

PATTERNS in READING

1962



Left to right (seated) Mrs. F. Denton, Mr. A. White, Mr. L. Simowsky; (standing) Mr. D. M. Baldwin, Mr. C. O. Bick, Mr. R. M. Bell.

Chairman — *Mr. Albert White*

Reeve — *Mr. L. T. Simonsky*

Mrs. Charles Purkis

Mrs. Frank Denton

Mr. C. O. Bick

Mr. R. Murray Bell (Treasurer)

Mr. Donald M. Baldwin (Secretary)

Chief Librarian — *Mrs. Muriel E. Morgan*

The Forest Hill Public Library is administered by a Board, consisting of the Reeve, or a member of the Council appointed by him, three appointees of the Municipal Council, and three appointees of the Board of Education.

REPORT
of the
FOREST HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
1962

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This has been a banner year for the Forest Hill Village Public Library, for we have seen the culmination of our plans to get a new library building, and the beginning of a successful operation, with the official opening of the Library on December 19 by His Honour the Lt. Governor J. Keiller Mackay.

We would be proud if the Forest Hill Library is considered to be a model of display and layout, and visiting librarians have already commented on its attractiveness. We want the library to be a living thing, alert to the needs of the borrowers, so within the limits of the budget allocated we intend to stock the shelves with a wide variety of books — a constant nourishment of new books replacing old ones.

We hope that our library, yours and mine, will be an inspiration to everyone seeking knowledge, wisdom or information. In the relaxed comfortable atmosphere small children and grown-ups can read, study or browse to their hearts' content. The key to education is in the hands of all our citizens; books provide an adventure in reading, exploring the wealth of information of the ages that is available to us; books can provide the basis for a do-it-yourself course in the arts and could supply a broad and liberal education.

We want our library to be a meeting place, a joining of ideas between the authors and readers. Some borrowers' interests may be in one direction, others may be different, but we would like all to come to this storehouse of books and dip into the pool of knowledge for something to satisfy their cultural appetite.

Our first modest art display by a group of artists is just the beginning of a series of art exhibitions by Village artists. We hope to develop this further during the years ahead. Library hours have been increased from 45 to 54 hours per week, and our stock has increased in numbers and variety.

The children's library is a special delight, with the very young people making good use of their area. To see these junior borrowers seated at their small tables reading books makes the entire children's library worthwhile. The beautiful children's story room with its tiered seats for listeners is an interesting event every Saturday morning from

10:30 to 11:30. The change from the borrowed white rug on the floor with the birds singing from the rafters at our old quarters on Chaplin Crescent has not changed the interest of reader or listeners, though we have now graduated and have a professional children's librarian, who alternates the Saturday morning readings with me.

I would like to express my personal appreciation to our hard-working volunteer Board of Library Trustees for the outstanding job that they are doing. We are fortunate to have such a group of interested citizens who are willing to spend time and energy on library work, and a group who functions so well together. Members of the Board have been active on the Executive of the Toronto and District Library Trustee Association and the Canadian Library Trustees Association, as well as on the Special Library Committee to study Dr. Ralph Shaw's report.

A special thanks should also be extended to our dedicated Chief Librarian and hardworking staff who have all done a yeoman's job through the year to put the operation of the library facilities on a working basis.

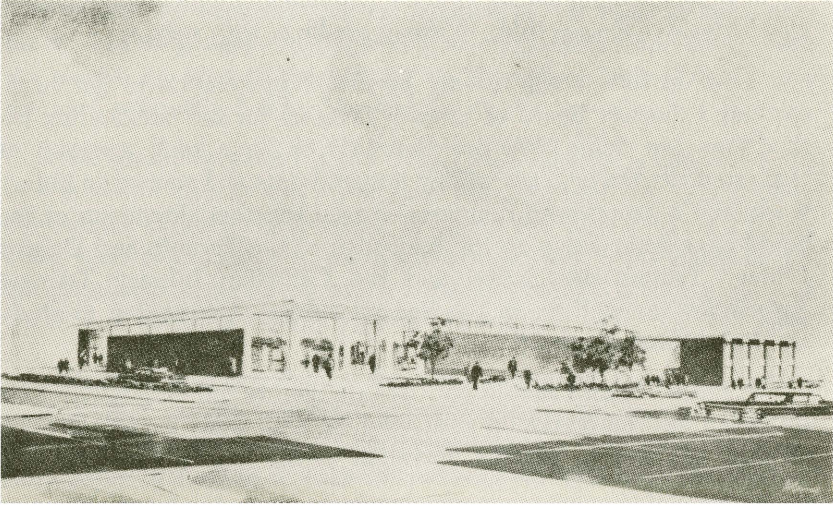
I would like to express the appreciation of the Board of Trustees to the Forest Hill Municipal Council and the Board of Education for their consideration of our needs.

The Library Board is erecting a memorial plaque at the entrance of the inside reading room to commemorate Mrs. Katherine Secord McNair. This will be known as the Katherine Secord McNair room. The citizens of Forest Hill may be justly proud of this fine Library, particularly those who worked with the Home and School Association to start the project. The building is a credit to our community and stands as a vital and living contribution to the cultural life of the Village.

It is the sincere desire and intention of the Library Board to maintain a high level of library efficiency and service.

Albert White
Chairman

. . . a hope fulfilled . . .



*to see a **WORLD in a GRAIN OF SAND** . . .*

It is not often that it is possible to be present and/or participate as a long-cherished hope of an entire community is actively pursued and ultimately realized: but, to the enterprising people who live in the Village of Forest Hill, to the benign Reeve and Councillors of the Village, to the progressive Board of Education, to the imaginative members of the Board of the Public Library, and, still more consciously, to us who work in the Library itself, 1962 was a year in which such a hope was fulfilled.

Everyone present at the opening of the new Library building on the evening of December 19, 1962 seemed caught in a mesh of excitement — an excitement that belied the past five years of abortive attempts, of planning and replanning: the past two years of crowded library facilities, of inadequate bookstock: and the past year of, at times, almost desperate and frenzied preparation.

It is the past year which is our main concern. It was a year of constant selection and processing of books, as we sought to have a sufficiency ready for the new building in order to avoid the initial

denudation of stock that seems to be the pattern for all new libraries: a year fraught with uncertainty as to the exact date of the completion of the building: a year of continuous consultation with architect, builder, designer, etc. as to progress and pattern of building and fittings — discovering many times that there would be what was politely referred to as ‘a breakdown in communication’: a year of striving to maintain normal operations in the face of growing membership, more demands on service, a small staff, and less and less space in which to render service.

Here without the desperation and the frenzy is the brief quasi-diary of that year . . .

January

A constant seethe of activity, as we are daily besieged by high school students in quest of information on their various projects. Our quandry is twofold: not only are the gaps in the subject content of our bookstock being pointedly revealed by this onslaught of diverse queries, but it is difficult to get at books known to be in the building, as a large portion of the stock is crammed in cartons or stored wherever there is an inch of usable space. Circulation figures maintain an upward trend — an increase over last January of 1,749. We try to compensate for the lack of a Children’s Department by lending 50 children’s books for a display at the Nursery School meeting, and we also prepare a list of books suitable for the Nursery School age group.

February

The Nursery School display was a huge success; we are now unable to cope with demands by parents for books they saw. Nevertheless our stock pattern is taking shape, and we fill a request as far afield as Etobicoke through an inter-library loan. New books purchased from our special capital grant for books (\$15,000) are arriving at an alarming rate, and we already are looking forward to the summer months when additional help can assist in the processing of these. Circulation is 2,001 over February 1961.

March

New books continue to arrive apace, and we are reaching an impasse as regards storage space. The story hour has been resuscitated

and is gaining momentum. Concentration this month is on out-activities: together with seven other metro librarians, Forest Hill was represented on a television programme featuring controversial questions on libraries and librarians. We tried to project a new 'image' of the librarian. In response to a request by the Recreation Commission, a 35 minute lecture on Storytelling followed by a two-hour workshop programme was given a group of anticipated play-ground leaders. While these extra-curricular activities mean more work than is comfortable to a library staff (of one librarian and two assistants) doing its own selection, cataloguing and processing, it also means that the role of the library in the community is being more clearly delineated.

April/May

Continuous all-round progress in circulation, registration, acquisition and processing of books, continues the earlier trends. We bulge at the seams with the additional 7,500 books bought to date, and the staff — now increased to include a Children's Librarian and a new assistant — are adept at staking claims whenever any likely bits of space seem about to become unoccupied.

It is pleasing to note the inclusion of the Library in all Village activities e.g. at the Home and School Association Annual Installation of officers the Library was given a creditable amount of favourable publicity; again, on the publication of the book 'A humane society' edited by Dr. Rosenberg, the Chief Librarian attended as a luncheon and platform guest of the Institute of Ethics, and together with four other metro librarians was presented with a copy of the book for the library.

June

A month of meetings. The Library Committee of the Home and School meet to discuss the year's programme, deciding that with the opening of the new Library the various parents' collections in the schools would be disbanded, and the users of these collections channelled into using the Public Library. Two study groups also approach the Library for assistance. The first group, directed to a suitable counsellor, are studying forms of government. We are ensuring that the necessary books will be available. Programme

planners for the second group in conjunction with the librarian evolved a theme "Our troubled age — causes and cures". Books pertinent to the theme will be loaned.

Summer

The pressing objective during the summer is the processing of as many books as possible, in an effort to meet the rather ambitious limit of a stock of 25,000 volumes with which to open the new library. Additional summer help has been obtained with the special funds provided, and due to the general high calibre of this summer help, as well as through the untiring efforts of the regular staff much has been achieved. The following figures are indicative. In June 1,381 books were completed, in July, 1,502, and in August 1,743 — a total of 4,626. Emphasis has been on children's books, as there should be at least an initial stock of 5,000 books in this department.

September/October

Back to normal staff size with book-processing back to normal rate. With the reopening of the schools we have what seems to be a greater than usual influx of high school students using our service, and circulation figures while continuing on the upgrade do not really indicate all the staff time involved in reader guidance. Good relations with the Home and School continue to be maintained as the Chief Librarian, on request, participates in a Workshop programme conducted by the Association. Members of the Public evince a much heightened interest in the date of completion of the new building: these fall into two classes — those who constantly inquire as to when the new Library will be ready, and those who daily inspect progress and report to us as to when they think the project will be completed.

November

A month of intense pressure and uneasy anticipation. The emphasis is on stock preparation, and this month 1,315 volumes have been catalogued and processed. Circulation continues to increase over last year's.

December

Our last (?) upsurge. The new building is open. We are in. It is beautifully lit and spacious, and the staff find difficulty adjusting

to so much space after their previous confinement. Our bookstock falls short of the ambitious 25,000 planned, but we manage to make ready 21,766 volumes and have approximately 2,500 awaiting attention when we find the time, for we are inundated by new borrowers, and all of staff time is concentrated on attending to the public. When all our equipment arrives and when we regain our breath we can settle down to enjoy our fine new quarters.

Looking backwards

In retrospect the greater part of the year seems spent in a prosaic attempt to build up an interpretive book stock — one that reflects the moods, needs, tempo of our community — but this is a fundamental of any library service.

A closer observation would make apparent that the Library is being inextricably woven in an all-inclusive life pattern of the community. The future is bright with promise of infinite possibilities for increased scope and varied activities, for

*'Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer . . .*

*Muriel E. Morgan
Chief Librarian*



. . . the beginning of a successful operation . . .



. . . inundated by new borrowers . . .



. . . beautifully lit and spacious . . .



. . . enjoying the fine new quarters . . .

FIGURES SHOW . . .

REGISTRATION	1961	1962
<i>January</i>	90	124
<i>February</i>	100	110
<i>March</i>	67	104
<i>April</i>	114	99
<i>May</i>	81	108
<i>June</i>	145	129
<i>July</i>	96	125
<i>August</i>	99	95
<i>September</i>	162	157
<i>October</i>	156	137
<i>November</i>	96	137
<i>December</i>	88	558 (<i>mostly within 10 days after opening</i>)
<i>Total</i>	1,204	1,877

CIRCULATION

<i>January</i>	4,634	6,383
<i>February</i>	4,006	6,007
<i>March</i>	4,320	6,874
<i>April</i>	4,575	6,414
<i>May</i>	4,655	6,491
<i>June</i>	5,747	7,865
<i>July</i>	5,760	6,601
<i>August</i>	4,956	6,064
<i>September</i>	6,127	7,178
<i>October</i>	6,206	7,771
<i>November</i>	6,000	6,941
<i>December</i>	5,915	8,361
<i>Total</i>	62,241	82,950 <i>increase 20,709</i>

STOCK IN USE

<i>December 31,</i>	12,706	21,766
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REPORT FROM THE CHILDRENS' LIBRARIAN

CIRCULATION

STOCK

<i>January</i>	372	442
<i>February</i>	464	495
<i>March</i>	563	555
<i>April</i>	519	595
<i>May</i>	525	880
<i>June</i>	693	1654
<i>July</i>	730	2356
<i>August</i>	636	3714
<i>September</i>	635	3947
<i>October</i>	694	4074
<i>November</i>	670	4408
<i>December</i>	1446	4660

One need not explain the children's library for 1962 at length. The statistics speak for themselves in the light of two facts. The first is that there was no staff dealing specifically with children's books until the middle of May when a typist and a children's librarian began. At that time we had about 500 children's books circulating in a parents' collection and about 3000 unprocessed children's books.

We worked steadily ordering more books, cataloguing, typing pasting, lettering, covering and packing. Our insatiable appetite for cartons gained us fame in the local supermarket. The books were stored in the vast basement of a village resident. By October it looked rather like a confectioner's warehouse before Christmas.

Although most of our time was taken up in this way, we still found time to help the children who came in with their parents and to give a weekly story hour for younger children. In June we also prepared a list of books suitable for story-telling for the Recreation Commission of Forest Hill to use at their summer playground.

The second fact is that these books were not available to the public until December 20, 1962. We were an immediate success. Within three days we had 46 borrowers and by the end of the month 158.

At the first story hour we had twenty children instead of the five regulars who came to the old library. The children were so

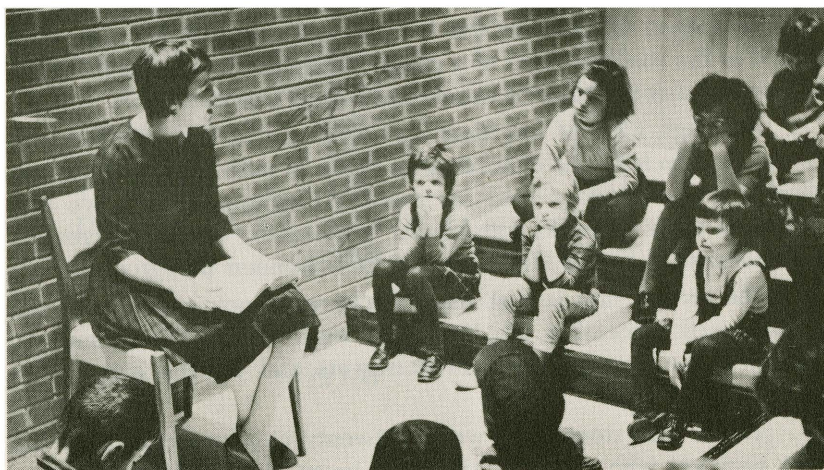
pleased with the books that they didn't notice that some of the shelves were temporarily makeshift and half the furniture hadn't arrived.

In the beginning, when all the books were set in order there was not room left on the shelves for one single picture book, and the most amazing thing was to watch them become empty. In a few weeks the shelves looked bare, and so we processed more books to meet an ever increasing demand, and this is continuing.

*Judith Sarick,
Children's Librarian.*



. . . Children's Department — an immediate success . . .



. . . attendance is up at Storytelling time . . .

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10:00 am. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

VILLAGE OF FOREST HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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