

# **OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2004**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Barrie Public Library Board completed its second term in 2004, welcoming Michele Stong from the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board as the newest of its 9 member Board.

On a per capita basis, the Barrie Public Library continued in 2004 to be one of the busiest public libraries in Ontario. As Barrie's population grows, the Library continues to experience an increase in the number of people who visit and use their Library. On average, 67,485 people visited their Library each month.

While in 2003 your Library Board surveyed the citizens of Barrie to gauge the need and support for another branch library, last year, in response to this, the Board included the building of a 15,000 square foot library in South Barrie as part of the City's capital budget for 2009. As well, the Board has started work in partnership with the City to look at possible locations. Your Board has also started to look at the feasibility of a capital campaign to supplement the City's Development Charges in order to complete this project.

As part of its increased fundraising efforts, the Library held the City's second Dragon Boat Festival raising a total of \$95,174.56 in team pledges for the non-profit Barrie community, including the Library. Once again staff, the many volunteers from the Barrie community, and the dragon boat teams made the Festival an even greater success this year. Pledges raised for the Barrie Public Library, as well as funds raised through other efforts by the Library, will be set aside for the building of the new branch library.

Last year, as part of your Board's continuing efforts to bring the world's information resources to the people of Barrie, the Barrie Public Library participated in a province-wide licensing project to provide you with electronic access to an even greater number of licensed databases from your home or here at your Library. The Library also introduced eBooks, and joined a provincial library consortium to make books in other languages available to meet the information and reading needs of Barrie's culturally diverse community.

On behalf of the Barrie Public Library, I want to express our thanks and appreciation once again to City Council, City staff, Library staff, volunteers, and the entire community for their support of your Library. The Barrie Public Library Board finds it very encouraging to know that everyone shares our belief in how important library services can be in making a difference to every child and adult in our community.

Lynn McClean  
Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

## HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2004

- ◆ 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 an Image-in-Jazz session
- ◆ “Library on the Loose” saw us venture out to such places as the annual Road to Reading Festival to promote literacy, and to the south end Zehrs for regularly featured storytimes.
- ◆ The Library participated in the Barrie Santa Claus Parade in November, with a float featuring “Thomas the Tank Engine”. Marvin B. Moose greatly enjoyed his first parade outing!
- ◆ Battle of the Books celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004 with 19 schools participating. The Champions for 2004 was the team from West Bayfield Elementary School
- ◆ During 2004 the Barrie Library Teens (BLTs) continued to participate in many activities devised by the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). These included the annual Teen Poetry Contest, the Teen Read Week in November, a Teen Poetry CoffeeHouse, and the first Teen Summer Reading Quest.
- ◆ Readopoly was hugely successful as we travelled back in time to “Fire Up Your Imagination: Dragons, Books and Quests”. 1979 children participated in this summer reading programme with 688 players passing GO on the Readopoly board. A visit from the “Knights of Valour” made a great impact at the wrap-up party with 260 people in attendance!
- ◆ August 2004 saw the hugely successful 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, raising funds for the Library and other local charities. A total of \$95,174.56 in pledges was raised for 35 charities, including the Library
- ◆ Our partnership with the Barrie Folk Society continued with the monthly “Saturday Night Unplugged” – an Open Stage venue where people are welcome to participate in a 15-minute set. During 2004 we also hosted a Barrie Folk Society concert with JUNO award winning artist Ken Whiteley
- ◆ Libraries Shake Things Up! Belly dancers descended on the Library for the opening event of Ontario Public Library Month in October! During October we celebrated with many special happenings @ your library™ ... including author readings, children’s programmes and special workshops
- ◆ Author readings in 2004 included visits from Miriam Cote, Anne Laurel Carter, Eva Olsson, Arlene Chan, and Kaarina Brooks

- ◆ The great volunteers of Barrie Public Library were treated to a special luncheon at Kings Buffet in June, as we recognised all their efforts on our behalf
- ◆ “Grand Illusion”, artwork on the grand scale by Phil Richards, was installed in the Library as part of the MacLaren Art Centre ArtCity project for Barrie. Many people visiting the Library ask about "Grand Illusion", and about the people featured in the installation – you can check things out and see pictures of the artwork on the Library website under “Community Partnerships”

### What you have to say about your Library

- *A gentleman at the main information desk was heard giving the Library a rave review:*  
“You have a wonderful system, easy to use, and it’s great to be able to place holds!!!! It’s wonderful that you have videos like Pride and Prejudice. I think you’re just grand!”
- *From an appreciative patron when we answered her e-mail query regarding securing a book through Interlibrary Loan:*  
“Thank you for your assistance and prompt reply, we're looking forward to reading "Darwin's Children".

We've been members of various libraries in Ontario and Alberta, this library has the best service and selection of books and videos of any library we've had the privilege of belonging to.

We appreciate your help.”

### 2004 Audited Financial Statement

#### REVENUE

City of Barrie Public Library	2,800,087
General fundraising and grants	340,386
Township of Oro Medonte	91,508
Province of Ontario	271,808
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,503,789</b>

## EXPENDITURE

Salaries and Benefits	2,069,772
Materials	470,541
Supplies and Utilities	219,179
Services	482,146
Capital	84,296
Future Expenditures	177,855
TOTAL	3,503,789

## QUICK FACTS for 2004!

Visits to the Library	809,827
Materials circulated	1,424,235
Reference questions asked	58,281
Library programmes offered	606
People attending programmes	20,400
People with library cards	96,662