

Annual Report 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Barrie Public Library continues as one of the busiest, most cost effective and self-reliant library services in the midst of one of Ontario's fastest growing cities. To date, the Barrie Public Library continues to have one of the lowest operating costs per capita, compared to similar sized cities. The Library experienced an additional 10% increase in membership and an incredible 40% increase in the number of adults and children attending library programmes this past year. As current space and collection size is near capacity this means the same resources are now shared amongst even more library users.

As the population continues to grow in Barrie, the ability of the Barrie Public Library Board to provide library services to everyone in a manner that is fair and equitable is challenging. Therefore, the Board decided to spend the past year looking at its services and growth challenges, in order to create a vision of public library services that will better meet the needs of our community. The citizens of Barrie are being asked for their input and comments about the future services and directions their Library should pursue.

The Board also looked at the more immediate future, conducting a transportation study at the Library to determine if distance and means of transportation affected how people in different areas of the city are able to use a downtown library. The survey results were then presented to the City Transit Advisory Committee and resulted in City Council placing a bus stop in front of the library. The Barrie Public Library Board expresses its thanks to Council on behalf of all library users.

To improve its ability to raise additional funds for the enhancement of library services and, perhaps, expand library services beyond the current single location, the Library looked for alternative fund raising opportunities. The Library engaged the services of Great White North to bring Dragon Boat Racing to Barrie and began the process of partnering with sponsors for the event. The Library also entered a float in the Santa Claus parade this year, to raise the profile of the library in the community and also to remind everyone that the library's prime mandate is community development.

Most important of all, the Board and Library Staff initiated a strategic planning process to ensure that the vision of library services in Barrie will best meet our community needs and expectations. I wish to thank the Barrie Public Library Board for its participation in the Strategic Plan, and thank the Administration and library staff for their contribution. As this process continues a survey will go out to the community to ask citizens for input and comments about future services and directions.

Ian Platt
Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2002

- ◆ A large addition was made to the Children's CD ROM circulating collection as well as the number of CD ROM stations available to preschool children so they can play educational games.
- ◆ Winterfest was celebrated at the Library and also in partnership with the MacLaren Art Gallery with a "We Read, You Draw" programme.
- ◆ Family Jazz Time was held at the Library in June, as part of the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival.
- ◆ The library performed two puppet shows written by library staff member Kym McOuat and demonstrated the library's Reading Circles at the first annual Road to Reading Festival to promote literacy.
- ◆ The Library participated in the Barrie Santa Claus Parade, held November 24, with a float featured several famous books and stories.
- ◆ Family Literacy Day was celebrated in January with a drop-in two hour Reading circle in the Library with 150 people attending.
- ◆ Battle of the Books was successful once again. A total of 14 teams participated with the "Free Your Imagination" community team winning the Grand Battle.
- ◆ The Radical Readers Reading Circle was offered for the first full year to help children improve confidence in reading and to foster a love of the library and literature.
- ◆ Readopoly was wildly successful. Over 1300 children participated in this summer reading programme that included an online activity. Readopoly was also taken to five different parks during the day for those children not able to visit the library.
- ◆ We began a partnership with the Barrie Folk Society to bring music to our downtown in a relaxed setting. Concerts included artists such as Maria Dunn, Valdy, and Mose Scarlett.
- ◆ Lucy Purdy, a local freelance photojournalist, Heather Kirk, a young local adult author and Shane Peacock, author of books for children and adults, held visits at the library to celebrate Canadian Children's Book Week.
- ◆ Teen Read Week, November 24 - 30, was attended by 175 teens.
- ◆ The month of November was a challenge during the strike by separate school teachers. Staff planned programmes for the children and helped students access the Ontario Government web site for curriculum and learning activities.

- ◆ City Council added a bus stop in front of the library as a result of the Library Board making a presentation to the Transit Advisory Committee. This presentation came out of the *"how did you get to the Library today?"* transportation study conducted in the Library during the summer months.
- ◆ Our Business Library Service initiated a survey with the Barrie business community, and a Business section was added to the Library website.
- ◆ The Library joined the Southern Ontario Multilingual Pool to carry books and videos in a number of different languages. The Chinese and Vietnamese collections had the most use through the year.
- ◆ November saw the launch of the first Library book Club ... a huge success!

On a sad note ...

- ◆ The Library started its year with the death of one of its Children's Services' staff members, Fran Cooke. Fran was a long time employee of the library and is missed by many library users in addition to staff.
- ◆ April 8, the Library was further saddened to by the death of Nancy Irwin, a valued member of the Library Board and active member of the Barrie community. Nancy is missed by all the lives she touched.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY

- ❖ "The new catalogue is absolutely wonderful. I love the design, well organized and uncomplicated, yet informative and extraordinarily useful. Congratulations to you and everyone responsible for these vast improvements."
- ❖ "I was delighted to find that once again Information Barrie had a 'phone number for an association that I could not find elsewhere. This information resource is invaluable! I also find your staff always treat me in a pleasant and professional manner over the 'phone ... "

2002 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

City Of Barrie	2,418,723
General/Fundraising/Grants	340,759
Township Of Oro-Medonte	83,000
Province Of Ontario	271,808
TOTAL	<u>3,114,290</u>

EXPENDITURE

Salaries And Benefits	1,736,091
Materials	611,873
Building Maintenance	157,690
Services	531,017
Capital	51,199
Future Expenditures	<u>26,420</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,114,290</u>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2002

Ian Platt, Chair
William Porter, Vice Chair
Teresa Blain
Vince DeCecco
Alison Eadie
William Fraser
Nancy Irwin (to April)
Catherine Virgo (June onwards)
Lynn McClean
Mark Sherman