



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026



EAST GWILLIMBURY  
Public Library


# OUR NUMBERS

Our numbers tell a story. 2022 was our highest record of borrowed items ever. East Gwillimbury residents continue to use the library in unique ways.

 8,911  
**ACTIVE MEMBERS**

 49,457  
**IN-PERSON VISITS**

 281,103  
**WEBSITE VISITS**

 179,592  
**CIRCULATIONS ANNUALLY**

44,621  
**VIRTUAL** 

134,971  
**PHYSICAL** 

635  
**PROGRAM SESSIONS**



11,101  
**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**



 132,636  
**PUBLIC INTERNET AND WIRELESS ANNUAL USES**

# WELCOME

I am delighted to present our strategic plan, outlining our vision and goals for the future. As we embark on this exciting journey, we aim to provide even greater value and service, ensuring that the library remains the community's destination for information, discovery, and connection.

Our strategic plan is centered around literacy, inclusion, connection, curiosity and sustainability, core values that form the foundation of our commitment to serving our community's diverse needs. We believe in the power of story; listening and sharing stories can inspire change, empathy, and warmth within us, which is why our plan focuses on fostering a learning environment that promotes literacy in all its forms. During this term we will expand our collection, provide equitable access to resources, and support a healthy and active community through an array of library services. We aim to understand Truth and Reconciliation more fully, including the role we play to facilitate reconciliation within our communities. We will continue to make our collections and services reflective of Indigenous voices and history.

We believe everyone belongs at the library, so we continue our work ensuring that residents of all ages feel welcomed, respected, and included in our spaces. Our dynamic and diverse programming caters to the unique interests of our community and motivates our residents to try something new, be together, and feel joy. Through meaningful relationships and partnerships, we will transform the library into a vibrant hub for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and exploration to ignite the possibilities within.

We invite you to join us on this journey. Together, we can create a future where the library serves as a beacon of knowledge, a catalyst for connection, and a hub of innovation. We value your input, ideas, and collaboration as we work toward our shared vision.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. See you at the Library!



Christine Glenn, Library Board Chair

Top row, left to right: Srihari Karu, Catherine Rae, Lynda Young, Lars Opalinski, Lena Singh, Stephen Gill, Diana Robichaud, Tim Houlahan, Councillor Lorelea Carruthers, Heather Alblas, Angela Ramsey

Bottom row, left to right: Janelle Ng, Christine Glenn, Kayla Crone, Councillor Tara Roy-DiClemente



**LIBRARY BOARD & STAFF**

# VISION

Empowering people, enriching lives.

# MISSION

Igniting our communities through literacy, discovery, and connection.



# OUR VALUES

## LITERACY

Literacy is the foundation of a healthy community and critical thinking is essential to a flourishing society. We believe everyone has a right to learn and participate.

### **Our Commitment**

We are committed to supporting literacy in all its forms. We will continue to back intellectual freedom by providing access to information, ideas, and creative expression. We aim to cultivate a love for learning and reading in hopes of creating new pathways and possibilities.

## SUSTAINABILITY

We believe we have a role in educating our community on climate change and aim to make decisions around services, collections, and operations through a sustainability lens.

### **Our Commitment**

Our roots are grounded in a circular economy of borrowing, and we will continue to share resources and things.

## CURIOSITY

A good question can define or redefine our future. We value curiosity because it strengthens our ability for deeper awareness and new understanding.

### **Our Commitment**

We aim to transform lives through discovery, creativity, and enriching experiences.

## INCLUSION

Everyone belongs at the library and has a right to a safe space within an environment of equity, diversity, inclusion, and integrity.

### **Our Commitment**

We will continue to strengthen our abilities to listen, understand, and take action to ensure all voices are represented.

## CONNECTION

Libraries are connectors of information, ideas, services and resources.

### **Our Commitment**

We promote meaningful engagement to connect people with what they need to thrive and be successful. Our spaces are designed to bring people together.



# OUR PRIORITIES

Reflecting our community's needs, our Strategic Plan is focused around three areas, working together to empower people and enrich lives within East Gwillimbury.

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## BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We see our role in cultivating a connected and curious community. We aim to promote a healthy community through civic engagement, enriching experiences, social supports, and new opportunities.



## EXPAND ACCESS

Grounded in our commitment to promote literacy in all its forms, we will create more ways for you to access information and develop your interests. We will provide safe spaces and remove barriers, because we want everyone to enjoy spending time here.



## PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

The Library is a space where everyone belongs. We are deeply committed to providing positive and empowering experiences and will strengthen internal and external relationships and engage with our community to ensure we're doing the best we can.

# OUR GOALS

Our goals guide our decisions, projects, and initiatives over the next four years and integrate into annual business and employee plans. They move our priorities forward.

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## BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We will...

- **Respond to growth** by opening a new branch in Queensville and lean on our facilities and services studies to ensure we're making responsible changes.
- **Enrich our programs and partnerships** to provide meaningful, relevant, well-planned, all-ages programming that promotes literacy and discovery.
- **Connect our community** by bringing services and people together and ensuring our residents understand how the library can support them.
- **Meet people where they are** by going beyond our walls to build awareness of our services, cultivate literacy, and provide outreach services to our community.

## EXPAND ACCESS

We will...

- **Build a vibrant collection** based on community interests and commit to making our collections representative of our growing and diverse community.
- **Reduce and remove barriers to discovery** by reevaluating our policies and practices from an inclusivity, affordability, and accessibility lens.
- **Enhance our spaces** to create more ways of using the library, inviting community engagement and focusing on future needs of our community.
- **Provide digital literacy opportunities** by expanding access to technology and makerspace equipment and offering more ways to explore our digital world.

## PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

We will...

- **Commit to exceptionalism** within our service standards as we strive to provide memorable, welcoming, and informative services.
- **Support our employees** to expand their skillsets in response to evolving services and foster a culture of inclusion, curiosity, and growth.
- **Find new and effective ways to reach more people** to communicate our unique value and offerings and create a distinct brand identity.
- **Evaluate our practices** through intentional data and feedback so we can inform and guide our decisions in a way that reflects our community needs.



The East Gwillimbury Public Library works toward supporting the Town of East Gwillimbury's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan: A plan to move us forward.



## HOLLAND LANDING BRANCH

19513 Yonge Street,  
Holland Landing, ON L9N 1P2  
905-836-6492

## MOUNT ALBERT BRANCH

19300 Centre Street,  
Mount Albert, ON L0G 1M0  
905-437-2472

## QUEENSVILLE BRANCH

Coming 2025! Stay tuned for the grand opening.

[egpl.ca](http://egpl.ca)

