ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL Report
2006

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD 2006

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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.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Strategic plans have provided the framework for the systematic development of library services. The plans are created by the Library Board and staff incorporating input from the community. The *Strategic Agenda: Information and Innovation 2004-2006* provided for improvements to the Integrated Library System, telecommunications, collections, services and facilities. In 2006 we completed the final objectives of that three year plan.

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 infrastructure was aided significantly by grants received from 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 new 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 the 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 increase the 2-day borrowing 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. In 2005 the Library, joined the Large Public Library Electronic Resource Consortium and databases were increased 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 the Library provided access to 15 general databases 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 all year long which include: Time for Tots, Toddler Time, Preschool Story Time and Story Stairs. In addition we have special March Break programs and attendance in 2006 increased by 13% over 2005. March break activities included: Cartooning with Bev Sneath; the World of Magic with Brett Mortensen; Kris's Reptiles; Terrarium Workshop; and Creative Writing seminars. The Library also provides a summer reading program for children ages 5 to 11 years. The theme this year was "A Quest for Heroes." We also run the "Lollipop Summer Reading Club" for children under 4 and their caregivers. The "Lollipop Club" saw an increase in participation and a 12% increase in books read over 2005. In 2006 the Library launched a new program, a Chess Club for children ages 6 to 12 which ran from January to March. In 2006, 107 classes (2,125 children) visited the library.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults range 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 them and a special "Homework Help" program is offered in the computer lab geared specifically to school research needs. In 2006 we had 8 regular class visits (213 attending). The half-day Grade 8 Research Skills Development program was held 10 times with 240

attending. In 2006 a partnership was developed with the Library Consultant at the District School Board of Niagara. A number of DSBN professional development seminars were held at the Central Library and included sessions by library staff.

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.

Teens may 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 obtained a corporate sponsor and provided the administrative, graphic arts, and promotional support. 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* sessions included the following author readings; Richard Wright (*Adultery*); Anna Olson (*Another Cup of Sugar*); Hannelore Headley (*Blond China Doll*); Beverley Rodman (*Murder is a Family Matter*). The Canadian Authors 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 funded Niagara Reads and Fresh Ink for $3,200.00. The Library continued fundraising activities through the sale of used books, equipment, book bags, and received donations for an additional contribution of $20,638.40.

MEETING ROOMS

Meeting rooms are provided primarily for not-for-profit groups. The rooms at the Centennial Library were 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 prepared for printing by the Graphic Art's department at the Library and published by the City.

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

Collection
Volumes held 363,180
Periodical Titles Held 726
Periodical Titles Electronic 16,521

Library Use
Circulation 1,231,477
In-House Use 848,300
Information Requests 177,800
Visits
    In Person 503,300
    Virtual 370,400
Holds Filled 97,546

Program Attendance
Programs 10,399
Class Visits 2,958

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2006

Revenues
Municipal contribution 4,427,550
Provincial grant 228,616
Miscellaneous Revenue 264,410

Total revenue 4,920,576

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 Revenue 140,000

LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Central

54 Church Street, L2R 7K2
905-688-6103, fax 905-688-6292

Tues. - Thurs.	10 am - 9 pm
Friday	10 am - 6 pm
Saturday	9 am - 5 pm
Sunday	1:30 pm - 5 pm
	Oct. - Dec.
	Jan. - May

Grantham

Scott and Vine Streets, L2M 3W4
905-934-7511
and

Merritt

149 Hartzel Road, L2P 1N6
905-682-3568

| Tues. - Fri. | 10 am - 8:00 pm |
| Saturday | 9 am - 5 pm |

Port Dalhousie

23 Brock Street, L2N 5E1
905-646-0220

Tuesday	1 pm - 8 pm
Thursday	10 am - 12 noon
	1 pm - 8 pm
Saturday	11 am - 4 pm

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