

Our Annual Report to the Community 2006

Message from the Chair

The Barrie Public Library Board completed its term of service in December of 2006 and, in accordance with the Public Libraries Act, City Council appointed a new incoming Board consisting of two Council members, a member from each of the public and separate school boards and five citizen representatives. As the current Chair of the Board of Trustees I would like to note at this time the services of the following members of the Library Board in the past term, and thank them once again for their willing service: Lorne Bell; Patrick Brown; Alison Eadie; Bill Porter (Past Chair, deceased); Adam Smith. I look forward to working with the returning members and new members of the Board of Trustees.

The incoming Board is tasked with continuing to serve this community as it manages and plans for unprecedented growth. We eagerly anticipate working with Barrie City Council and our many other partners to bring a satellite branch Library to the south end of the city during this term, following the direction set out in our Strategic Plan.

In 2006 the Barrie Public Library's 4th Annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival moved to Heritage Park, in the heart of downtown, bringing the teams closer together in a way that allows greater camaraderie amongst the paddlers and spectators. Although Mother Nature stirred up the waters of Kempenfelt Bay and prevented the teams from racing, everyone enjoyed the Tug-of-War competition and \$182,836.73 was raised for 48 charities in and around our community. As Chair, my sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers who help us achieve this, and to all the teams, paddlers and spectators who come out to join in the fun! By the time this report is in print we will have held yet another successful dragon boat event for our community – see details inside!

Our Library continues to see more than 180 volunteers give their time here at their Library to help achieve our mission of life long learning, while reflecting the diverse range of the Barrie community and demonstrating the importance of the Library in our community. The contributions of these volunteers provide the needed resources to operate the Kozlov Café, run the Helen G Saso Boutique, help keep our shelves neat and tidy, and assist with an ever-expanding roster of programmes for every demographic of Library user.

Of particular note; it was my pleasure to serve on the previous Barrie Public Library Board with Mr. William (Bill) Porter. As a long-standing member, Bill embodied the best of an effective and impassioned representative. He was involved, knowledgeable, thorough and committed to making this Library the best vehicle with which to Enrich our Community. Bill passed away in April of 2006 and his presence is missed by staff, volunteers, Board members and patrons. To celebrate and honour his love of the Library, his family chose to make a \$10,000 donation establishing The William C. Porter Library Endowment Fund. This endowment is administered by the Barrie Community Foundation (BCF) to provide annual grants to the library in perpetuity. One of over 150 community foundations across Canada, the BCF was established in April 2005

to support the Barrie and area community through the creation of endowment funds and annual granting to eligible charities.

This type of gift provides a source of permanent funding by ensuring that the original donation will never be depleted. It is the Porter Family's hope that their gift will encourage others to add their donation to this endowment to continue encouraging future generations to pursue culture and life-long learning. Public funding supports libraries, but often it is private gifts that make them flourish.

December 2006 also saw your Library celebrate ten years of community library service from our beautiful building and current location at 60 Worsley Street. Over those ten years we have seen diversity growing in our city and we chose to mark our 10th Anniversary in this building by celebrating the changing face of Barrie. Citizen support has always been the basis of the Barrie Public Library and we invited all of you – our citizens and patrons – to join us as we celebrated “One Library, Many Faces” with some of the community groups whose cultures contribute to the rich diversity of Canadian life. Then in the evening, as the closing event for our day of One Library, Many Faces, many of you joined us to meet Katherine Barber, Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary and “Canada’s Word Lady”. What a great follow-up to a day of cultural exploration and great ending to our year!

Sarah Kastner,
Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2006

- ◆ TAB is getting noticed across North America! In 2006 TAB worked with Roger's TV to film television versions of the radio commercials previously recorded and aired with Rock 95 to promote the Library. Various libraries from across Canada and the U.S. have noticed and contacted us about these ventures
- ◆ Our annual Battle of the Books continued to grow and the 2006 Champions were from West Bayfield Elementary School, with Algonquin Ridge Elementary School taking the silver medal and the bronze going to Codrington Elementary School
- ◆ The Moore Packaging Reading Garden was once more a hot and happening place 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, sponsored by Graham, Wilson & Green, was a great hit on the Saturday
- ◆ We have fantastic volunteers here – and in 2006 five of them were honoured with the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 5 or more years of volunteer service with Barrie Public Library
- ◆ “Library on the Loose” saw us out and about in our community at such diverse events as the annual Road to Reading Festival, Celebrate Barrie, and the Youth Centre for their

Information Fair, as well as making our regular visits to the south end Zehrs for storytimes (now two each week to accommodate the number of people who attend!)

- ◆ Readopoly was hugely successful once again as we followed the “Quest for Heroes” TD Summer Reading theme. 1,535 kids participated throughout the summer and many arrived to enjoy the Erewhon Theatre’s version of Charlotte’s Web play at our Readopoly Wrap-up party.
- ◆ Our 2006 annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival saw dragon boating with a difference as strong winds brought “big water”, and so we held a hugely successful dragon boat tug-of-war! We continued raising funds for the Library and other local charities as a grand total of \$182,836.23 in pledges was raised for 48 different charities alongside the Library
- ◆ 2006 saw a true non-resident patron join Barrie Public Library, to utilise our online and electronic services by long distance from his home in Japan
- ◆ 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 June 2006 we also hosted a joint fundraising venture with the Barrie Folk Society as “A Gala with Dala” proved a great success!
- ◆ Fair Trade Coffee was introduced at our Kozlov Café – Here at Barrie Public Library we feel that serving Fair Trade Coffee is a natural move in line with our ethical practices. Please show your support of Fair Trade Coffee and the Library by purchasing a cup next time you visit.
- ◆ In October we celebrated Canadian Library Month with many special happenings @ your library™ ... including author readings, children’s programmes and special workshops. We also held our very first “Who Read That” contest for our community. Seven local personalities plus a staff member were featured: Janice Laking, Bob Cassels, Jamie Hall from B101, author Trudee Romanek, Kevin Frankish from City TV, Matthieu Methot from the Barrie Colts and skater Jennifer Robinson
- ◆ Teens read more at Barrie Public Library! An online Teen Summer Reading programme, called Teen Survivor, made its debut as we look for more ways to engage teens. And a book club for teens made its debut in the Fall of 2006, helped by a grant from Starbucks to assist with purchasing of books and shelving
- ◆ Author visits in 2006 included readings from Kathy Stinson, Shane Peacock, Julie Czernada, Katherine Barber, and a workshop for children with Martha Attema
- ◆ Our new Kids Zone webpages were launched in November to help celebrate Canadian Children’s Book Week
- ◆ December 2006 brought a very special gift to Barrie Public Library as the Porter and Syme Families chose to recognize the special love of libraries shown throughout his life by Bill

Porter, through establishing the William C. Porter Library Endowment Fund. Bill was a very dedicated Board member of Barrie Public Library's Board of Trustees, and he served a number of terms as a Board Member from 1989 through to his death in April, 2006

- ◆ December 2 saw us celebrate ten years here in our beautiful building and current location at 60 Worsley Street with the celebratory event "One Library, Many Faces" designed to reflect the changing face of our city. Then in the evening, as the closing event for our day, we were joined by "Canada's Word Lady" for an entertaining look at Canadian English. What a great follow-up to a day of cultural exploration!
- ◆ And, once again, Christmastime saw Barrie Public Library staff, Board Members and volunteers respond generously with donations to the David Busby Street Centre

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 2006:

- "You were very helpful and wonderfully prompt. Now that is 'real' customer service." *(regarding electronic services from our Information Services reference staff)*
- "I would like to thank all the wonderful people who work at this library. Your friendliness, respect, kindness and commitment is so amazing. Serving the public is always a tough job, but your front desk staff never seem to grow weary. We all love coming here and are always singing your praises to people outside Barrie. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all the terrific staff who work and serve within these walls."
- "This is just a short note, to thank you and your fellow staff members for your wonderful e-library resources. I am a person with multiple handicaps, and at present I cannot walk. (This is a temporary, although galling, problem.) As you may well imagine, gaining access to library information on-line is a 'god-send' for a person in my situation! I have spent the past hour or so reading an excellent book on using Microsoft Excel 2000 on-line, and I am so grateful to all of you for giving me this opportunity to learn in the comfort and privacy of my home! Thank you again for a resource that means the world to me."
- I am aware of the on-line facilities which are excellent! I really like the new look of the Library website. Very user friendly! However, it is really handy to have the hardcopy directory for client use. Thanks for all your help and for producing such a worthwhile resource. We will look forward to the new edition whenever it comes out! *(regarding the Community Directory produced through Information Barrie)*

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

2006 Audited Financial Statement

REVENUE	
CITY OF BARRIE	3,451,625
GENERAL	228,754
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	100,887
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO	271,808
FUNDRAISING	137,811
FUTURE COMMITMENT	155,814
TOTAL	4,346,699

EXPENDITURE	
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,382,750
MATERIALS	634,025
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	420,226
SERVICES	385,367
CAPITAL	197,728
FUTURE COMMITMENT	326,603
TOTAL	4,346,699

Quick Facts for 2006

- 69,226 citizens had library cards
- The Library had 783,071 visits
- 1,471,582 items were borrowed
- The website was visited more than 1 million times
- 700,000 reservations were taken to use the public computers
- Over 17,500 residents participated in reading and literacy programmes
- \$182,836 was raised in pledges for 48 different charities through the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

Library Quote:

“These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but minds alive on the shelves.”
 ~ Gilbert Highet, writer (1906-1978) ~