



LIBRARY SERVICES

in

YORK TOWNSHIP

1952

York Township Public Library

Library Board
1952

Chairman - Mr. Laurence E. Grigg

Mr. Fred Hall, Reeve

Mr. W. G. Beech, M.P.P.

Mr. Leslie Brown

Mr. F. T. McDermott, Q.C.

Secretary-Treasurer-Mr. George Hinton

Chief Librarian-Miss Evelyn Gregory

Library Staff

Chief Librarian-Miss Evelyn Gregory

Children's Librarian-Miss Janet Murray

Jane Street Branch
Mrs. Mary Higgins, Librarian
Mrs. Annie Fargher, Library
Assistant

Mount Dennis Branch
Miss Barbara Knox-Librarian
Mrs. Agnes Irving-Library
Assistant

Bookmobile
Miss Lois Black-Librarian
Mr. Harold Clement-Library Assistant &
Driver

Main Library
Miss Ruth Corner-Librarian
Mrs. Yvonne Hearst-Librarian
Miss Catherine Keating-Library Assistant
Miss Lily Smith, Librarian
Mrs. Elizabeth Woodruff, Librarian

Main Library-1745 Eglinton Ave. West

Bookmobile- 1745 Eglinton Ave. West

Jane Street Branch-610 Jane Street

Mount Dennis Branch-1123 Weston Road

Report of the Chairman
1952

Under the Public Libraries Act the Library Board of a Township is composed of five members, one of whom must be the Reeve. We were pleased to welcome Reeve Fred W. Hall to the Board in 1952, who in spite of many demands upon his time has not missed one meeting. The interest shown in the activities of the Board, as well as the kindly counsel so readily offered, is very much appreciated. Owing to his appointment to the Bench in Ontario County, His Honour Judge Farquhar J. MacRae was obliged to tender his resignation from the Board and Dr. Stanley Harper also resigned. Both of these gentlemen have given liberally of their time to the service of the people. Judge MacRae has served on the Board continuously since 1945 when the York Township Public Library Board was formed. Dr. Harper served for 13 years on the Mount Dennis Public Library Board before joining the York Township Public Library Board in 1945. On behalf of the citizens of York Township each of the departing members was presented with a book as a mark of appreciation of their services. To fill the vacancies Council appointed Mr. William Beech, M.P.P. and Mr. Leslie Brown. Mr. Beech, the former Reeve, had been elected to the Ontario legislature and we were very pleased that Council procured his consent to continue as a member of the Board. Mr. Brown refers to himself as "the only member of the Board without a title". During his first year he has shown his common sense by being a good listener, and when he does speak, which is seldom, we listen. He has earned the respect of the other members of the Board and in case he would like a title we offer him "Les the Listener". The continuing member of our Board is Mr. Fred T. McDermott, Q.C. "Fred" as he is known to us all has been a member of the Board since 1945 and is valued for his legal advice. We hope that he will continue to be a member for years to come.

The thanks of the Board are tendered to Miss Gregory, the Chief Librarian and the Staff. In spite of several changes of staff during the year, the Annual Report shows that almost ten thousand volumes were ordered and processed for circulation and over 264,000 volumes circulated to the public. The Board also appreciated the fact that it was only through the co-operation of the staff that we were able to keep the Libraries open during the Street Car strike. We are proud to introduce the Staff to the people they serve so well.

During the year arrangements were made with Council for the re-payment of the money borrowed to erect our three Libraries. The financing and maintenance of three buildings is a heavy drain on our small budget and our thanks are due to Council for their assistance in helping us keep the levy for Public Library services as low as possible (.78 per capita, or 1.7 mills).

The ownership of buildings brings new problems. One of these is snow removal. The Board wishes to thank the Works Department of the Township of York for their assistance in this regard. "A friend in need is a friend indeed".

Special thanks are tendered to the Fairbanks District Association who, through their Mr. Moir, presented the Main Library with a record player and a donation of cash to purchase records.

In 1945 when war Time restrictions on buildings were in force and libraries were on the non-essential list, the Board purchased an abandoned Fire Hall on Scott Road. This was remodelled and used as Headquarters for the Bookmobile. The Bookmobile is now housed at the Main Library so the Scott Road property was sold this year.

In June, accompanied by the Secretary-Treasurer, I attended the Ontario Library Conference in London, Ontario. A tour through the London Public Library was arranged and we found this interesting and informative. We also enjoyed the showing of some coloured slides of the fine, functional interiors of our Libraries. These were splendid slides and were very much admired by many who were contemplating building or remodelling. Imagine our surprise when we found that these slides were the work of our own Chief Librarian, Miss Gregory.

The function of the Board is to provide adequate library service and to encourage the people to use the services provided. Three very fine buildings and a bookmobile have been provided. These are not adequately stocked, as yet, and it will take some years to accomplish this, but the fact that the Annual Report shows a circulation of more than 264,000 indicates that the libraries are being well-used and is of immense satisfaction to the Board.

Laurel E. Gugg
Chairman

Report of the Chief Librarian for the year 1952

It has been said that the public library is the "common school of all mankind". The library carries on the life-long process of education after the ten to sixteen years of formal schooling given in our public schools. The use of the public library in a community will indicate the degree of education to which the community aspires.

The people of York Township have demonstrated their interest in their libraries by the use made of books during the past year. In spite of the onslaught of television and other distractions circulation increased by 34% over that of 1951, to a total of 264,185 books. The largest increase was in the use of children's books, a hopeful sign for our future.

Non-fiction made up approximately 39% of the total adult circulation and the choice showed a wide variation of tastes. More than 8000 books were borrowed from the Useful Arts section, that is books on tool making, automobile repairs, aeronautics, gardening, cooking, etc. But books on philosophy, religion and history were also borrowed in such numbers as to make up 16% of the non-fiction total. Over 7000 books were taken from the section on music, painting, ballet, handicrafts, etc. Biography and travel divisions circulated over 12,000 books.

The use of books in the High School Room at the Main Library was encouraging. 7,688 books were borrowed during the year and the room proved a popular spot for teen agers to pursue reading interests and to gather material for school assignments.

The Jane Street Branch completed its first year of operation with a total circulation of 53,268 books despite the limit of two books per person made necessary by the small collection there. Non-fiction made up 40% of the adult books borrowed, with books on biography, useful arts and fine art leading in the numbers borrowed. Requests at this branch were chiefly for books on technical subjects, on art and on personal records of World War II.

Circulation at the Mount Dennis Branch showed a marked increase in the number of Boys' and Girls' books borrowed. The reading of non-fiction increased slightly and the total circulation increased by about 5,000 over that of 1951.

As was to be expected the number of childrens books circulated increased and the number of adult books decreased on the Bookmobile, as adults transferred to the branches when possible. But again the number of childrens books circulated by the Bookmobile was greater than the number circulated at either the Jane Street Branch or at the Mount Dennis Branch. Over 42,000 childrens books were borrowed from the Bookmobile during the year and the total circulation increased by over 1000 over that of 1951.

Book Collection

The past year has been marked by a struggle to increase our stock to the point when it will meet the promise made by our beautiful buildings. Nine thousand eight hundred and sixty new books were purchased during the year and added to the existing collection.

New Catalogue

In order to make the most efficient use of our books a dictionary catalogue, listing author, title and subject, has been started. Rapid expansion and limited staff made the establishment of a dictionary catalogue impossible in the past, so this project will fill a great need as our shelf list was intelligible to staff members only. Although the catalogue is far from complete, some 16,000 cards were placed in it during the year and borrowers are already finding it helpful.

Reference Work

The number of reference questions requiring staff help increased. Such questions as "What is the inscription on the Statue of Liberty?" and "I would like to find a suitable poem for an introduction to a speech I am going to make", can test the skill of the librarian.

Library School Students

For the second year students from the Library School of the University of Toronto came to observe and do practice work. In the spring the students from the Library School of McGill University visited the Main Library on their annual tour of libraries.

Ontario Library Association

Representatives from the Library Board and from the Staff attended the Ontario Library Association Conference in London in May. Many helpful ideas were picked up at the meetings and in conversations with board members and librarians during the two day sessions.

Concluding Remarks

While the year has lacked the excitement that attended the opening of new buildings in 1951, there has been the constant pleasure of working with growing numbers of eager and appreciative library patrons, and the satisfaction of seeing the book stock and circulation grow.

Report of Boys' and Girls' Department, 1952

The advantage of having a past is the excitement of measuring it against the present and having it serve as a stimulus for competing with the future.

Our Library now has a past and so, having completed the second year of operation in permanent and attractive surroundings we examine statistics and activities for 1952.

Circulation of Boys' and Girls' books at the Main Library has increased almost three thousand over the first year in spite of having a little more than half the number of new borrowers registered in 1951. We believe it means that our first members have stayed with us to become a permanent following, a fact encouraging to any library.

Because the literary quality of fiction books for boys and girls is generally higher than that of non-fiction and because much of the non-fiction is closely allied to school studies and is therefore necessary reading, the fiction more truly represents the influence of the Library.

Reflecting on this it is encouraging to note that the total fiction circulated at the Main Library has increased over the previous year and that the number of standard fiction (adult classics such as Dumas, Austen, Scott, etc.) read by eleven and twelve year olds has also increased. Those in despair over comic reading, take hope!

Looking at non-fiction totals, we are encouraged again. The books used by little children, mostly picture books, have increased in number and the largest increase has been in the reading of biography by children of the middle age group.

Measuring the amount of reading done by children at the Main Library with the total of adult and children, it is found to be 46.6% of the whole. As children are allotted three books per person as against four to an adult, this figure is not a true representation. Measuring again by the total number of children's books in the collection, it is found that each book could be said to have been used 6.7 times in the year.

At the Branch Libraries, the circulation of books for boys and girls represented 83.2% of the total circulated on the Bookmobile, with each book being used 5.1 times. At Mount Dennis the percentage of children's books compared to the total was 46.8%, with each book in stock circulating 3.5 times. And at the Jane Street Branch, the newest and not completely stocked, 49.6% of the total circulation was made up of children's books and each book went out 6.6 times in the year. As the allotment of books per person is still two, we can see that interest is thriving at this branch.

Library activities that serve to keep alive an interest and enthusiasm for books among children were extended in 1952. Twenty-eight story hour periods were held at the Main Library

with an attendance of 1408. At the Jane Street Branch Story Hours and Reading Groups were held during six months of the year with an attendance of 857 children. The Mount Dennis Library held Reading Hours for children during five months of the year and had an attendance of 344. A total of forty-seven public school classes were visited in the Township by members of the staff of the Children's Department at the Main Library and the librarian from the Jane Street Branch, who gave book talks to the children and explained how to join the library. In addition five school classes visited the Main Library as an introduction to its services and three puppet shows were produced and presented there.

In celebrating Young Canada's Book Week in November, a special display of recent books was held one evening and on Saturday morning two boys presented their own puppet show from "Toad of Toad Hall".

The gift of a record player by the Fairbanks Association added immeasurably to the success of the puppet shows and many uses will be found for it in children's programmes in the coming year.

The puppet show is enjoyed by the three and four year olds. Although it is undoubtedly a great drawing factor for an audience, it tends to attract the restless, the non-reader and thus discourages attendance at the Story Hour. Nevertheless good results may be noted. It enlivens an interest in the books on puppet making and encourages the children to make their own puppets. The stimulus to create something independently is good.

The satisfaction of working with children comes from their ready enthusiasm, their acceptance of fantasy as reality and their uncritical receptiveness. This was especially noticeable when the puppet show "The bear and the little girl" was given. The little girl puppet was to hide in a basket which she was tricking the bear into taking home to her parents so that she could escape. This posed technical difficulties and the effect seemed far from realistic to the puppeteers. But we underestimated our audience! Later, when a small girl was asked what part she liked best in the show, she replied with a pleased smile, "When the little girl got into the basket".

Statistical Summary
1952

<u>Circulation</u>	<u>Main</u>	<u>Jane</u>	<u>Mt. Dennis</u>	<u>Bkmobile</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adult classed	26,172	10,825	7,214	2,880	47,091
Adult fiction	40,478	15,968	11,565	5,657	73,668
Boys' & Girls'	58,095	26,475	16,359	42,497	143,426
Total	<u>124,745</u>	<u>53,268</u>	<u>35,138</u>	<u>51,034</u>	<u>264,185</u>

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Boys & Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
Main	5,443	3,234	8,677
Jane	1,677	1,015	2,692
Mt. Dennis	1,514	902	2,416
Bkmobile	1,876	2,290	5,166
Total	<u>10,510</u>	<u>8,441</u>	<u>18,951</u>

<u>Book Collection</u>	<u>Adult classed</u>	<u>Adult fiction</u>	<u>Boys' & Girls'</u>
Main	6,733	4,678	8,841
Jane	2,615	2,167	4,007
Mt. Dennis	4,180	3,155	4,589
Bkmobile	2,246	2,743	8,315
Total	<u>15,774</u>	<u>12,743</u>	<u>25,752</u>

Adult books - 28,517

Boys' & Girls' books - 25,752

Total - 54,269