



LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 25, 1950.

Miss Jean M. Jeffrey, Secretary,
Library School,
Ontario College of Education,
371 Bloor St. West,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Dear Miss Jeffrey:

I received your letter requesting our annual reports for 1948 and 1949, but we did not publish a report for either of these years.

However, I am sending you a copy of my report to the Board for 1948 with figures attached, and also a copy of a brief outline contained in the Provincial Report for 1949, with figures attached.

If, as I expect we shall, we publish a report for 1950, we shall be sure to send one to you and the name of the Library School will be included in the mailing list for any future reports.

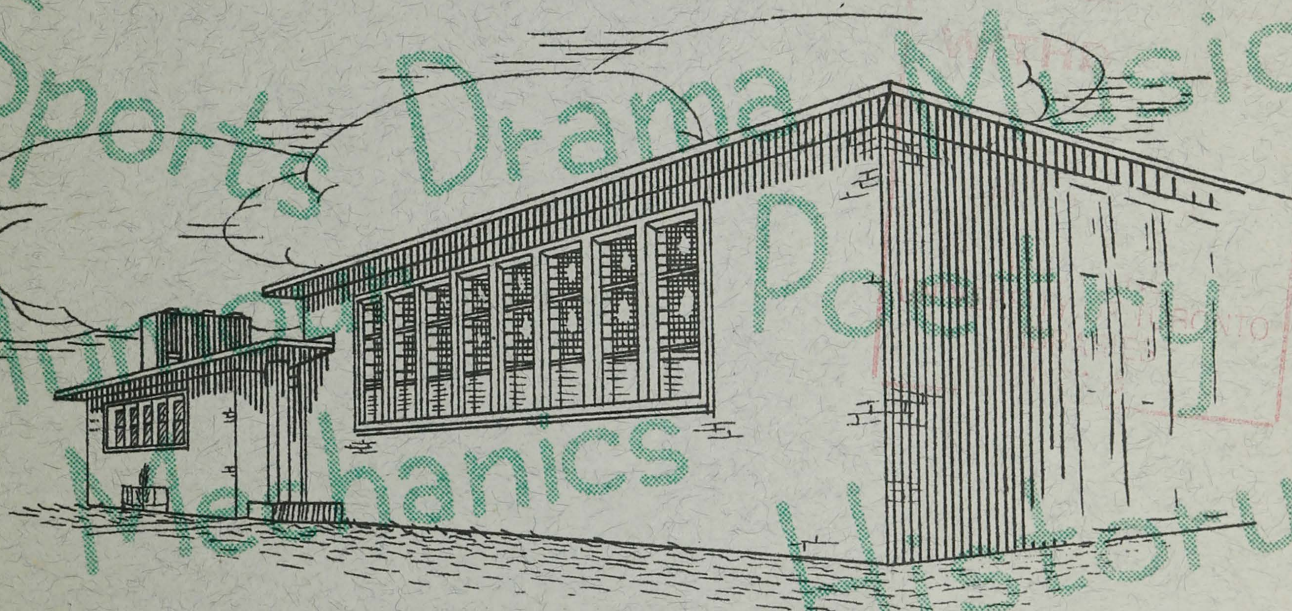
Sincerely yours,

Eleanor MacLennan

Librarian.

EM/M

Leaside's Centre of Reading



LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT 1950

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
of
LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1950

Mr. Douglas Cooper	Mrs. H.W. Panter
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Mr. K.E. Bryant	Mrs. E.A. Holleran
Town Council	Separate School Board
Mr. E.R. Humphreys	Mr. J.V. McIntyre
Board of Education	Separate School Board
Mr. D.A. MacLeod	Mr. George Mason
Board of Education	Town Council
Mayor G.T. Manes	

LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 1950

To the members of the Leaside Public Library Board:

This year was the brightest in Leaside Library history since the birth of the idea in 1943, for it saw the completion of the new building which is to be a centre of cultural development in the community. It was the pleasure of this Board to entertain many guests at a formal opening on March 8th, who were high in their praise of the plans and appointments. Some of the more evident advantages over the old quarters are shelving space to accommodate our complete stock of books, scientific lighting, chairs to make a prolonged visit a rational act and above all, an atmosphere in keeping with that of our homes.

The physical centre realized, it now remains to build up its usefulness to the public by establishing policies which will encourage its use as a place of entertainment as well as a source of ideas and learning. Bearing in mind the chief function of a library is to make available the works of the wisest minds, we have felt that the development of arts and crafts (the same thing!) is necessary to civilized living, and what accommodation we have available we have offered to those interested towards development in this field.

The increasing demand for books continues, and in the light of this fact the amount shown in the Treasurer's report for the purchase of books would not seem to promise a speedy attainment of the book stock we would like to make available but since it shows growth, we cannot but be satisfied that this year has been very satisfactory from the standpoint of accomplishment.

Many gifts have been received by the Library during the past year. Donations of books were received from the Eighteen Club and the 176th Boy Scout Auxiliary; also from Mr. Bate. Subscriptions to magazines were received from Mr. Ernest Frey and Mr. A.A. Outram. The Board is grateful to these donors.

On behalf of the Board I wish to extend to the members of our staff our appreciation of their splendid co-operation and service to the public. I also wish to thank my fellow Board members for contributing of their talents in the interest of our Public Library.

(Sgd.) Lois Panter,

Acting Chairman.

LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT - 1950

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

History was made in Leaside in 1950 when the Public Library moved to its new building in Millwood Park. This was not accomplished without the usual delays and trials and tribulations associated nowadays with building in general. But, having so outgrown our old quarters, the staff felt that these frustrations were negligible in comparison to having a suitable library at last.

Having given notice on the first of December at our rented premises on Bayview Avenue, we were obliged to move at the first of the year into the new library before it was really ready for occupancy. A period of travail ensued while the staff wrestled with the problems of shelving books and arranging furnishings while workmen still occupied the building.

Opening of New Building

At last, not wishing to remain closed to the public any longer than was absolutely necessary, the doors were opened on January 24th, but the Library was not completely finished and ready for our official opening until March. This took place on March 8th when the library was declared officially open by Mr. Elborn, acting for the Minister of Education. The Mayor and members of Council, Mr. Mowat, Director of Library Service for the Province, all board members present and past, and presidents of all Leaside groups and organizations were present for the occasion.

New Building Model in Library Architecture

Not only in Leaside did the Library make history - our new building has aroused interest in Library circles across Canada, in the United States and even as far away as Germany. Letters and visitors from Prince Albert to Halifax have come to the library inquiring about building costs, plans and furnishings as Leaside Library typifies a new trend in Library buildings with its functional yet artistic lines, its bright, airy rooms and its colourful decor. The American Library Association asked for photographs, plans and figures for its file on new library buildings and the Direktor of the Volksbuchereien of Bremen, Germany wrote that he had seen pictures of Leaside Public Library (probably in the Unesco copy of the Ontario Library Review) and would like information about the building as it might serve as a model for the development of open shelf library buildings in Germany.

Centre for Cultural Activities

As the Board and staff had long wished for the day the library would be large enough to become a centre for cultural activities in the town, they lost no time in setting plans in motion to realize their ambitions.

On March 6th an exhibit of representative art work of the children of Leaside primary schools was held in the library. This was arranged in cooperation with the Ramsay Macdonald Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and the Toronto Art Gallery. Representatives of both these organizations were present and prizes of books selected by the children's librarian were presented by the I.O.D.E. to the classes whose work obtained the best standing.

Then on March 15th, the library held Open House. The Toronto Art Gallery loaned original paintings by A.Y. Jackson for the occasion and Mr. Baldwin, Director of the Gallery, spoke. Two films were shown, one on the work of A.Y. Jackson and one on Tom Thomson.

In April, the librarian, upon the request of the Amici Club of Leaside United Church, gave to the club members an outline of how a public library operates and escorted them through the new building.

May was also a busy month at the library. The Board was host for a meeting of members of the Boards of libraries in the metropolitan area in the new building. On May 4th, the Women's Auxiliary of Leaside Presbyterian Church Cub group held their spring meeting in the Children's Room of the library and were given a talk by the librarian on some of the current books. Then, on May 10th, Mr. William Arthur Deacon, Literary Editor of the Globe and Mail gave a lecture on the growth of Canadian literature. This was very successful and well attended.

With the beginning of the fall season, the library again began a series of activities to further interest in reading and its allied arts.

The Gallery Group of Leaside was formed in September with the library taking an active part in its organization. Arrangements were made for a group to study painting under the direction of a teacher from the Toronto Art Gallery and a series of monthly lectures on art and demonstrations of painting were planned. Both these and the painting classes were held in the library, the lectures being open to the public.

An evening on the Ballet was held in the library in October at the request of the Ballet Festival Committee. Leaside Garden Club requested a talk by the librarian on gardening books for one of its fall meetings. The highlight of these fall activities was a talk by Mr. James Scott, Book Editor of the Telegram on current Canadian writing.

As well as the exhibition of A.Y. Jackson paintings, two other picture loans were obtained from the Toronto Art Gallery - a "Group of Seven" exhibit and a series of snow scenes by Canadian artists. Not to neglect our own local artists, the library also exhibited paintings by Mr. Matthew Towers and Mr. Harold V. Shaw, both of Leaside.

Several Leaside groups whose activities are of an educational nature have used the library for their meetings during the year.

The East York - Leaside Baby Clinic is held in the library the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month and the Pre-Natal Clinic, a Red Feather service which is administered by the East York - Leaside Health Clinic uses the library every Thursday afternoon.

The Stamp Club meets in the Library the first and third Friday evening of the month. Leaside Lions' Club also have arranged to hold their monthly executive meeting here.

Growth of Library Service in Leaside

While all these activities have been taking place, the main function of the library - the circulation of books - has gone on apace. From the day the library opened on January 24th until December 30th, the number of books circulated each month showed a large increase over any other year in its history. In fact, a graph of circulation figures for Leaside Library from 1943 until today would resemble those stock market graphs of the twenties with their steadily rising lines. There was a circulation increase of 15,820, 24.4% more than the 1949 figures. One of the most interesting and encouraging trends shown by these figures is the increase in the number of books other than fiction used in the adult department. These books made up 42% of the circulation in 1950, an increase of 5% over 1949.

Membership figures showed the same upward tendency - over 1800 new members in 1950, of which 1207 were adult, 652 children. 97 of these adult memberships were transfers from the Boys and Girls Department - a very good percentage which indicates that the teen-agers are keeping up their interest in reading, fostered in the Boys and Girls Department.

During 1950 the membership files in both departments were revised. Those memberships which had expired were removed to a separate file, and those of families who had moved from Leaside were discarded. This means that although there is a total enrollment of 8944, the active membership is about 5154. We hope during the coming year to contact the holders of these expired memberships in the hope of bringing them back as active members of the library.

To augment the book stock and thus provide better service for this increased membership, we last year installed a Duplicate Pay collection. This is made up of duplicate copies of new and popular books which are rented out at a charge of 4 cents a day. When the book has made enough to cover its cost, it is transferred to the free shelves. This system, inaugurated in March, was highly successful. By December we had purchased 90 books, 49 of which had paid for themselves and been added to the general collection. We had also paid for the 90 books and had a balance of \$26.15.

This record of the busy year which saw the beginning of a new era in Leaside's Library development, would not be complete without some mention of the happy cooperation which exists between the Town Council and the Library's Board and Staff, as well as among the staff members themselves. The success of the Opening and of all the other extra activities was due in no small measure to these facts.

The public too, have displayed an interest which is very encouraging, and we would like to express our gratitude for gifts from the I.O.D.E., the Eighteen Club, the Boys Scout Auxiliary and from several individual sources, and our appreciation of the generous co-operation of Reid and Campbell and Nott and Merrill on the occasion of our opening ceremony.

We can look forward to the coming year being a still more successful one for the library with this happy situation of pulling together which is one of Leaside's well-known attributes.

(Sgd.) Eleanor MacAlpine,
Librarian.

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

The year 1950 opened with the fulfilment of our dreams and we moved into the new library on January 26th. The first few days were bedlam as children and carpenters got in each others way or tripped over lumber still on the floor. That was the unofficial opening. By the date set for the formal opening ceremony on March 8th, everything was running smoothly and, as we know now, the record for one day's circulation was set at 501 (February 18th).

Story Hours began again on February 4th and we were swamped with children; attendance ran as high as 155 on two successive Saturdays. Even with two pages at the desk, Mrs. MacAlpine's help at the registration desk was necessary and very much appreciated. (Between January 26th and March 8th we had taken in 244 new registrations.) The total attendance at story hours for 1950 was 1,731.

The first community event to take place in the Children's Room was the Art display from Leaside Public Schools on March 6th. This display was the result of a contest sponsored by the Leaside Chapter of the I.O.D.E. to encourage art work in the schools. Mr. Napier of the Art Gallery was present and spoke briefly and Mrs. Nealson, Convener of Education, presented book prizes to the winning classes. Effective cooperation between the Art Gallery and the schools was shown by a display of art work shown in the library in June, done by pupils of the special class under the guidance of instructors from the Art Gallery.

School Visits

This year, instead of the librarian going to the schools, several classes have come to the library. In May, two classes of Grade 3 pupils from Bessborough School visited the library. In October a Grade 4 class came. In November, grades 4,5 and 6 came from Northlea School. On each occasion the Children's Librarian had appropriate books on special display and gave a book talk.

In the spring Mr. Eilbeck, recreation director, decided to hold classes for those who were applying for the positions of playground supervisors. I was asked to give a course of three one-hour periods on "Story Telling." This I did. The classes were held in Bessborough School and consisted of about 15 teen-age boys and girls. I enjoyed the

experience of working with these young people, most of whom were High School students, and they seemed to enjoy the story-telling too.

Young Canada's Book Week

In preparation for Book Week this year, the Canadian Library Association posters and suggestion leaflets were distributed to the public schools and book lists given to the children as they came into the library. Mr. Wray, the art director of the public schools was contacted and he agreed to use "Book Week" as a topic for Poster making in Grades 7 and 8. A dozen of the best were displayed in the library. A special "Parent's Night" programme was arranged for November 16th. A circular letter of invitation to the parents and children was sent out as well as notices put in the papers. The programme consisted of a movie, "The Great Silk Route", followed by the presentation of a facsimile radio play by Lynn Cook and her radio group of children. This was very good and it was disappointing that more parents and children did not attend; there were only about 45 people in all. In the intermission between the film and the play, parents had the opportunity to see the posters and books on display. Among the new books was Lynn Cook's "Bells on Finland Street" which had just recently been published.

Gifts to the Children's Room

In February the Children's Room was given a beautiful set of the World Book Encyclopaedia by the "Eighteen Club" of Leaside. On March 20th the Ladies Auxiliary of the 82nd Troop Boy Scouts of Leaside presented 28 Scout books to the library. Members of the Scout troop, the Scout Master and District Scout Master and representatives of the Auxiliary were present. The presentation was arranged by Mr. Miller.

About three years ago Mrs. Bream gave \$15.00 to buy something for the Children's Room in the new library in memory of her mother. It was decided that a good picture to be placed over the mantelpiece would be the most suitable thing to have. With the able assistance of Mrs. Rothwell of the Art Gallery, the committee chose a print of "Harlequin au Cheval" by Picasso which is now being framed.

The Ramsay MacDonald Chapter I.O.D.E., Leaside has very generously given a fire basket and screen for the fireplace. When it is all in place a plaque with the chapter's name will be placed on the fireplace.

Growth

The mere fact of a beautiful new library made us anticipate an increase in membership and circulation but the actual figures surpass all expectation. The total circulation for 1950 was 35,348, an increase of 8,529 over last year. New registrations were 652, just double the total of 1949. Sometimes librarians find that there is a considerable loss of library memberships between the Children's Room and the Adult Room. But in Leaside during 1950 there were 97 transfers to the adult

department. It may be noted that the membership in 1949 was quoted as 2,514 while in 1950 it is only 1,964. This is the result of weeding out all expired cards. Thus the 1950 figure represents only active memberships.

Trends

"The World Book" is proving a great boon to the older children. Now that we have tables and chairs, the children are making good use of these reference books to get material not available in other forms. It was especially noticeable during the time when Bessborough School was working in shifts, children on morning shift would come to the library to work in the early afternoon.

There has been a decided increase in the circulation of books on art, music, plays and biography. This may be due partly to better shelf arrangement in the new building but also indicates an increase in interest by the older children. Since moving into the new library, children must be in High School before they may register in the adult section. Because of this change an effort has been made to add more books suitable to the young teen-ager as well as drawing attention to books they might overlook by means of book lists and, more particularly by individual guidance. The largest circulation as usual, is in picture books. The total picture books and picture story books circulated was 15,246, an increase of 4,328, though actual book stock was increased by only 40 books. This number is the total after withdrawals have been taken off. Picture books receive the greatest wear of all books in the library as they circulate about four times as often as any other class and consequently withdrawals are more numerous.

Remarks

For the four weeks following Book Week we had a series of travel films obtained from the Imperial Oil Company, and shown at the Saturday Story Hour. Mr. La Rose was particularly kind and helpful, coming over to the library several times with films and giving us pointers on running the machine. We hope, on special occasions, to show other films which will be more interesting to the younger age group to supplement pictures and stories.

In contrast to problems arising from the administrative angle of the library, there is the constant and interesting challenge of meeting and satisfying the needs of the individual child. In children's work there is never a dull moment though there may be some exasperating ones. The Leaside children on the whole are a fine group and I enjoy working with them very much. As for the staff, we are, as the Navy puts it, a very "happy ship" and the "Captain", who is mainly responsible, is one of the best. To make all secure we are very fortunate in having a competent and interested Library Board behind us.

(Sgd.) Dorothy Morgan,

Children's Librarian.

BOOK CIRCULATION FIGURES
1950

Adult Department	Non-fiction	18,973	33.9% increase over 1949		
	Fiction	26,220	10.9%	"	"
	Total	45,103	19.2%	"	"
Boys and Girls		35,348	31.4%	"	"
Grand Total		80,451	24.4%	"	"
Story Hour Attendance		1731			

BOOK STOCK

December 31, 1950

Adult	Non-fiction	Fiction	Total Adult	Boys and Girls	Total
	4,342	2,886	7,228	4,921	12,149
Additions in 1950	600	679	1,279	794	2,073
Discarded in 1950	75	240	315	234	549

MEMBERSHIP

Population of Leaside, March, 1950 14,807

Total active membership, December 31, 1950

5183 35% of population

New members added in 1950

Adult	Boys and Girls	Total
1,207	681	1,888

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1950

RECEIPTS

On hand January 1st, 1950	518.69
Library Revenue	
Memberships, renewals, etc.	1,373.37
Gifts and Grants	3,500.99
Town of Leaside	12,300.00
Duplicate Pay Books	<u>235.60</u>
	<u>17,928.65</u>

EXPENDITURE

Books purchased	3,995.69
Repairs and Binding	302.10
Periodicals	75.86
Salaries	9,403.95
Heating, Light and Telephone	1,446.27
Cleaning and Supplies	63.11
Equipment and Supplies	1,806.01
Association Expenditures	372.45
Insurance	<u>189.20</u>
	17,654.64
On hand December 31st, 1950	<u>274.01</u>
	17,928.65