

Our Annual Report to the Community 2007

Message from the Chair



The Barrie Public Library Board completed its second year in 2007, working with City Council and City staff to complete the Board's last objective of its Strategic Plan ... a branch library for south Barrie in response to the projected demand for library services in the most rapidly growing part of our City. Currently, the Barrie Public Library has less than half the number of square feet per capita than any other Ontario public library and is the only city of its size with a single location. The library will be built as part of the City's Painswick Town Centre site and doors are expected to be open in the fall of 2010.

As the Library Board will be expected to raise \$1,000,000 toward the completion of the branch library, we conducted a feasibility study in 2007 to gauge public interest and support for such a project. Preliminary findings are very encouraging and the Board is pleased to realize that their interest in public library services is reflected throughout the Barrie community.

In 2007 your Library received a very special gift as The K'Leigh Cundall Children's Library Endowment Fund was officially established by the Cundall family in memory of their daughter, K'Leigh. K'Leigh had a great love of books and of libraries and always wanted a library of her own. This endowment is an extension of K'Leigh's love of books, of libraries and of children. Every year, proceeds from the endowment will be used by the Barrie Public Library for Children's Services.

On November 8th, 2007, the Library's Barrie Dragon Boat Festival received the 2007 Bell Canada Community Award at the Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce Bell Canada Business Awards gala. This award is given to non-profit institutional organizations or community association that have made a significant and positive impact on our community. The Barrie Public Library Board thanks Bell Canada and everyone in the Barrie Community for their help in creating our success.

On behalf of the Barrie Public Library, I want to express our thanks and appreciation once again to City Council, City staff, Library staff, our volunteers, and the entire community for their support of our 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 Barrie a better and stronger community.

Sarah Kastner
Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2007

- ◆ Our Children's Services Department is getting known for their puppetry skills! They presented three puppetry workshops for librarians in Kemptville and Barrie in 2007 and were invited to present at the annual provincial library conference.
- ◆ Our French language collection for teens was highlighted with a “Favourite French Books for Teens” contest, including a live radio interview with Patricia Roebuck, French & Multilingual Services Librarian.
- ◆ June saw hot happenings as we hosted cool jazz out on The Moore Packaging Reading Garden as part of the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival. Our High Noon concert series saw a variety of performers and our Family JazzTime, sponsored by Graham, Wilson & Green, was a great hit on the Saturday.
- ◆ March 2007 saw the launch of Libraries ON The Go (LOTG), our popular audio book download service.
- ◆ During 2007 several new databases were added to give our patrons even more research capabilities. These included Ancestry Library, Encyclopaedia Universalis, Imagine Canada – Canadian Directory to Foundations and Corporations, and the Biography Resource Center
- ◆ May saw a new partnership with the Barrie Latin Cultural Association to provide storytimes in Spanish for families at the library. We have been asked regularly for Spanish books for children and this seems an ideal partnership to help fill some of the community needs.
- ◆ Your library has an amazing number of volunteers with approximately 170 on our roster. During 2007 we had 78 new volunteers join our ranks.
- ◆ “Library on the Loose” saw Library staff participate in several community events and visit many schools over the year. Community events included Celebrate Barrie, the Road to Reading Festival, Welcome Wagon Wedding and Baby Shows and Literacy/Bedtime/Parent nights at several schools. Library on the Loose storytimes at Zehrs continued to be very popular with an average attendance of 58 at each storytime.
- ◆ Children's and teen programmes continued to be very successful and popular. Our annual Battle of the Books grew again with 19 schools taking part. Readopoly had another successful year with 1391 children registered for our Readopoly game based on the TD Summer Reading theme of "Lost Worlds". Teens also enjoyed a summer of reading with our online Teen Survivor Summer Reading programme. And we celebrated the release of the last Harry Potter book with a late-night party from 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the library. 170 children, teens and adults came and a great time was had by all - well past normal bedtimes! The first people on hold for the library's 21 copies of the book were invited to pick up their copy at the party.

- ◆ Our 2007 annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival saw the cumulative pledge total from this annual event reach \$785,435.97 – that’s over three quarters of a million dollars which has gone to more than 60 charities alongside your Library since 2003! We are so proud of the Library’s role in bringing this bounty to our community.
- ◆ In October we celebrated Canadian Library Month with many special happenings @ your library™ ... including contests, author readings, children’s programmes and special workshops. Author visits throughout 2007 included readings from Victoria Miles and Lady Yates, a writing workshop for children with Martha Attema and a visit from children's recording artist Debbie Carroll.
- ◆ In 2007, several of our volunteers received an Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of five or more years of service and all our volunteers were invited to a cruise of beautiful Kempenfelt Bay on the Serendipity Princess in appreciation of the hours they devoted to the Library.
- ◆ 2007 brought another very special gift to Barrie Public Library as The K’Leigh Cundall Children’s Library Endowment Fund was set up by the Cundall family in memory of their daughter, K’Leigh. K’Leigh had a great love of books and of libraries, and she always wanted a library of her own. This endowment is an extension of K’Leigh’s love of books and of libraries and of children.
- ◆ 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 2007:

- “I tell people that our library is like a university for the people of Barrie.”
- “Your role model has fostered a deeper commitment within me to strengthen Makenna’s literacy skills. I now find several opportunities daily as we sing, play and read together.”
(note in a Mom’s thank-you card regarding our Every Child Ready to Read literacy programme)
- “Your cleaning staff is awesome! And the librarians and pages are so helpful and friendly.”
- “I 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! *(a local journalist commenting on community feedback received)*

- “My family recently moved to Barrie and I am very pleased with the summer program. One of the biggest benefits is that the kids are learning how to use the library, where various subject areas are, etc. Please let your staff know that I think the program is just excellent! *(a new “local Mom” regarding Readopoly)*
- “Thank you so much for your prompt reply! There is even more family information in the obit and death notice than I could have hoped for. Through the convenient CanadaHelps.org facility on the 'Support Your Library' page, I have made a modest donation to the Barrie Public Library.” *(regarding genealogy research assistance)*

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!*

2007 Audited Financial Statement

REVENUE

CITY OF BARRIE	3,754,031
GENERAL	218,416
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	105,931
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO	283,235
FUNDRAISING	125,911
TOTAL	4,487,524

EXPENDITURE

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,640,092
MATERIALS	573,523
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	345,920
SERVICES	518,208
CAPITAL	49,509
FUTURE COMMITMENT	360,272
TOTAL	4,487,524

Quick Facts for 2007

- 64,480 citizens had library cards
- The Library had 945,366 visits
- 1,908,731 items were borrowed
- The website was visited more than 1.3 million times
- 83,155 reservations were taken to use the public computers
- Over 20,000 residents participated in reading and literacy programs
- \$148,498.55 was raised in pledges for 42 different charities through the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

Library Quote:

“Here is where people,
One frequently finds,
Lower their voices
And raise their minds”

~Richard Armour~ author (1906-1989) - on libraries