

Location wi-fi “Hot Spots” for residents to use while their labs are being set up/if the on site labs are closed due to COVID19: (NPI project)

UPDATE: Currently all library locations are operating via “curbside pickup” and access to the library facilities indoors is temporarily not available until January 28, 2021. Please call individual library locations near you for information about how to access their services during lockdown.

4900 Buckley Towers, 4900 Buckley Avenue Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls Public Library at 4848 Victoria Avenue (is walking distance)

905-356-8080 find out more at: my.nflibrary.ca

-Social distancing and PPE required to access building, all regulations regarding time limits and social distancing must be respected.

The library is close to the building, and suitable for you to use for your mentoring session appointments or for your webinars. **Please bring your cell phone with you; also bring earbuds/earphones with you if you are participating/watching a webinar.**

-Free wi-fi is available outside of the building as well as inside, you don't need a password as it's open to everyone and you can drive to the library and use the wi-fi in your car.

The library is currently allowing people access to the **wifi in the La Marsh Room**, they have set up 9 comfy chairs, all socially distanced, and people can use them if there is an opening for up to an hour. If there is a line up you must go at the end of the hour; if there is no line up you can stay for longer than the time limit.

The Library is open on Wednesdays 10 to 7pm; all other days, the library is open 10-4. Saturdays the library is open from 11-3.

Starting December 1st, the library will make “Study Spaces” available. These can be booked for up to 3 hours. A Library card is not needed to reserve this work space; up to 3 people can use the space; again, masking and all other regulations about social distance and time limits are in place and must be respected.

Tim Horton's coffee 4835 Victoria Avenue and other locations in vicinity but this is closest

Wendy's restaurant locations (there are 2 close by) As always, masks are required and social distancing and time limitations for your visit must be respected.

Stamford Court 3874 Portage Road, Niagara Falls

Stamford Centre Library 3643 Portage Road (under renovation at the moment, with renovations scheduled to wrap up Spring 2021).

Please use the Victoria Avenue Branch, above. Please call: 905-357-0410

You must wear a mask and social distance while inside the library, but access is very limited, "you can browse, borrow, and go".

There is some wifi access from outside the library, and no password is required.

Other locations in the Stamford Court Vicinity:

Tim Horton's 6161 Thorold Stone Road

McDonald's on Thorold Stone Road

124 and 140 Elmview Street; 235 Fitch Street; and 211 King Street, Welland

Welland Public Library Main Branch, 50 The Boardwalk, Welland 905-734-6210

Open 9am and to 8pm Monday to Thursday; Fridays and Saturdays open 9 to 5; closed Sundays.

Free wifi in building, no password required via WPL guest

Seaway Mall branch at 800 Niagara Street is open 10 to 7 Monday to Thursday; open 10 to 5 Friday and Saturday; Closed Sunday.

Diamond Trail School-- 316 Southworth Street

Open 4-8 Mon to Thurs; Closed Friday, open Saturday 11 to 3; Closed Sunday.

The Main branch has 2 plug in wi-fi hot spot devices that they loan out for a week at a time, but there is a waiting list. You can put a hold on them with your library card so that you can take them out to use when your turn comes up.

Main Library has tables and chairs spread out throughout the library and they have 2 study rooms that can accommodate 2 people each safely. There is a time limit of an hour or so, but they are flexible about that. They also have a limit of the number of people in the building (15 maximum), but currently the libraries are not very busy.

Outside of the libraries:

Any Wendy's or McDonald's or Tim Horton's (along Niagara Street both are located)

30 Robinson Street North, Grimsby Ontario

Grimsby Library and Art Gallery, 18 Carnegie Lane 905-945-5142 (please call the library first to find out best times to go to for longest access time). The Grimsby Library has wi-fi hot spot devices that can be borrowed for use by patrons who need wi-fi access at home but don't have it in place. You must have a library card to borrow the devices; and there may be a waiting list. Please contact the library for more details about the devices and up-to-date information about whether or not the library is open to a limited number of patrons with COVID regulations in place.

Station One Coffeehouse, 28 Main Street (has 2 patios open); may have a limit on number of patrons allowed inside and time limits

McDonald's on Livingston Street

479 Carlton Street St Catharines

Dr. Huq Family Library Branch 425 Carlton Street 905-934-7511

(walking distance, about 2 minutes away) is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 to 5 am, with a limit of 15 people in the library at any one time. They are open on Wednesdays from 9 to 8 pm, and closed Fridays and Sundays.

HOWEVER: The branch will open with a skeleton staff for seniors on Fridays between 2pm and 4pm, starting Friday, December 4, 2020...and once again, attendance is by appointment only.

Please be sure to call to set up your appointment ahead of time as they can only allow 15 people into the library at any one time. **If you don't make an appointment for the Friday session but do want to use the library, just let the staff know you are with Cyber-Seniors.** They are expecting you and will let you in if there is room.

Bring your cell phone with you to have your mentoring session; bring your ear buds/phones with you to participate in a webinar or study in a webinar from our archives.

Please be sure to wear a mask and be prepared to respect social distancing and time limit regulations.

UPDATE: the Dr. Huq branch has received funding to purchase more wi-fi hotspot devices in order to help seniors from NRH access the internet from their own homes. More details will be made available about these devices which will be loaned for two weeks at a time. You must have a valid library card to reserve or borrow one of these devices. **Please call the library for more details on how to obtain a card and make arrangements to borrow these plug in devices.**

Wendy's and Tim Horton's restaurants at Grantham and Welland; also **Arby's** on Welland; and Walmart on Welland all have public wi-fi available, and will allow access on a limited basis (masks must be worn, social distancing must be respected, and time limits must be adhered to).

Popeye's on Welland (all fast food restaurants that offer free wi-fi)

**Laura Secord High School,
Fairview Mall Chapters and Starbucks**

Starbucks on Lake Street.

479 Carlton Building D should also have internet service available that is accessible from its source for up to 2500 ft; try connecting to it with the password "Guest"

4278 Queen Street Beamsville

Adult Literacy Centre on Beam Street; (1 minute walk)

Spark Lincoln on Mountain Street (1 minute walk) limited parking but the Spark Guest wifi is available without a password

Lincoln Cultural Centre on Beam street (1 minute walk--and the signal can be accessed from the parking lot when the centre is closed)

Fleming Centre and Fleming Library on Serena Street Beamsville (2 min drive, 15 min walk) **905-563-7014**

10 - 8 Monday through Thursday; 1 - 5 Friday; 10-5 Saturday. Closed Sunday.

PPE and social distancing plus library patron limit for time (1 hour) and number (no more than 15 people at one time). The library is open to all seniors and offers a study room if you would like to use it during your visit for a Mentor Session or webinar with Cyber-Seniors--bring your cell phone and your device and bring earphones/earbuds as well so that you can listen more comfortably, it's not a "shushy" place. Study room is available by reservation every day the library's open except on Thursdays. Please call to reserve the space and tell the staff you are taking part in the Cyber-Seniors learning program. The Fleming Library will allow you to use their desktop computers if you like (3 are available) and they also have chromebooks available for you to use. It's best if you bring your own device as learning on that will make things easier for you.

**Moses F. Rittenhouse Library, 4080 John Charles Boulevard Vineland
(905) 562-5711**

(hours are the same as Fleming branch). The Library does have a meeting room that may be available to seniors who need space to use wifi; also Wifi is accessible during off hours from the parking lot--you don't need a password for access, and you can use the wifi while you're in your car.

Conversations Cafe (2 minute walk) ask for internet password from staff on duty
The Watering Can in Vineland, 905-562-0088 ask for internet password from staff on duty--lots of room for social distancing, please remember that mask and distancing protocols are always in effect
MacDonald's, Wendy's, Tim Horton's all have accessible free wifi.

*****Please note:**

**We hope to have computer labs set up and accessible
To all residents (as long as social distancing and disinfecting
regulations are followed) in each of these buildings soon.**

**In the meantime, If you cannot easily access these nearby wi-fi
locations where you can access the internet for free, **please
contact Cyber-Seniors at 1-844-217-3057**. We will cancel any
mentoring session appointments you can't keep. We can set one
up for you when wi-fi becomes available for you at a later date.**

**Here are the Internet Accounts and Passwords for each of the
Seniors Computer Labs in each of the buildings in our project.
They may be accessible to you if you live next to or immediately
above the common room locations; but NRH will not allow you to
congregate outside of the common room to connect to these
services.**

30 Robinson Street North, Grimsby:

Account number: Cogeco800983

Password: 30robinson

4278 Queen Street, Beamsville:

Account number: 4278 Queen

Password: sccq*1755

**479B Carlton Street, St. Catharines:
Account Number: C7F6A8F5213B
Password: cogeco3003395**

**479D Carlton St., St. Catharines:
Cogeco WiFi Hotspot with automatic login--carries up to 2500 ft.
from signal point. (area around Building B and D) password is
"Guest"**

**235 Fitch Street, East building, Welland
Account Number: Cogeco3145186
Password: C543739851FT**

**124 Elmview Street, Welland
Account Number: Cogeco 27ED
Password: 765888526024**

**140 Elmview Street, Welland
Account Number: Cogeco 149F
Password: 225730315205**

**211 King Street, Welland -- under construction, coming soon
Account Number:
Password:**

**4900 Buckley Avenue, Niagara Falls
Account Number: H0ousingwifi
Password: qxcqv40490**

3874 Portage Avenue, Niagara Falls
Account Number: C488COO32048-5G
Password: 0051765

If you know you can receive these signals in your building and wish to connect to the wifi, please make sure your computer is not set in “Airplane Mode” (see icon below)



*****RCT laptops sometimes have a little “switch” or button on the sides or front of the computer that has to be switched off in order to take the device off airplane mode before you can connect to any wifi or internet service. Feel around for/look for this switch on your device to turn it off.**

Where to get inexpensive accessories for your devices

Inexpensive devices to make using your device more comfortable can be found easily.

- **cordless mouse for your laptop**--Dollarama stores carry a \$4 plastic cordless mouse that runs on AA batteries and connects to your computer via dongle (a little plug in that you put in your USB port). **Batteries** come in packs of 5 for \$1.25. If you have a tablet and prefer to use a **stylus** to use it, these are also available, usually for a dollar or two, in Dollarama or Dollar Tree stores.
- **earphones/earbuds**: if you are simply looking for a way to listen to audio on your device and cancel out some of the surrounding noise while you use your tablet or laptop, you can usually find earbuds in the \$1 to \$4 range. They are not “leading edge technology” for fantastic sound quality, but they do allow you to watch a video or webinar or have a Zoom call with others without having the sound from your device become overheard.
- there are also \$4 **head phones** that you can put on over your ears that are really helpful in cancelling out some surrounding noises, and generally make it easier for you to hear the audio on the computer. They’re comfortable to wear and can be worn over any hearing aids as well.

- On occasion, you can find **USB or “thumb” or “flash” drives** for your laptop, usually for about \$4 each. I’ve also found good drives at Staples for about \$5, with lots of memory storage. It’s good to have one around to back up important data, such as photos.
- **neoprene cases or sleeves for your tablets or laptops**--usually \$2 to \$4, these are light but spongy and protect your laptop or tablet from scratches if you like to carry them in your purse or in a bag. You can often find simple tablet sized “cases” that keep your tablet in place and fold over the screen so that they protect the screen when you carry the device around.
- **wipes for your screen**--also available usually for \$1.25 a package. Sometimes, you can even find screen protectors that adhere to your tablet screen and can be cut to fit your device. These are great for people who want to make sure the screen of their tablet will always remain scratch free.
- **tablet stands**: some are plastic gadgets that flip open to create a “stand” so you can place your tablet on it for movie watching, Zoom calls, and e-book reading. I often see triangle shaped “pillow” type stands for tablets as well, most under \$5 each, sometimes at the Dollarama/Dollar Tree stores.
- **small notebooks** you can use for your passwords! Sometimes you can find these booklets at 3 for \$1, they’re great to use as password booklets as they can be easily hidden or carried, and easy to use. Make a habit of writing down your accounts and passwords with the current date so that you always know the current password--then think of a good place to store this information so it’s difficult for others to find, but easy for you to locate when you need it.
- **charging cables/wireless chargers** that can charge your device without a cord--you can find a suitable mini-USB charging cable for almost any device for about \$4 to \$10 (some have especially long 10 foot cords, which you might prefer). I’ve also seen “firewire” replacement chargers for sale, often at convenience stores or dollar stores, usually for less than \$10.

RCT Warranties for Laptops:

If you find that your laptop computer is not functioning properly, please call RCT directly. Each laptop device comes with a two year warranty, but you must contact RCT to address your problem.

Their number and contact information:

R. C. T. St. Catharines
91 Bunting Road (behind Jeanne Sauve School)
St. Catharines, ON
Phone: 905-682-3883

They are open from 8 am to 4 pm daily from Monday to Friday.

RCT will honour the warranty for any malfunction on the device as long as it has not been damaged by improper use or neglect.

Devices must be presented at RCT in order for the warranty to apply: no device, no warranty.

Please stay up to date with our webinar offerings for Niagara region seniors! We will feature webinars on local services for health care, finances, programs for food and nutrition access, and online activities every week, including things to keep you busy, fit, learning, and independent. Go the Cyberseniors.org and look for our Niagara webpage!