

Annual Report 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

The Barrie Public Library Board completed its term of service December, 2003 and in accordance with the Public Libraries Act, City Council appointed a new nine member board comprised of two council, two school and five citizen representatives. Special thanks is extended to the former Board volunteers for their dedication and leadership in making the Barrie Public Library one of the most-used libraries in the province.

2003 was another busy year at your Library and the Barrie Public Library Board continues to face the challenge of providing library services to one of Ontario's largest growing populations. Experiencing approximately a 10% increase in demand for services each year, the Barrie Public Library operates with one of the lowest square footage, collections and staffing complements in Ontario. As part of its strategic vision, the Board administered a survey to its citizens asking what you thought about the Board's proposed multi-branch strategy to address the increasing needs of our population for library services. We also wished to find what level of support exists in our community for a capital campaign to build a satellite library. In addition, we asked you what services you would like to see provided or improved.

The response and ideas to our survey were overwhelming. All-in-all, you like your Library and support the creation of a satellite library. You are sensitive to the congestion and need for more staff, asking that we provide more programmes and more library material as well as more hours of opening. Your Library Board promised to share the survey results with you and we received so many suggestions, comments and ideas that we have chosen to devote a special column in each Library newsletter over the next year to provide a forum for addressing many of these comments. The Barrie Public Library Board wants to extend its thanks to all those in Barrie who took the time to complete the survey and convey their valuable thoughts and vision for library information services in our community.

As part of its marketing and fundraising efforts in Barrie's Sesquicentennial year, the Library held its first Barrie Dragon Boat Festival on our waterfront. 39 teams (36 of them local) pledging for their favourite charities raised \$74,388.90 for the Barrie community, alongside the Library. Pledges to the Library will be used to build a satellite library in Barrie. The Barrie Public Library Board also wishes to express its thanks to the volunteers, participants and sponsors, as well as the staff of the Library and the City of Barrie who made this event so successful and part of our community.

Bill Porter

Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2003

- ◆ Family Jazz Time was held at the Library in June as part of the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival, with weekday noontime concerts, Saturday Family JazzTime and two Image-in-Jazz sessions
- ◆ The Library once again participated in the annual Road to Reading Festival to promote literacy
- ◆ The Library participated in the Barrie Santa Claus Parade, held November 24, with a float featuring “The Polar Express”
- ◆ 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 Grand Battle ending in an unprecedented tie. Joint Champions for 2003 were the teams from St. John Vianney School and from Ferndale Woods School
- ◆ April 2003 saw the launch of our first Teen Poetry Contest with entries having the theme of “Barrie” as we celebrated our City’s Sesquicentennial year
- ◆ Readopoly was hugely successful as we travelled “20,000 Reads Under the Sea”. Over 1600 children participated in this summer reading programme that included an online activity
- ◆ In August 2003 we burned up the Bay as the roar of the dragons heralded the inaugural Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, raising funds for the Library and other local charities. A total of \$74,388.90 in pledges was raised for 22 charities, including the Library
- ◆ Our partnership with the Barrie Folk Society grew with the successful launch of “Saturday Night Unplugged” – an Open Stage venue where people are welcome to participate in a 15-minute set. During 2003 we also hosted a Barrie Folk Society concerts for with JUNO award winning artist David Francey
- ◆ Teen Read Week, November 23 - 28, was attended by 90 teens who borrowed 297 items
- ◆ Business Lunch ‘n Learns and Business Seminars were held throughout the year, offering business owners great learning opportunities
- ◆ During October we celebrated Ontario Public Library Month with many special happenings @ your library™ ... including author readings, children’s programmes and special workshops

- ◆ Fall 2003 saw the launch of TAB, our Teen Advisory Board – a group of teens who CARE about their library, with reps from all Barrie high schools
- ◆ In September we launched an exciting reciprocal membership with the Georgian College Library, allowing our patrons to access the additional knowledge of that academic library
- ◆ In October 2003 we also celebrated the 30th Anniversary of our Visiting Library Service (VLS)
- ◆ Author readings in 2003 included visits from Mel Malton, John Bentley Mays, John Brady, Julie E. Czernada, Kaarina Brooks, Mary Jane Martin, and Trudee Romanek

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY

❖ From a new Barrie resident:

For the Barrie Public Library ...“As a newcomer to Barrie, I would like to commend the Library and it’s staff for wonderful service and friendliness. I especially like to reserve my books on-line and appreciate the phone service that calls to tell me a book is in. I also appreciate that you have discarded and donated books for sale all year round.”

❖ And from a local newspaper:

“Great to hear from you! We are looking forward to continuing columns from the Barrie Public Library. Can't tell you how many people rave about your library -- what a joy it is to enter, the range of books, the pleasure in knowing how many thousands of users there are!”

2003 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue		Expenditure	
City Of Barrie	2,643,078	Salaries and Benefits	1,776,622
General/Fundraising/Grants	294,409	Materials	632,986
Township Of Oro-Medonte	87,150	Supplies and Utilities	202,758
Province Of Ontario	271,808	Services	494,339
<u>Total</u>	<u>3,296,445</u>	Capital	73,536
		<u>Future Expenditures</u>	<u>116,204</u>
		<u>Total</u>	<u>3,296,445</u>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2003

Barrie Public Library is pleased to welcome our incoming Board of Trustees as of December 2003 ...

Lorne Bell
Councillor Patrick Brown
Vince DeCecco
Sarah Kastner
Lynn McClean, *Vice Chair*
William Porter, *Chair*
Councillor Adam Smith
Catherine Virgo

We also thank our outgoing Board members for their volunteer service to their community ...

Ian Platt, Chair
Teresa Blain
Alison Eadie
William Fraser
Mark Sherman