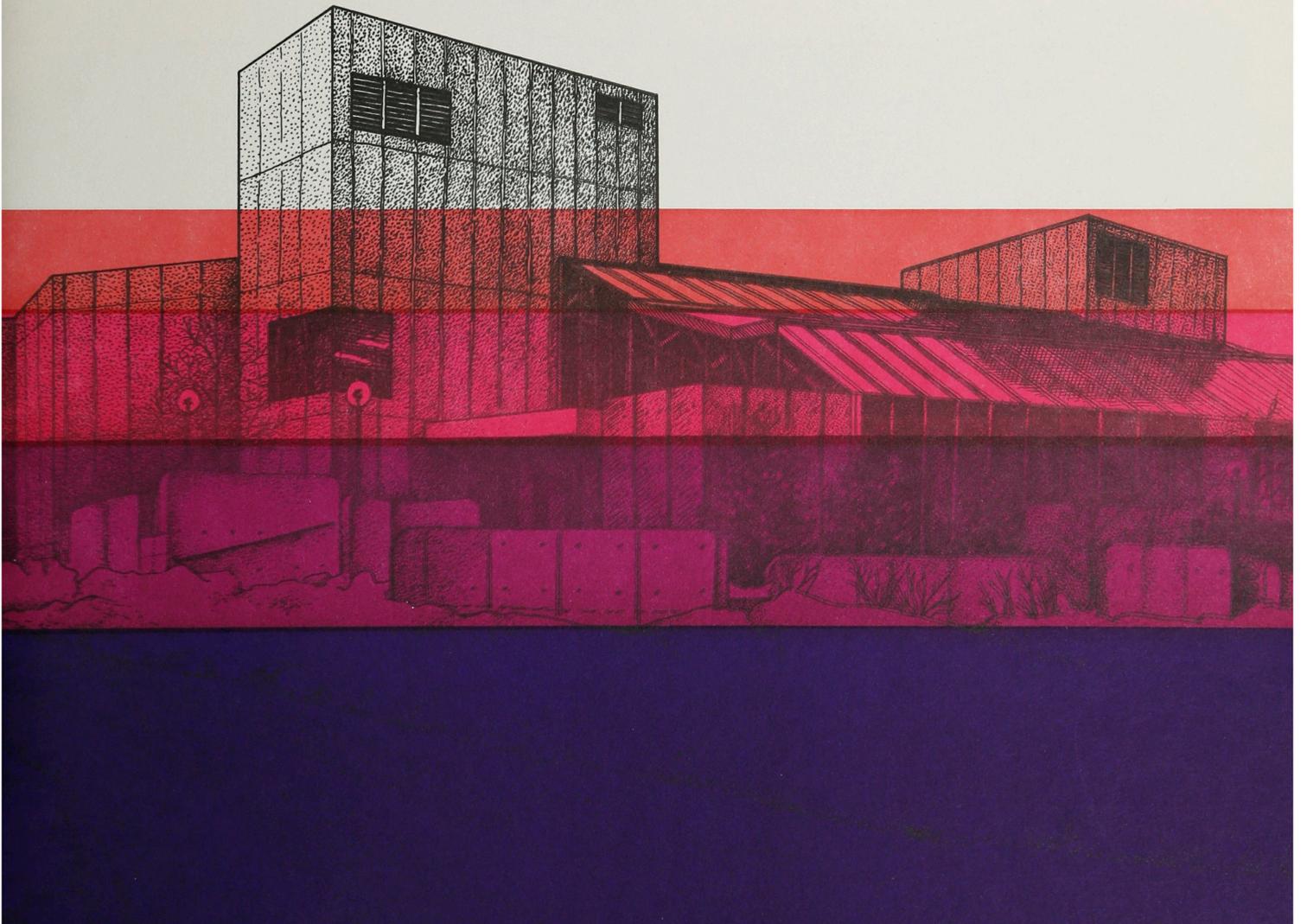
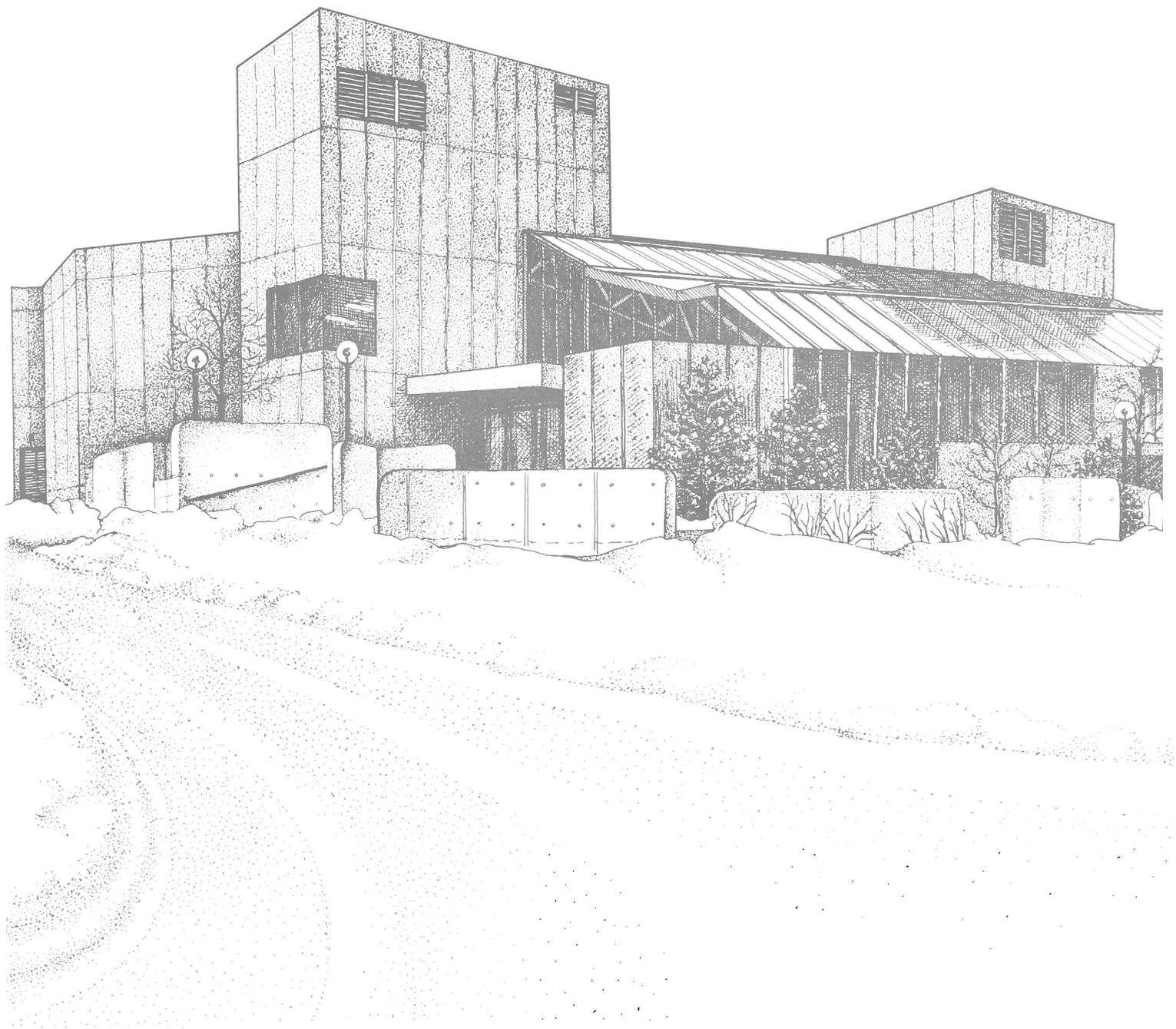


annual
76 report 

north york public library





NORTH YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD 1976



Douglas Pettem,
Chairman



Virginia Atkins



Kenneth Frost



Christopher
Hrushowy



Joseph Markin,
Controller



Gordon McCowan



Fosca Montagnese



Mae Waese



Lorraine Williams

In 1976 the North York Public Library experienced another banner year. The detailed reports which follow reflect a high level of activity carried out by our highly-skilled, dedicated, and hard-working staff. My colleagues on the Board continue to monitor the activities and to work with the Administration in developing new programs sensitive to community needs. The level of activity of the Board can in part be measured by their attendance at fifty-three regular Board and Committee meetings during the year, not including meetings for union negotiations, ad hoc committee meetings, attendance at Board of Control and Council meetings and at seminars and conferences. I would like to express my personal appreciation to my fellow trustees for the support they have given me in the past year and for the time they so freely give to the library system. A note of thanks is also due to our administrative staff who keep the Board so fully informed for intelligent decision-making.

The highlight of 1976, and a significant milestone in North York Public Library development, was the opening in May of the Fairview Area Branch to serve the northeast section of the Borough. The immediate acceptance of this library by the community has been nearly overwhelming and very gratifying to our planners. With this opening our system of Area Branches is now complete, and the period of major physical expansion of the library system has come to an end. There are still neighbourhoods within North York which are not conveniently served by community branch libraries. We will continue to examine both settled and developing neighbourhoods with a view to filling these gaps and providing equality of library service to all citizens. We are, however, now entering a period of consolidation in

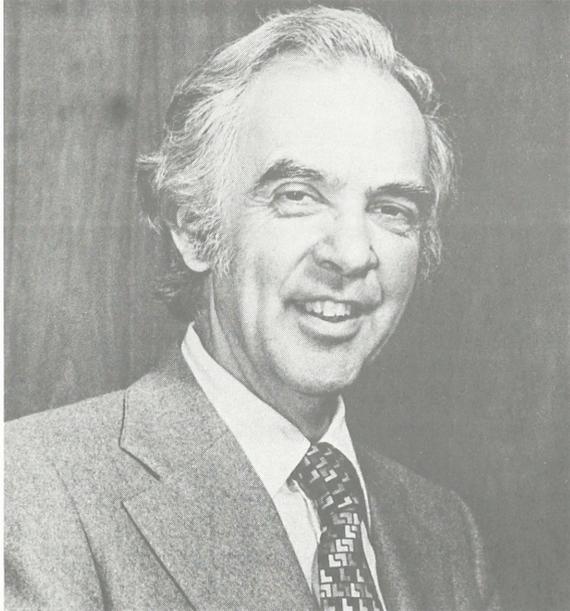
our library system — a time in which we will be examining our library programs, investigating needs, and developing new ways of better serving the public. At the same time we must be constantly aware of the present need for fiscal restrictions. A priority for 1977 when the new Metro Toronto Central Library will open must be a working out of our relationship with Metro for maximum benefit to users of both systems. This will become increasingly important as North York's need for its own central library becomes more urgent.

A severe blow was suffered by the North York Library in 1976, however, by the receipt at the end of September of the resignation of our Chief Librarian, Mr. John E. Dutton, to be effective March 31, 1977. Mr. Dutton has been North York's Chief Librarian since 1963, and more than any other person he has been responsible for providing North York with what has become one of the paramount library systems in North America, and one which has a greater per capita use than any other comparable urban system. His knowledge, wisdom and foresight, and his diplomacy in dealing with the vagaries of successive Library Boards, have ensured an intelligent and planned development not only of the physical facilities but of an extraordinarily fine library collection and the related library programming. The citizens of North York — past, present and future — owe a profound debt of gratitude to this dedicated public servant. Our best wishes go with him to his new post as City Librarian for Greater Winnipeg.



Douglas Pettem
Chairman, North York Public Library Board.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board



For about twenty years North York Public Library has been preoccupied with concerns over its physical facilities. It is a matter of historical record that twenty years ago library service depended substantially on a fleet of bookmobiles as there was only one library in rented quarters. In 1976 we were all thrilled to be part of the opening of our last Area Branch at Fairview Mall Drive. We could be excused for thinking that the major work is over and now the task is one of merely keeping the ship afloat and on course. Once the excitement of Fairview's opening gained a perspective in memory, I for one, soon realized that the building of buildings and the massive buying and processing of books may indeed be one of the easier jobs facing a Library Board in today's world.

Twenty years ago North York could very easily have been labeled as the prototype of a suburban community to which social scientists attached very clear and precise characteristics. Not only did the sociologists oversimplify but human development refuses to stand still. As a result, there is by no stretch of the imagination a status quo situation for this Library in 1976 nor in the future.

The concern over multiculturalism is presenting this Board with a multitude of questions involving books, personnel and programs. The success of our Shut-In and Mobile Outreach Service has far exceeded our expectations and gives rise to the very real question as to how many handicapped people there are and how we can best serve them. As our awareness of human needs becomes more sensitive we are faced with the question of service to socio-economic groups whose background and education inhibit their use of libraries. New methods and new materials must be developed to meet their needs. These are some of the human factors involved. There are the more tangible physical questions involving machine readable data banks, video tape instructional material, business and legal collections and many others. Then there are the wider issues involving the development of an effective network of libraries to the end that the citizen can get the best possible service available from the wealth of resources of many types of libraries. Twenty years ago the challenge of creating a system of libraries in the Township of North York must have appeared mammoth. That challenge has been met with outstanding success by the Library Board and now there are new challenges and new opportunities awaiting.

In reporting and commenting on the activities of 1976 one's attention immediately focuses on the Fairview Mall Drive Area Branch which opened May 27, 1976. There was no reason to feel anything but optimism for this branch but the results far exceeded our expectations. By year end it was obvious that this branch would become second only to the Central Library. In book circulation, reference inquiries, programs and general public use of the building this has been a most successful branch. The statistical summary at the end of this report will give the pertinent figures. The building has attracted a great deal of attention and on the whole is functional.

The two community branches associated with Fairview both completed one full year of operation in 1976. Pleasant View serves a very compact self-contained community and it has taken the library some time to make contact and develop working relationships with existing groups. This was achieved in 1976. Cooperation is on a very high level and the library is able to meet a wide variety of community needs.

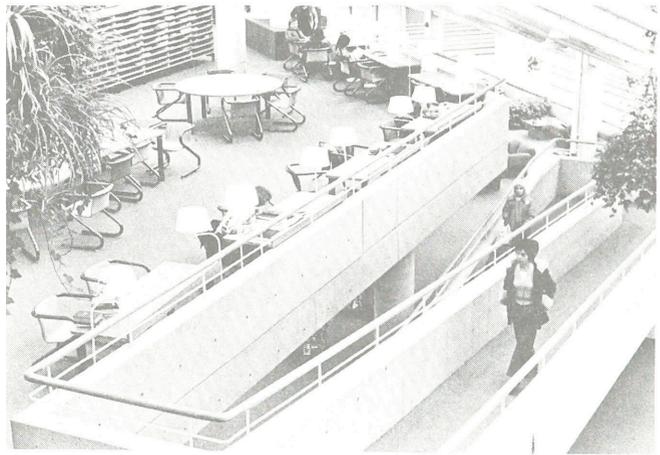
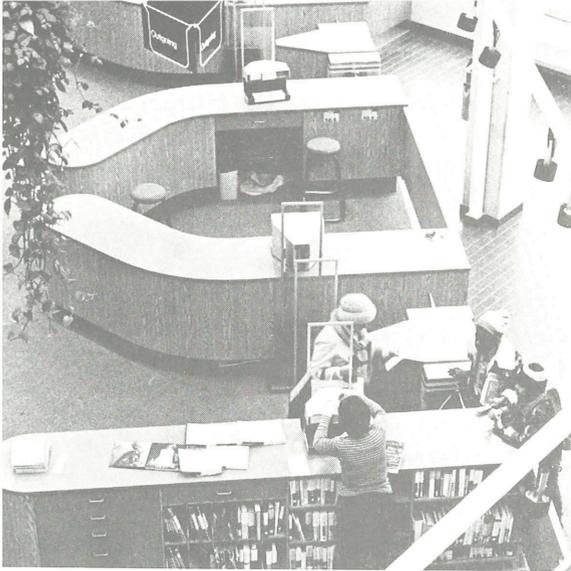
The Hillcrest Community Branch has been one of the big surprises. There was no question as to the need for a library but its use too has far exceeded expectations. In 1976 its circulation was 147,000 which is high for a branch of this size. The use of the auditorium is exceptional. Not only are library programs actively supported but a large number of community groups are also using the auditorium.

In the established area of the Eastern Division, both Brookbanks Community Branch and Don Mills Area Branch have felt the influence of Fairview. This was not only expected but to be desired as both these branches were experiencing problems associated with very heavy demand. Don Mills has experienced acute problems in this regard but 1976 saw a substantial drop in circulation. Programs, information inquiries and children's services have been maintained at a high level. Because of its age and very high use the interior of this branch is in need of a major face lift.

Brookbanks also was affected by Fairview in terms of circulation but its involvement with the community and the use to which the library is put makes it a very successful branch. At one time serious thought was being given to enlarging this building. It would appear that, although the use is high, the various needs of the community can be met in the present building.

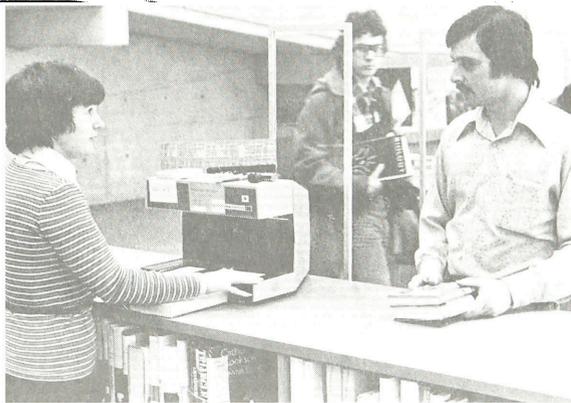
Victoria Village, in the extreme southeast of the system, continues to have problems in identifying with the community. More emphasis is being placed on liaison with community, work with the schools, the content of the book collection, the physical layout of the building, programs and other services offered. Steps are being taken to assure that this branch is an important part of the community.

The opening of Fairview Mall Drive Area Branch brought many innovations to North York Public Library including the Children's Ark reading area, ramps connecting public service floors, and the "Checkpoint" book security system which will be expanded to other branches in the future.



CENTRAL DIVISION

In the Central Division, which includes the older and more established communities of North York, activity can best be described as “business as usual”. At the Central Library, the Checkpoint Security System was installed in order to protect library materials from theft. Public acceptance of this system has been good. Because of its collection, size of staff, availability of special materials such as the data based reference service and government documents, this library is referred to by patrons and other libraries alike. Considering its size and the fact that it was not built to provide the level of service demanded of it, it is doing a remarkable job and indeed functions as our Central Library.



Single location displays, like this Peter Rabbit exhibit at Central library, augmented system-wide theme displays on the Olympics and Ontario handmade crafts prepared by the Art Department.

The Bayview Community Branch also felt the opening of Fairview with a substantial drop in circulation. It still continues to be one of the most active branches in the system offering a wide range of programs and a good level of public service. It has the most intensive use of the collection of any library in the system.

In the other branches in the Central Division service has continued to be good. Bathurst Heights, Centennial and Yorkdale appear to have reached a stable level with very little fluctuation from year to



The Western Division continues to be the Division that is faced with two major challenges. The first is the transient nature of the population and the second is the multicultural nature of a large segment of the community. In the older community branches of Woodview Park, Amesbury Park and Black Creek the public demand continues along a relatively even level. The Library's role in the community has been accepted and a good level of use is made of our services. At Humber Summit, the addition of the third staff member has meant a higher degree of community involvement. There are a variety of demands made on the library for help and cooperation. It very definitely serves as a community centre. In both Humber Summit and Downsview we are having success in reaching out to the Italian community with books, records, magazines, newspapers and programs. From experience gained in these branches and Woodview Park we should be able to develop a more effective service to people coming here from other countries.



An Italian woman knitting during a craft class and an East Indian girl performing a folk dance illustrate programs designed to meet the needs of a growing multicultural community.



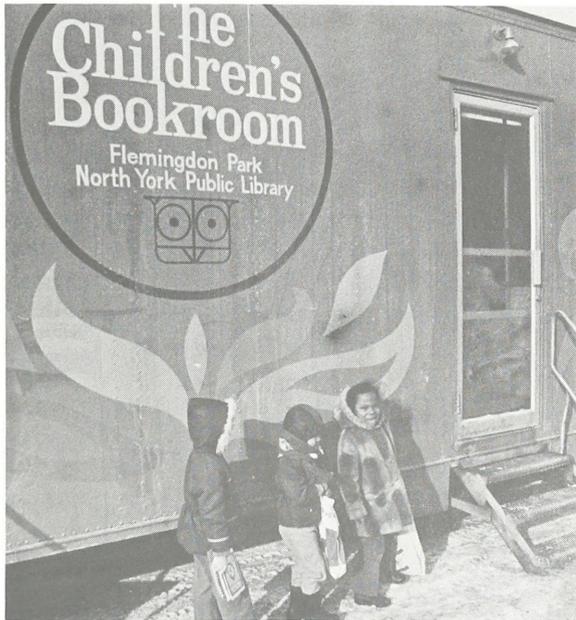
As part of a reorganization all the mobile service departments were brought together as a part of the Western Division. This included Bookmobile, Shut-In and Mobile Outreach Programs.

During the year we were able to rationalize our bookmobile service to the point where one unit was able to serve the isolated or developing communities in the Borough. Bookmobiles have served the Borough well and it is interesting that when our plans for Flemingdon Park did not materialize we turned again to a bookmobile to meet the needs. It would appear likely now that we will always need one or two units in operation to meet special needs.

A bookmobile which has been specially decorated and outfitted and named "THE CHILDREN'S BOOK ROOM" is establishing an effective contact with the community. However, until some permanent base can be obtained for library service in that area our service can only be minimal. One can only describe as shocking the situation in which we find ourselves. For several years the Library has been attempting to provide that community with a library but at every step political red tape thwarts a building program, the renting of space or the use of joint facilities. It is to be hoped that in 1977 the way will be cleared for a library.

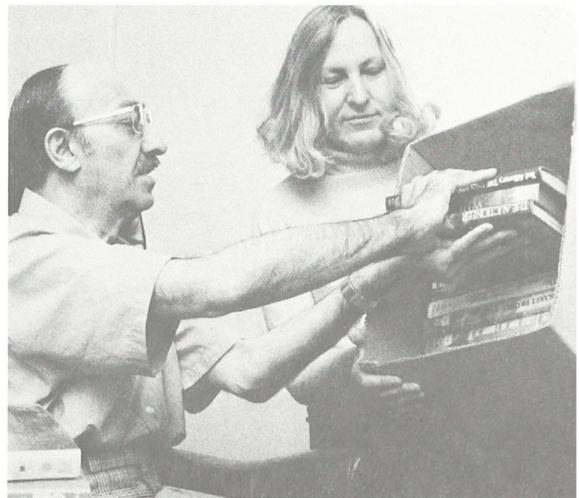
The Shut-In Service provides for those citizens who, for a variety of reasons, cannot visit a library. It operates the Sunnybrook Hospital Library and a mobile service to hospitals, senior citizens homes and apartments, special care residences and to individual homes. This service has had a remarkable growth in 1976 and achieved a circulation of over 120,000 books, recordings and talking books. It is impossible to measure the social value of this service but the letters which come in regularly convey heart-warming thanks.

The Mobile Outreach Program is a system-wide service which provides craft programs, films and puppet shows to children, seniors and the handicapped in a variety of settings. Their work is as varied as the needs of the community they serve. The puppet shows are greeted with eager anticipation throughout the system. The film and craft programs bring meaning and pleasure to the elderly and handicapped in a variety of places throughout the Borough. The extent of the need is unknown but the results of the service are seen daily.



The Flemingdon Park Children's Book Room rolled into service during November and received over 500 new library registrations in three weeks.

Outreach Staff member Chris Baird delivers a mountain of books to Hyman Ser, one of the most prolific readers served by the Shut-In service.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A part of the public service with which I would like to deal separately is that relating to children. Over the years we have worked out a very effective relationship with the schools and this has continued in 1976. Emphasis in recent years has been placed on work with pre-schoolers and this is proving to be very successful. Not only does the Library introduce books to children but it also establishes contact with parents who bring their children to the programs. Class visits continued at a very high level and were a valuable contact between the schools and the Library. In the Western Division the Children's Outreach Librarian visited 477 classes with 11,709 children during the year. In many instances these were



Children show off their origami, or paperfolding, creations during a craft program at Pleasant View library.

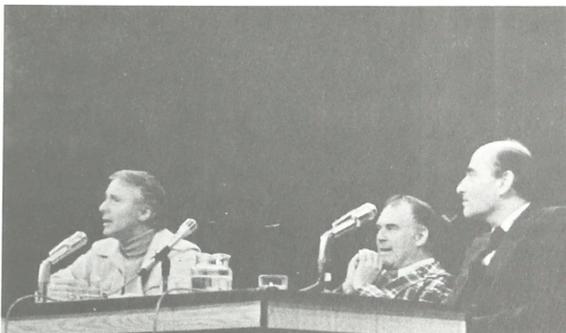
children from homes where the parents are not aware of the public library and its services. Book Clubs, puppet shows, films, craft programs, authors' visits and a variety of other activities helped broaden the horizons of young people. The Children's Coordinator has developed a most effective program of liaison and training throughout the year which is raising the level of service to children. Book Bug Bash was the focal point of the year and was indeed a fun affair. Clowns, magic shows, special shirts and buttons and what-have-you thrilled the children it brought into the Library. Brian McFarlane as Book Bug of the Week provided focal point for the event.



Hockey broadcaster and author Brian McFarlane calmly signs autographs; a duty which befell him as Book Bug of the Week during the Library's annual children's Bash in November.



As the public library has sought to meet the changing needs of the community there has been a greater emphasis on programs. Under the general supervision of the Director of Public Service, the Adult Education Department has provided a high level of special knowledge to contribute to a wide range of programs in the library. First, the Department organizes and operates specific programs such as the series on Health, Women in the Modern World, etc. Secondly, it provides branches with information on program resources and ideas. Thirdly, it provides highly competent personnel who assist in training staff to work with adults and in coordinating the work of the Library in this field. The results in 1976 have been impressive and I would like to pinpoint a few highlights. The Authors' programs at Fairview and at Bathurst were enthusiastically received, English as a Second Language is successful throughout the whole system. The multitude of book discussions, craft programs, speakers, workshops and seminars attests to the variety of needs that must be met in today's contemporary community.

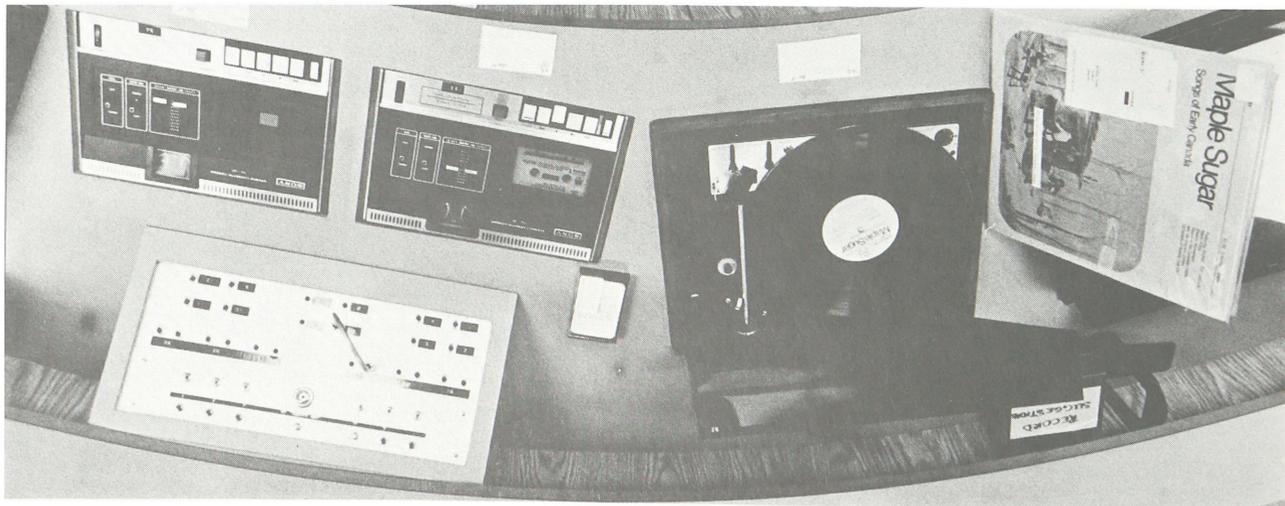
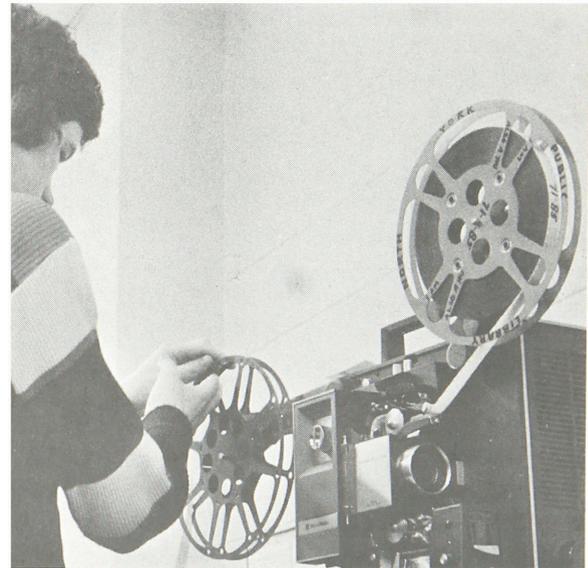


Proud craftswomen display a fine tablecloth crocheted during a craft program at Downsview branch.

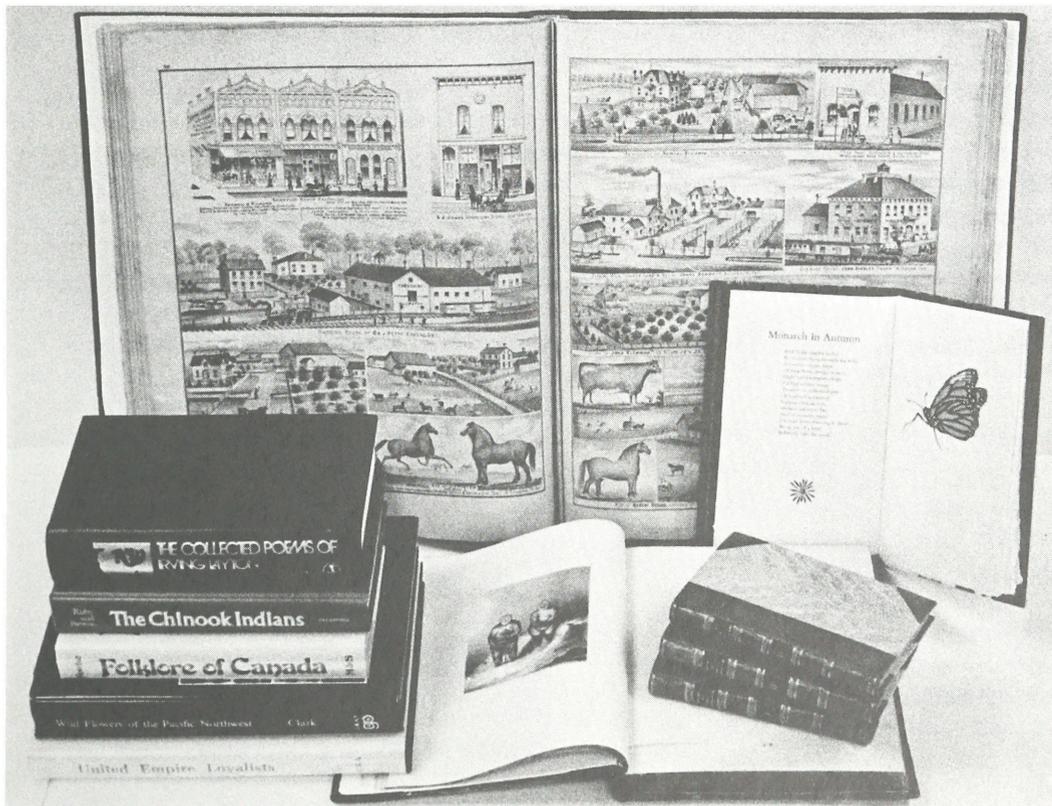
(Left to Right), Don Harron – alias Charlie Farquharson –, Frederick G. McClement, and MacLean's editor Peter Newman form a distinguished panel during one of four Canadian Authors Nights held in October.

AUDIO~VISUAL SERVICES

Our audio-visual collection continues to grow in response to a very heavy public demand. The 16 mm service is the largest in the Metro area and, in 1976, circulation increased by 10%. The move of the Department to Fairview is going to have to be watched carefully to assure that there are no adverse effects on use. In the future the Board will be faced with the question of providing 16 mm services in other Area Branches. The film service is the only library service in Metro organized and functioning as an effective network. In 1976, we made the commitment to video and although the material is limited a beginning has been made. With home video players now on the market video tapes will undoubtedly become an important part of our collection. The statistics confirm the growing interest in records, cassettes and 8 mm films. These materials are more widely used each year. They also attract people to the Library whose primary interest is not books and this is good.



As the year drew to a close the long awaited move of Canadiana to Fairview was begun. Boxes of books hitherto unusable because of lack of space have now been unpacked and put on shelves in the new location. Adequate study space, work area, office facilities and, last but not least, a degree of environment control will assure that this collection can be effectively used and housed. It is undoubtedly one of the finest collections in a Canadian public library.

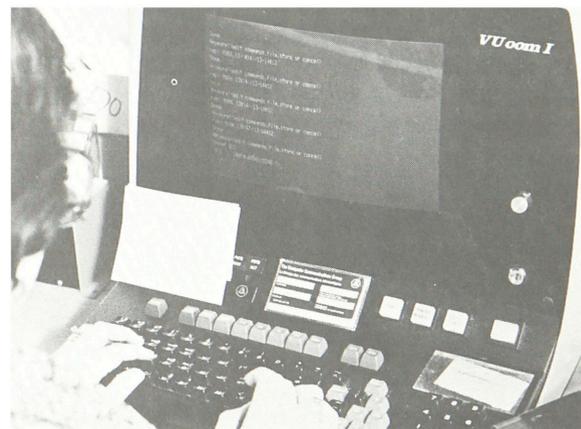
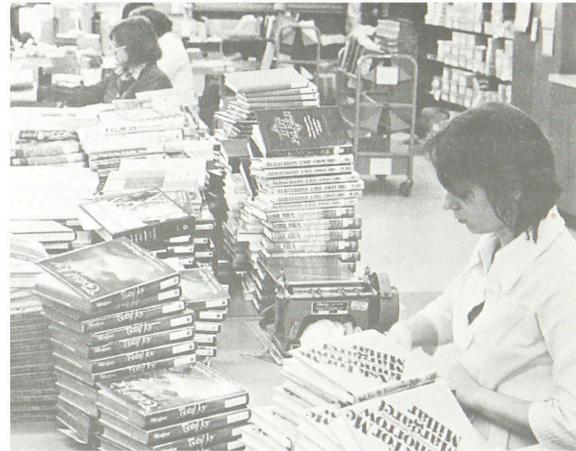


TECHNICAL SERVICES

In the system, we are very close to a maximum collection size. Technical Services processed 186,582 items last year, of which approximately 170,000 were books. The major development in this area is the rather significant increase in the number of titles processed. The period of acquiring large numbers of books to fill shelves is now over. Book purchasing has a much stronger emphasis on selection to build the collection in depth. Over 18,000 new titles were processed last year which represents a very good cross section of the new titles published annually. Our experience with the University of Toronto automated cataloguing system was studied by several library systems both in Metro and elsewhere and we were able to exert an influence in the decision of Metro Libraries to join the UT/LAS system. The inventory of the collection is now substantially complete and our records are being corrected. This is essential in the event that we decide to enter any or all of our back files in the data bank.

PLANT SERVICES

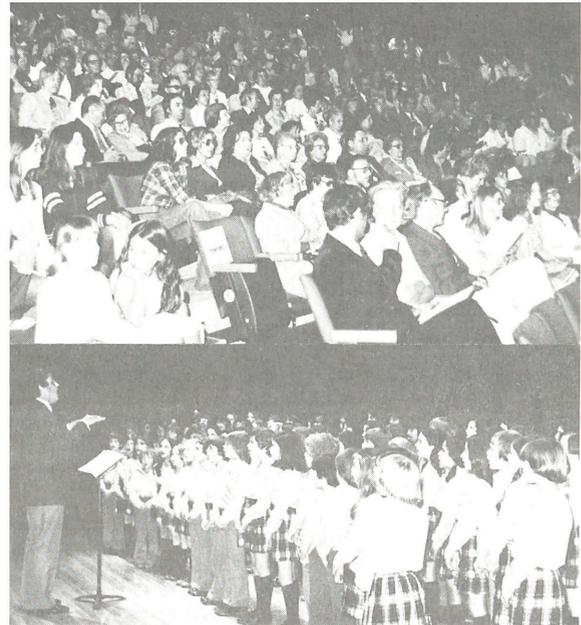
With the substantial completion of the building program our Plant Division has been able to catch up on a backlog of work. York Woods, Woodview Park and Black Creek received much needed renovations. Repairs and upkeep on other buildings were done so that our physical plant is in better condition than it has been. The program contained in the 1976 Budget was an ambitious one and I am pleased to report that it has been achieved.



an important place

This Library has come to occupy an important place in the library world in Canada. Requests are received on a daily basis for information about our services. These may range from book selection policy for children's books to our experience with data based information systems. Yet another indication is the participation of staff in conferences, seminars and workshops as resource people or speakers. Staff took an active part in the Canadian Library Association and the Ontario Library Association annual conferences and also participated in a variety of more specialized meetings. Several staff were able to complete articles for publication on a variety of subjects. It is indeed a source of pride to see staff called upon to share their knowledge with their colleagues across the country.

Finally, at year end, plans were moving ahead for the new computerized accounting system which will come into operation in 1977. Also, a great deal of preliminary work had begun on program planning, measurement of the effectiveness of our services, and work measurement, all of which will assist in better planning and better service to the public.



The Fairview Library Theatre has become a focal point for community performing arts. During opening night celebrations St. Timothy's Choir sang to a packed house.

A MESSAGE OF FAREWELL

The past thirteen and a half years have been particularly exciting for me. No other Library in Canada has been given the opportunity which has been ours. The experience of working with a Board so committed to the task at hand has been most rewarding. Although there is naturally some sorrow in concluding this my last Annual Report to you, there is also a great deal of joy and pride in looking back on what has been done. As I leave North York, my sincere and warm thanks go to the Board and staff for the fine association we have had. Your support has been tangible and unstinting. May the future be as creative and exciting as the past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dutton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

John E. Dutton,
Chief Librarian.

ADMINISTRATION

JOHN E. DUTTON

Chief Librarian

GORDON C. BARHYDT

Deputy Chief Librarian and
Director of Systems and Management Services

REGINALD A. RAWKINS

Director of Public Service

WILLIAM A. FOLEY

Comptroller

DIVISION HEADS

WESTERN DIVISION

Ilmars Strauss

CENTRAL DIVISION

Leonard Chester

EASTERN DIVISION

Judy Price

Ann Keller

Coordinator of Children's Services

Prudence Clunie

Technical Services (inclusive of Book Selection
and Acquisition)

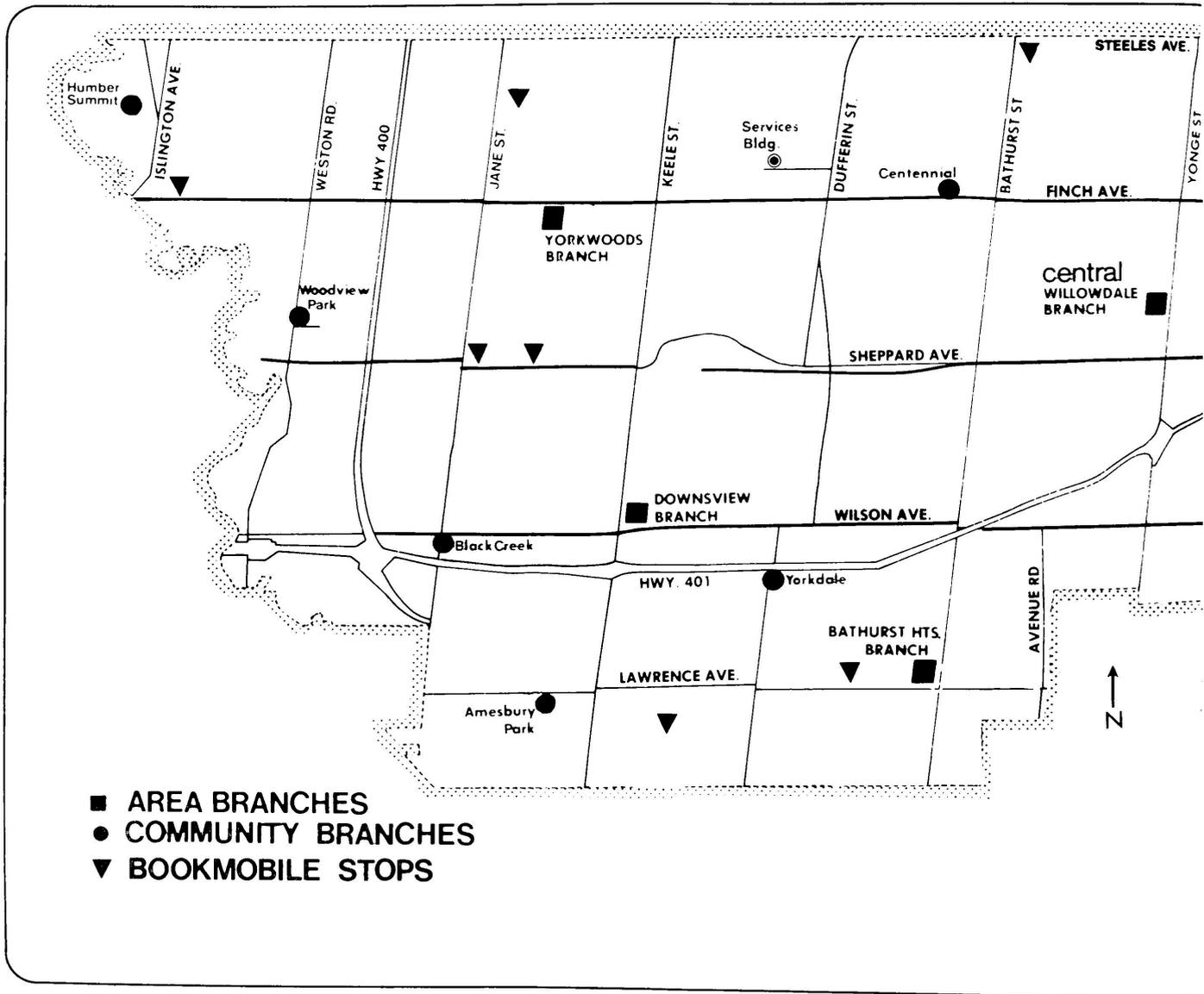
Dorothy Chatwin

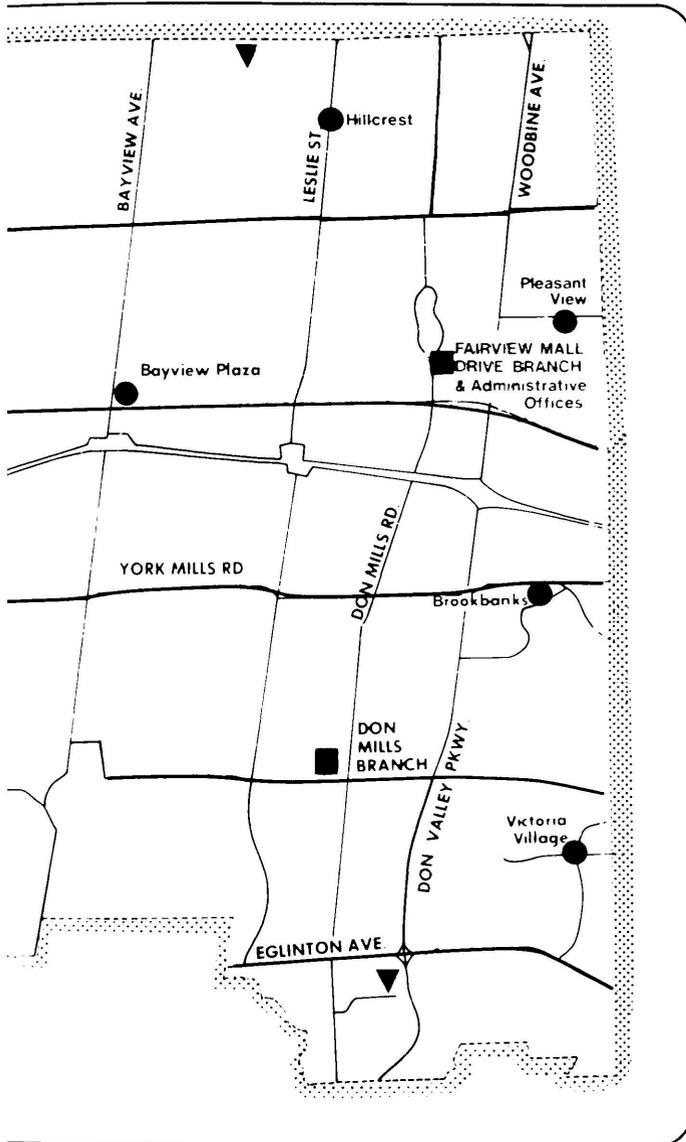
Reference & Research Division

E. A. Jay

Plant Division

BOROUGH OF NORTH YORK





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
35 Fairview Mall Drive, Willowdale
M2J 4S4

EASTERN DIVISION
Brookbanks Community Branch
210 Brookbanks Drive, Don Mills
M3A 2T8

Don Mills Area Branch
888 Lawrence Ave. E., Don Mills
M3C 1P6

Fairview Mall Drive Area Branch
35 Fairview Mall Drive, Willowdale
M2J 4S4

Hillcrest Community Branch
5801 Leslie St., Willowdale
M2H 1J8

Pleasant View Community Branch
575 Van Horne Ave., Willowdale
M2J 4S8

Victoria Village Community Branch
184 Sloane Ave., Toronto
M4A 2C4

CENTRAL DIVISION
Bathurst Heights Area Branch
3170 Bathurst St., Toronto
M6A 2A9

Bayview Community Branch
2901 Bayview Ave., Willowdale
M2K 1E6

Centennial Community Branch
578 Finch Ave. W., Willowdale
M2R 1N7

Central Area Branch
5126 Yonge St. Willowdale
M2N 5N9

Yorkdale Community Branch
Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Toronto
M6A 2T9

WESTERN DIVISION
Amesbury Park Community Branch
1565 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto
M6L 1A8

Black Creek Community Branch
2141 Jane St., Downsview
M3M 1A2

Downsview Area Branch
2793 Keele St., Downsview
M3M 2G3

Humber Summit Community Branch
2990 Islington Ave., Weston
M9L 2K9

Woodview Park Community Branch
16 -- 18 Bradstock Rd., Weston
M9M 1M8

York Woods Area Branch
1785 Finch Ave. W., Downsview
M3N 1M6

SERVICES BUILDING
120 Martin Ross Ave., Downsview
M3J 2L4

Population Borough of North York 1976 - 558,067

CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS	1975		1976	
Willowdale Region				
Central	862,056		766,488	
Bayview	281,212		228,887	
Centennial	111,749		108,012	
Bathurst Heights Region				
Bathurst Heights	367,567		337,225	
Yorkdale	172,684		160,084	
Don Mills Region				
Don Mills	559,831		505,388	
Brookbanks	252,325		219,352	
Victoria Village	60,249		58,321	
Flemingdon Park	10,466		5,196	
Bookmobile	60,977			
FAIRVIEW REGION				
Fairview	338,206		456,514	
Pleasant View	70,771		109,290	
Hillcrest	18,573		147,312	
DOWNSVIEW REGION				
Downsview	300,467		266,293	
Amesbury Park	90,704		82,520	
Black Creek	154,151		146,987	
Woodview Park	88,838		84,618	
Bookmobile	33,942		86,882	
YORK WOODS REGION				
York Woods	346,777		314,688	
Humber Summit	84,411		77,675	
Bookmobile	78,036			
SHUT-IN-SERVICE	79,774		120,097	
AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS				
16 mm Films	51,638		55,409	
Film Strips & Slides	125		121	
Projectors	2,149		2,574	
Screens	624		820	
Language Masters	25		40	
TOTAL CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS		4,478,327		4,340,793
ATTENDANCE AT FILM SHOWINGS	671,860		666,797	
* 8 mm Films	10,055		15,586	
* Records	216,004		228,433	
* Tapes, Cassettes, Talking Books	17,120		30,366	
* Picture Loan	3,001		4,317	
(inc. in Fig. from branches)				
INFORMATION SERVICES				
Willowdale Region	119,408		117,657	
Bathurst Heights Region	60,791		62,681	
Don Mills Region	76,838		73,008	
Fairview Region	44,213		66,003	
Downsview Region	56,063		56,259	
York Woods Region	34,511		36,648	
TOTAL		391,824		412,256
REGISTRATION	ADULT	CHILDREN	ADULT	CHILDREN
Willowdale Region	29,930	6,808	27,603	6,700
Bathurst Heights Region	13,569	2,908	12,367	2,541
Don Mills Region	15,781	9,057	13,410	7,194
Fairview Region	15,801	8,212	18,381	8,346
Downsview Region	13,431	8,503	12,557	8,374
York Woods Region	10,381	8,517	9,926	5,295
Shut-In-Service	1,942		2,386	
TOTAL	100,835	44,005	96,630	38,450
TOTAL REGISTRATION		144,840		135,080

BOOKS AND MATERIALS STOCK

TOTAL BOOK STOCK DECEMBER 31st, 1975		1,059,611
WILLOWDALE AREA	291,273	
DON MILLS AREA	223,725	
BATHURST AREA	132,471	
DOWNSVIEW AREA	190,666	
YORK WOODS AREA	132,985	
FAIRVIEW AREA	134,072	
OUTREACH SERVICE	<u>10,834</u>	
TOTAL BOOK STOCK DECEMBER 31st, 1976		1,116,026
RECORDS	60,473	
CASSETTES	7,298	
16mm FILMS	1,180	
PERIODICALS (TITLES)	<u>1,525</u>	

revenues

Balance January 1, 1976		91,006	
REVENUES			
Current Funds Received			
Borough of North York	6,966,327		
Province of Ontario	944,151		
Fines re Overdue Books & Sundry Receipts	162,401		
Interest Earned	<u>37,989</u>	<u>8,110,868</u>	8,201,874
EXPENDITURES			
Library Operating			
Salaries & Employee Benefits	4,698,885		
Operating Expenses	680,880		
Operation of Buildings & Equipment	587,340		
Building Rentals	<u>119,495</u>	6,086,600	
Library Capital			
Books, Records, Films, Microfilms	1,162,919		
Equipment	<u>79,203</u>	1,242,122	
Debentures			
Repayment & Interest		<u>824,164</u>	<u>8,152,886</u>
Surplus at December 31, 1976			<u><u>49,988</u></u>



PHOTO CREDITS

The Toronto Star
North York Public Library
Publicity Department

Published by The Publicity
and Public Relations Department
North York Public Library

