

CIRC free  
**North York Public Library**

**'85**

***Annual Report***

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Many happy memories were recalled by patrons and staff in 1985 when the Gladys Allison Library was demolished to allow for construction of the Civic Square complex. The Central Library staff and collection were relocated to a public service library on Sheppard Avenue west of Beecroft, and to an Annex on Steeles Avenue West, to serve the public until Civic Square library is completed. Excitement is escalating as staff prepare for the grand opening, acquiring books and other library materials, selecting furniture and equipment and arranging for the many finishing touches that will make Civic Square one of the best libraries in Canada, and a continuing source of pride and service for the residents of North York.



Our growing library system has required an assessment of our computer needs. Woods Gordon Management Consultants have recommended replacement of our present system because it will be inadequate to service our library system, including the Civic Square. An expanded computer system will not only provide faster and more efficient service at the desk for patrons, but will also provide staff with more effective use and placement of our collections, useful statistical information, and better inventory control.

The Board responded to the needs of the Fairview Library community in the Fall by opening that branch on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. Response has been excellent.

The new Public Libraries Act was proclaimed in 1985, and it brought changes in Library governance. The North York Public Library Board was increased in size from 9 to 13 members, all to be appointed by North York Council. The Act also affected financial reporting and accountability, regional boundaries and service areas, use of capital funding, and fees for service.

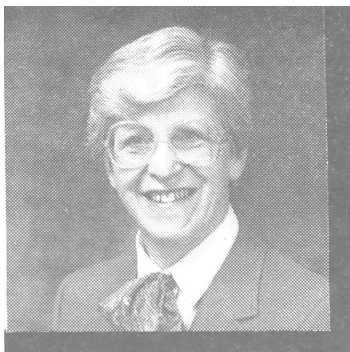
There were many highlights in the North York Library system in 1985:

- the first Angus Mowat Award for Innovative Librarianship in Ontario was presented to North York Public Library at the annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association; the award was given for projects undertaken by Librarian Rosalind Bryce of York Woods Branch.
- storytimes for children were presented in Italian and Cantonese.
- former Controllers Barbara Greene and Bill Sutherland and Alderman Betty Sutherland donated Council papers to Urban Affairs.
- two major bibliographies were published — a new edition of the *Disarmament Dilemma* and *Peace: A Resource Guide for Parents and Children*.
- North York City Council continued their support through the budget process.

We have a forward-looking, innovative library system in North York. I would like to thank Board members and all staff for helping set such high standards and for consistently meeting challenges on behalf of the North York community.







## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

1985 marked the completion of 35 years of public library service in North York. In 1950, the Library was in a storefront; it owned 2,470 books and there were 441 registered users who borrowed those books for a total circulation of 5,792. In 1985, North York Public Library has 20 branches and 2 bookmobiles, 225,000 registered users, close to a million hard-covered books, as well as paperbacks, records, cassettes, 16 mm films, videos, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, government publications, art prints, some toys and an on-line information service. The Library's collection of materials includes a wide selection in 27 languages other than English and French. Library materials were borrowed for a total of 4.4 million circulations during 1985; they were also used to answer 1.1 million questions. On an average Saturday at 11 a.m., there are more than 1,000 people in the Library's branches. The 9,000 programs provided by the Library to introduce and highlight the Library's resources attracted an attendance of 218,000.

In 1985 the Library's budget was \$19,134,503 with \$17,029,172, or 89%, coming from North York Council. This latter sum represents \$30.61 per capita, about the cost of one book. The remainder comes primarily from the Province of Ontario, with some revenues received through rental of Library rooms, fines for overdue materials and charges for photocopies of materials.

This year, Library staff worked on two major projects in addition to ongoing duties. We continued to devote staff resources to planning and preparing for our new Civic Square Library. Secondly, we undertook a full-scale evaluation of our present computerized circulation system and our needs for the future. This culminated in development of a proposal call and selection of a replacement system which will be installed in time for the Civic Square opening.

Through dedicated hard work and creativity, the Library Board, management and staff of the North York Public Library have completed a successful 35th year of service for the residents of the City of North York.

## YOUR LIBRARY

Throughout 1985, the nine volunteer members of the North York Public Library Board worked closely with City Council and with other community-based organizations to provide effective library service for the more than 550,000 people who live, work and study in North York.

The Library Board approved all public service policies for the Library and made presentations to government at all levels on behalf of the Library to address issues which affected public library service in North York, throughout Ontario and across Canada.

The members of the North York Public Library Board, its managers, professional staff, support personnel, security guards and pages all worked toward a common goal during 1985: providing the best public library service at the least cost.

### NORTH YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Margaret Perschy, *Chairman*

Morris Zbar, *Vice-Chairman*

Ken Collins

Lloyd Gesner

Campbell Hughes

Jim McGuffin

Michael Rigby

Jack Wigham

Lorraine Williams

### MANAGERS

Jean Orpwood, *Director*

Elizabeth Beeton, *Deputy Director*

William Foley, *Comptroller*

Bruce Barnett, *Plant and Facilities Manager*

Debbie Berman, *Employee Relations Manager*

Margaret Canning, *Special Community Services Manager*

Heather Davis, *Bathurst Heights Area Manager*

Phyllis Goldman, *Public Relations and Programs Manager*

Doug Kehoe, *Collection Development Co-ordinator*

Ann Keller, *Children's Services Co-ordinator*

Ruth Kingma, *York Woods Area Manager*

Marilyn Kogon, *Collections Access Systems Manager*

Linda Mackenzie, *Assistant Manager, Collections Access Systems*

Beth McLean, *Don Mills Area Manager*

Harry McLeod, *Central Library Manager*

George Magoss, *Planning Manager*

Judy Price, *West District Manager*

Catherine Siemans, *Central Library Assistant Manager*

Jo Stroh, *Fairview Area Manager*

Gordon Thomson, *Downsview Area Manager*

Phyllis Wood, *East District Manager*



## WE GO THE DISTANCE

Staff at North York Public Library go the distance. They seek out the best reference and literary sources and draw on expertise and experience to find facts from diverse sources to provide definitive answers to complex questions. Throughout 1985, going the distance was our single most important activity.

### BATHURST HEIGHTS AREA

As part of a reorganization of the Bathurst Heights Area Branch, the non-fiction area of the library was enlarged to provide increased shelf space. This allowed approximately 3,600 volumes which had previously been held in the stack room to be made directly available to the public.

A visualtek video magnifier and a high-power lens for the microfiche readers allowed people who have difficulty reading regular print to better avail themselves of Library resources.

Armour Heights Community Branch conducted a study of community use patterns to tailor its hours to community needs. At Centennial Community Branch, circulation increased by 9.4%, due in part to the relocation of Central Library. Centennial welcomed many patrons who had previously borrowed from Central but who couldn't travel the extra kilometre to its temporary location on Sheppard Avenue West. Staff at Yorkdale Community Branch visited local schools to raise the visibility of the branch and to interest students and teachers in class visits.

### CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Year of the Move saw the sentinel library of the North York system reduced in size and eventually removed to make way for construction of Civic Square. Public service operations were moved to temporary quarters on Sheppard Avenue West and although much of the collection had to be moved to an annex location, almost all of the popular children's services remained available to the public in the new location.

At the annex, staff sorted materials according to the department of Civic Square to which they would eventually be moved.

By the end of the year, 89,787 books, records, cassette tapes and other catalogued items for Civic Square had been input into the computer.



### **DON MILLS AREA**

Staff at Don Mills Area Branch set up a booth in the Don Mills Plaza in January and September to publicize library services. Over 1,000 people visited the booth and copies of *Goings On*, *Living in North York* and other service brochures were given out. Five mini-puppet shows were performed.

A reading enrichment program set up in cooperation with Greenland Public School brought children to the library for book talks, film screenings and opportunities to choose favourite literature.

At Brookbanks Community Branch, a variety of topical subjects were discussed by guest speakers during the Tuesday Afternoon Program, which enjoyed solid attendance regardless of the weather. Staff at Flemingdon Park Community Branch worked closely with North York Parks and Recreation to develop collections and programs which would attract teens to the library. Victoria Village Community Branch became accessible to a larger segment of the surrounding community, with the installation of a new ramp at the front entrance and new washroom facilities which are fully accessible to people who have disabilities.

### **DOWNSVIEW AREA**

Membership in North York's first Toy Library, which opened in the Downsview Area Branch in May, filled almost immediately. A reference collection of toys for in-house use was developed to complement the Toy Library.

Overall circulation in the Downsview Area increased by 9.3%. The three library branches in the area hosted 195 class visits in three languages during the year. These visits, conducted for students whose ages ranged from pre-schoolers to adults, were a significant factor in this circulation increase.

Amesbury Park Community Branch added a committee room for quiet study and for programs. A reorganization of the collection and floor plan at Black Creek Community Branch provided an identifiable multilingual area and made the branch more spacious.

### **FAIRVIEW AREA**

Introduction of Sunday Service at the Fairview Area Branch in September was very popular with the public. After three months the library had attracted more than 15,000 Sunday patrons.

The multilingual collection at Fairview Area Branch was expanded to include materials in Armenian, Persian and Turkish.

A Career Information Centre at Fairview gave job hunters an opportunity to survey a wide variety of materials, including the daily papers, all in one convenient location.

Circulation at Bayview Community Branch reached 217,539, an increase of 11.5% over 1984 and the highest community branch circulation in North York.

In honour of the Tenth Anniversary of Hillcrest Community Branch, B'nai Brith Thornhill Lodge donated a set of the Encyclopedia Judaica to the branch. Pleasant View Community Branch celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in May with an exhibition of children's art, which was opened by Mayor Mel Lastman.

### **YORK WOODS AREA**

Library branches in the York Woods Area received 172,047 information requests during 1985, an increase of 22% over the 1984 level.

Library staff developed a cooperative program with the Metro Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded. The program provided regular library visits for residents of a local group home. Cooperative programs were also set up with Jane-Finch Concerned Citizens, Youth Employment Services, York University and the Women's Employment Counselling Centre.

Members of the community were invited to join York Woods in a gala celebration of its 15th Anniversary of public service.

York Woods Area Branch hosted its Second Annual Carnival in June and several successful cultural programs during February, Black History Month.

Humber Summit Community Branch developed a West Indian/Black History collection. Woodview Park Community Branch continued to work with the North Weston Resources Group, which helps children who have learning disabilities.

### **SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Demand for video cassettes continued to grow rapidly. On average, each of the 600 video cassettes in the collection was borrowed 100 times last year.

All four Literacy offices were busy. 132 new students worked on a one-to-one basis with 124 volunteer tutors.

An on-line reference service installed in September gave direct computer access to more than 300 databases which provide sources of information on almost any subject. Basic on-line services were provided free, with charges incurred only if more than 10 citations, five abstracts or five full-text articles were required.

Volunteers who donated 4,700 hours of service to LINK Community Information and Referral Service helped to answer more than 9,000 questions about community services of all kinds.

The number of people using Shut-in Service and talking books for the blind increased by 20%.



*We're not just books . . . .*





*.... we're people too!*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## NORTH YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD REVENUE FUND

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure  
For the Year Ended December 31, 1985.

	1985 Actual	1984 Actual
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Staff costs	11,800,622	11,127,886
Materials and supplies	586,131	555,851
Equipment and furnishings	198,082	173,881
Library materials	2,258,819	2,073,276
Purchase of services	2,262,281	2,231,143
Taxes, licences, insurance unrecovered	51,116	68,422
Debenture costs	1,434,554	1,524,621
Contingency	6,965	5,013
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>18,598,570</b>	<b>17,760,093</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
City of North York	17,029,172	15,795,989
Grants	1,303,336	1,265,375
Other revenues	678,760	700,401
Surplus	22,553	20,881
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>19,033,821</b>	<b>17,782,646</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED NET REVENUE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>435,251</b>	<b>22,553</b>

