

Walsh Library, University of Guelph-Humber

Fact sheet

Genesis:

- Since the school opened in 2002, Guelph-Humber students have had to make use of Humber College's campus library
- Guelph-Humber's Vice-Provost, John Walsh, began pursuing plans to construct its own library in 2008
- After receiving an \$85 million grant from Ontario's Education Improvement Fund in late 2010, construction plans moved ahead
- The remainder of the \$100 million budget was solicited through alumni donations
- Famed architectural firm BK Skinner was approached to design plans for the building
- Construction began in April of 2011 and was fully completed by the end of August 2012
- Guelph-Humber's Executive Committee elected to name the library in Walsh's honour to commemorate his dedication to the project

Library Facilities:

- Eight-storeys high
- Designed as a contemporary hybrid of glass and steel beams
- 2,500 internet plug-ins
- Several computer labs
- Meeting rooms to be used by students and community organizations
- Over 125 commissioned works of art on display
- An initial book collection of 300,000

Grand Opening Celebration:

- The Walsh library was unveiled at an open house on Dec 1, 2012
- The event was held from 2 to 5 p.m. in the new library building on Guelph-Humber's campus in Etobicoke
- Approximately 500 students, faculty, community members and press were in attendance
- John Walsh gave opening remarks and expressed his pride in having the library finally completed and open for student use
- The Guelph-Humber Media Students Association presented a brief video presentation detailing the library's journey to completion
- J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter book series, was the guest of honour
- Rowling gave a congratulatory speech, read a passage from her latest book and held a book signing after the formal ceremony
- Social time and refreshments followed
- A photo opportunity was provided to photograph Walsh and Rowling, and both were made available for interviews