



ANNUAL Report
2007

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.stcatharines.library.on.ca

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY 1888 - 2007

Year in Review

Public libraries play a unique role in the communities they serve. Their doors are open to everyone, regardless of age, ability, education or economic status. They provide cultural resources, leisure materials, and access to a world of information. They are also vital social spaces where members of the community can gather to learn, to discuss, to share ideas and experiences. Your library continues to focus on serving the needs of the community by providing a wide range of materials, programs and services and by planning for the future. Planning is the key component to maintaining relevant, responsive, customer orientated library services. Our current Strategic Agenda: Door onto the World 2007-2010 provides the blueprint for our future development. .

Technology

The major project for 2006 was the replacement of the text-based automated library system. The library installed its first automated system in 1988. In 1998 the servers were upgraded and dumb terminals were replaced by PCs. By 2002 the warranties on the servers had expired. By 2004 the server capacity was too small to add upgrades to the operating system and library software vendors had moved to open source architecture and the development of fully graphical systems. Hardware and software had reached the end of their life cycle.

In 2005 the work to select a new system was completed which included the preparation of a Request for Proposal and vendor evaluations. In November 2005 the Board approved the installation of the SirsiDynix Horizon system. Funding for the system had been built up over a number of years by reserving the unrequired OMERS contributions for computer and facility improvements. Costs were further contained because the Library had managed to replace 40% of the PC workstations through a cascading equipment renewal strategy. The equipment renewal strategy and the creation of our technological infrasture was aided significantly by grants received the Gates Foundation and Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP) which funded all public use Internet stations including furniture and printers, created the computer lab, allowed for the purchase of flat screens etc. The 2006 CAP grant for \$7,000 was used to replace the end of life web server.

The process to migrate to the system began in January 2006. It included hardware installation (servers, workstations and peripherals), telecommunications upgrades, data extract and testing. By May 17, the key software modules had been installed and the Library migrated to the fully graphical system.

The new system provides numerous service and inventory control improvements. Information search, retrieval and display has been vastly improved. Library clients can now search the online catalogue, E-books, online full-text magazine databases and web resources separately or simultaneously. Search results contain enriched content such as book reviews, web links, and annotations. The new system includes Internet station management software which allows clients to book Internet and word processing sessions onsite or remotely for up to a week in advance.

In 2006, the telecommunications network was upgraded from 128K ISDN lines from the Central Library to the Branches and 2Mbps wireless Internet connection to a secure 10Mbps fibre ring and Internet feed. The upgrade was essential to support delivery of information and was made possible because of a partnership between the Niagara Regional Broadband Network and a consortium of public sector institutions including Niagara College, Niagara Health System, Regional Municipality of Niagara, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic School Board and the Library.

Collections and Services

A primary role of the library is to develop and provide access to collections that address the information, leisure and research needs of the community. The collections include: print and non-print material as well as electronic databases and Internet resources. Materials are acquired and de-acquisitioned according to collection development plans which work on a three year cycle. The Library started to introduce DVDs to the collection in 2002 and by 2006 the collection was large enough to change the 2-day limit to 7 days.

In 2004 the Library subscribed to 5 electronic subscription databases which provided access to 2,500 full-text articles in magazines, newspapers and reference books. By 2005 the Library, as part of the Large Public Library Electronic Resource Consortium the databases increased the databases from 5 to 22 providing access to 16,521 full-text magazines, newspapers, reference materials, maps and pictures. In 2006 at no additional cost to the operating budget the Library acquired 250 electronic reference books.

Starting in July 2006 and for a period of two years the Library also provides access to a 15 general databases which are funded by the Government of Ontario's Knowledge Ontario project.

The Library provides 24/7 access to the online catalogue, patron records and full-text electronic databases. Patrons are able to reserve and renew items and an automated telephone messaging system notifies clients of overdues and holds. In 2000 the library was open 7,978.5 hours annually. Without increasing staff the Library has been able to increase hours by 9.2% to 8,719.5. In 2006 the Branches hours were revised to improve evening access.

Programs

Another significant library objective is to support the development of the "art of reading, the art of writing and the art of learning." Needs differ with each age group.

Children

To support Early Years Development the Library offers a regular suite of programs including: Time for Tots, Toddler Time, Preschool Story Time, Story Stairs. It offers an annual summer reading program for children 5 to 12 years of age and the Lollipop Summer Reading program for children 4 years of age and under. The 2006 theme "Quest for Heroes" for the 5 to 12 years old was not as popular as the 2005 program and we saw a drop in attendance. In contrast the Lollipop club saw an increase in participants and 12% increase in books read. In 2006, the Library launched a Chess Club, which ran from January to March and had a waiting list. Our March Break Programs saw an increase of 13% over 2005. March break activities included: cartooning with Bev Sneath, the World of Magic with Brett Mortensen, Kris's Reptiles, a Terrarium Workshop, and creative writing. In 2006, we had 54 class visits with 2,958 attending. The Homework Help program for children in grades 3 to 6 and their caregiver continued to be offered in the computer lab xxxx attended.

Young Adults

Young adults range in age from 12 to 18 years of age and a variety of programs were offered to support their success in school and to foster new interests. All computer skills programs are open to this age group. Homework Help for Teens in the Computer Lab was offered throughout the year and xxx attended. The half-day Grade 8 Research Skills Development program was held xx times with xxx attending. In 2006 a partnership was developed with the Library Consultant at the District School Board of Niagara. A number of DSNB professional development seminars were held at the Central Library and included sessions by library staff in order to promote library resources including the professional support that the Library can provide to teachers, school librarians and students.

General interest programs for teens included: Glitter and Glamour (a program about the appropriate use of skin care products), St. John Ambulance Babysitter's Course; Knitting Workshop; Writing Workshop; Photography Workshop and Contest; Teen Yoga; Drawing skills and a summer Teen Book club. A Teen Writer's Club was launched in September and is an ongoing program in partnership with the Canadian Authors Association.

Fresh Ink the teen poetry and short story writing contest launched in 2000 was held again and opened to teens across the region of Niagara. A total of 130 submissions were received. TD Canada Trust was the corporate sponsor.

The Library also offers teens the opportunity to earn their 40-hour community service credit through various assignments in the Special Collections department.

Adults

The ability to use information technologies effectively is central to research skills development. Our computer training programs are open to those 15 years of age and older. Courses include: Email basics; Introduction to computers; Health on the Internet; Job and Career Searching Online; Government Services Online; Information; Internet I, II, and III; and Genealogy on the Internet; and Online Magazines, Newspapers and Encyclopedias.

In 2006 the "Afternoons for 50+" series included the following programs: Barbershop Harmony; Spring Herb Gardens; Learn to Meditate; Do you need to update your driving skills; Winter driving skills; Travel Photography etc.

General adult programming was diversified in 2006. In addition to author visits by Sue Augustine, Bert D'Amico and Allie Ochs, Book clubs and Book Cafes staff engaged speakers for the following sessions: Arthritis Information, Back Pain Relief; Cosmetic Surgery Information Evening; Manage Stress Naturally, Antique Collecting; Pilgrimage to France; Mathart What's it All About; Wills and Powers of Attorney; Preventing Bullying; Tax Clinics; Family Law; Identity Theft; and Parenting your Child.

Niagara Reads Niagara

2006 saw the launch of the Niagara Reads Niagara program. The program concept was developed by the St. Catharines Public Library. All the libraries in the region were invited to participate. St. Catharines Public Library secured the corporate sponsor and provided all the graphics, publicity and promotion. The program ran during October which is public library month. The purpose of Niagara Reads Niagara was to promote reading and literacy through our local writers, historians,

and journalists. The St. Catharines Niagara Reads Niagara program included the following author readings; Richard Wright (Adultery); Anna Olson (Another Cup of Sugar); Hannelore Headley (Blond China Doll); Beverly Rodman (Murder is a Family Matter). The Canadian Author Association presented an Evening of Poetry and An Evening of Short Stories and conducted a Poetry Workshop. Authors and libraries benefited from the extensive press coverage, including an article in Niagara This Week, and an interview with the Chief Librarian on Cogeco's "Between the Pages".

Outreach and Visiting Library Service

In 2006, volunteers which include library staff delivered 3,048 items to housebound individuals. Throughout the year, staff provided outreach to daycares and schools, as well as book deposits to a number of seniors' residences and read-out material to the Shaver Hospital.

Fundraising and Grants

In 2006, a Community Access Program grant was awarded to the Library for \$9,465, which was used to replace the web server. TD Canada Trust provided funded Niagara Reads and Fresh Ink for \$3,200.00 In addition, the Library continued fundraising activities through the sale of used books, equipment, book bags, and received donations which for an additional contribution of \$20,638.40.

Meeting Rooms

Meeting rooms are provided primarily for not-for-profit community groups. In 2006, the rooms at the Centennial Library had been booked 498 times, generating \$13,340 in revenue.

Culture Committee

The Library is an active participant of the City of St. Catharines Culture Committee and the Region of Niagara Culture Committee. Culture News is published by the City, but produced by Library staff.

Strategic Plan

In October the Library Board approved the Strategic Agenda: Door onto the World 2007-2010.

Library Services

Access to the Internet
Book Clubs
Collections (Print and NonPrint)
Computer Training
Electronic resources
E-Books
Information Services
Inter-Library Loan
Local History/Genealogy
Meeting Rooms
Programs for Children, Teens, Adults
Visiting Library Services
Wireless Internet Access
Word Processing

STATISTICS 2007

Collection	
Volumes held	
Titles held (not including periodicals)	
Periodicals (print titles)	
Periodicals (electronic titles)	
Library Use	
Circulation	
In-house Use*	
Information requests*	
Visits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person (does not include attendance in the meeting rooms) • Virtual visits* 	
Programs	
Programs	
Attendance	

* Note: From Annual Survey/MPMP

FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

Revenues	
Municipal Contribution	4,427,550
Provincial Grant	228,616
Miscellaneous Revenue	264,410
Funds Transferred to Reserves	4,773,013
Total Revenue	
Expenditures	
Salaries and benefits	3,152,170
Library Materials	849,549
Occupancy Costs	541,430
Library Services and Supplies	166,682
Operating Capital	70,746
Total Expenditures	4,780,577
Unexpended Balance	140,000

LIBRARY BOARD 2007 and LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Catharines Public Library Board is committed to providing all the citizens of St. Catharines with the highest level of library services, materials, and facilities within the resources available to meet their informational, educational and recreational needs.

Les McDonald (Chair)
Alan McEwen (Vice-Chair)

Anne Carruthers
Anna Cook
Councillor Bill Phillips
Shirley Reilly
Andrejs Rosts
Melanie Sendzik
Councillor Bruce Williamson

LIBRARY BRANCHES AND LOCATIONS

CENTENNIAL

54 Church Street
905-688-6103
905-688-6292(fax)

GRANTHAM

400 Scott Street
905-934-7511

MERRITT

149 Hartzel Road
905-682-3568

PORT DALHOUSIE

23 Brock Street
905-646-0220

Email us at admin@stcatharines.library.on.ca
Telephone Reference Service 905-688-6103, ext 211
Email reference Service askus@stcatharines.library.on.ca

For a complete list of services, access to the online catalogue, electronic databases and digital media collection please visit our website at www.stcatharines.library.on.ca