

Annual Report 2001

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

The Barrie Public Library continued to experience an increase in the use of its collections, facilities and services in 2001 caused by the growing population of the City of Barrie. Circulation increased by an impressive 10.13%. Individuals who are active users of the Library rose by 10% to 72,641, giving Barrie one of the highest citizen participation rates (61%) among public libraries in Canada.

In response to the anticipated population growth of the City and the rapid changes being brought about in information based services through technology, the Board commenced implementing the recommendations contained in the Management Structure Review commissioned the previous year. The Barrie Public Library also made a major commitment in terms of staff involvement with the Ontario Public Library Association's Strategic Planning Document, Building Value Together, in order to help all libraries in Ontario address new information challenges and funding issues.

The Library continued to address technology challenges by participating in Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP). Computers, full Internet access and e-mail were made available, without cost, to anyone visiting the Library.

To help generate additional revenue, the Library continued to pursue a number of alternative revenue sources. The first gift was realised from the Library's Planned Giving Program. As well, the Library has actively developed a special volunteer program to operate the Library's Café and Boutique.

I wish to thank the Barrie Public Library Board members for their dedication and commitment in helping the Library address these funding and technology challenges. The year 2001 also saw a change to the Library's senior management. In the fall, Adele Kostiak left to become the CEO for Brampton Public Library. After a nationwide search, Al Davis was appointed as Barrie Public Library's new CEO. Al comes to us after having served as Deputy Director with Edmonton Public Library and as the Director of the Public Library Services Branch with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation. He brings a wealth of experience in the area of public libraries plus a proven commitment to helping communities develop, both within the library sector and beyond. On behalf of the Board and staff we are all pleased to have Al in Barrie and wish to extend him a warm welcome to our community.

As Chair, I want to recognize the contribution made by all the staff and volunteers of the Library. I am impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication that every citizen of Barrie experiences from our staff whenever members of the public use the library.

Ian Platt
Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2001

- ◆ With the assistance of Jack Simpson, a member of the Barrie Storyteller Group and Barrie Literacy Council, the Library celebrated Family Literacy Day. Free books, donated by Scholastic Canada, were handed out to children.
- ◆ On September 8th, International Literacy Day, the Library partnered with the Barrie Literacy Council to host a family literacy event on the Library's Roof Garden called "Readings in the Park."
- ◆ 12 school teams participated in the 7th annual Battle of the Books in early May. The program helps build relationships with schools and the Library in support of reading and literacy.
- ◆ The Georgian Mall Golf Tournament raised \$14,799.92. This was presented to the Library in October during Ontario Public Library Week. The money will be spent on two CD ROM stations for children as well as other children's resources.
- ◆ With sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Barrie and Graham, Wilson and Green, the Library participated in the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival's High Noon Jazz series and Family Jazz Time.
- ◆ Funding from "Share the Stories" initiative of Coca-Cola Ltd. enabled the Library to increase its story time hours. The Library also formed community partnerships with such groups and companies as Barrie Art Club, Graphic Evolution, Ontario Genealogical Society, Brereton Field Naturalists Club of Barrie, Barrie Storytellers, Canadian Tire and Wildfire Education Centre to enhance library services to the Barrie community.
- ◆ The Library also focused on seniors this year, starting an Early Bird Seniors Program that includes Internet workshops, library instruction, book talks and information on topics of special interest to seniors.
- ◆ New electronic informational products were made available through the Library. Canadian newspapers including the Barrie Examiner, Orillia Packet and Times and the Midland Free Press as well as health magazines and pamphlets can now be accessed electronically.
- ◆ Community awareness for the Library was raised through Outreach Programs at the Allandale Recreation Centre and Maclaren Art Centre as well as participation in Barrie events such as Celebrate Barrie and the Barrie Parenting Fair.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY

- ❖ *“Congratulations are in order! The Music/Jazz series was wonderful. A complete service to our community. Keep up the good work, our family will look forward to next year’s series.”*
- ❖ *“I am always so impressed with our library ... so highly ranked in all of Canada.”*

COMPARED TO OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACROSS CANADA

	Barrie Public Library	Average
Expenditures per capita	\$ 23.26	\$ 29.53
Population using library	61%	51%

2001 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

City Of Barrie	2,235,991
General/Fundraising/Grants	253,726
Township Of Oro-Medonte	79,000
Province Of Ontario	278,290
TOTAL	2,847,007

EXPENDITURE

Salaries And Benefits	1,500,955
Materials	556,614
Building Maintenance	156,343
Services	416,312
Capital	76,025
Future Expenditures	140,758
TOTAL	2,847,007

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2001

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