

ETOBICOKE TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT
1954

ETOBICOKE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD

Appointed by Council 1954 - 1955

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MISS B. D. HARDIE, B.A., B.L.S., CHIEF LIBRARIAN

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The main building of The Etobicoke Public Library, now being erected at the south west corner of Brentwood Road and Birchview Boulevard, is progressively becoming a reality. Building operations started in the early fall of 1954 and it would appear that the opening date will be during the spring or early summer of 1955. The building is so designed that good library service will be provided for the children, the youth, and the adults of the community. A children's story-hour room will be a feature, and a reference department will be given careful consideration and study. It is felt that the new building will serve as the nerve-centre of the whole township library service, and that little real progress could be made or expected without it. It might be said, therefore, that its purpose is not merely to serve the immediate area surrounding it, but that it will be the centre of development for a better and more extensive service for the ever-increasing population of Etobicoke.

Both the Alderwood area and areas in the northern part of the township are in real need of better library service. At present Alderwood is receiving the service provided by the Bookmobile only, and, at best, that has proven to be inadequate for such a rapidly expanding area. Some of the newest communities in the north have not had any library facilities made available. This is a condition that the board deeply regrets, but, because of the very crowded bookmobile schedule, it will, until the new main library building is ready for use, be impossible to relieve the condition. The board further realizes that bookmobile service, at its best, is not sufficient for areas with such a large and dense population, and contemplates the erection of suitable branches in those areas where population is great enough to justify them. The bookmobile will continue to serve areas where buildings would not be justified.

The establishment of a suitable reference library in the main building is receiving the very serious attention of our chief librarian and while much time and careful thought must go into such a development the board feels that, ultimately, the reference section will be an important department in the main library.

Our book purchases during the past year were reasonably heavy and will continue to be until stocks are adequate for the main building, and for any branches that may be built to improve and complete the over-all township service. The board realizes that the providing of good books is the chief function of library service and it is with this in mind, that in the planning of each year's budget, substantial amounts are set aside for book purchases. No good purpose can be served with fine buildings and well qualified personnel unless the shelves are well filled with good reading material.

On behalf of all the board members, I wish to thank the residents of Etobicoke for placing in our care this very important duty of assisting in the building up of a library service for our municipality. While the satisfaction we derive from our efforts is gratifying to us we only hope that our accomplishments may prove equally beneficial to those whom we try to serve. As a board we are most grateful to our chief librarian and her

efficient staff for their keen interest and untiring efforts throughout 1954. I should like to express my personal thanks and appreciation to the members of the board, and to Mr. Ward Allan who has served well as honorary legal advisor during the past several years.

Respectfully submitted,
G. C. MAINPRIZE, CHAIRMAN.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

A report on the year's activities for 1954 is bound to be a continual emphasis of the obvious. Our existing resources, in terms of building, bookmobile, staff and book stock are being used to the limit, and it is impossible to improve or expand our services very much until our new building relieves the pressure and makes possible expansion in every direction.

This is reflected most noticeably in the circulation of books which shows an increase of only approximately 10,000 over that of 1953, to reach a total of 151,617. The first twelve months in which the new bookmobile was in operation showed that it was possible to circulate an average of 1,000 more books per month, with the same hours of service, than in the old bookmobile. Part of this increase was of course reflected in the 1953 figures since the new bookmobile was put in service in August, 1953. By the fall of 1954 circulation on the bookmobile levelled off to a figure very close to that of the previous year. The proportion of books issued from each agency also remains very similar from year to year. At the bookmobile the greatest percentage of books is borrowed by children — over 50%. At Humber Bay library these proportions are reversed.

On the other hand it is possible to do more intensive work with the children in the library. Over twenty school classes visited the library during the year and were told about books they would enjoy and how to use the library, by the children's librarian. Books were again loaned to the one remaining rural school, Richview.

In November and December displays of recommended children's books were provided for two Home and School groups, Thistleton and Lambton Kingsway. Book lists as prepared by the Canadian Library Association for Young Canada's Book Week were made available and the children's librarian accompanied each display and talked to the parents about children's books. Two circumstances made it possible for the library to provide these displays. First, we were able to use about two hundred new books, purchased for the new library. Under ordinary circumstances we would not have had such a quantity of new material on hand, nor could we have taken it out of circulation. Secondly, the members of the Home and School Associations co-operated fully in arranging to pick up the books at the library, in setting up the displays, and returning the books to the library.

A small group of adult books was also loaned for one night displays at the Etobicoke YM-YWCA in connection with the So-Ed course held in the spring, and books and book lists were taken as usual to each of the three Pre-Natal clinics held by the Public Health nurses. The children's librarian co-operated with a committee from the Public School staff in providing a book list for inclusion in their hand book for mothers of kindergarten children.

Both the chief librarian and the children's librarian spoke to Home and School and other community groups during the year.

Our new bookmobile was an object of interest not only to our own township residents, but to others outside the township. Members of the St. Catharines Library Board and the librarian visited us in July to see a bookmobile in action, and inquiries from the Hamilton Public Library were followed by a visit from two staff members early in the New Year. Both these cities are hoping to provide bookmobile service in the near future. The bookmobile also paid a visit to the Ontario Library School in July, where it was viewed by members of the special short course, of the Master's course, and by the Dean of the College of Education and about 150 summer school students.

The library and members of the staff maintained their interest in their professional associations, the Ontario Library Association and the Canadian Library Association. Three members of the staff attended all or part of the Ontario conference in Kitchener and the chief librarian attended the Canadian Library Association conference in Halifax.

Much time and thought during the past year was devoted to preparing for the opening of the new library at Brentwood and Birchview. In spite of very difficult working conditions, several thousand books were ordered for the new library. By the end of the year, over 7,600 had been made completely ready for circulation and put in storage. Approximately 2,500 more were not catalogued but will be finished early in the New Year. This was in addition to the books selected and purchased for the Bookmobile and Humber Bay. As well, the public catalogue for the adult section of the Humber Bay Library was completely finished and is kept continually up to date. This has improved service in the Humber Bay library greatly.

A tentative survey of the township was made preparatory to revising the Bookmobile timetable when the new library opens. At that time it will be possible to take the bookmobile to areas at present without direct access to library service. So rapidly has the township grown in the last few years that in order to provide adequate service it may be necessary to consider adding extra staff for the bookmobile to enable it to be used two extra evenings.

We are very conscious of the many needs for library service which we have not been able to meet in the past year. We have had many requests from teachers in new schools asking for books, stating that they have none in the school. Service to children is of great importance but it is impossible for a recently organized public library to make up the deficiencies of a rapidly expanding school system. Both school and library are struggling with the same problem. In the same way we regret that service to teen-agers at the Humber Bay Branch, made even more necessary since the opening of the Royal York Secondary School, has been crowded out by lack of space and time. Once the Humber Bay library is freed to concentrate on the needs of its own area it is hoped that this situation can be remedied.

We know that there are other community groups and levels of interest who would gladly make greater use of library services. It is distinctly reassuring to know that in 1955 we will be able to offer greatly improved

service to the township. The new library will have a larger staff, more room for them to work in, more room for the public, and an ever increasing supply of books. These improvements will be reflected not only in the service provided by the new library, but throughout the township. The bookmobile will be able to extend its service to newer areas, and both branch and bookmobile will have the advantages of the central library to draw from. It seems certain that at the close of 1955 we will be able to present a report chronicling more positive achievements by the library than has been possible in 1954.

To the members of the library board I extend my renewed appreciation of their co-operation in this past year, and to the members of the library staff my gratitude for their continued enthusiasm and diligence under difficult conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
 BETTY D. HARDIE, LIBRARIAN.

STATISTICS – 1954

CIRCULATION

	Adult Non-Fiction	Adult Fiction	Boys and Girls	Total
Bookmobile	9,335	21,044	48,020	78,399
Humber Bay	14,838	28,225	25,215	68,278
Thistletown	45	136	4,759	4,940
	<u>24,218</u>	<u>49,405</u>	<u>77,994</u>	<u>151,617</u>
Periodicals				1,546
Increase over 1953				10,002

BOOK STOCK

TOTAL – DECEMBER 31, 1954

	Adult Non-Fiction	Adult Fiction	Boys and Girls	Total
Bookmobile	2,465	2,998	5,735	11,198
Humber Bay	3,711	3,721	5,062	12,494
	<u>6,176</u>	<u>6,719</u>	<u>10,797</u>	<u>23,692</u>

In Addition: 7,646 books had been catalogued for the new library by December 31, 1954, and approximately 2,500 had been received and were not yet catalogued.

REGISTERED BORROWERS

Adult	4,612
Boys and Girls	5,586
	<u>10,198</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

Balance, January 1, 1954	\$11,835.83
Township Levy	50,610.00
Supplementary Levy 1954 (payable in 1955)	3,013.17
Legislative Grant	7,834.81
Fines and Fees	1,869.99
Recovery — damaged and lost books	98.62
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	\$75,262.42

EXPENDITURES

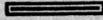
CURRENT

Books Purchased	\$22,168.27
Newspapers, Periodicals	367.00
Salaries	30,382.34
Cards, Stationery	1,472.34
Cartage, Express	107.46
Advertising	81.05
Insurance	355.87
Maintenance	310.45
Light, Heat, Water	361.60
Telephone	179.97
Bookmobile	1,389.80
Sundry	594.84
Bookbinding	1,311.25
Debenture Interest	420.00
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	\$59,502.24

CAPITAL

Equipment and Furnishings	\$ 9,158.35
Debenture Principal	1,500.00
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	\$10,658.35
Total Expenditures	\$70,160.59
Balance, December 31, 1954	5,101.83
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	\$75,262.42
Population, October, 1953	70,209
Population, September, 1954	83,169

ETOBICOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY



HUMBER BAY BRANCH LIBRARY

200 PARK LAWN ROAD

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

2.30 - 9.00 P.M.

Saturday

10.00 - 12.00 A.M.

2.00 - 5.00 P.M.

BOOKMOBILE

Timetable Available From Library

200 Park Lawn Road

Phone CLifford 1-7721

THISTLETOWN DEPOSIT STATION

Thursday - - - - 7.00 - 9.00 P.M.