

BOROUGH OF YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

1971

MR. BROCK MORLEY - Chairman

MR. CARL CASKEY - Vice-Chairman
Resigned November, 1971

MR. PETER BOSA - Mayor's Representative

MR. C.D. CUTHBERT

MR. C.H. GOODFELLOW

MR. J.M. HAVEY

MR. FRANK LAMBERT

MRS. HOWARD VAUGHAN
Resigned October, 1971

MRS. HILDA YOUNG

MISS EDITH PARSONS, December 1971

MR. F.R. RUTHERFORD, November and December 1971

With the Chief Librarian's Compliments

BOROUGH OF YORK PUBLIC LIBRARIES

WITHDRAWN

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BOROUGH OF YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT - 1971

HIGHLIGHTS

The most exciting and important change during 1971 was the extension of public hours of service. In September all the libraries opened on Wednesdays, formerly a traditionally closed day for libraries, and in October the Main Adult Department started giving service on Sunday afternoons through to April.

York was among the first of Metro Toronto library systems to request these changes and to obtain Council's approval of the necessary budget.

A second change implemented by the Library Board was the introduction of students at an earlier level to the Young People's and Adult Department. Until this year the transfer was made at the end of grade 7 but it has been evident for some time that this is not soon enough.

Because grades 7 and 8 are frequently integrated and because of reading and assignment levels it was recognized by all concerned that it was a necessary step to give the students access to the use of adult library materials as soon as they had achieved grade 7. As before, they would be free to continue to use the Boys and Girls Department also, as we know some do.

In its role as a cultural centre the library brings to the community several valuable art exhibitions each year; an example of 1971's was SIXTY YEARS OF PICASSO, viewed by 428 persons in the two weeks it was on display. Several teachers took advantage of some of these to bring groups of students and give them the opportunity to see the work of top professional artists.

Incidentally, among the 14 art shows was a two week exhibit of 132 winning pictures in a Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the York Safety Council. The library auditorium was crowded with parents and children at the official opening and all together 602 persons attended the showing.

This year the collection of musical recordings was increased to extend the service to two more branches. Now all the libraries have some to circulate for home use and also listening facilities within the buildings.

In 1971 tape cassettes were added to the audio-visual materials for circulation.

A new series of programmes for children was initiated to draw attention to the library. One of these featured Spanish music and dancing with an exhibit of Spanish books and materials, and posters from Spain. This had an audience of 135. Another musical Saturday afternoon drew 140 children and parents. Many of these were Italian mothers who brought children into the library who wouldn't have come otherwise. Later they returned to support the regular story-hours for boys and girls.

There were many special children's programmes arranged during Winter Break week. The Jane Street Branch, for example, had 3 puppet plays averaging 80 to 90 each in attendance.

Such programmes, and the addition of some children's books in Italian, encourage New Canadian parents to investigate the library's services and to attain a better attitude towards them.

In this connection a librarian was requested to speak at the York Information Centre in St. Thomas Aquinas School, to inform the Italians present of the library's resources and how to register to use them.

The Public Library co-operated with the York Committee of the Social Planning Council in a resource function for a citizen participation meeting at which Mayor White and several others presented views on CAN THE BOROUGH OF YORK SURVIVE WITHOUT APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT?

The librarians compiled two selected lists of readings on Urban Development and a display on the subject which met with high interest and was most à propos with the concern indicated by the study undertaken for the Borough Council later.

Staff members served on several Metro library committees designed to facilitate the solving of mutual problems. For the same reason joint meetings of all public library trustees in Metro were held periodically and the chairman and secretary-treasurer of the York Library Board were elected as executive officers to arrange and conduct these discussions.

The Jane Street Branch is the neighbourhood library most used by its community and it has out-grown its premises in the twenty years of expanded and increased services. For this reason the Council obtained approval in 1971 for debentures to be sold to enable the library board to purchase more land with a view to expansion in 1972.

REVIEW OF 1971

EXTENSION SERVICES

The library service at the Northwestern Hospital has had an excellent year. With the new Head of the Women's Auxiliary co-operation has been most satisfactory making the volunteer service to the floors much more regular and consequently increasing the use of books. Nearly a third of the periodicals and books circulated are in the Italian language.

The mini-library, in the building at 101 Humber Boulevard, for Senior Citizens is growing slowly in membership but rapidly in circulation. Though open only one and one-half hours a week, 3,682 books were read in the ten months of service as compared to 2,107 in six and one-half months during 1970.

The Bookmobile is still an appreciated extension of service to the school libraries but is becoming more and more costly and difficult to maintain and, since school library collections are increasing, the service will eventually be considered expendable.

Film showings at Main and branch libraries were presented to adults and to children with varying attendance but a total of three thousand attended the ninety-eight programmes.

Art exhibitions were held regularly at Main and Mount Dennis libraries including six loaned by Art Gallery of Ontario and some drawing attention to local artists.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The past year was an extremely hectic one for the Technical Services Department due to five staff resignations out of a total of only eight in the department. Three of the replacements have proven very satisfactory. The other two replacements commence work in 1972.

The reclassification of the Boys and Girls stock to the Dewey Classification has proceeded smoothly due to the efforts of Mrs. Audrey Thompson and the co-operation of the Boys and Girls Department and the branches.

The reclassification of Weston's old stock biography has continued throughout the year. It should be completed in the next few months.

At the request of the Head of the Department, the branches were asked to submit in writing their requests and problems. This has relieved to some extent the already overburdened telephone system and has considerably eased the department's work-load.

In 1971, a total of 19,260 volumes were added to the system's book collection. Part of this figure represents 5446 new adult fiction and non-fiction titles, and 831 boys and girls new fiction and non-fiction titles. The other part indicates added and/or replacement copies of titles already in the system.

Mrs. Margaret Dyke
Head, Technical Services.

ADULT SERVICES

The book collection continued to grow in depth and specialization as our patrons' demands have become more diversified. Professionals, businessmen, repairmen, students from universities, teachers' colleges, community colleges, and high schools all sought information. On returning a book a pleased university professor said he was going to recommend it for purchase to his students as it was located in only one other library in Metro. A newly registered borrower said to her husband "Look, they have a whole book on sausages".

Current fiction, biography, and books on social issues continued to be highly popular.

Colourful and Original Displays highlighted the range and depth of our book collection. There were small scale exhibits on problems such as over-population and pollution. The two outstanding exhibits of the year involved co-ordinated display areas. The one on "Urban Development" with special emphasis on the high-rise issue in the Borough of York was particularly effective. Two booklists and a clippings file on "Urban Development" were prepared in conjunction with the exhibit. There was a high interest level from all segments of the community even occasioning school projects. "Nostalgia" was the other display of note perhaps because it involved unlimited subject areas from old cars to comic books.

For adults interested in continuing education the Continuing Education Directory with accompanying materials was prominently displayed from August 20th on. There was publicity material on special courses and events all year around.

Reader's Advisory Service was complemented by an annotated list of current books issued periodically and other booklists such as "150 books" and "Canadian Books".

Rounding out subject collections was of prime importance in the following special areas:

Foreign Languages: For our Italian readers in particular more books were selected on popular and practical subjects such as hobbies, "how-to" books, gardening, cooking, grooming, folk music, films and sports. Increased interest indicates we need even more books in this area. Italian paperbacks by popular fiction authors were much in demand. French and German acquisitions maintained a high level of interest. Foreign language books rotate to branches providing a broad selection of titles.

Large Print: 75 new titles were acquired in the new small format. The books are easier to handle and preferable to the large size formerly available. New titles are circulated to each branch and the Senior Citizens at 101 Humber Boulevard every four months.

Government documents and pamphlets with their Canadian content have added particular strength to our book collection and public service. The Picture File from a small beginning in 1970 began to show signs of expansion.

Paperbacks: 250 new popular titles were added as an extension to our regular service.

Inter-loan requests through the Metropolitan teletype network showed a marked increase. Our library obtained through inter-loan 774 books and supplied to other libraries 1,034 books. We requested a total of 984 books and 3,003 films.

Photocopying: The coin-operated photocopying machine was almost constantly in use by adults and students.

The Saul Field new portfolio of bird prints "Birds of the Petroglyphs" was on display on the ground floor during the year as well as his prints from "Themes of the old Testament".

Periodicals: An assessment of our periodical collection in May resulted in some cancellations and some new subscriptions such as "Rolling Stone" and "Psychology Today". A total of 298 periodicals including some French, German, and Italian supplied current information.

The main co-operative venture in the libraries of Metropolitan Toronto was the preparation of a new edition of "Guide to Periodicals and Newspapers currently received in the public libraries of Metropolitan Toronto" to be published about February 1, 1972.

Miss Kristin Josephson was a member of the "Working sub-committee on the Guide to Periodicals" and the Head of Adult Services was a member of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Committee which acted in an advisory capacity.

Early in the year we established a uniform method for recording reference statistics within our own system. During the year we also began and completed a separate file of our professional literature holdings.

For future growth and service the Borough of York Public Library in liaison with the Borough of York Municipality and local historical societies should become the first Deposit Centre for York municipal publications and information and a repository for local history collections and materials whenever possible.

Audio-Visual section - a forty percent increase in attendance for films in 1971 underlines the continued rapid expansion of the audio-visual services. This year, the most noticeable change is the pattern of the film patrons. More individuals wanting films for private parties and home viewings indicates a trend away from the situation in which teachers and service organizations are the principal borrowers. The purchase of additional films produced in the early days of motion pictures reflects the booming interest in films of that era and the popularity of classical comedy among the cinemaphiles and the general public.

Italian housewives were our enthusiastic audience, coming not only to their special Tuesday morning film programme, but also to our regular Thursday film evenings. People present at the film-discussion programme co-sponsored by York Family Services participated actively in the discussion. The November film discussion on the problems of men from prisons when confronted with re-adjustment to the outside world was considered an interesting one.

Phono-records of popular, jazz and folk music were in great demand. The growth of our record collection required the purchase of more bins to house recent additions. Patrons are making greater use of our listening facilities. Some patrons inquired about the possibility of having a music appreciation programme once a month too.

Evelyn Gregory Branch - This year, as before, the children and the high school students formed the largest part of the Gregory branch's public. Although there has been a decrease in circulation, the students are demanding more in the use of reference tools. Their projects require more detail and, therefore, also, more use of Interlibrary Loan.

In the adult section there is a small but regular group of people reading the fiction. The Italian section is especially well used, and many high school students have asked for "Italian mysteries for their fathers". Although many Italian people come to the library, there are as many who do not come because, as their children say, they can not speak English at all. Hopefully, the books brought home by their children will tempt them to come more than the one time to obtain a card.

Jane Street Branch - There were a number of staff changes at Jane Street. Exclusive of summer help and our added part-time librarian, since September we have had three new staff members.

Circulation of a changing collection of music records was begun in 1971 after the initiation of a small collection in 1970 and 222 records were borrowed. Favorable comment was received along with many requests for an enlarged collection.

The road work presently underway in the Jane-Dundas-St. Clair area considerably lessened the circulation at Jane Street - we experienced a drop of 8,000.

The increased hours of service have met with general approval but have not stopped the freely expressed desire for morning openings.

Mount Dennis Branch - 1971 has been a year of ups-and-downs at this branch. Circulation figures still fail to show the frequently heavy flow of in-library readers, - students who use a number of books there, and then take one book home, if the project is completed there. Even the constant increase in reference questions handled at the branch fails to show the impact of this type of library usage, since many students are now accustomed by the school libraries to searching out their own reference material, only asking the librarians if the material is not easily found. This means that the librarians are now doing more "Heavy" reference, which is extremely time-consuming, with material difficult to track down. The drop in the circulation figures, therefore does not represent less usage, but merely a different type of usage, probably due to more crowded living conditions in apartments and shared homes, where students have no proper place to study. It is not uncommon to see a group of four to eight students working at one table surrounded by anything up to a dozen books on a subject, sharing books and ideas. Were these books checked out rather than used in the library, they might represent anything from forty to ninety or one hundred book circulations.

Highlights of the exhibitions were the Amateur Art Show in March and the Y.M.H.A. Pottery and Ceramic Sculpture Show in May, which together drew over seven hundred visitors.

I believe the experiment at 101 Humber has proved to be highly successful, as the original promoter of the mini-library informs me that four or five other senior citizens' apartment buildings in other boroughs have requested similar service due to our pilot programme.

As several members have told us, "This is the best thing that ever happened to us. Library day is the highlight of the week!".

Weston Branch - The branch has had a busy and active year, as to circulation and persons using the library. There has been a decided increase in reference questions during the year.

Again in 1971 Weston Branch was responsible for the York Public Library's exhibit of information pamphlets and book titles in the Community Showcase sponsored by the Weston Information and Referral Centre.

Ruth Corner,
Head, Adult Services.

BOYS AND GIRLS SERVICES

What in the year of 1971 has left a lasting impression? On the negative side, my desire to build up the Pre-School Story Hour at Main and get the support of the Italian population has so far shown little result. However, on the positive side, the Saturday Story Hour held throughout the year at 2:00 p.m. except in July and August has proved worthwhile. In an area where the children are not often read to nor are able to read well themselves, a Story Hour is still appreciated. Also, the various special programmes, held intermittently throughout the year, have all been very popular and indicate a need for such programmes in this area.

Book collection - Continuous weeding, in addition to replacements of old, worn titles and the acquisition of new titles have made the book collection a live and vital one. This year approximately 100 titles in Italian were purchased for Main and Gregory branches. They include both original Italian titles and English titles in translation. Both Bookmobile and Mount Dennis are trying small collections of Italian books too. A small paperback collection of about 100 fiction titles and a few non-fiction was put into the library as an experiment. After a month's usage, it's hard to say definitely what the children's reaction will be, but initially it has been good. Books that are small and light to handle do seem to have an appeal.

Reclassification - Unfortunately there is a lag in the physical changing of the books. The filing of catalogue cards that are coming for the reclassified books, as well as the new books, is a new job for the staff in the department and is most time consuming.

Classes - A total of 190 classes visited the library this calendar year. The children who use Main library most are the children of St. Thomas Aquinas and D.B. Hood schools and both these schools usually have all their classes visit. This annual contact with the schools is good for the children, the library and the schools and we should continue it. As a result of school-librarian invitations, I visited D.B. Hood school and talked with the librarian and the vice-principal, who suggested we print up pamphlets in Italian and English on one sheet for distribution to classes at the school to publicize the Pre-School Story hour. The librarian from St. Thomas Aquinas school and I visited each other's library during the fall.

The Saturday Story Hour, at Main was changed from a morning time to 2:00 p.m. This time seems to be more convenient, attracting larger groups of children. During the Story Hours, different media, such as filmstrips, records, and films, are often used to add variety to the programmes.

The Pre-School Story Hour, though still small in numbers, is very satisfying both to the children and the librarian in charge.

The Pre-School Story Hour that was started late in 1970 at Humber Boulevard Ontario Housing was discontinued early in the year because attendance figures dwindled so much our presence there could not be justified. It's unfortunate because the children at Humber Boulevard could benefit from a Story Hour programme, but their parents are too apathetic to bring them.

Displays - During the year we were fortunate to have three interesting displays in our showcase. One was on rocks and fossils, the second a doll collection, and the third a shell exhibit during the summer.

Programmes - Several special programmes were held and each was enthusiastically received. The Henkel family, a group of six children, who call themselves the Toronto Flatland Yodellers, dressed in Bavarian costume, sang, danced and played musical instruments. The next two programmes were held during the summer holidays. The July film programme attracted good audiences as is usual with film shows, and Mrs. Atay's Craft programme was very successful. More of this type of programme should be planned in the future. In October, a special Hallowe'en programme was held, which included ghost stories, games, and a play produced by a group of children. November brought us Mr. Bruce McBride and his live Reptile Show which fascinated both children and adults alike. Early in December two of the staff from Pioneer Village demonstrated and let the children participate in spinning and making pomanders. During the Christmas holidays, Miss Nora Zylstra entertained the children with her marionettes in "Fairy Tale Frolics."

Bookmarks - Four subject-oriented bookmarks with a selection of authors and titles were produced. These were planned to be used in conjunction with displays and could be used with classes.

Evelyn Gregory Branch - In the childrens' section, the assignments have become more advanced and, since the grade seven students have transferred to the adult department, the staff has been able to give them more of the information they require.

More children are asking for books to read for pleasure, and, hopefully, will grow more interested in the really worthwhile literature.

Several film shows have been held in 1971, and for the holiday program the staff produced a puppet show as well as films. The children in this area enjoyed the programs and showed a pronounced interest in producing their own puppet play, and a group is being formed in 1972.

Jane Street Branch - The Puppet Club, begun in the autumn of 1970, was continued in 1971; there was a spring session which culminated in three puppet shows during the spring school break; and an autumn session culminating in the puppet show on December 18.

The meetings held in the autumn with the school librarians were of great value. Could we anticipate a similar series of meetings in 1972?

Mount Dennis Branch - We have continued with the children's film programs. In 1971 we had only three extra film shows, but almost doubled the attendance from 1970, which indicates a marked increase in popularity. Attendance averaged 49 per film show, but individual shows reached as high as 91 in attendance.

The new card catalogue supplied for the Boys' and Girls' section in the latter months of the year has been received most enthusiastically by the children, who are accustomed to using the card catalogue in their school libraries.

Weston Branch - The pre-school story hour has continued to be successful, although the numbers have dropped somewhat this fall, due to more Junior Kindergartens opening in the area.

We have two Happy Child Day Nurseries in Weston, and the oldest class from each came to the library regularly for stories and a free period to look at books. Each child choses a book and they are all marked out on the teacher's card to be used in their classroom. They have been delightful children to work with, and so obviously love their visits to the library.

In September the branch librarian was entertained at two public school libraries and at Weston Collegiate. This provided a chance to meet many of the teachers, and was followed by class visits to the public library by all classes from H.J. Alexander School and several from Weston Memorial School. In the winter months most of the classes from St. John's Separate School came to the library, and plans are under way to repeat this.

Our Boys and Girls Room was greatly improved with a new wall of shelving this fall.

Mrs. Donna Mayor,
Head, Boys and Girls Services.

THE FUTURE

Our potential for extension of citizen use of library services includes the handicapped and others whose use is curtailed at present because they cannot travel to the libraries. Among these are the individual Senior citizen somewhat isolated in a private dwelling as well as those in apartment complexes designated especially for them, but who find, at least in winter, that the nearest branch library is too far and travelling too difficult for them to reach it. But there are many other individuals, such as a bedridden arthritic woman and a boy with Perthes' disease, who need reading, records or tape cassettes brought to them by a Shut-In Service.

When such a service is inaugurated it could incorporate our current library service at Northwestern Hospital and at the Metro Housing on Humber Boulevard in one Mobile Service with the addition of any other borough institution for the handicapped or chronically ill.

Another source for future adult users is the Boys and Girls Service. The children are acquiring the library habit early though many of their parents did not have it and, in fact, some cannot read English or have not had available the many cultural advantages which are an everyday experience to their children.

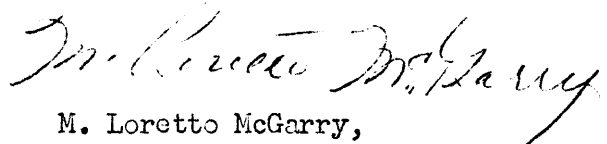
We are acquiring some of these parents through our programmes like the monthly one mentioned for Italian housewives and also through parents bringing their children to pre-school groups.

The large percentage of the general public still to be reached must at least be informed of the public library's information and cultural services and it is hoped this will be accomplished by co-operative publicity among the Metro library systems through television commercials which will have the greatest potential for wide coverage.

We look forward to providing ever extending and improved library service to all citizens in 1972.

Again I must extend sincere gratitude for the support of all staff members and a deep appreciation of an interested and progressive Board.

Respectfully submitted,


M. Loretto McGarry,
Chief Librarian.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
CURRENT FUNDS

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	\$ 110,014
Borough of York	588,110
Fines and other miscellaneous funds	12,851
Provided by reserve fund for debt charges	<u>1,247</u>
	<u>\$ 712,222</u>

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Employees' benefits	\$ 403,992
Books, phonodiscs, films, periodicals, tapes	117,392
Library supplies and expenses	26,144
Maintenance supplies and expenses	52,073
New equipment and furniture	5,757
Debentures - principal and interest	70,262
Tax deficiencies	18,664
Deficit December 31, 1970	<u>1,505</u>
	\$ 695,789
Surplus, December 31, 1971	<u>16,433</u>
	<u>\$ 712,222</u>

STATISTICS

Population of the Borough of York 143,034

COLLECTION

Books	238,281
Phonodiscs	1,803
Films and filmstrips	311
Tape cassettes	115
Periodicals and newspapers (titles)	310
Pictures and prints	1,167

CIRCULATION

Printed materials	528,569
Phonodiscs and tapes	5,827
Films and filmstrips	3,218
<u>Reference</u> use of materials	98,212

MAIN LIBRARY
1745 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto 345, Ontario
781-5208

EVELYN GREGORY BRANCH
120 Trowell Avenue
Toronto 339, Ontario
653-6185

JANE STREET BRANCH
610 Jane Street
Toronto 326, Ontario
769-4693

MOUNT DENNIS BRANCH
1123 Weston Road
Toronto 334, Ontario
762-3348

WESTON BRANCH
2 King Street
Weston 492, Ontario
241-3116

BOOKMOBILE
1745 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto 345, Ontario
781-5208