

The History of the Stellarton Library



The history of having a library in Stellarton goes all the way back to 1830. While it was not always owned by the town, this extensive history shows a love of reading that extends back generations.

- 1830:** First library was opened by the General Mining Association for its employees. It was located at the crossroads on North Foord Street.
- 1890:** A Provincial Workmen's Association Library is opened on the second floor of the Salvation Army Hall (the lot where the RBC is located) by D.C. Fraser (politician). They had 200 books.
- 1930:** Bennie Rogers opened a commercial library on the west side of Main Street. It cost 5 cents to rent a book per week. They had about 4000 books.
- WW2:** First town library is established in the town hall. Due to space restrictions, it was not big enough to meet the towns' needs.
- 1963:** The Pictou County Regional Library established a Stellarton branch. It was located in the former Elmer MacKay building (most recently the location of Rare Knits). It was named the Oulton Memorial Library, after Millage Oulton who was the principal of Stellarton High School from 1911-1938. His wife Grace, left the town a bequest of \$3,000 for library books and this money was used in 1963 when Stellarton joined the Pictou County Regional Library. In 1984, the balance of this bequest was turned over to Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library to spend on books in various categories for the Stellarton Library.
- 1967:** The Library moved to the brick building in Allan Park on Leo Fahey Drive that also housed the Miner's Museum. This building is now the Senior's Centre.
- 1987:** The library moved to its current location at 248 Foord street, the former Bank of Nova Scotia.

