

# OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2005

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the City of Barrie continues to grow, 2005 saw Barrie Public Library, one of the busiest libraries in Ontario, witness more than a 7% increase in the number of Barrie citizens with a library card. As the capacity of our single downtown library is limited in space and, therefore, in its ability to shelve more traditional material for the increased number of users, your Library Board focused its efforts this year on providing more access to electronic resources. While this provides additional access to more resources it does not solve the ever growing challenge of lack of space in a community which loves and fully uses its available library services! Knowing this, we also continued to follow the Library's Strategic Plan in commencing fundraising efforts to establish a satellite branch library in the south of Barrie. Last year's Barrie Dragon Boat Festival raised a total of \$285,037.23 in pledges for 44 different local charities alongside the Library. The Library's share of this has been put towards the new branch and the Board is appreciative of the overwhelming number of people from our community who, in support of *their* Library, participated in the festival - either as paddlers, sponsors or festival volunteers, or by making a pledge to a paddler!

In addition to the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, the Barrie Public Library continued to focus on building community, as well as its Community Partnership role in reflecting the rich social fabric of Barrie's local community. The Library participated in the Santa Claus parade again this year as well as being a host venue for a number of local community activities, including the Barrie Folk Society and the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival. The Library created a number of additional strategic community partnerships with such organizations as Seniors facilities, Barrie Literacy Council and Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing as well as the City of Barrie Social Committee for Downtown Rejuvenation, to name but a few.

The Library is most proud of the way the Barrie community expressed its support for the Library in 2005 through the commitment of volunteer time. Not only did you help with the Dragon Boat Festival but many volunteers assisted their Library on a day-to-day basis in many different ways. Our volunteers helped Barrie Public Library achieve its mission while reflecting the diverse range of the Barrie community and demonstrating the importance of the Library to everyone who lives in our community. In 2005 we saw 150 volunteers from all walks of life working with us here at your Library ... students to seniors, people new to Canada who are strengthening their language skills, people developing job skills, people involved in rehabilitation after a life-changing illness or an accident, co-op students, exchange programme students, and retirees. All these community-minded volunteers helped us to shelve books, manage the Kozlov Café, open the Helen G. Saso Boutique, make deliveries to our Visiting Library Service patrons, and become Reading Buddies for our Reading Circle family literacy program or members of the Library's Teen Advisory Board. Six of our volunteers were nominated for the Ontario Volunteer Service Award last year and one was featured on Rogers Television's

“Hometown Heroes”. The Barrie Public Library could not have achieved its current level of service or community involvement without our volunteers – thank you everyone!

*Lynn McClean*

Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

## **HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2005**

- ◆ Your award winning library does it again! Barrie Public Library received a Ministry of Culture Ontario Public Library Service Award in the large library category for its Dragon Boat Festival fundraising project which benefits so many local charities and raises awareness of the Library. Presented at the Ontario Library Association's annual conference in February 2005 we are proud to say that our fantastic public library here in Barrie received the **Minister's Award for Innovation**
- ◆ Once again in November your Library participated in the annual Barrie Santa Claus Parade, with a float featuring our mascot Marvin B. Moose. We were very excited when “Marvin’s Moosical Christmas” won an Honourable Mention!
- ◆ Our annual Battle of the Books continued to grow and the 2005 Champions were from St. John Vianney school
- ◆ Summertime saw hot jazz up on the roof as we hosted concerts as part of the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival. Our weekday High Noon concert series had smooth music, and our Family JazzTime was a great hit on the Saturday
- ◆ In Fall 2005 our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) worked with Rock 95 to create a series of radio ads promoting their library. As teens are the patrons of the future, their voice is an important one! This was a fantastic experience for the Teen Advisory Board and many thanks to everyone at Rock 95 and KOOL FM for their support. Oh – if you haven’t yet heard the ads go check them out on our website!
- ◆ “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, aswell as to some of our Seniors residences around the city
- ◆ Readopoly was hugely successful once again as we followed the “Blast Off into Summer” space-theme, which was very well received. 1,785 kids participated throughout the summer and many arrived to enjoy the Mad Science session at our Readopoly Wrap-up party.
- ◆ August 2005 saw our amazing Annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival have a very special third year raising funds for the Library and other local charities. An

incredible total of \$285,037.23 in pledges was raised for 44 different charities alongside 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. In October 2005 we also hosted a Barrie Folk Society concert with Garnet Rogers – a very exciting evening with one of Canada’s finest singer/songwriters
- ◆ The Reading Buddies programme completed a great successful year in the spring of 2005 with 30 children matched with a teen buddy.
- ◆ We celebrated Ontario Public Library Month in great style in October! Throughout the month we celebrated with many special happenings @ your library™ ... including author readings, children’s programmes and special workshops
- ◆ Author visits in 2005 included readings from Anne Laurel Carter, Franky Morriello, Jim Barber and Julie Czerneda

## **What you have to say about your Library**

*As our community grows and diversifies we continue striving to keep up and offer complete library services for all our patrons. Here are just a few of your comments received throughout 2005 :*

- “My son and I come to the library once a week and use a variety of services available. I would like to see an extension or branch of the building built. Barrie is growing so should our library!”
- “This is such a cool library! I think it’s really cool how you guys listen to “the people’s” requests and opinions. This is the coolest and nicest library I’ve been to and I’m sure if I go somewhere else I’ll miss this one.”
- “We are already anticipating the return of your Readopoly. This reading program helped encourage our son to begin a quest that has continued to this day. The dividends are huge. His teacher at school cannot believe his progress. Our son is in grade one at Terry Fox school and is currently reading at a senior Grade 2 level. Thank you Barrie Public library staff.”
- “I am very pleased with the range of diversity in your book and DVD/VCR collection. It’s very good to be so well represented as a lesbian in your library. Keep up the great work.”

- “The library is a wonderful piece of architecture and colourful paintings add to the exciting atmosphere. There are also many awesome programmes for anyone to enjoy. The TAB is also very cool. Thank you for giving Barrie students a great library to learn and explore.”

In return, we say a huge **thank you** to all our wonderful patrons. Thank you for sharing your comments and concerns with us, and please continue to do so. Together we can all continue ... *Enriching Our Community!*

## 2005 Audited Financial Statement

### REVENUE

CITY OF BARRIE	2,990,504
GENERAL	229,112
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	96,083
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO	271,808
FUNDRAISING	130,023
FUTURE COMMITMENT	113,562
TOTAL	3,831,092

### EXPENDITURE

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,235,678
MATERIALS	540,688
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	385,802
SERVICES	433,727
CAPITAL	79,383
FUTURE COMMITMENT	155,814
TOTAL	3,831,092

## QUICK FACTS for 2005:

Visits to the Library	839,749
Materials circulated	1,457,533
Reference questions asked	61,459
People with library cards	104,026