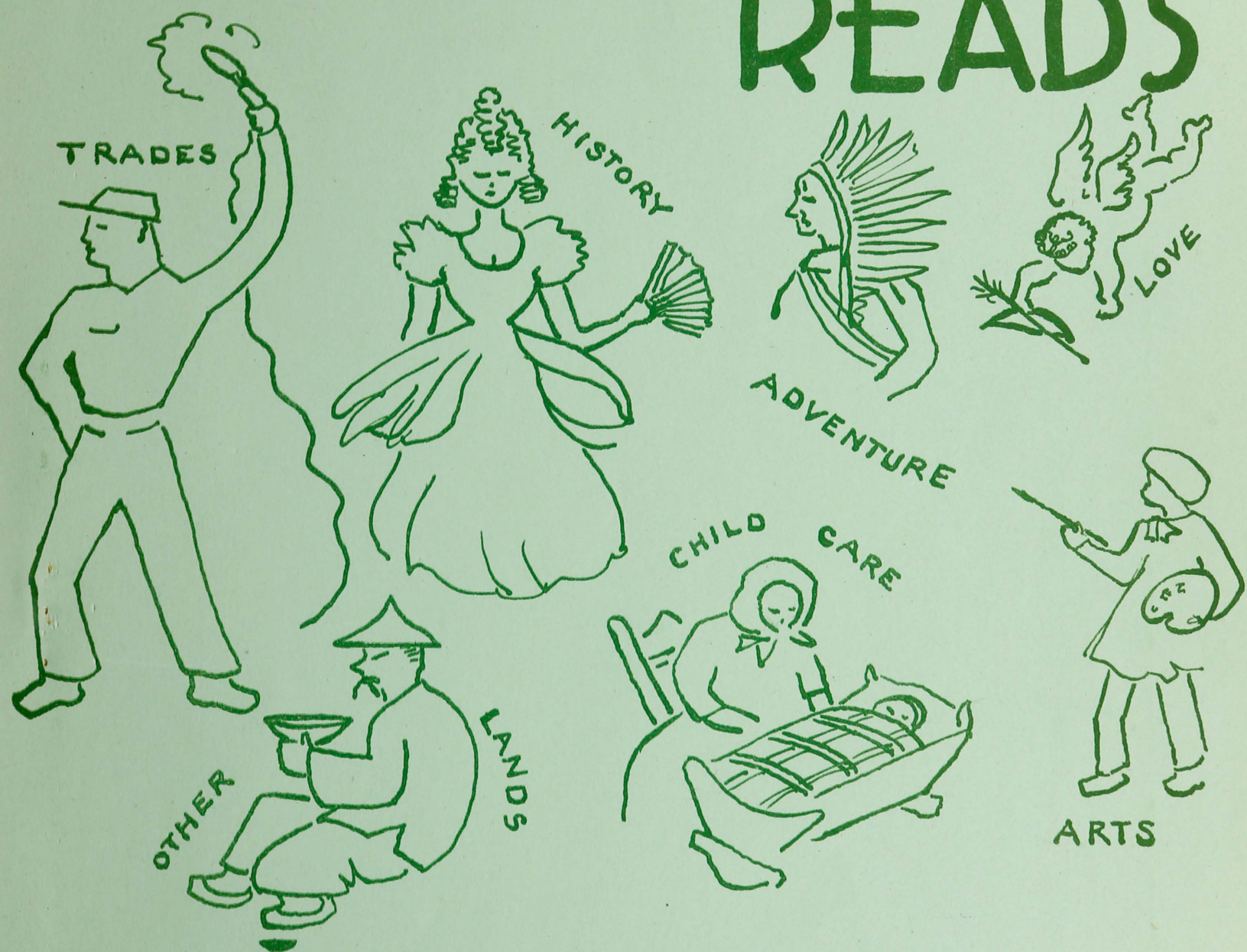
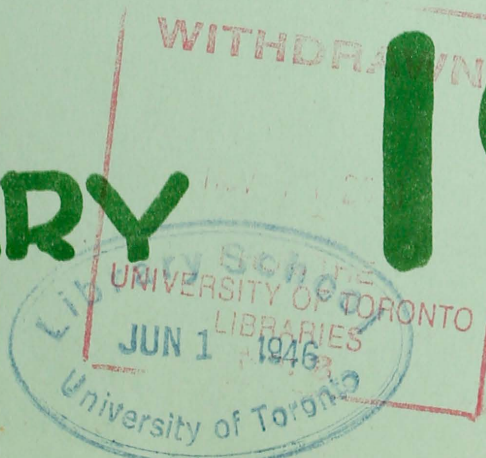


HOW LEASIDE READS



PUBLIC
LIBRARY

1945



645 Bayview Ave.

March 6, 1946.

LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the
Leaside Public Library Board:

1945 was an epic year in the affairs of the Leaside Public Library. It marked the transition of this young organization from the gangling stages of adolescence to the first flush of maturity.

This sudden development was not the mushroom growth usually associated with wartime enterprises, but rather the cumulative results of hard, concerted effort by an enterprising Board working in enthusiastic harmony with a capable and efficient staff.

The progress of the Leaside Public Library during 1945 was not without its "growing pains". They were constant. Wartime shortages, cramped quarters, a limited budget, more limited help, uncertain book deliveries, high cost of labor and materials all combined to make an administration problem that demanded from the Board, unlimited patience, tact, resourcefulness and acumen. That the Board and staff solved these problems to their credit is evidenced by the following facts:

- ... we were able to extend the hours of service to the public from 21 hours per week to 35 hours per week.

- ... we increased our overall circulation of books by 41%.

- ... we increased our membership by 65%.

- ... we obtained an affirmative vote on the referendum for a \$100,000.00 library building.

- ... we added a highly capable and fully qualified Children's Librarian.

- ... we inaugurated a popular and successful Saturday morning children's hour.

In extra Curricular activities Board members and staff gave "talks" and book displays to various town organizations. A well-written and interesting column on books prepared by our librarians appeared regularly in both the town weeklies. Broadcaster Jane Weston told the success story of Leaside Public Library over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's coast to coast network. The story of the Leaside Public Library's growth and development was given prominence in the Lions Club Annual Special Edition Newspaper.

In the affairs of the administration the Board functioned smoothly and harmoniously, meeting each problem and difficulty with a clear-cut view of what had to be done and a determination to settle it in a manner best suited to the interests of the Library without regard to the amount of personal time and effort involved.

It is only fitting at this time that tribute should be paid to those board members who, through circumstances beyond their control, were forced to resign. Mr. L. Wrinch who so ably served on the property committee. Mr. G. S. Holland whose actuarial experience was invaluable to the finance committee. Mrs. Gertrude Tait who gave so freely of her time from the Library's inception, as treasurer, and Mr. E. P. Killingsworth who diligently served on the book committee.

Chairman's Report continued (2)

Your Chairman feels that the Library was fortunate in having the appointing bodies use such excellent judgment in replacing the above-mentioned members with equally competent appointees such as Mrs. Ruby Shadbolt, Mrs. Kathleen Litch, Mrs. Lois Panter, and Mrs. Mary Glionna.

As the Leaside Public Library swings into the year 1946 it faces an era of peacetime operation with the foundation laid for the extension of its services in the form of :-

- a new library building designed to meet the needs of the town for the next twenty years.
-enlarged programme of activities in close co-operation with the youth centre group.
- a properly planned and executed programme for the development of the children's library section and its activities.
- a more active participation in the affairs of community organizations.
- the possible establishment of a film lending library.

Although we are faced with operating on a curtailed budget in 1946, your chairman is confident that, within the limitations, we will continue to make the same forward strides that have made Leaside Public Library unique in the annals of Ontario libraries of similar size.

(Sgd.) E. Douglas Cooper,

Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN,

March 4, 1946.

"Any more stories yet?"

"Where's the book on gold-fish?"

"I think I'd like to try one of those books on child psychology --- my four year old simply has me beat!"

"Yes Mary Jane is over her measles - she'll be at the story hour on Saturday."

It's the Leaside Public Library in action. Mothers and pre-schools in the early afternoon; public schoolers later on; fathers and teen agers in the evening. Mixed well with a sprinkling of "miscellaneous" and dogs throughout the day! It's difficult to catch it all in cold black and white for a yearly sum-up.

The traditional annual report should bristle with statistics and graphs(which we strongly suspect go sometimes unread.) It is easier to measure library service in terms of the concrete and the tangible. But some of the most important functions of a library can never be explained through facts and figures.

Nineteen forty-five has been a critical year, half war, half "peace". Perhaps never before, have the world's citizens been confronted with problems of such magnitude. It is the prime function of a public library to provide the community which it serves with the printed means for interpreting the environment in which it lives. How does the Public Library of Leaside measure up to this responsibility?

Librarian's report continued. (3)

An effort has been made to buy books of lasting value on all phases of our contemporary life. We have tried to present, in books, both sides of every question; The most reliable publications in all fields. Through the Library column in the local papers and the Bulletin board in the Library itself, we have attempted to stress this material, to relate it, as print, to the other great sources for information in our day--- radio and film.

In accord with its policy of integrating library service into the fabric of community living, the Library has been represented on such bodies as the rehabilitation committee and the Memorial Community Centre committee. Displays have been arranged for local groups. A boy's radio club is planning to take up its first quarters in our all too inadequate cellar! The Youth Centre executive has formed a "Library Committee" to act in a consultative capacity in the selection of teen age books. Leaside has been far-sighted in including the Library in its post-war plans. The benefit for each side is immeasurable. Too often the public library has allowed itself to stagnate in a quiet back water, while the main stream of community development left it far behind.

A welcome increase in membership and circulation is a feature of the year. The great, and perhaps only, advantage of our present cramped quarters is the fact that we can personally get to know everyone who comes in! It may be annoying at times to have to jump out of the path of the librarian, as she lunges for the phone, or puts books on the shelf, but at least librarian and public meet face to face, without an awe inspiring stretch of mahogany and marble between them. Shorn of the institutional atmosphere, it is easier to talk books and ideas, which is, after all, the best kind of library contact.

One of the most encouraging developments of the year is the increase, by sixty-five percent, in the circulation of "non-fiction". We have tried our best to break down the old, suspicious attitude, that any "non-Fiction" book is dull, drab, and boringly "educational". Biography continues as prime non-fiction favourite, with History, Fine arts, and Useful arts close behind. Another gratifying rise is evident in the Social sciences.

The Leaside Public Library is a community service, which depends for its success, on the support of the citizens of Leaside. It is their library. Their suggestions are welcomed. Their needs are its prime consideration. In an age when knowledge is the key to survival, a public library is not an extra "frill"; something vaguely good to have (when it is given any thought at all). It is a vital necessity in the critical years ahead.

In closing this report, the librarian would like to express her thanks to the three groups which together make up the Library. First, to the patrons of the Library for their many acts of kindness and cooperation. Secondly, to the Public Library Board, which has given generously of its time and energy to the planning of the Library programme. And thirdly, to the staff, which has carried a heavy burden of work, imposed by an intensive book purchasing and cataloguing programme, in addition to their service to the public. With such a spirit of community interest and support, the Leaside Public Library can go on to another year, which, we hope, will show an ever widening area of service.

(Sgd.) Elizabeth Loosley.
Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN.

Having spent only the last six weeks of the year 1945 in the Leaside Public Library, this report will of necessity, be a brief and limited one.

First of all, through the lack of a children's librarian for the period of June to November, 1945, the book stock has not only been at a standstill, but has been actually decreasing, as the books had been reaching the same stage of disrepair all at the same time. The strain on children's books is much greater than that on adult books and the average life of a book is not more than a year, before going to repairs, in the case of picture books and little children's books it is a matter of a few months.

When I came to Leaside I was struck with the dearth of books for the very young child; and in my ordering, I tried to concentrate first on this section. Owing to the uncertainty of publishers' stocks it is quite a problem to build up an all round collection, which certainly cannot be done in a few months.

There are many gaps in the children's collection, partly because the library started when many well tried and popular books were no longer available in print and partly because there was no one to watch the children's reading and concentrate on a planned buying programme. The figures in the statistical report reflect this situation. The 24% increase in the circulation of children's books seems small in comparison with the increase in adult circulation, but I should like to point out that some of the more mature seventh and eighth grade readers draw on the Youth section of the Adult Department, with the result that this circulation is included in the adult figures. There was a tendency for this to happen more often, when there was no one in the Children's Room, who could direct these children to the books they would enjoy.

In December I visited the younger classes at Bessborough and St. Anselm's schools, in order to meet the children and arouse an interest in the matter of joining the Library. We had good results. Stories were told in the rooms, and points about the library explained. I expect to visit the older classes and remaining schools as time permits.

The Saturday morning story hour has been going along well, and although we have been forced to use the cramped Children's room, we have managed to carry on. There has never been enough room unless some children sit on the floor, which they are always reluctant to do. The Story Hour can never be a complete success under such handicaps, but its popularity is already assured, in spite of the physical inadequacies of our present quarters.

In a young and growing community, the service to children of both pre-school and school age is of inestimable value. It is hoped that a new building in the near future will make library service to children the vital part of the library programme that it should be.

(Sgd.) Janet Murray.

Children's Librarian.

REPORT OF CIRCULATION.

Non Fiction	Fiction	Boys and Girls.	Total.
1945 - 9786	18288	14448	42522
1944 - <u>5899</u>	<u>12898</u>	<u>11581</u>	<u>30378</u>
3887	5390	2867	12144
Increase 65%	41%	24%	41%

BOOK STOCK.

Purchases 1945			
880	386	514	1780
Stock 1944			
771	894	968	2633
Discards, lost, etc.			
24	137	2	163
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total			
1627	1143	1480	4250
Dollar value of			
Books purchased, 1945.			
\$1935.55	\$877.25	\$684.62	\$3497.42

MEMBERSHIP.

1945	Adult	726
	B. & G.	<u>375</u>
		1101
1946	Adult	1880
	B. & G.	<u>1055</u>
		2935

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - DECEMBER 31, 1945.

Surplus - Jan. 1, 1945.	\$ 322.65
Returned Cheques.	4.15
Library revenue for Year.	796.46
Gifts and Grants.	170.53
Town of Leaside.	<u>7677.35</u>
	8971.14

Expenditures:

Books Purchased.

\$ 3718.51
(Cont.)

(6)

Financial Statement (Cont.)

Expenditures forwarded:	\$ 3718.51
Librarians' Salaries.	1846.61
Relief Librarians.	846.08
Rent	600.00
Light and Telephone.	103.41
Equipment	221.64
Supplies - Printing, Advertising & Misc.	432.92
Cleaning - Wages and Supplies.	362.13
Insurance.	74.95
Secy.- Treasurer.	112.50
	<hr/>
	8318.75
True Bank Balance as at December 31, 1945.	642.39
Petty Cash.	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 8971.14
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(Sgd.) Gertrude J. Tait,

Secy.-Treasurer.