

# ETOBICOKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1950 - 1985



MEMBERS OF THE  
ETOBICOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Mrs. M. Hoddinott, Chairman

Mr. P. Leon, Vice-Chairman

Mrs. L. Batty

Mr. J. Connell

Mr. G.L. Court

Mrs. G.J. Cranston

Mrs. R. Dupuis

Mr. D. Green

Controller C.M. Stockwell

Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs. N.M. Hall, Director of Library Service

## ETOBICOKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In Etobicoke, ten libraries provide distinct but inter-related services. Seven neighbourhood branches supply current and leisure materials to local residents. Two area libraries offer more comprehensive services. In addition, Central Library (Richview) includes complex informational resources that are unavailable elsewhere in the City. Bookmobile and shut-in services are provided for residents who are unable to use local libraries.

## THE LIBRARY BOARD

Public libraries are operated by Public Library Boards. Municipalities are authorized to form Library Boards by the Ontario Public Libraries Act. A Board is comprised of nine local residents. Three are appointed by the Municipal Council, three by the Board of Education and two by the Separate School Board. The Mayor is an ex-officio member, usually represented by an alternate. The Library Board meets once a month for ten months of the year. Board members also serve on Standing and Special Committees which meet monthly and make recommendations for the consideration of the Board.

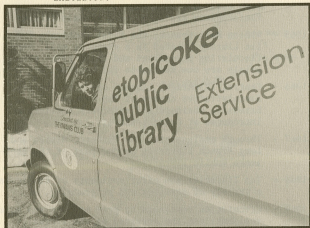
In 1983, the Ontario Government began to examine the Public Libraries Act for possible revision. On December 14, 1984, Bill 93 - An Act Respecting Public Libraries, received Royal Assent. Once the Act is proclaimed there will be changes in the way appointments are made to Library Boards. There is also a possibility that the size of the Board will be increased.

## THE FIRST TEN YEARS

From 1950 to 1960, the focus was on establishing a system that would adequately serve the current needs of residents and allow for their future requirements.

- 1950 - The first Etobicoke Public Library Board is formed.  
Bookmobile service begins in December.  
Land for the new Main Library, Brentwood, is purchased.
- 1951 - Humber Bay Library opens in January.  
A deposit station of 500 books is established at Thistletown Public School.
- 1952 - Library staff consists of six full-time and four part-time employees, plus a chief librarian.  
Eight thousand, nine hundred and four residents are registered as patrons.
- 1953 - A new bookmobile is purchased, to better serve the rapidly growing township.
- 1954 - Construction begins at the Brentwood Road location.
- 1955 - Brentwood Library opens as the Main Library for the system. Library service is now available through Brentwood and Humber Bay Libraries, Thistletown deposit station and fifteen bookmobile stops.
- 1956 - Planning begins for a new library in the Alderwood community.
- 1957 - Main Library joins the Metropolitan Film Pool and receives a collection of 24 - 16mm films one projector and a screen, for the use of patrons.
- 1958 - Alderwood Library opens on January 23.  
An eight hundred square foot addition is completed to Humber Bay Library.

- 1959 - Rexdale Library opens on November 10. The Kinsmen's Club of Humber Valley donate funds for furnishings and picture books for the Boys & Girls Department.
- 1960 - After ten years of service, four libraries have been opened, reference services expanded, film services, story hour and class visits initiated.



*EPL Extension Service*

## THE SECOND DECADE

As the township continues to grow, so do the number and variety of library services.

- 1961 - Bookstock reaches 124,945 and circulation of library materials tops 840,000.
- 1962 - Planning begins for a new library in the Burnhamthorpe, Highway 27 area - Eatonville. Main Library, Brentwood, remains open for six days a week.

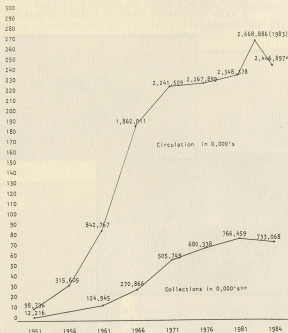
- 1963 - Materials in Dutch and German are added to collections, other language materials soon follow.  
A microfilm reader-printer is added to the Reference Department at Main Library.
- 1964 - In March of 1964, Eatonville Library opens. Telex services, with participation in the Bibliographic Centre, improve inter-library loan service.  
Photocopiers are introduced at Main Library.
- 1965 - Albion Mall branch, the first Etobicoke Public Library located in a shopping mall, opens. Circulating phonodiscs and large print materials are now available for patrons.
- 1966 - Central (Richview) Library opens as the new Administrative centre of the system. Extensive business and reference services are introduced at Central Library.
- 1967 - Through amalgamation New Toronto, Mimico and Long Branch Libraries become part of the Etobicoke Public Libraries.
- 1968 - Ten libraries now offer residents of Etobicoke a variety of services and programming.
- 1969 - Circulation continues to grow as more and more residents use the services of the libraries.
- 1970 - Albion Mall branch moves to larger quarters in Shopper's World Plaza.  
A unique Fine Arts Room opens in Brentwood Library.

## THE THIRD DECADE

At the end of 1970, circulation of library materials has exceeded 2,000,000. Most of the ten library buildings have been opened. This is a time to expand services and identify those groups that may be under served.

1971 - Shut-In service begins, providing library materials to residents unable to leave their homes.  
 Sunday service begins at Central (Richview) Library.

GROWTH OF EPL COLLECTIONS AND CIRCULATION 1951-1984



\* The Central Library (Richview) was closed for 7 months for renovations in 1984.  
 \*\* Collections do not include periodicals, microforms, short catalogued records and tapes, uncatalogued paperbacks, foreign language materials, government documents or pamphlets.

Note: Pre-1971 collection figures and pre-1966 circulation figures do not include statistics from the three Lakeshore Libraries (Mimico, Long Branch & New Toronto)

- 1972 - Planning continues for a new home for the Albion Mall library.
- 1973 - The new building for Albion Library, located across the road from Shopper's World plaza, opens in May.  
Circulation of non-print materials doubles.
- 1974 - Talking Books for those visually or physically disabled are added to Shut-In service.  
A free Art Rental service begins at Albion Library.

*Bookmobile*



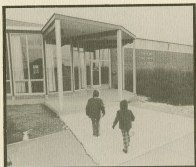
*Albion Mall Branch, 1965*

- 1975 - The Kingsway Kiwanis's Club donates a new van for the use of Shut-In service.  
A Volunteer Reading Practice programme begins at New Toronto and Albion Libraries.
- 1976 - The first steps into automation are taken.  
The bookmobile, purchased in 1953, is replaced.  
High interest, low vocabulary books are added to collections.

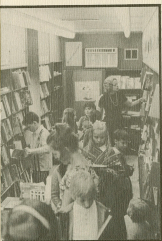


- 1977 - Adult Basic Readers are introduced.  
Language Lab facilities are made available at  
New Toronto and Albion Libraries.
- 1978 - Planning for a Metro-wide automated circulation  
system is underway.  
Librarians answer over 110,000 reference ques-  
tions.
- 1979 - Automation of cataloguing support services and  
the film booking system is almost complete.
- 1980 - Circulation of library materials is the highest  
recorded over a five year period.

*Rosedale Library*



*Bookmobile*



*Long Branch Library*

## IN THE 1980's

- 1981 - The organizational structure of the Etobicoke Public Libraries is revised for more effective public service operation.  
GEAC Canada Ltd. is selected to provide an automated circulation system.
- 1982 - Rexdale Library becomes the first in Etobicoke to use an automated circulation system.
- 1983 - A record 2,668,886 items are borrowed from the Etobicoke Public Libraries.  
Central (Richview) Library achieves the highest circulation from a single public library outlet, in Metropolitan Toronto, 735,992 items are borrowed.  
Administration and support services move from Central Library to renovated quarters in Silver Creek Public School.
- 1984 - Central (Richview) Library closes, for part of the year, while renovations take place.  
Automation of the circulation system is now completed in all branches and bookmobile.
- 1985 - Central (Richview) Library re-opens.  
On-line public catalogues replace card catalogues and are made available for public use.  
1985 marks the thirty fifth year that the Etobicoke Public Libraries have provided library service to residents.

# ETOBICOKE

## PUBLIC

## LIBRARIES

### Branches and Hours of Operation

#### NORTH AREA

- **ALBION LIBRARY** 743-7734  
1515 Albion Rd.  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 9 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm  
Sun (Sept-Apr) 1:30pm - 5 pm
- **REXDALE LIBRARY** 741-1170  
2243 Kipling Ave.  
Mon & Thurs 10 am - 8:30pm  
Tues & Fri 10 am - 6 pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

#### CENTRE AREA

- **BRENTWOOD LIBRARY** 233-2105  
36 Brentwood Rd. N.  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 9 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **EATONVILLE LIBRARY** 622-2840  
430 Burnhamthorpe Rd.  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 9 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **HUMBER BAY LIBRARY** 271-7721  
200 Park Lawn Rd.  
Mon - Fri 12 pm - 8:30pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **CENTRAL (RICHVIEW) LIBRARY** 248-5681  
Islington Ave. at Summittrest Dr.  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun (Sept-Apr) 1:30pm - 5 pm

#### SOUTH AREA

- **ALDERWOOD LIBRARY** 251-5921  
525 Horner Ave.  
Mon Tues Thurs 12 pm - 8:30pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Friday 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **LONG BRANCH LIBRARY** 252-1109  
3300 Lakeshore Blvd. W.  
Mon - Fri 12 pm - 8:30pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **MIMICO CENTENNIAL LIBRARY** 259-8489  
47 Station Rd.  
Mon & Thurs 12 pm - 8:30pm  
Tues & Wed 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday Closed  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- **NEW TORONTO LIBRARY** 252-7254  
110 - Eleventh St.  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 8:30pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
- BOOKMOBILE 248-5681  
SHUT-IN SERVICE 248-5681  
FILM DEPARTMENT 248-5681  
ADMINISTRATION 243-8888



March 1985