

New Public Library Branches in Canada, 2018 🍁

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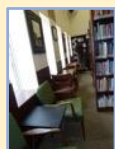
Compiled by READ Rosemount

The Rosemount branch of the Ottawa Public Library is about to undergo a revitalization. Here is some key information about the branch. This is followed by inspiring accounts of recent new builds or redevelopments for fifteen urban branch libraries in cities across Canada.

Ottawa Public Library

(2018 est. pop. 938,523)

Rosemount Branch Library, 18 Rosemount Ave. Ottawa, ON



Highlights: Revitalization * begins Fall 2018 * current space = 6,089 SF * two storey, stand-alone * last remaining Carnegie library in Ottawa * capital revitalization budget = \$2.0 M * +VG Architects (the Ventin Group) * 2015 circulation = 246,745 * pop. service area = 40,485.

Six of the thirty-three (33) Ottawa Public Library branches have been identified as comparator branches to the Rosemount branch. They are: **Alta Vista, Carlingwood, Elmvale Acres, Emerald Plaza, North Gloucester** and **St-Laurent**. [Click here for READ Rosemount's OPL inter-branch comparison tables](#)

Key Rosemount Facts:

- **Priority:** Rosemount has been an OPL Board capital priority for more than five years.
- **Age:** Rosemount is 100 years old in 2018; last expanded in 1936; last significantly upgraded in 1984.
- **Circulation of materials:** Rosemount has the HIGHEST circulation of items per square foot (40.52 items/SF) of all 33 OPL branches. This means that while it is busy, it's very crowded.
- **Size:** Rosemount ranks 21st in branch size (square feet); this is 1.35% of the total OPL real estate. Comparator branches (listed above) have between 1.67% and 4.38% of the total real estate.
- **Meeting spaces:** Rosemount has no publicly available/bookable meeting rooms. Twenty-five (25) of the thirty-two (32) other branches (i.e. all but some of the tiniest rural branches) have one or more bookable public meeting rooms. Rosemount now has a new back courtyard but it should be accessible from inside the library and located within the library's security perimeter.
- **Spaces:** Rosemount has no group study rooms and is deficient in individual study space. There is inadequate space for teens and children and quiet reading.
- **Seating:** Rosemount has significantly fewer seats (31) and computer workstations (7) for users than comparator branches. The use of public access computers is 5th highest of all OPL branches.
- **Population of service area:** Rosemount serves more than 40,000 residents in its catchment area, with a card-holder count of almost 16,000 (8th highest of all branches).

Photo Credit: READ Rosemount

New Public Library Branches in Canada, 2018



In 2018, Canada's urban libraries are continuing their aggressive development of branch facilities as innovative, interactive and integrated community hubs. Learn more about **Edmonton's** Calder branch, **Halifax's** Dartmouth North and Musquodoboit branches, **Kingston-Frontenac's** Rideau Heights branch, **Lethbridge's** Main Branch Modernization Project, **Markham's** Aaniin branch, **Bibliothèques Montréal's** Benny branch, **Regina's** Albert Branch at māmawēyatitān centre, **Toronto's** Albion, Amesbury Park and Eglinton Square branches, **Vaughan's** Pleasant Ridge and Vellore Village branches, **Victoria's** sx̱wəŋx̱wəŋ tən̄əx̱w James Bay branch and **Winnipeg's** Windsor Park branch.



A word cloud about these facilities would include: striking design and artwork, LEED, community consultation, radical transparency, accessibility, lots of space and seating, respect for and acknowledgment of Indigenous culture, maker spaces, community responsive, early literacy, abundance of natural light, big windows, flexibility and adaptability, part of a larger complex, warm and welcoming, hub, a place to go. And a smaller but striking set of words would include: community kitchens, sewing machines, outdoor reading and play areas, reading stairs and gardens, aquariums, community health and food security, neighbourhood regeneration, more flexible stack space with no diminution of collections.















Technology continues to underpin increasingly responsive and efficient service. This includes self-check and automated returns (some with receipt), sophisticated maker spaces and creative studios, digital media labs, wireless access (increasingly 24/7), after-hours-branch access, hot-spot loans and much more.





The following snap-shots of fifteen exciting, new/renewed branch libraries in Canada includes: photos, city population, type of project (e.g. new, renovation, rebuild etc), opening date, size, capital cost, architect, LEED designation if any, number of storeys, whether stand-alone or part of larger facility, most recent circulation figure available, and population of the area served by the branch.





An expanded occasional paper focussing on these fifteen Canadian branches will appear on the website of [Ex Libris](#) in Fall 2018. The Ex Libris Association is the Canadian national association interested in historical and current issues about libraries, archives, publishing houses, and related institutions and people. Membership is open to all interested parties.





Photos: top left Toronto's, Albion District branch, Credit: Doublespace & Michael Muraz; top right Winnipeg's Windsor Park branch, Credit: WPL & City of Wpg; lower left Vaughan's Pleasant Ridge branch: Credit: Vaughan Public Libraries.





1. Edmonton Public Library, AB (2018 est. pop. 980,000)	Calder Branch		
	Highlights: New/relocated/replacement branch * grand opening March 2018 * 10,000 SF * \$11 M * Architects: Atelier Tag & The Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative in collaboration with City of Edmonton Architect, Carol Belanger * LEED Silver * single storey, stand-alone facility * 2017 circulation = 72,731 * pop. service area = 22,000.		
			
2. Halifax Public Libraries, NS (2018 est. pop. 424,931)	Dartmouth North Branch—Outdoor Library		
	Highlights: Extension of existing branch * official opening June 2018 * 18,500 SF of exterior space * joint facility: Dartmouth North Library and Community Centre * \$1 M * design: Outside! Planning and Design Studio / Sue Sirrs * Interior renovation in planning for coming year * 2015 circulation = 144,272 * pop. service area = 6,840.		
			






3. Halifax Public Libraries, NS (2018 est. pop. 424,931)	Musquodoboit Harbour Branch		
	Highlights: Renovation * reopened January 2018 * 3,400 SF * \$950,000 * single storey * joint facility with Mosquodoboit Harbour Branch and Recreation Centre in Village Plaza * Abbott Brown Architects (Jane Abbot) * shared community kitchen * 2015 circulation = 79,684 * pop. service area = 6,140.		
			









4. Kingston-Frontenac Public Library, ON (2018 est. pop. 177,001)	Rideau Heights Branch		
	Highlights: New build/relocated/replacement branch * opened April 2018 * 6,000 SF replacing the 3,500 SF Kingscourt branch * \$3.3 M * Architects: NORR Ltd; Bourgon Construction * LEED Silver * part of Rideau Heights Regeneration Plan * new single-storey, joint facility containing library and community centre * fully accessible community commercial-grade kitchen in facility * 2016 circulation = 33,004 * pop. service area = 8,000.		
			





5. Lethbridge Public Library, AB (2018 est. pop. 99,769)	Lethbridge Main Branch Modernization Project (MBMP)		
	Highlights: Renovation * reopened July 2018 * 48,640 SF (no space increase) * \$4.1 M (largest renovation in history of building) * S2 Architecture, Jason Landers, Architect * two level, stand-alone * 2017 circulation = 629,756 * Indigenous space – the <i>Piitoyiss</i> (Blackfoot name for Eagles' Nest).		
			





6. Markham Public Library, ON (2018 est. pop. 344,480)	Aaniin Branch		
	Highlights: New branch (not replacement) * opened July 2018 * 20,000 SF * \$12 M * single storey * part of \$52 M / 125,000 SF Aaniin Community Centre * Architects: Perkins +Will Duff Balmer, Design Principal * LEED Gold * pop. service area = 50,000. <i>The name “Aaniin” is an Ojibwe word (pronounced ah-nee) which can be translated in several ways – “welcome”, “hello”, and “I see your light”. The name was chosen to welcome Markham’s diverse communities and to honour Markham’s Indigenous heritage, in the spirit of Canada 150 and the Truth and Reconciliation movement.</i>		
			









<div>7. Bibliothèques Montréal, PQ (2018 est. pop. 1.8432 M)</div>	<div>Benny Branch</div> <div>Highlights: New build/relocated/expanded library * opened February 2016 * part of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Cultural Centre * \$24.3 M for Cultural Centre including \$16.071 M for library + \$108,560 for artwork * Architects: Atelier Big City/Fichten Soiferman et associés/L'OEUF * 24,757 SF compared to 3,200 SF of former branch * LEED Silver * 2017 circulation = 222,595 * pop. service area = 67,475.</div>		
			

<div>8. Regina Public Library , SK (2018 est. pop. 222,773)</div>	<div>Albert Branch at māmawêyatitân centre</div> <div>Highlights: New-build/relocated/replacement of Albert branch * opened July 2017 * part of \$42.4 M, 100,000 SF multi-partner māmawêyatitân centre, opened September 2017 * library = 5,996 SF * library capital contribution = \$2.5 M * P3Architecture Partnership James Youck, Design Principal * LEED Silver * 2017 circulation (half year) = 32,404 * pop. service area = 10,000. <i>māmawêyatitân is a Cree word for “Let’s be all together”</i></div>			
				

9. Toronto Public Library, ON (2018 est. pop. 3.006M)	Albion District Branch		
	Highlights: New-build/relocation/expansion of 1970's existing facility * opened July 2017 * 28,000 SF * one storey, stand-alone * \$15.007 M * Architects: Perkins +Will Andrew Frontini, Design Principal * LEED Gold * 2015 pre-move circulation = 353,764 * pop. service area = 49,101 - immediate / 137,101 - district.		
			
10. Toronto Public Library, ON (2018 est. pop. 3.006M)	Amesbury Park Branch		
	Highlights: Renovation and modernization of existing 1967 facility * reopened October 2017 * 6,230 SF * single storey, stand-alone (no space increase) * \$550,000 * Architects: mca architects Michael Clesle, Principal Architect * 2015 pre-move circulation = 120,983 * pop. service area = 23,156.		
			

11. Toronto Public Library , ON (2018 est. pop. 3.006M)	Eglinton Square Branch		
	<p>Highlights: Redesign/renovation/expansion to 10,000 SF from 4,716 SF * reopened June 2017 * single storey, part of Eglinton Square Mall * \$1.243 M * Ken Fukushima Architects, Ken Fukushima, Principal Architect *</p> <p>* 2015 pre-renovation circulation = 249,729 * pop. service area = 14,154.</p>		
			

12. Vaughan Public Libraries , ON (2018 est. pop. 323,223)	Vellore Village Branch		
	<p>Highlights: New build/new branch (not replacement) * opened August 2018 * 8,300 SF * single storey attached to Vellore Village Community Centre * \$4.4 M * ZAS Architects + Interiors * pop. service area = 31,018.</p>		
			

13. Vaughan Public Libraries , ON (2018 est. pop. 323,223)	Pleasant Ridge Branch		
	Highlights: New build/new branch (not replacement) * opened December 2014 * 8,500 SF * single storey, attached to North Thornhill Community Centre * \$4.4 M * Diamond Schmitt Architects * 2017 circulation = 254,504 * pop. service area = 24,785.		
			
14. Greater Victoria Public Library, BC (2017 pop. 377,414)	sx̱ew̱x̱w̱əŋ təŋəx̱w̱ James Bay Branch		
	Highlights: New build/new branch (not replacement) * grand opening April 2018 * part of Capital Park, a 6.2 acre private sector, mixed-use development * 7,150 SF * \$773 K (no costs for land, building design or construction) * Project Architect, Endall Elliot Associates / Library branch architect, cei Architecture and design consultant, Bidgood +co * pop.service area = 11,240. <i>sx̱ew̱x̱w̱əŋ təŋəx̱w̱ is the Lekwungen name for James Bay.</i>		
			

15. Winnipeg Public Library (2018 est. pop. 718,648)	Windsor Park Branch		
	<p>Highlights: New-build/expansion/relocation of existing branch * opened March 2018 * 7,987 SF expanded from original 5,969 SF * Single storey, stand-alone * \$4.9 M * Architects: david penner architect & H5 Architecture * LEED Silver * footbridge link to adjacent Bonivital Pool site * 2016 circulation = 106,197 * pop. service area = 28,000.</p>		
			

Compiled by READ Rosemount with files and information from participating library systems and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.



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