www.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.hhpl.on.ca).



JANE DIAMANTI

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