

## Our Annual Report to the Community 2008

### Message from the Chair



2008 was a busy year for the Barrie Public Library Board as we attempted to fulfill the five goals and actions of the Library's Strategic Plan. They are to increase capacity to meet the needs of our growing population; focus the Library's resources on services of most value to the community; increase the Library's ability to deliver services of value to the community; take full advantage of technology to deliver library services; and increase public support for the Library as an essential community service.

The nine members of the Library Board, including two dedicated City Councillors, worked hard to raise the Library's profile as a strong community partner, providing a wide variety of programmes and services to meet the needs of our growing City, while still supplying the resources and information that people have relied on for generations. The processes with which people access information and entertainment resources may have changed as our world becomes more "wired", but as I overheard a grandmother explaining to her small grandson yesterday on his first visit to the Library, "You can find everything you will ever need to know right here, for free". Through our participation in the "Libraries on the Go" consortium, we have increased the availability of audio books and e-books. We also provide access to on-line data bases, wireless internet access, specialized business and health and wellness librarians, as well as old favourites like the children's and teen programmes, and workshops on a wide spectrum of topics ranging from computers to Sudoku. The popularity of these programmes means that they are often over-subscribed, something we hope to see ease as we start to build branch libraries. To meet a need identified in our community surveys, we offer Moose on the Loose StoryTime programmes at the Zehr's in the South end, and these have been very well received. And in Fall 2008 our teens were excited as we launched our new Teen Territory website for young adults, and held a special "Twilight" event with over 200 teens here at the Library.

As we strive towards our goal of increasing capacity by moving towards a multi-branch system, we have begun laying the foundation for our Capital Campaign to raise \$1 million to build a branch in the South end. While the formal launch of that campaign will be in 2009, work has already begun with group feedback and patron surveys to help us discern what Barrie residents want to see in all their Libraries, not just in the first new branch.

On behalf of the Barrie Public Library Board, I would like to acknowledge the importance of the support of the community, and the excellent work of our capable staff and volunteers in providing the residents of Barrie with one of Ontario's and most well-run Public Libraries. We appreciate the high regard in which the citizens hold the Barrie Public Library, and welcome

your input into our future directions. We hope you will all support the Branching Out Campaign as we prepare to build that first Branch Library.

*Catherine Virgo*

Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board

## **HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES 2008**

- ◆ In October 2008 we launched our new Teen Territory website giving teens easy access to everything Library! Geared towards Young Adults this website is teen friendly and has garnered great feedback.
- ◆ And that same month your Library also went wireless, offering free wireless Internet access to the public everywhere in our building.
- ◆ Once again in June we hosted cool jazz up on the roof 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.
- ◆ Canada Book Day (April 23) saw Library staff out and about at the Barrie South Go Station, promoting our great Libraries ON The Go (LOTG) audio book download service to commuters on the outgoing and incoming trains.
- ◆ During 2008 our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) helped us offer teens opportunities to join book clubs, our Manga Club, Teen Read Week, summer Teen Survivor, meet authors, excel at Guitar hero, try belly dancing or yoga, learn about entrepreneurship, and participate in our Creative Arts contest and expo night.
- ◆ November saw over 200 teens congregate at the Library for an after-hours Twilight party, celebrating the Twilight series of books. With refreshments, Twilight trivia, contests and prizes, plus live music, this was a vibrant and lively event!
- ◆ Wow! Over 180 volunteers gave their time to help our community by volunteering with us in 2008. Your Library also participated in volunteer recognition events and volunteer job fairs for Barrie.
- ◆ “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 Chamber of Commerce events. Library on the Loose storytimes at Zehrs continued to be very popular with an average attendance of 58 at each storytime.

- ◆ Children had many opportunities to participate in some exciting special programmes including drumming for Black History Month, Winterfest Moose Tracks, Laugh Out Loud Readopoly, and Go Green March Break activities. Our Summer Reading Readopoly game was more popular than ever with 1,407 children registered for Summer fun with a “Laugh Out Loud” theme at your Library”, and our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Battle of the Books grew again with 22 schools taking part.
- ◆ Our 2008 annual Barrie Dragon Boat Festival saw the cumulative pledge total from this annual event reach \$925,000 – that’s almost 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 2008, seven of our fantastic volunteers received an Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of five or more years of service. All our volunteers were invited to a special recognition event and gift of thanks at Christmas, in appreciation of the hours they devoted to the Library.
- ◆ 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 John Stoddart, Sherry Lawson, graphic novelist Lady Yates, and William Bell.
- ◆ 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 2007 we also hosted concerts with Lennie Gallant, and Valdy plus folk society “A Gala with Treasa Levasseur”.
- ◆ Armchair travelers who joined us for various presentations in our “Around the World in 60 Minutes” series were able to visit Australia, China, and the high Himalaya with our fantastic guest speakers.
- ◆ 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 2008:*

- We used the Heritage and Citizenship pathfinder for our homeschool study unit. It was very helpful. It also gave my boy a chance to look for books on his own. I love this library.” *(from a satisfied parent)*

- A woman came up to me at the desk this evening and said our newsletter was wonderful – “chock full of interesting information” and then she pointed to the Audiobooks Online information on the cover and asked how to sign up for it. *(heard from a staff member at the Information Services Desk)*
- “Great environment to do study and research. Internet availability is such a bonus.”
- The library is a great and wonderful place. I really enjoy coming here to sign out books and movies. The only things missing are more multicultural movies in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi and more tv series that aren’t for 6-10 years old but is suitable for everyone. Thank you. *(from a regular young teen user of the library.)*
- “You have made the Festival something not only the library can be proud of, but something the whole city can look on with pride. Speaking for myself and other volunteers I’ve worked with over the years we are all proud to be part of such a well run, well executed and successful event. All the sponsored charities do well, everyone has a great time and it has brought further notice to our great waterfront. CONGRATULATIONS to you both and PADDLES UP for next year!” *(a local volunteer commenting on the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival)*

In return, we say a huge **thank you** to all our wonderful supporters and 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!*

## **2008 Audited Financial Statement**

### **REVENUE**

CITY OF BARRIE	3,899,619
GENERAL	198,119
TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE	111,228
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO	276,608
FUNDRAISING	126,608
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,612,182</b>

### **EXPENDITURE**

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,866,111
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MATERIALS	575,475
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	347,504
SERVICES	560,144
CAPITAL	3,433
FUTURE COMMITMENT	259,515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,612,182</b>

## **Quick Facts for 2008**

The Library had over one million in-person visits

- 2,282,941 items were borrowed
- 66,621 reservations were taken to use the public computers
- The website was visited more than 1.7 million times
- 40,000 new items were added to your library collection
- Almost 25,000 residents participated in reading and literacy programmes
- \$142,929.38 was raised in pledges for 37 different charities through the Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

## **Library Quote:**

“The richest person in the world - in fact all the riches in the world - couldn't provide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library.”

*~Malcolm Forbes~ businessman and millionaire (1919 – 1990) - on libraries*