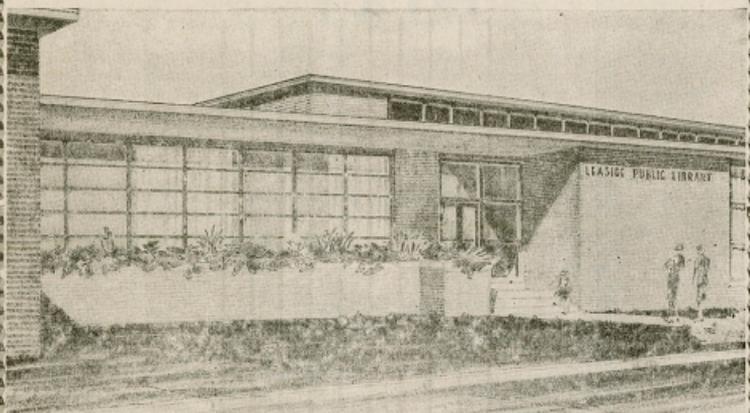


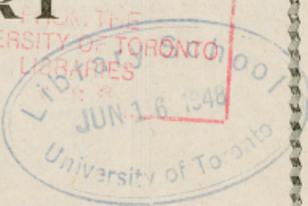
LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY



PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

WITHDRAWN

ANNUAL REPORT 1947





THE LIBRARY BOARD

1947

MR. DOUGLAS COOPER
Board of Education

MRS. SARAH CORRIGAN
Separate School Board

MR. R. H. GOBOLD
Town Council

MRS. E. A. HOLLERAN
Separate School Board

MRS. R. M. LITCH
Board of Education

MR. B. MALLOY
Board of Education

MR. GEORGE MASON
Town Council

MRS. H. W. PANTER
Town Council



CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Douglas Cooper

In reviewing the report of the Leaside Library of 1947 it is interesting to observe the extent to which the library has become an integral part of the town's activities.

The library, its service; the librarians, their advice and experience, have been called upon repeatedly to lend assistance to various Leaside group activities. These services were gladly rendered to the fullest extent our present inadequate quarters and already overworked staff could provide. The Board, in co-operation with its librarians, Mrs. MacAlpine, Miss Murray and Mrs. Chapman, has endeavored to extend its services beyond that of "just a place to borrow books." And it is indeed gratifying to see these efforts rewarded by the enthusiastic support of individual borrowers as well as clubs and other organizations. Leaside Public Library can boast of a membership of more than 33 1-3 per cent of the Town's population. When it is considered there is a total of 3,850 dwellings and the library membership is more than 5,000, a better concept of its popularity may be formed. This is a particularly fine achievement, as few other communities of comparable size can excel those figures.

The Board would be very remiss if it did not at this time give credit to its librarians for much of the progress the library has made. Their cheerful acceptance of and patience at the delay encountered by the Board in its endeavour to consummate the plans for the erection of sorely needed library building, has been an expression of loyalty that is a genuine compliment to the citizens of Leaside.

Although our Librarians are paid on a 40 hour week basis the library actually "functions" 12 hours per day (except Wednesday 4 hours and Saturday 8 hours). Work starts at 9 a.m. with the many complicated duties of cataloguing, accessioning, repairing and shelving of books as well as the myriad details of clerical work. The library is opened to the public at 2 p.m. and remains open till 9 p.m. With our limited staff this necessitates staggered hours and many extra demands on their time for outside activities such as book talks, displays, board meetings, etc. The Board appreciates its librarians' co-operation in this respect and is looking forward to the

not too-distant day when it can give them the facilities necessary for this type of work.

SURPLUS FINANCE

While our financial statement shows a bank balance of \$2,100.00 this does not mean that we actually had a surplus. This balance was due to two factors. (1) Previous grants from the Provincial Government were around \$150. During 1947 a new Act was passed which increased the grants to libraries on a percentage basis of the Municipal Grants and in accordance with the qualifications of the librarians. As a result Leaside Public Library received around \$2700 instead of the usual \$150. (2) This increased sum was immediately set aside for the purchase of furniture and equipment for the new library building which was expected to be well under way before the end of the year. These plans did not materialize and it was necessary, therefore to carry a portion of this amount over into 1948.

Notwithstanding this unexpected windfall from the Provincial Department of Education, your Library Board had a difficult financial year. Faced with rapidly rising costs in all phases of library operation it was necessary to make drastic purchase curtailments yet maintain the standard of service the residents have come to expect.

This was not an easy obstacle to surmount, but through harmonious co-operation of the members of the various committees, we were able to stay within our budget and at the same time make certain extensions to the service. All Board meetings were well attended by the members and the numerous duties relative to the administrative problems of the library were performed with enthusiastic co-operation and diligence. A valuable member was lost with the resignation of Mr. Russell Godbold, who, through pressure of other business was forced to retire. Mr. Godbold was one of the original organizers of the Leaside Public Library and it was with a great deal of regret the Board accepted his resignation.

With the new building looming on the horizon your library is looking forward with great anticipation towards an expansion of service that will make Leaside Public Library a leader in community affairs.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Mrs. ELEANOR MacALPINE

During 1947 Leaside Library's growth as an integral part of community interests went hand in hand with a steady increase in membership and in the use of books. 738 new names were added to the members' file during the year, 595 of these being adult borrowers and 243 children. Over 2300 new books were purchased and the circulation of books showed an increase of 3,278 over 1946 (6.8%).

As well as keeping the library well stocked with the new and outstanding books published during the year, the stock of standard classics, both fiction and non-fiction was increased and attention was given also to obtaining new books published by Canadian authors or books about Canada, as it was felt that Canadian libraries should lead in fostering Canadian literature. The various interests of the library users were also kept in mind when books were ordered so that very few requests would have to go unanswered. In this way, the book collection has been kept well balanced and adequate to the needs of its users.

Apart from books of fiction and biography, which are always most widely read, books on the useful arts, such as crafts, hobbies and gardening showed the greatest increase in circulation, a proof that the library has really an active part in community activities.

Leisure time activities, both educational and recreational, closely overlap and one depends upon the other, so that the library, where so many aids to recreational activities are to be found, naturally becomes a necessary part of any community centre.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The extent to which Leaside Library has become a focal point of community interests is shown by the variety of its activities during the year. The Home and School Association came to the Library for lists of books on Child Training and for suggestions for books on teen-age boys and girls. The Library arranged a display of these books for one of the Association's meetings so that parents might have an opportunity to look over their contents. One of the C. G. I. T.

groups at Leaside United Church asked for a selection of books on Canadian Indians to be shown with a project on this subject on which they had been working.

The mothers of a Cub Group from Leaside Presbyterian Church invited the librarian to speak to them on some of the new books to be obtained at the Library.

Early in the fall, the facilities of the Library were offered to the Leaside Director of Recreation who responded by asking the Library to display in the window examples of the various craft work to be taught during the winter. This met with a great response and aroused much interest. The Library gave out information regarding registration and supplied the craft teachers with lists of available books on these subjects. Several of the books were used extensively during the courses.

From time to time during the year, the Library has exhibited paintings by some of the Leaside residents. This is a project which it hopes to broaden when ensconced in the new building. There, the Library hopes to have exhibits of pictures by Canadian artists as well as by local talent and thus stimulate an appreciation of painting.

Another link with community activities was forged when the Library was approached by the Leaside Health Unit as to whether the building could be used on Wednesday afternoons for the Baby Clinic. Both the Board and staff were very pleased to arrange for this and, although quarters are crowded, the arrangement seems to be working satisfactorily. The Library took the opportunity to have on hand for the mothers, information folders about the Library and lists of books on Child Training.

YOUTH ACTIVE READERS

It has been found by the Canadian Youth Commission that reading rated as third among the recreational activities of young people. A very gratifying number of these young people used the Library during the past year. Their preferences and needs have been given special attention so that we might encourage reading and the "Library habit" among these

teen-agers. 118 books were added to the Youth Section in 1947, including suitable fiction, sports, hobbies as well as those of a purely educational type. The Library also contacted the schools, offering their co-operation in the matter of lists and books. It is to be hoped that another year, when more space is available, will see the establishment of school visits to the Library and visits by the librarians to the schools.

The weekly column in the two local papers has been kept up all through the past year. Here new books are reviewed or listed and timely subjects discussed. This is a form of publicity which achieves definite results as the librarians are often asked for books or material mentioned in the column. It now seems to be an established item in the paper for which the readers look with interest.

LIBRARIES ARE CENTRES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

In May, the librarians attended the Ontario Library Association Conference

in Guelph and found it a most stimulating gathering. This was the first occasion on which both Board members and librarians had held a joint conference and it was felt to be very worthwhile in that both points of view were presented and discussed. The chief trend of libraries throughout Ontario was shown to be that of becoming centres of community interests. Much was being done with film and record loans and art displays. These are activities from which Leaside Library must regretfully abstain until they have a new building.

It has been said that recreation, the pleasant and profitable use of leisure time, is important in the social, economic and political life of a democracy and that the enduring strength of a free society must come through the untrammelled education of all its people. Despite the handicaps of overcrowding, the Library is proud to have done its share in the educational and recreational life of Leaside in 1947 and is now looking forward to the time in the near future when it can extend its efforts more satisfactorily in its new wing of the Community Centre.

CIRCULATION

	Non-fiction	Fiction	Total Adult	Boys & Girls	Total
1947	11,600	19,624	31,224	19,928	51,152
1946	10,894	18,704	29,598	18,276	47,874
Increase	706	920	1,626	1,652	3,278

MEMBERSHIP

	Adult	Boys & Girls	Total
December 31, 1946	2,579	1,633	4,212
December 31, 1947	3,174	1,876	5,050
New members	595	243	738

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH SECTION



MISS JANET MURRAY

The famous old fable from Aesop about the thirsty fox whose mouth watered for a luscious bunch of grapes which he spied hanging just out of his reach, is a piece of wisdom worthy of more than the usual scornful pronouncement "sour grapes". We believe that Mr. Fox is to be commended for his philosophical acceptance of a disappointment, and for his clever way of dispelling it. Considering the Library's "growing pains" of 1947, and the longing for more space, perhaps we can emulate Mr. Fox, and instead of bemoaning the unavoidable postponement of the Community Centre Project, we can look around and reflect upon the pleasant individual contacts that only a small informal library can offer. This is especially evident in the daily work with children.

Because she is dealing with young individuals whose tastes are not yet formed, the children's librarian's task is to give some direction to the reading of the girls and boys who come searching for books. She can do this most effectively and discreetly, if she knows what books a boy or girl has just returned, and in addition has the opportunity of talking about the books and suggesting new ones

which would continue some special interest lately aroused by the ones just read.

BOOKS AWAKEN INTEREST

For example, there is the boy who reads and rereads the books by the English contemporary writer Arthur Ransome. Mr. Ransome has an unusual faculty for understanding children and producing fine books. The influence of his writing upon this boy has opened up new channels of interest for him such as making maps of the Lake District where the adventures take place, constructing models of the sailboats that the characters use, awakening an interest in English historical books, and curiosity about other writers like Beatrix Potter, and the Lake Poets who lived in this northern part of England,

A diet of sameness is unwise whichever way you look at it, and we are convinced that the traditional fairytales are a necessary part of any child's reading at a certain age. But, to read fairytales to the exclusion of all else is not a good thing either. There is a point when the librarian may feel it is time to suggest a book like *THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN* or *PINK FURNITURE* as a



continuation of the fairytale interest, but which serves as an introduction to imaginative fiction and encourages the necessary concentration required for reading

The choice of titles for a children's library is made bearing in mind the varied activities of boys and girls, the literary quality of the writing compared with the standard like books for children, the proper perspective in values, and what the content has to offer in the way of providing a touchstone to new fields in reading. This last, is the big argument against the "series" and "school" type or stories being advertised so widely today. This kind of book acts like a sedative on the minds of the boys and girls who are exposed to them. There is a definite dulling of the intellectual curiosity which is native to children. Where there is individual contact with one of these boys or girls, and not too much pressure of time as in a school library, the librarian is usually able to deal successfully with this problem by finding a book to give out that is somewhat like, but certainly better than the ones they have been reading. We can think of a girl who used to reject everything we had to offer, because she had been on a steady diet of "series" books. Now she is reading everything and developing admirably and recently brought her friend whom she announced "doesn't like reading".

EVEN 2 YEAR OLDS "READ"

Non-library members might be surprised that a two-year-old could be included as a regular customer for borrowing books. Our youngest member began her library experience at that age, and now at the age of three is capable of choosing her own books with an unusual show of discrimination. Her handling of the books would put many adults to shame. Each page is turned with the utmost care by her tiny finger and thumb from the end of the page, as it should be with the least possible strain.

This little girl is outstanding, but she is one of many little children who are experiencing their first co-operative contact outside the home, in becoming library members. A seven-year-old who had been an early visitor appeared one day in the library after some absence. He picked up "PING" with the greatest joy, saying affectionately, "This was my first library book".

That boys and girls think of the Public Library as essentially the place to go for recreational reading, is demonstrated by the way they turn up early in the afternoon during school hours, if they have been home sick, or on special holidays. Again, after exams are over, we often hear someone say, "I want a good book

that I don't HAVE to read", or "Guess I'll have some fun now reading the "Freddy Books". Then there was a girl who was home sick for a few weeks and had a real reading binge; she made a charming little figure out of pipe cleaners and dressed it in green velveteen, because she "wantd to have something at home to remind her of "Miss Hickory". (A book by Caroline Bailey).

OVERCROWDED

At the Story Hour it is exhilarating to have a great crowd of children, and it is important to reach a large number, but traditional story-telling stems from the small intimate groups, and there is no gainsaying the fact that thirty is an ideal gathering of children, and the best number that we can accommodate. After we have had seventy, some children have confessed that they didn't like to be so crowded so stopped coming.

One Saturday morning at story-time, every single child turned up with bubble gum. What were we to do? This was their holiday and bubble gum seemed part of the celebration, yet who could face twenty or more of these ridiculous bubbles and concentrate on telling a prepared story? Some bright voice suggested that we make up a story about bubble gum, and so a bargain was made—first a story about bubble gum—then everyone would store their wad in the cheek, while the scheduled stories were being told. It worked, but we're afraid the librarian adopted the strategy of Hilaire Belloc in his "Cautionary Tales for Children".

1947 was a good year in spite of "growing pains" and we are grateful to Mr. Fox for supplying us with some philosophy, but unlike him we are biding our time, firmly convinced that we will secure those "grapes" yet in the form of a new modern library housed in the Community Centre.



STATEMENT

1947

RECEIPTS

On hand January 1st, 1947	\$ 659.40
Petty cash	10.00
Library Revenue:	
Membership & Renewals	244.96
Fines	656.61
Book Reserve	35.99
Gifts & Grants	2,741.25
Town of Leaside	9,096.00
Personal Orders	45.02
Loss or Damage	16.69
	<u>\$13,505.92</u>

EXPENDITURES

Books Purchased	\$ 4,205.58
Librarians' Salary	4,025.40
Relief Librarian	1,085.23
Rent	600.00
Light & Telephone	131.85
Equipment	164.33
Supplies & Printing	470.01
Cleaning & Wages	421.89
Treasurer	300.00
	<u>\$11,405.33</u>
Bank Balance Dec. 31st, 1947	2,090.59
Petty Cash	10.00
	<u>\$13,505.92</u>

BOARD MEMBERS

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MRS. W. J. GAUDET
Separate School Board

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Town Council

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MISS S. PALLET
Board of Education

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