

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 27, 2018

## **Library Unveils Re-Imagined Main Branch**

\$1.4-million construction project celebrated at Opening Ceremony

**Brantford** – Today, the Brantford Public Library officially celebrated the completion of a \$1.4-million redesign that has resulted in a more accessible and customer-friendly Main Branch.

An opening ceremony was held in the new redesigned space of the Main Branch, located on Colborne Street in downtown Brantford.

The project received funding from the Brantford Public Library Board, the City of Brantford and up to \$333,333 from the Government of Canada through the [Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program](#).

“Thanks to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program investment, improvements made to the Main Branch have resulted in a brighter and more accessible library for users,” said Bryan May, Member of Parliament for Cambridge, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation Science and Economic Development and Minister responsible for the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#). “Congratulations to all project partners on the completion to this exciting space where Brantford residents can come to celebrate ideas, innovate and learn for many years ahead.”

Highlights of the project include a new fully-accessible front entrance, improvements to the building’s HVAC system, a new floor-to-ceiling glass façade and a dedicated main-floor MakerSpace area. The project will also improve customer service thanks to the addition of new self-checkout machines, redesigned customer service desks and an automatic book sorting machine.

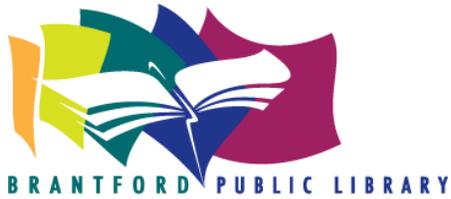
“We accomplished a lot with this project,” explained library CEO Kathryn Goodhue. “Along with making the space more accessible and updating outdated equipment, we were able to make improvements that address the demands of modern library users. This is a whole new library experience.”

Brantford Mayor Chris Friel said this is a major milestone for the downtown, which will soon welcome the opening of a brand-new 130,000-square foot Laurier-YMCA facility.

“The library is an anchor in our downtown,” said Mayor Friel. “Now, when people visit our city’s core, they will see a city that not only celebrates innovation and learning, but also an inclusive one that values civic participation and the opportunity for everyone to have access to information.”

The library has a full slate of events planned to celebrate the completion of the project. On Saturday, there will be children’s activities, including a birds of prey demonstration at 2:30 p.m. On Sunday, at 2:00 p.m., five of Brantford’s most-famous citizens will each have 15 minutes to share what inspires them and the story of their success. There is also a Food for Fines initiative from April 27 to May 4.

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Through this, customers can donate a non-perishable food item in exchange for overdue fines. Each food item is worth \$5 and up to \$20 will be forgiven. This does not apply to lost or damaged items.

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### **About the Brantford Public Library**

The Brantford Public Library connects the community through innovation, discovery and creativity. Last year, the Library had more than 400,000 visits to the Main and St. Paul Branches and staff answered more than 54,000 reference questions. The Library also offers a range of programs for people of all ages and provides a number of online services that promote creativity and life-long learning.

### **For more information, contact:**

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