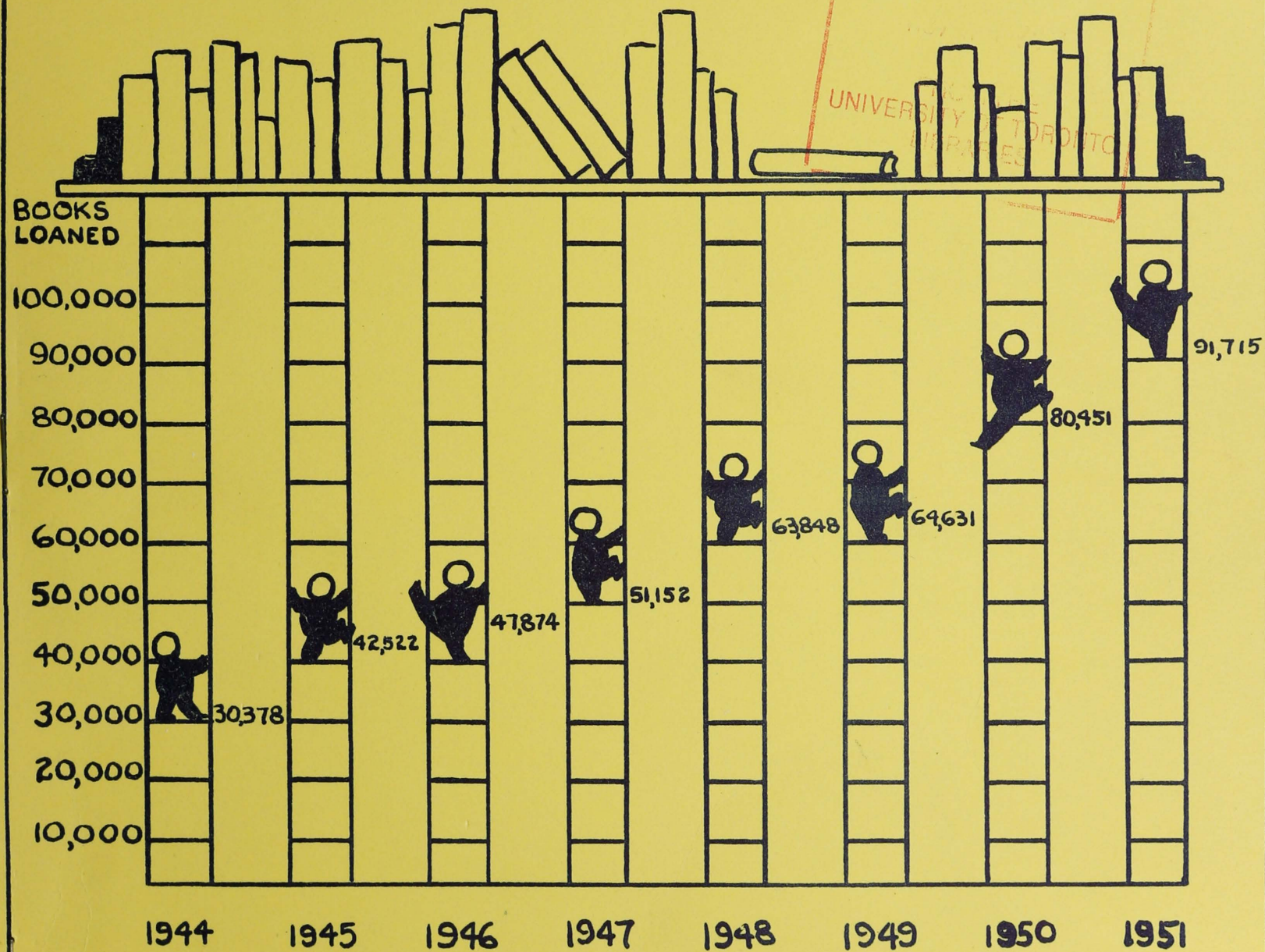


ANNUAL REPORT

1951



LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMBERS OF LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD 1951

Mrs. H.W. Panter, Chairman	Appointed by Town Council.
Mr. J.V. McIntyre, Vice-Chairman	Appointed by Separate School Board.
Mr. K.E. Bryant	Appointed by Town Council.
Mr. Douglas Cooper	Appointed by Board of Education.
Mrs. E.A. Holleran	Appointed by Separate School Board.
Mr. E.R. Humphreys	Appointed by Board of Education.
Mr. D.A. MacLeod	Appointed by Board of Education.
Mr. George Mason	Appointed by Town Council.
Mr. H.T. Burrell, Mayor	Member ex-officio.
Mr. J.R. Laver	Treasurer.
Mrs. Eleanor MacAlpine	Secretary.

MEMBERS OF LEASIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF 1951

Mrs. Eleanor MacAlpine, B.A.	Chief Librarian.
Miss Dorothy Morgan, B.A., B.L.S.	Children's Librarian.
Miss Grace Miller, B.A.	Assistant Librarian.
Mrs. Alberta Chapman	Library Assistant.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Members of the Board of Leaside Public Library:

It gives me pleasure to present the report of the Leaside Public Library for the year 1951.

The statistical report indicates a highly satisfactory state of library affairs. With an active membership of 40 percent of the entire population, and these members averaging more than one book a month over the whole year, we can fairly assume the library has fulfilled its primary function of providing pleasurable reading and supplying educational needs to adults and children alike.

The policy of encouraging the use of the library premises by community groups requiring a meeting place has proved fitting and successful; that such can be arranged without disturbance to the conventional service. In this way we have been able to promote recreational interests in the community and often to find new friends. We wish success to those who are making the library their headquarters.

We have made preparation for the establishment of a record collection to be available the first of the year. That there are many who would appreciate such a service has been fairly obvious, and this fact prompted the board to endeavour to make a record library a reality. To-day's living requires new ways and means, and this source of supply should bring pleasure to many, as well as economic advantage. Plans for operating the record library are such that it will be self-supporting and not make it necessary to divert funds required for other purposes. In this respect I especially wish to thank our chief librarian and the staff for the enthusiasm with which they accepted the task of establishing a system for the new baby and the general extension of duties which it entails.

Early this year we were able to discharge finally our duties in respect of the erection of the building. The net proceeds from the bond issue, amounting to \$86,264.58, were disbursed as follows:

Cost of Building	\$ 76,514.10
Furnishings & equipment	5,186.09
Architect's fees	<u>4,588.73</u>
	\$ 86,288.92

It was fortunate that there was only a small difference between the amount received and the amount paid out. The sum of \$24.34 was supplied from general funds and the building account closed. The building and contents are now insured for \$105,000. Glass and Public Liability are also covered.

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During the year gift subscriptions to two magazines were received from Mr. Ernest G. Frey. The board wishes to thank Mr. Frey for this donation.

On behalf of the board I wish to extend thanks to the Mayor and the members of the Council for the interest they have shown in library affairs; also to the staff for their co-operation and zeal.

My sincere thanks is also extended to my fellow board members who have been most co-operative and helpful in all respects.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) Lois Panter,

Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Members of the Board of Leaside Public Library:

A circulation of 91,715 books and 1,579 new members are the highlights of 1951 for Leaside Public Library.

As the town of Leaside has grown in population, the library has grown with it. Now, at the close of 1951, the town boasts a population of 15,858, the library a membership of 6,214 and an increase in circulation of 11,463 over the previous year - all this with a book stock of 13,901 and a staff of four.

This is a source of satisfaction to the Board and the Staff who are happy to see their efforts to spread the use of the library bearing fruit.

Quality of Reading

It is not only the number of books circulated which brings satisfaction, but the quality and variety of the reading, illustrating the diversity of interests of our readers. 40 percent of the adult reading was non-fiction. An increase in the reading of history, economics and science indicated the growing interest in world events. The use of books on philosophy, psychology and religion illustrated an awareness of today's unsettled and unhappy state. The increasing demand for books on literature, music and art reflected the expanding interest in the arts. However, there was still a live interest in recreational reading which gave a wholesome saneness to the whole reading picture.

Books in French

For the first time, a selection of books in French was added to our stock. These books were, for the most part, by present-day French Canadian writers such as Gabrielle Roy and Roger Lemelin, but also included a few standard French classics. Twenty-four volumes in all, they circulated seventy times during the year and were read as much by English speaking readers as by our few French speaking borrowers.

Duplicate Pay Books

The Duplicate Pay Collection, now at the end of its second year, has worked most successfully. 77 books were purchased for this section during the year, 42 of which were transferred to general stock after having paid for themselves in the pay collection, and at the end of the year, showed a generous surplus with which to purchase more books.

Library Finances

Fortunately, when the Library was continuing this steady growth, the budget was distributed to enable us to spend more on books than we had the previous year. \$5,141.66 was expended on books this year, an increase of \$1,1145.97 over 1950. With this sum, 2,282 volumes were added, but, as the cost of books has been steadily increasing, this number only exceeded by 209, books purchased in 1950.

The amount spent on administering the Library (this includes supplies, equipment, running expenses, salaries) was \$16,201.03, making our total expenditures \$21,342.69. Of this, \$16,120.00 was our grant from the town of Leaside, \$6,160.02 our grant from the Province of Ontario and \$2,490.38 from Library revenue.

Cultural Centre

Our policy of working towards making the library a cultural centre for the town was continued during 1951.

The Art Gallery Group again held its classes in painting in the Library once a week and sponsored "open" meetings once a month on art appreciation, consisting of an illustrated lecture on some phase of art or a demonstration of painting by a well-known Canadian artist.

The Stamp Club, the Lions' Club and the East York-Leaside Baby Clinic and Pre-natal classes also continued to use the library for their meetings.

Two new groups applied for use of library rooms - these were the Leaside Horticultural Society and the Leaside Photography Classes. We were pleased to be able to accomodate these groups as it served the double purpose of facilitating the work of the clubs and of advertising library services more widely.

Two other organizations were given the use of the library for special meetings - Leaside Presbyterian Church Women's Auxiliary and the 132d Cub Auxiliary whose usual meeting place was not available while the new church was in course of construction. The librarian was asked to speak on books at both these meetings.

Three Northlea United Church W.A. groups and one from Leaside United Church requested book reviews by the librarian at meetings in members' houses. This type of public relations we have found establishes a very pleasant relationship between the library and the public and does much to make the library's service known in the community.

Art Exhibits

Two exhibits of pictures from the Toronto Art Gallery were arranged during the year - one on abstract art by Canadian painters and one of prints of early Italian and Dutch painters.

A display of examples of Canadian handcrafts was loaned to the library by Mr. Joseph Banigan and aroused much interest.

Publicity

Our weekly column in the Leaside Advertiser and Leaside Tribune, consisting of book reviews, book lists or library news, established now for over 7 years, brought encouraging results in requests for books mentioned in it, and we are very appreciative of the space always allocated to us by these two papers. We also, for the first time in 1951, published mimeographed monthly lists of books purchased during the previous month and distributed them at the charging desk, and found them to be very popular. The "150 Recommended Books of the last 3 years" booklets compiled by the staff of the Toronto Public Library were also subscribed to and given out in the Library. These, too, were much in demand.

Teen-Age Readers

For the first time in 1951, we were able to realize our plans of encouraging our teen-age readers. There had never been sufficient room in our old quarters and time was not available during our first year in our new building. However, during 1950 we had built up the teen-age section and made it attractive. We subscribed to two or three new magazines especially for young people and arranged special displays of books for high school age boys and girls. Then last year, we invited the grade 8's from our four schools to visit the library in June to be introduced to the adult department. Judging from the results, this was a very successful undertaking. 134 boys and girls became members then and there or transferred from the Boys and Girls Department and a goodly proportion of them have become regular borrowers.

Library School Students

Since by 1951 we were well settled in our new building we were able to have for the first time students from the University of Toronto Library School come to us for their practice period. As compared to branch libraries of a large city, Leaside Library provided them with an example of a modern small-town library.

McGill University Library School also asked to have its 1951 class visit Leaside as an example of the new trend in public libraries. The students were escorted through the building and were served refreshments. They wrote to us afterwards expressing their appreciation in glowing terms.

Inquiries continued to come to Leaside in 1951 about our new building - Kenora, Parry Sound and Kitchener from Ontario; Charlottetown, P.E.I. and Nashville, Tennessee wrote for information regarding costs and furnishings.

Canadian Library Association Conference

The Canadian Library Association Conference was held in Toronto in 1951 and presented an excellent opportunity for all of our Board Members and staff to attend the sessions and social gatherings and exchange ideas with librarians from all over Canada. Leaside Library was one of the new libraries visited by both trustees and librarians.

Improvements

Two pieces of equipment acquired during the year which have been the means of giving better service and of advertising the library were an Inquiry Desk for the Adult Room and a lighted bulletin board placed outside the library at the street line.

It became necessary last fall to instal an outside light at the Boys and Girls Entrance for the use of groups using the Children's Room in the evening.

Another section had to be added to the catalogue, too, as of course this grows with the increasing book stock.

All of these items, we feel, make for better library service to the community.

Concluding Remarks

And so we bring to a close another year of library service in Leaside and can look back on it as a successful one. Each year the work of libraries in Canada is expanding and in 1951 it received an added impetus from the recommendations of the Massey Report. Leaside is proud to have had some small part in the progress libraries are slowly but surely making towards their ultimate goal of recognition on an equal basis with schools as a necessary part of education, and as a vital part of community life.

Again we cannot bring our report of the year's work to a close without a tribute to the splendid cooperation we have received from the Members of our Board on one hand and the responsiveness of our library members on the other, without which the year's work could not have been carried on successfully.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) Eleanor MacAlpine,

Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Members of the Board of Leaside Public Library:

One day a Grade 3 class came to visit the Children's Library. After the book talk was over, two children came to the registration desk to become new members. The girl said, "Have you any romances?" The boy said, "Have you any murders?" Yes, one after the other, just like that from eight-year-olds. Bit of a shock at first and then you realize they are only eight years old just using exciting-sounding words to express their desire for books of adventure or fantasy. But the fact remains that they expressed themselves in words borrowed from their elders which is only natural. There is nothing wrong with adults who enjoy a good romance or a good murder story provided that they enjoy other types of books as well. The best time to enlarge the field of reading interests is in childhood and this is one of the main concerns of the Children's Librarian. In most cases this is not too difficult because children are usually inquisitive about the world around them and willing to explore new things. There are always the few who must be weaned away from a constant diet of horse and dog stories or what they term 'a mystery'. To do this the librarian must know the books and know the children in order to give adequate guidance. It is, of course, impossible to give individual attention to each child during the busiest hours, but through the use of book lists and displays of book jackets a variety of reading is brought to the attention of the children.

School Visits

During the past year there has been a steady increase in school visits. Mr. Keene, principal of Bessborough School continued to give his steady support to the library both by encouragement and his own example. Six classes from Bessborough came to the library: three grade 3 classes, one combined 3 and 4, one grade 4, and the Opportunity Class. This last is a very interesting class of teen-age boys under the able guidance of Mr. Armstrong. In most cases the reading ability of these boys is below par which hinders their progress in all subjects. After their first visit it was arranged that the class should come with Mr. Armstrong from 3 to 3:30 every Friday afternoon. The procedure is for the boys to come in quietly, choose any books they want and sit down where they wish and read. I am on hand to answer questions or find books for them on subjects they ask for. Both Mr. Armstrong and I feel that the experiment is working well though few, as yet, are taking books home. At least they are beginning to feel at home in the library and to find a new interest in books and, incidentally, forming a good library habit. I am looking forward to watching their progress and development in the coming year.

I am pleased to report a large increase in the number of classes and new registrations from Northlea School. Eleven classes came to the library with their teachers: four grade 3, five grade 4, and two grade 5.

This is the first year that Rolph Road School classes have visited us. There have been two grade 8 classes and two grade 2 classes. One of the Grade 8 teachers, Mr. Taylor, is most anxious that his pupils make good use of the library so he had forms mimeographed by which the librarian may recommend books for their supplementary reading.

No classes from St. Anselm's Separate School have visited the library so far but registration of pupils is high, and many of them are among our best readers.

Young Canada's Book Week

Young Canada's Book Week was celebrated from November 11th-18th. A special article was published about it in the local papers and also in the three Home and School Bulletins. The theme this year was "Young Canada today - citizens tomorrow." Posters, book lists and displays were put up in the library and Parents Night was held on November 13th. Great preparations were made for this occasion. Our janitor, who is both skilled and obliging, made a lovely puppet theatre for us. Four 8 - 10 year old girls helped to make the puppets and put on the play of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and thrilled children and parents alike. Two of the older children, a boy and a girl, each gave a short book review. Extra book displays and lists were arranged on the tables for parents to see. Unfortunately a heavy rainstorm made it a bad night and so attendance was disappointing.

Story Hours

The Saturday morning story hour continued throughout the year except during July and August, with a total attendance of 1,728; an average of 41 each Saturday. This year we varied the programme by films and puppet shows. The children are fascinated by the puppets and the older ones are keen to take part in the plays. We hope to give as many children as possible that opportunity in the coming months. The second puppet show was on November 24th when two boys did "Little Red Riding Hood." Three films were shown during the year. On March 24th we had two short films: "Happy Valley", a travelogue of Nova Scotia and an amusing animal picture called, "Three Little Bruins in a Canoe." The antics of the bear cubs were particularly enjoyed. On October 6th, the Saturday before our Royal visitors arrived in Toronto, we were fortunate enough to get the film "Queen of the Future" featuring the life of the present Queen. These films were obtained from the Toronto Public Libraries Film Department. At Christmas time, December 22nd, we had a Christmas film programme obtained from Progress Films, consisting of several cartoons and a Christmas carol.

Growth

Comparing the circulation statistics of 1951 with 1950, there is a decrease from February to May. But from then on there was a steady increase which all but overcame the earlier down trend and the total yearly figure of 35,168 is a decrease of only 180. During the first half of 1950 there was a tremendous circulation of picture books, so much so that many times there were very few books left on the shelves. Toward the end of the year the rush slowed to a steadier pace and though the yearly total of 1951 was down by 980, it is now in better balance with the rest of the circulation. There was an increase in the circulation of fiction in 1951 of 643, which was due in part to an increase in our stock of easy story books for the eight and nine year old group. The only other classes showing any appreciable difference were History and Travel. These each showed an increase of over a hundred. On the whole, there were more classes showing an increase than those showing a decrease.

Remarks

Circulation figures alone do not tell the whole story of the library's influence in the community. During 1951 more and more people have come in contact with the library in one way or another and the work of the library made known. This in itself is progress. Not only were people drawn to the library but also the library has gone to the community. To make known the Children's section, the librarian gave talks to two groups of parents belonging to the North Leaside United Church. The first was May 15th on "Illustrators of Children's Books" and the second on November 7th on "Sharing Books with your Children." This talk was planned to tie in with, and emphasize, the aims of Young Canada's Book Week which was held the following week.

To illustrate the regard in which the library is held, a small boy paid the library quite a compliment one day. He came to join and when asked his name he said, "Robert Blank-- or Bobby, but I like to use Robert when it's something important." By their behaviour the children show that they think the library is important and a pleasant place as well for they take very good care of books and furniture and at the same time make good use of them.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) Dorothy Morgan,

Children's Librarian.

BOOK CIRCULATION FIGURES
1951

Adult Department	Non-fiction	22,274	19.7% increase over 1950		
	Fiction	34,273	23%	"	"
	Total	56,547	20.5%	"	"
Boys and Girls		35,168	0.5% decrease from	"	
Grand Total		91,715	14% increase over	"	
Story Hour Attendance 1,728					

BOOK STOCK

December 31, 1951

Adult	Non-fiction	Fiction	Total Adult	Boys and Girls	Total
	4,947	3,466	8,413	5,488	13,901
Additions in 1951	733	704	1,437	845	2,282
Discarded in 1950	166	193	359	278	637

MEMBERSHIP

Population of Leaside, December, 1951 15,585

Total active membership, December 31, 1951 6,214

39.8% of population

New members added in 1951

Adult	Boys and Girls	Total
1,060	519	1,579

BOYS AND GIRLS ROOM

