

PATTERNS IN READING · 1964



REPORT
of the
FOREST HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
1964

Chairman — *Mr. Albert White*

Mrs. Charles Purkis

Mrs. Frank Denton

Mr. C. O. Bick

Mr. R. Murray Bell (Treasurer)

Mr. Donald M. Baldwin (Secretary)

Reeve — *Mr. E. Pivnick*

Chief Librarian — *Mrs. Muriel E. Morgan*

THE CHAIRMAN ...



The second year of operation of the new Library has been one of consolidation and improvement. The increase of the book stock is close to forty thousand, and the constant demands for more books indicate the Library is being used to a greater degree than ever before. The number of borrowers has increased to approximately 50% of the community — a truly remarkable achievement. In addition, we serve people from the surrounding municipalities, which is a reciprocal arrangement.

The policy of the Board to involve more people from the community in Library work is having satisfactory results. The Activities Committee under Mrs. Purkis ran a very successful lecture series that drew capacity audiences to the Library. Next year, again they will be planning an interesting programme, for there are some members of the community whose intellectual cravings are not sated by participation in other organizations. These adults can fully appreciate the mental stimulus and creative approach offered by Library sponsored lectures and discussions.

The Art Committee chaired by Mrs. John Leitch has done an outstanding job. Each member worked hard to successfully arrange, publicize and present interesting exhibitions of paintings, sculptures and pottery; paintings by the adult classes run by the Recreation Commission, and children's shows from our Village schools received a great deal of attention.

Co-operation with schools aims at a more complete Library service to the total community. The Library supplements our school systems through assistance to young borrowers by teaching them how to use the Library more effectively. Introducing children early to the Library is the ideal way to start the reading habit. They learn to feel at home with books.

Service wise, the adults and younger children are well looked after, but a need exists for a teen-age programme. We would like to offer some Library activity to this age group in order to involve more young adults.

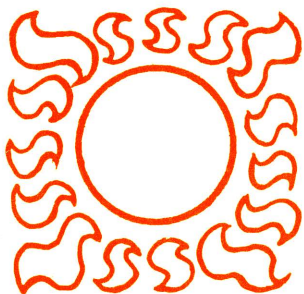
The Committees that have been functioning, and the new ones we will establish, make Library services in our community vital and modern, in step with an increased awareness by the citizens of the importance and scope of the Public Library. Facilities permitting, there are many projects we can conduct, such as film showings, special interest groups, book review groups, and others. But we must be careful not to flood the community with too many pro-

grammes which cannot be absorbed. We propose to enter new fields gradually, as we still have to do a capable job on present projects. Any suggestions as to Library activities are always welcomed.

I want to sincerely thank the Library Board members for their conscientious concern for the Library, and the attention and hard work they donate to it: Mrs. C. Purkis, Vice-President of the Board, Mrs. F. Denton, Corresponding Secretary, Mr. R. M. Bell, our capable Treasurer who labours on the budget and watches it carefully throughout the year, Mr. D. Baldwin our Recording Secretary, who keeps the minutes up to date, and Magistrate C. O. Bick. These members attend every meeting and spend long hours on Library affairs. Our Chief Librarian, Mrs. M. E. Morgan, deserves a special note of thanks for her efficient operation of the Library, and her administration of the excellent staff working with her. We could not have achieved the degree of excellence in service and quality of book selection without her competence. My thanks also to the Village Council and Board of Education for their support and co-operation during the past year.

“As Library Trustees, we approach our duties with a spirit of friendly co-operation. This is a *key* word. Recognizing the true significance of our responsibilities toward our public, the trustee meets the larger challenge with self education, enthusiasm for the job in hand, creative planning and complete dedication to his Library and his community. The Public Library has a unique position as being perhaps the only non-partisan, truly democratic institution in the community to people of all ages, educational levels, national and racial origins and religious beliefs.”

Albert White
Chairman



THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

After the breathlessness which characterized the first year's operation in the new library building, it was thought that 1964 would see the swing of the pendulum in the other direction, and that things would proceed at a more leisurely pace. This forecast proved incorrect, as during the year statistics surprised, cooperation continued unabated, old activities were maintained and enlarged, and new programmes initiated.

surprising statistics

As indicated, it was felt that with the rapid soaring of circulation figures in 1963, circulation would level off in 1964, as we serve a community whose population could not be expected to increase much more. The expected levelling-off did not occur, and month after month the 1963 figures were surpassed, until the year's end showed an overall total circulation of 215,055 — an increase of 24,863 over 1963.

Registration kept in step with circulation as 3,286 persons — 2,768 adults and 518 juveniles — registered or were reregistered during the year, and our 'live' membership jumped from 9,744 in 1963 to 11,803. Of new registrants for 1964, it is interesting to note that 30% came from outside the immediate boundaries of the Village.

enlarging the book stock

The expanding use made of the library facilities by High School students, the discovery of some of our literary resources by the undergraduate, the intelligent participation of the Home and School Association in educational affairs, the new tidal wave that is sweeping the housewife to undertake serious academic studies, all affected our book-acquisition pattern, so that stock additions this year focused on literature, education, psychology and sociology.

We continue our liberal book selection policy, and while we cannot hope to parallel the stock of older books held by longer-established libraries, our holdings of current publications make for an interesting and unique collection. Our art books comprise what is reckoned one of the best collections in Metropolitan Toronto, and we snagged many a new reader by being the only library in the Metro area to own a particular desired volume.

6,944 books were acquired during the year, and 6,305 were processed. This is a drop in processing from 1963 when the number processed was 8,690, but more staff time was of necessity spent in assisting a growing public.

expanding reader service

Changes in curricula and teaching methods probably accounted for the greater use of Reference material by all students. In addition to home circulation issues, more than 9,000 books and related materials were consulted in the Library, and reference questions acquired a degree of complexity which sometimes strained our stock to its limits. Subscriptions to periodical indexes such as the Reader's Guide and Canadian Periodical Index more than earned their price, as through them a greater amount of non-book material was made available. The application to the Queen's Printer for free Government Publications was approved, with the result that the Library's reference and pamphlet resources duly increased.

If there are people who do not want to become "whole" individuals, influences more potent, persuasive or punitive than libraries will fail to alter them, but the library can help those who do want, and may lead others to want. Our positive attitude toward book use as well as the physical layout of the library permit the extensive use of adult books by children, and the reverse also obtains. Borrowers are encouraged to request needed books whether these are listed or not in the catalogue, and we filled nearly 5,000 requests for books of a startling variety: of this number only 20 were obtained from other libraries.

In order to cope with the greatly increased usage of the library, the number of staff was augmented by two — one librarian and one assistant. Mrs. Hille Sonin, who was at Library School, returned to fill the post of librarian after graduating with honours from her course. An exchange of Children's Librarians occurred during the year as Mrs. Judith Sarick left to enter the School Library field, and her place was taken by Mrs. Barbara Silverberg.

continuing cooperation

We continued the sending of entries to the Bibliographic Centre, and through information so supplied 21 books were loaned to other libraries — in Toronto and other parts of Ontario.

Three study groups were given assistance in planning their year's programme, and a booklist on 'Representative American 20th Century Fiction' was compiled for one group by Mrs. Sonin.

Close cooperation with the Home and School Association was maintained as the library sponsored one major and eight minor book displays in conjunction with the various Home and School meetings. The faces of the Home and School Library Chairmen are familiar and welcome to us at the Library, and these ladies are becoming so adept at book exhibits, that our efforts in this direction are minimized.

The Library contributed in some measure to both the Ontario and Canadian Library Associations. The Chief Librarian once again prepared the booklist on History and Current Affairs for the Ontario Library Association: our Chairman, Mr. White, completed his term of office as President of the Canadian Library Association, Trustees' Section, while the Chief Librarian served as a resource person at the Workshop held during the conference of the Canadian Library Association in Halifax.

initiating new programmes

With our bookstock within hailing distance of the initial goal of 50,000 volumes, we ventured further afield. By co-opting interested persons in the Community — all of whom unhesitatingly gave of their time and enthusiasm — two Committees were formed, with the Library Board actively represented on both: one — The Fine Arts Committee — convened to organize Art displays, the other — The Activities Committee — explored a wider sphere.

The Fine Arts Committee was responsible for arranging sixteen exhibits of paintings, ceramics, and other allied displays such as a show of Eskimo sculpture and a collection of Police badges. The Library printed and distributed 5,000 bookmarks publicizing these art showings.

The Activities Committee planned and executed a very successful series of three lectures entitled 'Prelude to Stratford' when Mr. Arnold Edinborough spoke on Shakespearean and Restoration drama. The Committee's efforts seemed to have the 'Midas' touch in relation to public response, for even the unavoidably late arrival of the speaker for one lecture failed to dampen the ardour of the hundreds who came yet another night to make up for the missed occasion.

the summing up

The Library spent \$86,957 during 1964, which included \$1,600 left over from the last of the Capital Grants. Of the amount spent, Books accounted for \$25,494, Salaries for \$38,295, Repair and Binding \$1,766 and Other Expenditure \$10,855. The Municipal Council provided the bulk of the funds with a grant of \$78,003 of which \$10,547 was refunded for Maintenance: a grant from the Provincial Library and revenue from fines and fees made up the balance.

Tribute must be paid to all those persons who donated books during the year, to Mr. E. Dunlop, M.P.P. for the provision of Provincial Legislative literature, to the Board of Education and the Home and School Association for their unflagging interest, to all the members of the Committees for their willing service, to Mr. Cronsbery and Municipal Staff for their assistance, to the Municipal Council for financial support, to my Board for intelligent and progressive policies.

The future is uncertain. As a small entity it is possible that we may be engulfed in the general tendency towards centralization and standardization: for the time being we dare to be different, dare to be as non-standardized as possible in the nature of our bookstock, in the provision of service. We feel that somewhere along the road librarians are losing sight of the fact that the library exists for the reader, and not merely for impersonal press-button, page-producing information-retrievers. So a final tribute to our readers, who take such pride in their library that through them it is becoming an active, dynamic institution – propagating knowledge, dispensing delight.

*Muriel E. Morgan
Chief Librarian*



Board member Mrs. Purkis and Chief Librarian Mrs. Morgan chat during lecture intermission.



... a board of progressive policies ...
(Standing l. to r.) Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Bick, Mr. Bell.
(Seated l. to r.) Mrs. Purkis, Mr. White, Mrs. Denton.



Fine Arts Committee Convenes

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN



After a second successful year of operation, the children's library continues to fascinate its young members. This year there were 518 new applicants bringing the total number of registered borrowers to almost 2000. The circulation for the year was 45,000 which is an average of 22 books per borrower. Due to this increased circulation the charging system was changed so that children's books are now photographed on microfilm as are the adult. New books are continually purchased, processed and quickly set on the shelves to meet with the demands of our readers. The stock at December 1964 was 8068, an increase of 1502 books over 1963.

The children's library is a constant centre of activity. Preschoolers often arrive with their mothers early in the morning when they can find their own books without interference from the older children. In the afternoon, nursery school and kindergarten classes have visited the library. The children hear stories, are told how to care for their own books and are given an elementary tour through the adult section, the art room and the workroom. The proper behaviour in the library is then explained to them. In the spring, Grades 4, 5, and 6 classes from North Prep and Grades 4, 5 and 6 classes from West Prep were brought to the library, instructed in the use of the card catalogue, the Dewey decimal system and shown a variety of reference books. Reference questions were handed out at the end of the talk, and the students were given time to survey the library on their own while hunting for the answers. This completed a program of introduction for all the senior grades of the Preparatory schools.

After school the library is flooded with students searching for information for their school projects or just browsing through our collection. The children are trained to do as much investigation on their own as possible, but there is always someone available to help

them find the right book for their individual problem, and to help guide them toward an improved reading program. Every Saturday morning there is a story hour for the younger members of the community. A mimeographed sheet was distributed informing the parents of this activity and this has increased the attendance. When possible the stories are related to special holidays such as Halloween and Christmas or to the season. Music has been introduced into the story hour. Classical and folk music are enjoyed as well as musical tales. The children enjoy active participation in these programs and are encouraged to clap and sing when they wish.

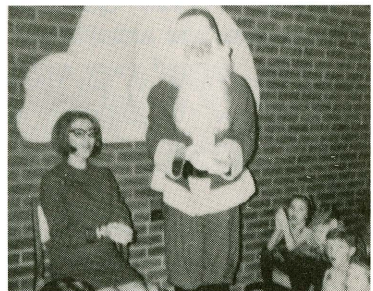
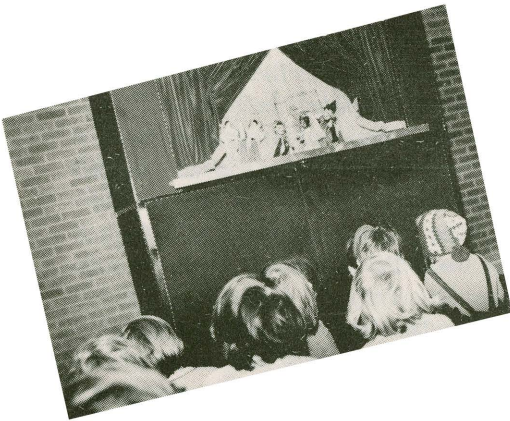
The first puppet show ushered in Young Canada Book Week. The library purchased a puppet stage, and the staff enthusiastically helped in writing the script, designing the scenery and making the costumes. The show was a success with well over one hundred children attending. During the Christmas vacation all the younger members were invited to a Christmas party in the children's story room. A Christmas tree was trimmed with bright lights and ornaments. Santa Claus arrived just in time to distribute candy canes and to chat with each one individually. Over seventy-five youngsters listened to a Christmas story and then gaily joined in such familiar tunes as "Here comes Santa Claus" and "Frosty the Snowman".

The school principals have been most co-operative. Announcements were made in all the village schools prior to the puppet show and the Christmas party. This publicity encouraged the children who do not normally come to the library to attend our programs and at the same time to see a great variety of books that are available to them. Plans for the coming year are in motion so that the junior library will be equipped to satisfy the increasing demands of our avid young readers. An annotated book list stressing mystery and adventure in non-fiction will soon be available for the eight to twelve age group. Additional shelving has been ordered to accommodate our expanding book stock. The need for duplication of books in constant demand, particularly in the fields of science and history will be a guide in our book selection this year.

Uppermost in our minds is the realization that the library as a service for the children must indeed benefit the youngsters and inspire them to continue in their quest for knowledge.

Barbara Silverberg
Children's Librarian

*Puppet show enlivens,
Santa Claus delights.*





Touch of "Midas" with audience response.



Coffee break to start discussion.

MEMBERS OF ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (1964)

Mrs. C. Purkis (Chairman & Library Board Member)

Miss O. Clarke

Mrs. F. Denton (Library Board)

Mrs. E. A. Keenleyside

Mrs. J. Levenstein

Mrs. E. J. Pivnick

Mrs. P. Draimin

Mrs. H. Wolfson

Mrs. M. E. Morgan (Chief Librarian)

FINE ARTS COMMITTEE (1964)

Mrs. J. Leitch (Chairman)

Mrs. H. Jordan

Mrs. D. H. Milnes

Mrs. N. Rogers

Mr. A. White (Library Board)

	1963	1964
BOOKSTOCK	30,431	36,385
BORROWERS	9,744	11,803
CIRCULATION	190,192	215,055
	Population served 22,106	

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10:00 a.m. - 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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