

LEASIDE LIBRARY
Annual Report, 1948

"A library is a social agency with a double relationship to books and people. It is a source of information to all active social elements and groups including the professions, the trades, the cultural activities and recreational life of the area. The library of today is a community institution supported and fostered by related interests and designed to meet common needs."

Looking back over the year 1948, results show that Leaside Public Library has come as close as circumstances permit to achieving this purpose of a public library. Rows of figures appear very dull at first glance but they are the concrete proof of the work that was accomplished during the year, and are an indication that the Library has definitely established itself in the minds and hearts of the people of Leaside.

1130 new members joined the Library in 1948, 609 adults and 421 children, which gives the Library a total membership of 6180. This is about 45% of the population and a very high percentage compared to other towns of similar size.

The circulation of books for the year was 63,005, an increase of 11,853 over the previous year. As the total book stock is 9,677 this averages that every book in the library has been used seven times during the year, actual proof of the Library's effectiveness.

A large circulation is a very encouraging phase of library service, but the librarians very much regret that without the proper facilities they cannot give those extra services which have become part and parcel of the modern public library. Film loans, art exhibits, picture loans, discussion groups have been out of the question in the Library's present inadequate quarters.

However, to offset these deficiencies the librarians have striven to set

a high standard of service. They have tried to create an atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation and to make of the library a community meeting place to which people enjoy coming as well as a cultural and recreational centre.

To achieve this, they have aimed at providing a personalized type of service where the librarian, acting as a readers' adviser tries, by familiarizing herself with individual tastes and preferences, to give each reader the book best suited to his requirements and tastes. In order to reach this objective, the staff has tried to keep abreast of all community interests and activities as well as the general trend of the times, and to see that books on appropriate subjects are continually added to the book collection.

Of course, no library is sufficient unto itself so that Leaside Library has availed itself of the Inter-Library Loan service extended by the Public Library of Toronto to obtain any special material not available on its own shelves. During 1948, we have made twenty-five such loans and have thus supplied information on special subjects which was in books now out of print, too specialized or too expensive for a small library to purchase.

High school students have made good use of the library during the past year. Owing to the fact that the library of the new high school was not ready for use, the reference books at the public library were in great demand. Here, again, we were seriously handicapped for lack of space but the material which the students needed was on hand in the up-to-date reference books which the library has acquired during the year.

The teen-agers are one group to which the library could give much more adequate service if it were installed in larger quarters. Although we have given a great deal of attention to the selection of books for young people, their section is very crowded with no reading room accomodation, so that

there is not much to attract them to the library. This is a constant source of regret to the library staff as it is so important that these young people should be encouraged to read in their transition from childhood to adulthood.

Again in 1948 the Library was happy to cooperate with the Recreation Director and with the Home and School groups. Our window displayed on two occasions the work of the various craft groups organized by the Recreation Director. The Library distributed application forms and information and supplied the director with lists of available books on the crafts being studied. The books were in great demand all during the year and several new titles were added so that we could more adequately supply the requests for these subjects.

For the Home and School groups we again provided lists and a display of books on Home Education, Child Training and Adolescent Psychology.

In the past year, the Library again availed itself of the publicity offered by a weekly column in the local papers. Each year this column brings in more results. We have made it a policy to review new books of topical interest, or by well-known authors, to print lists of books on various subjects of local interest or of those that have been recently acquired and to acquaint the public with library services and activities. We find that each week brings results in requests for the books or in new members for the Library.

Each year, as the Library has become more firmly established, we are gratified by the number and variety of the requests that we receive. They vary from tropical fish to television, from crocheting to capitalism, from Chaucer to Jean Paul Sartre, and, usually, the Library has the answer, can obtain the book through interloan, or can direct the inquirer to where the answer can be found.

Looking back, one wonders how such a large volume of work was accomplished among the serious handicaps of severe shortage of space and by a staff of three among which there were two changes during the year. It is a strong indication of how definitely Leaside Library has established itself as part of the community life. And there is every indication that the end of the coming year will see the Library established in quarters from which it can more fully expand its activities and take its place as the "Community Intelligence Centre" which works with the other educational and recreational institutions towards the betterment of the community.

CIRCULATION FIGURES 1948
LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Adult fiction	22,762
" Non-fiction	14,866
Boys & Girls	<u>26,230</u>
Total	63,848

Book stock - 1948

Non-fiction	3,463
Fiction	2,372
Boys & Girls	<u>3,842</u>
Total	9,677
Reference	125

Membership - 1948

Adult	3,883
Children	<u>2,297</u>
Total	6,180
Population	13,635

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1948

Receipts

Balance from 1947	2,100.59
Municipality	9,050.41
Legislative grant	3,040.10
Membership fees	298.63
Fines, etc.	850.64
Other Revenues	<u>183.98</u>

15,524.35

Expenditures

Books - Adult Non-fiction	2,025.62
" - " fiction	1,050.30
" - Boys & Girls	1,412.46
Periodicals	75.00
Bookbinding	163.40
Equipment	520.80
Rent	600.00
Light, heat & water	133.09
Stationery & supplies	1,019.30
Salaries & wages	6,226.24
Other expenditures	420.00
On hand Dec. 31, 1948	<u>1,878.54</u>

15,524.35