

# PRESS RELEASE



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## Colchester-East Hants Public Library Launches DAISY Lending Program, a New Borrowing Service Designed for Patrons with Print Disabilities

**Truro, NS:** *The Library is committed to providing equitable access to collections, programs, services, and facilities.*

The Colchester-East Hants Public Library launched its new DAISY collection today. DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) is an international accessible format standard which offers a flexible and easy-to-navigate reading experience for people with print disabilities. A print disability can be a:

- Learning disability: an impairment related to comprehension
- Physical disability: the inability to hold or manipulate a book
- Visual disability: severe or total impairment of sight or the inability to focus or move one's eyes

In addition to the nearly 250 DAISY Audiobooks added to local branches across the region, print-disabled patrons will now have access to 33 DAISY Readers. These devices feature large, tactile, high-contrast keys, a built-in speaker and headphone jack, and self-voicing controls. Although designed for people with print disabilities, DAISY Readers will be available to borrow by any patron with a valid CEHPL library card.

"We know that access to reading materials directly impacts academic and economic success, as well as social inclusion, which is why it's so important for us to offer these accessible formats. The DAISY format provides the talking book reader with the same flexibility that readers of conventional print enjoy, including navigation by chapter, section, and page." – Tiffany Bartlett, Chief Executive Officer.

"With the new Daisy service, our patrons can enjoy this new service regardless of a disability. I hope everyone will take advantage of this wonderful service that your libraries are offering. It only gets better. Enjoy everyone!" – Norval Mitchell, Board Chairperson

The DAISY readers, and accompanying DAISY Audiobooks, are now available for FREE at all Colchester-East Hants Public Library locations.

This new service is the most recent addition to the Library's growing accessible format offerings, and is made possible through a generous donation from the Colchester-East Hants Public Library Foundation. The Library also carries large print, audiobooks, e-audiobooks, e-books, and DVDs with described video and closed captioning. Materials can also be borrowed from other libraries through interlibrary loan and the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA).

If you are a Colchester-East Hants resident with a print disability and would like to find out more about Daisy audiobooks and readers, please visit your local branch or contact us at 902-895-4183 or email [info@cehpubliclibrary.ca](mailto:info@cehpubliclibrary.ca).

For an interview or to discuss this release, please contact: Tiffany Bartlett, Chief Executive Officer, at [tbartlett@cehpubliclibrary.ca](mailto:tbartlett@cehpubliclibrary.ca)

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