MEDIA RELEASE
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Milton Public Library Delivers Nearly $9 Million in Value in 2025 and Celebrates Freedom to Read Week

Milton, ON – As Milton Public Library marks Freedom to Read Week, the Library is reflecting on a year of impact, access, and community connection. In 2025, Milton Public Library (MPL) delivered nearly $9 million in value to residents, reinforcing the importance of equitable access to information, ideas, and diverse voices.

Freedom to Read Week is a national event that highlights the importance of intellectual freedom and open access to information. At MPL, this commitment is reflected every day through a diverse collection, inclusive programming, and services that ensure every resident can explore ideas freely and without barriers.

Throughout 2025, MPL continued to see strong demand across its physical branches and digital services. The Library recorded more than 655,000 in-person visits, reflecting steady growth in library use across Milton, alongside increasing engagement with e-books, online resources, and technology services.

By borrowing physical materials rather than purchasing them, library users saved approximately $8.96 million in 2025. A free Milton Public Library card provides access to books, e-books, technology, programs, and services at no cost. In a time of rising living costs, this access supports affordability while protecting every resident's right to read, learn, and explore.

Usage of both physical and digital collections continued to grow in 2025. Borrowing of physical materials increased, interlibrary loan requests nearly doubled in the final quarter, and e-book use more than doubled year over year. This growth reflects the community's appetite for stories, information, and diverse perspectives.

In 2025, the Library's most borrowed adult physical book was *The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown. Among young readers, Dav Pilkey's *Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea* was the top circulating children's title. For teens, *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins led circulation. These titles reflect a broad range of genres and voices that resonated with Milton readers across age groups.

Technology continued to play a vital role in how residents accessed Library services. Thousands relied on free Wi-Fi, public computers, and printing services to support learning, job searching, and everyday needs. In 2025, the Library expanded its technology offerings with new and

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enhanced spaces, including the Sherwood Tech Hub, featuring gaming computers and upgraded equipment designed to support digital skills, creativity, and exploration.

Programming remained central to MPL's community impact. In 2025, the Library delivered more than 3,500 programs for children, teens, and adults, reaching over 70,000 participants. Programs supported early literacy, digital skills, cultural learning, wellness, and workforce development. Feedback collected throughout the year showed that 90 percent of respondents rated library programs and services at the highest level.

"Freedom to read is foundational to a strong and inclusive community," said Sarah Douglas, Chief Executive Officer of Milton Public Library. "In 2025, we saw firsthand how much Milton residents value access to information, stories, and shared spaces. Whether through a bestselling novel, a children's graphic series, a digital resource, or a community program, our role is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to explore ideas freely and feel welcome doing so."

Partnerships continued to extend the Library's reach and impact. In 2025, MPL collaborated with 75 community organizations across health, education, cultural, and social service sectors. These partnerships strengthened outreach efforts and ensured services responded to the evolving needs of Milton's growing population.

As Milton continues to grow, Milton Public Library remains committed to protecting intellectual freedom, expanding access, and delivering high-quality services that support learning, connection, and community well-being.

About MPL:

Serving one of the fastest-growing municipalities in North America, Milton Public Library (MPL) is a multi-award winning public library focused on innovation and service excellence. Patrons can visit MPL through three physical branches, Main, Beaty and Sherwood as well as online through www.beinspired.ca. MPL empowers the community to Read. Learn. Innovate. Connect.

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