

ANNUAL

REPORT

1972

YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
1745 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST
TORONTO ONTARIO
M6E 2H4

BOROUGH OF YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

1972

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MISS M. LORETTO McGARRY - Chief Librarian
and Secretary-Treasurer

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MISS M. LORETTO McGARRY - Chief Librarian
and Secretary-Treasurer

BOROUGH OF YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report of the Chief Librarian for 1972

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Borough of York Public Library Board:

1972 saw the introduction of a new service to the borough when the Mobile Library Service was officially inaugurated by Mayor Phil White at the home of Dr. J.L. Smith. An experimental project throughout the spring months, made possible by a grant from the Provincial-Municipal Employment Incentive Program, confirmed the need and funds were included in the budget to start the service permanently after the summer. A full-time librarian and clerical-driver bring library materials to persons unable to come to the library because handicapped by age, chronic illness or other physical disability. Of the original 37 during the trial period 22 remained in October and this number has tripled at the present time.

Mrs. Berlin, the M L S librarian, reports: circulation has increased to 402 for December. We provide large print volumes for those with failing eyesight, and paperbacks for those who cannot hold regular books. We provide books in German for one borrower, and in Italian for another. We supply one patron with 12 novels at a time, another with volumes of current history and biography, and still another, a CBC freelancer, with reference material on topics of interest to him. Our readers have varied interests, and I am kept on my toes.

Besides these calls on individual readers, the M L S continues the service given previously to two groups of shut-ins: the senior citizens at 101 Humber Boulevard, and the patients at Northwestern General Hospital, both with deposit collections.

The federal and provincial employment programmes enabled the library board to accomplish some advantageous tasks during 1973, which otherwise would have been deferred. Included in these were the complete interior redecoration of the Main building; an inventory of adult book stock; employment of a display artist to publicize the libraries' programmes and collections by displays, signs and posters; various backlogs cleared up; and further experiments in Sunday hours and services, such as the M L S.

Forgiveness Week, in co-operation with the North York and Scarborough library boards, was a first-time happening in York during October. The public was encouraged to return long-overdue library materials so that others would not be deprived of their use and, for this particular week, the fines would be cancelled. The publicity and goodwill engendered were valuable to the library, aside entirely from the many hundreds of books returned, some of which had been issued as far back as 1968.

Extension services at the Main auditorium are provided throughout the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons under the supervision of Mrs. Higgins, Assistant-Chief Librarian. An Italian Senior Citizens series was a new weekly programme initiated last spring. With at least one Italian-speaking staff member always present, short Italian and English films are shown, a few basic words of English taught and some crafts demonstrated by a person experienced in these. The atmosphere is a relaxed one and sometimes a male group will have a game of cards. The monthly Family Services-York Library noon series had a good winter with the highlight an over 80 attendance for THE BATTERED CHILD. Although the Family Services had to withdraw its co-sponsorship, these film discussions have been valuable enough to nurses, teachers, social workers and psychologists attending

that the library has continued them successfully. The morning Films per Signore Italine continued each month as an adjunct to the course these women are taking, at a nearby church, to learn English and the Canadian way of life. It is an informal group with coffee and cookies served at each session. Our other regular programme, the Thursday Film Evenings, held weekly screenings of films of general interest, featuring some of full-length occasionally. One of the latter, Fellini's LUCI DEL VARIETA was used for an Italian evening and was well received. Art exhibitions, the majority from the Art Gallery of Ontario, were arranged regularly with a variety ranging from water-colour paintings and children's art from around the world to Canadian photography.

The Bookmobile once again had a change of librarian at the beginning of the school year and she learned inevitably that its circulation is very sensitive to minor problems which do not affect branch libraries. For instance, the weather can be responsible for cancellation of a stop on occasion, likewise mechanical problems or road construction, and professional development days result in a zero circulation as most stops are at schools. This is a concentrated service because class after class pours out of the school and into the bookmobile, usually grade 5's and under.

The following paragraphs extracted from reports of Branch Heads indicate the variance of the communities served by these neighbourhood libraries and the peaks and valleys of the year's progress:

Mrs. Atay - 1972 was a busy year for the staff at the Evelyn Gregory Branch. Although the use of the Adult Department is still less than that of the children and high school sections, there has been a group of people who come in regularly once a week or more to take out books. Three class visits of adult New Canadians from George Harvey High School night classes were very successful. The members of these classes have all returned, and are now among the regular borrowers. They have made good use of the Italian books as well as the English ones. These classes will continue in 1973.

In the children's section there have been sixty-three class visits. Of these, seven consisted of New Canadian children who came in the summer. As most of them could speak English, they have returned in regular classes.

The staff has held the regular story hour on Saturdays, and a pre-school story hour on Thursdays.

Last spring, and again during the Christmas holidays, the children performed in puppet plays. These are always well attended, and both actors and audience enjoyed them. The actors from the Main Library came to Gregory twice, with puppet shows, and the Gregory puppeteers performed once at the Main Library. This was successful, as the children were very excited about "travelling", and they enjoyed meeting other puppeteers and watching their plays. Finally, during the Christmas holidays, a group of acting students from York Memorial High School performed a lively, enthusiastic "Christmas Play". It had a full house, and children, parents and actors participated fully.

Throughout the summer, there were regular arts and crafts sessions and film programs.

On the whole, this has been a good year for the branch. Although the circulation is dropping, the library is used more and more for reference as high school students and children come in to do their homework and finish projects.

Sometimes there is a communication problem with the children but the staff is now expert in reading minds. For example, "Could I have a book on mayonnaise" means "We're doing Mayas, Incas and Aztecs". Also, "Do you have Casanova?" means "We're doing Toronto. What do you have on Casa Loma?"

Mrs. Beesley - During the March winter break the Jane Street Branch opened every morning for special programmes: 3 film shows and 2 puppet shows were presented to a total of 518 persons, including 41 adults.

A two day puppet workshop was held at the library. Staff from the Main Boys and Girls, Gregory Branch and the Jane Street Branch participated. It was a successful workshop and an enjoyable one, and it was a source of great satisfaction to all of us to be involved so directly with community groups, like the Y.W.C.A., University Settlement and Children's Aid, for whose benefit it was conducted.

On July 6 and 20 there were two 1:30 p.m. meetings with social workers, mothers and children from the Woolner St. Apartments- 10 mothers and 16 children were present.

Class visits, pre-school story hour and puppet club continued on a regular weekly basis.

1972 will be written in my memory as the year of the great upheaval when library patrons couldn't park and found access difficult because of the work being done on the intersection. Circulation decreased drastically. It was a horrible few months and the staff at Jane Street hailed the opening in November of the new underpass with great relief.

Mrs. Pakulak - Despite all efforts of the Mount Dennis staff, circulation has declined at the branch, but in-library use of books and reference work has continued to increase. Class visits were higher than in any year since 1966, and we look for continued increase in this area.

Our regular monthly Fun Film programme for the children, supplemented by an extra showing in each of the summer months and two extra in December, was continued, with varying attendances up to 87. Six Art Room exhibits were held during the year, with the top attendance for any one exhibit being 297. It is interesting to note that Peggy Specht, who held her first major exhibition at Mount Dennis some years ago, featuring Scoraform Sculpture, is now fully launched in a career in this field and has her own studio in the Humber area. Clive Booker, who shared in a two-man exhibit (his first) at the branch several years ago, is now successfully employed as a commercial artist, has designed and painted a series of Church hangings, illustrated a book of children's fairy tales and a book of French-Canadian poetry, and is remarkably busy in his field.

Mrs. Dodds - The Weston Branch is used largely by adults and students, with a smaller children's circulation. Two new housing developments have brought large numbers of new borrowers, particularly Senior Citizens from the Bellevue Crescent tower. We can expect even more of these in the future with a new Senior Citizen building under construction in the heart of Weston. Our large print books are appreciated by many of these readers.

During 1972 we began circulating music records. These are to be changed at regular intervals, rotating from the Main collection. The response was favourable and more records could be used.

Many of the Weston borrowers express a wish for an earlier opening of the library, so that they could use it during their lunch hour.

During the winter months Weston Branch was open Sunday afternoons, on a trial basis, as part of the Provincial-Municipal Employment Incentive Program. The reaction was almost entirely favourable, and we are still getting enquiries as to whether this will occur again this winter. Both students and adults appreciated this service.

The Preschool Story Hour has continued to be popular, with an average of 12 children each week. The relationship with the Happy Child Nursery School has continued, with two classes visiting the library once a month.

The Library staff were entertained for morning coffee in the library of H.J. Alexander School. This gave us a chance to meet the teachers and plan the schedule of class visits to the branch, which were conducted during November and December.

The three department heads report more fully as follows: Technical Services - Mrs. Dyke.

In 1972, the Technical Services Department processed 25,009 volumes, 167 cassettes, 491 phonograph records and 1409 paperbacks.

The reclassification of the Boys and Girls non-fiction to the Dewey system continued throughout the year. It is hoped that mid-1973 will see its completion.

At the request of the Adult Services Department, temporary author-title catalogue cards were made to accompany each new title when it is processed. This bridges the gap between the book being in the collection and the production of permanent catalogue cards.

After considerable delay, the new 18th edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification arrived in the spring. All adult stock is being classified according to the new edition, with some reclassification when time permits.

Boys and Girls Services - Mrs. Mayor.

This past year has been a blend of triumphs and disappointments, hard work and fun. Our accomplishments have been many, but perhaps not enough; constant and renewed efforts must be made.

Many new titles have been added to update the book collection and replacements made of much used, worn material. Reclassification is an on-going process. About three quarters of our non-fiction has been completed.

Withdrawals were made extensively of book stock at Mount Dennis branch and the Bookmobile this year as we were able to give some time to these areas and weed out many shabby, worn out books and also titles too dated to give correct information.

A total of 41 classes came to visit this year from Memorial, D'Arcy McGee, D.B. Hood, and St. Thomas Aquinas. The schools any distance from us did not make any arrangements to visit although all were invited. Mrs. Ladowsky and Mrs. Mayor were invited by one librarian to visit her school this fall. This was a valuable contact. We spoke with the principal who expressed his concern about the lack of emphasis on reading in the schools. Many teachers throughout the year spoke of the poor reading ability of their students. Children in this area appear to be reading 2 years behind their grade level generally. It is a depressing picture. The schools received notice of any special library events and have been cooperative in publicizing our programmes.

The Cradleship Creche made regular monthly visits with their children except during July and August. This year for the first time Sister Luigina Mozza Day Nursery on Vaughan Road came to the library. Three visits were made in November and December.

The department had two programmes held regularly once a week, except during July and August. The Pre-School Story Hour on Tuesday afternoons saw an increase in attendance following the distribution of English-Italian pamphlets to schools in February. However, when the same was done in September, we had little result. An average of seven children attend regularly now. I believe the insitution of junior kindergartens have a great influence on this.

In the Saturday afternoon programmes, great emphasis was placed on crafts. However the programme professed to do a variety of things and did, including stories, films, filmstrips, and music. These programmes were well attended.

During the summer three programmes were held. The weekly film shows were popular, as always, with children in the area. A summer Book Club proved unsuccessful, because there was no continuity, with different children turning up each week. It ended up being more of a story hour than Book Club. Few children ever read the books completely they said they would, from week to week, or were able to discuss them. Our other programme entitled "People and Places" where children visited different countries through stories, songs, films, games, crafts, and displays entailed a great deal of preparation but was most rewarding.

A few Special Programmes were held throughout the year as well. David Holland and his magic show in March and Billy the Clown at the end of December were both very popular.

Five Puppet Plays were produced during the year by children in the area. Mrs. Ladowsky conducted two groups. One produced CHARLIE BROWN AND HIS FRIENDS, an original script and made puppets with styrofoam heads; another group made Shadow Puppets and produced two plays, RAPUNZEL and HANSEL AND GRETEL. Mrs. Mayor took one group which made paper mache heads and performed Little Red Riding Hood. Mrs. Kemp worked with another group on BABA YAGA which will be produced early in January 1973. Mrs. Ladowsky's two groups and Mrs. Mayor's group paid an exchange visit to Gregory and performed their plays. This exchanging is beneficial for the children

enabling them to perform before another audience thus giving them experience. Also, because so much time goes into preparation of a Puppet Play, it makes it more worthwhile if it can be performed more than once. New puppet stages in three locations were much appreciated.

Children's literature again reflected in the new fiction social conditions such as broken homes, race or ethnic relations and psychological problems; a trend that has been apparent for a few years now. This year saw many excellent non-fiction titles produced for children. Adults are attracted to these books, as well, for difficult subjects are explained in simplified terms. Perhaps this is a case for an integrated non-fiction collection. Very few Canadian books for children were produced this year. The need to stimulate writing and publishing of Canadian children's books is reaching a crucial point. I strongly endorse Mrs. Irma McDonough's suggestion of a Centre for Canadian Children's Books for this purpose.

One bibliography was prepared by the department on the West Indies, for the York Board of Education in August.

Two staff members spent some time in the Boys and Girls Department during the summer, training for their new positions in other parts of the system.

Film Previews were held once a month for Children's Librarians at Main and interested Branch staff. These will be continued next year.

Adult Services - Miss Corner.

Our book selection and Information Services tried to keep pace with the diversified requests for information from adults and students at every level. There was greater emphasis on material dealing with "Man and society" such as, the impersonal computerized world of today and the problems of adapting to this world. There was more material on minority groups in Canada and elsewhere, and on controversial subjects such as abortion.

There was a continuing high level of interest in current fiction, biography, moving pictures and theatre, and a strong demand for practical books on cars and motorcycles, woodworking, and handicrafts. An example of a favourable response from our borrowers: two students were looking for materials on recent French politics and were supplied with speeches by President de Gaulle and Pompidou from the pamphlet file. One of them exclaimed "Look! straight from the horse's mouth! This is fantastic!"

Young Adults. For grade seven and up acquisitions in fiction and non-fiction presented youth's interests and problems, such as dating and drugs, more realistically in today's lifestyle. An important project during the fall was the selection and ordering of reference books for the Jane Street branch with the expansion of the branch in mind. Regarding Language books, 145 new titles were purchased in Italian, 78 in German, and 69 in French. Italian readers were appreciative of the variety and number of new books, and placed more requests than in the past. Italian paperbacks continued to be popular. There was a renewal of interest in German books and a continuing demand for outstanding books by French Canadian authors. 79 new Large Print titles were added in small format, and block rotations circulated to the four branches and the new Mobile Library Service every

four months. 620 current popular paperbacks were ordered for the system. We subscribed to 341 periodicals which included new Canadian magazines on the environment such as "Alternatives" and on minorities such as "The black I" and "First citizen". The Picture File expanded again with the 500 plate supplement of International Portrait Gallery.

Reader's Advisory Service is given by librarians with wide reading interests and cultural background. In addition to an annotated bimonthly list of books of current interest, booklists were prepared on "Gardening", "Womanly pastimes", "What the man always wanted to do", "Success in business", and "Try it yourself" (crafts).

Displays. Three co-ordinated displays featured "Technology and man", "Kids" and "More about Kids", and "Living is ageless". Other displays which attracted much attention were "Footloose" which focused on the travelling styles of the younger generation, "Singing a song" which co-ordinated books and records, and "Toronto life". There was a display of the Continuing Education Directory for 1972 and other materials in the front showcase as well as a prominent display at a special table inside the library from the first week of August on.

Interloan requests through the Metropolitan teletype network showed a marked increase. Counting Interloan outside Metro Toronto we borrowed 999 books compared to 789 last year, and loaned 1169 compared to 1037 last year. We received 1815 films and supplied 284 films, compared with 1231 films received and 255 supplied in 1971.

Organization of material for more efficient use had high priority. Our Pamphlet reference material was organized in pamphlet boxes with subjects clearly labelled. As a result the use of this type of reference material was doubled. To locate material more quickly the lettering of biography and Shakespeare was extended by one or more letters. Reproduction of a Shakespeare index held at the main library was begun for the branch libraries. The librarians at the branches have found this highly useful to date.

Three classes from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute visited all departments of the library as a practical introduction to their library technicians' course.

Mrs. Upans from our Main library spent two weeks in September in the Science and Technology Department of the Metropolitan Central Library. Interchange of staff between the Central library and the other systems in the region should contribute to broader understanding of library service at different levels and to cooperative planning.

1972 was an important year for our audio-visual services. An agreement was reached with the National Film Board under which we may purchase their films at an increased discount. This will help to enlarge the film collection and thus widen the selection of films available to our patrons.

Five children's film programmes were rented by Metropolitan Audio-Visual Services for public screenings in the Borough libraries; two programmes were shown in York branches, the one most favourably received being "Where are you, little devil?". A special Christmas programme "Christmas Martian" was shown in the Main Boys and Girls Department.

A thirty-five percent increase in record circulation reflected the growing interest of the public in disc recordings. The language records have a large circulation with more people taking an interest in languages such as French, German, Spanish and Italian. Space for housing records is still a crucial problem. Records for learning English were much in demand also.

Spoken Arts tape cassettes for children and general listeners, consisting of fairy tales, folklore, speeches, literature of different centuries and disparate cultures were added to our collection this year. Musical tape cassettes, covering classical, folk, jazz and rock will be made available to the public at the beginning of 1973, permitting another segment of the population to enjoy the convenience of tape, and allowing us to keep pace with the contemporary educational scene.

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Continuing Education of Staff and External Professional Activities.

The Head of Boys and Girls Services acted on the Book Review Committee for the Ontario Library Review, as well as on the committee that planned the excellent Science Seminar sponsored by the Provincial Library Service in the spring.

The Audio-Visual librarian attended the annual Ontario Film Association Showcase at Geneva Park where, for four days, these dedicated professionals saturate themselves with film viewing and evaluating during nearly all their waking hours.

Etobicoke Public Library held a day's film workshop for a limited number and one York staff member was able to participate. Knowledge of films and their use is becoming increasingly necessary as this medium is used more and more. A Screen Education Workshop sponsored by the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board enabled three other interested librarians to further their knowledge in this field. The same board was responsible for a puppetry workshop held at the Scarborough Public Library and three staff attended this, receiving enough inspiration that each returned to her library and started puppet clubs which would teach these skills to their members.

The Canadian Library Association and the Ontario Library Association conferences furnished further opportunities for professional development. Two staff travelled to the former and three to the latter. The Chief Librarian chaired the Intellectual Freedom Action Group for the OLA which arranged a conference meeting and display of relevant materials.

Four additional staff were involved in the OLA Fall Workshop; and one staff member was sponsored by the library board in a refresher course at the Faculty of Library Science.

THE FUTURE

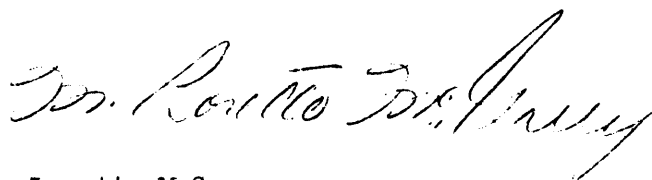
Aside from further extension of public hours to meet the requirements of the people, one of our most imperative objectives for 1973 is to formulate a plan or campaign to encourage the large percentage of new Canadians within the borough, in particular those of Italian background, to know and use our public libraries more. We have some books, periodicals and recordings in various languages; we have a few Italian-speaking staff members, a few brochures, booklists and leaflets in Italian, a few programmes for Italians. We need more but, most especially, we must have a community services staff member, speaking Italian, who will become involved in the community, finding out the library needs of this group and also communicating the library's present resources to them.

It has been said that over 50% of our residents are newcomers to the country, and over 90% are working people. Co-operative metro-wide library publicity, including television commercials, is one plan for next year to reach out to those who are still unaware of the library's potential for them.

Hopefully 1973 will see a new Jane Street branch opened. The architect has been appointed and capital funds approved.

To have a Library Board with a high degree of concern for bringing to the people the best in library service is a most fortunate position for a chief librarian to be in and I can say, in all truth, that I am in this position. The complement to this is to have a staff that, with continuing goodwill, expends great effort to effectually implement and achieve the aims of their Library Board. I wish here to express my thanks to both Board and staff for a most satisfactory year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. Loretto McGarry".

M. Loretto McGarry,
Chief Librarian.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1972

REVENUE

Province of Ontario	\$ 110,014
Borough of York	636,318
Fines and other miscellaneous funds	11,634
Federal LIP Grant	6,786
Provincial-Municipal Employment Incentive Program Grant	23,180
Surplus December 31, 1971	<u>16,433</u>
	\$ 804,365
Deficit, December 31, 1972	<u>9,437</u>
	<u>\$ 813,802</u>

EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Employees' benefits	\$ 473,916
Books, phonodiscs, films, periodicals, cassettes and binding	132,966
Library supplies and expenses	26,080
Maintenance supplies, and expenses	51,468
New equipment and furniture	6,975
Debentures - principal and interest	69,364
Tax deficiencies	20,726
Special projects - LIP	8,449
- Provincial-Municipal Program	<u>23,858</u>
	<u>\$ 813,802</u>

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Population of the Borough of York 143,465

COLLECTION

Books	252,708
Phonodiscs & cassettes	1,971
Films and filmstrips	318
Periodicals and newspapers (titles)	341
Pictures and prints	1,935

CIRCULATION

Printed materials	501,338
Phonodiscs and cassettes	7,815
Films and filmstrips	3,542
<u>Reference</u> use of materials	110,008

MAIN LIBRARY
1745 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M6E 2H4
781-5208

EVELYN GREGORY BRANCH
120 Trowell Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6M 1L7
653-6185

JANE STREET BRANCH
610 Jane Street
Toronto, Ontario
M6F 4A6

MOUNT DENNIS BRANCH
1123 Weston Road
Toronto, Ontario
M6N 3S3
762-3348

WESTON BRANCH
2 King Street
Weston, Ontario
M9N 1K9
241-3116

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE & BOOKMOBILE
1745 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M6E 2H4
781-5208