

## From the Board Chair



As a North York City Councillor, I see municipal funding being reduced in difficult times. City-funded organizations are being asked to put their dreams for new services on hold.

At North York Public Library, staff are addressing increased demand in the face of zero percent funding growth.The results have been magnificent.

Look at our new Barbara Frum Library. Look at the technological innovations. Look at another year of increased circulation. Imagine such great strides being made in the midst of staff and management cutbacks by attrition!

Co-operation between Library and City staff has been exemplary. Special thanks go to Malcolm Wilkinson, citizen Chair of our Joint City/Library Task Group, whose work resulted in the merger of our Human Resources Department and several accounting functions with their counterparts at City Hall.

City Council continues to recognize the value of the Library as an important public institution and to support it accordingly. The Library Board continues to guide the decision-making process. Staff continue to make it work. And our public continues to make it all worth while.

I thank you all. Here's to 1993!

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Councillor Barry Burton Chair, North York Public Library Board

# From the Chief Executive Officer

Our public is our priority, and excellent public service is our mandate. I offer my sincerest thanks to the Library Board and staff for their dedication to this goal during 1992.

I am grateful to staff for maintaining quality service and implementing many new ideas despite cutbacks. Achieving this has meant finding ways of doing the same tasks at less cost. Our new SynreVoice system for automating repetitive phone tasks is a prime example of staff resourcefulness.



This year we opened a new library, completed building programs for Don Mills and Downsview Regional Branches and saw our vision for a new York Woods Library Theatre realized with a \$1 million provincial grant.

We are seeing the Friends of the North York Public Library evolve as a fundraising group. They are supporting literacy programs and services that would otherwise be in jeopardy, and they have laid the groundwork for a permanent bookstore.

We upgraded our computer communications systems to make way for a more sophisticated online catalogue in 1993 and expanded our innovative CD-ROM Reference Service.

We did all this while managing record circulation levels.

Our staff and Board have made me very proud.

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Josephine Bryant Chief Executive Officer

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# 1992 in Review

North York Public Library undertook many projects and initiatives in 1992. Here are some of the highlights:

#### Milestones

- ➤ The Barbara Frum Library opened in September, replacing the Bathurst Heights Regional Branch. With double the floor space, it offers new services such as computers for children and portable listening centres.
- ➤ The last remaining card catalogue, housed in the Canadiana Department, was closed, marking the end of an era in library service in North York.
- The Friends of the North York Public Library came of age in its second year of operation, donating \$19,000 to the library to help fund Literacy initiatives and Children's Book Week Festival projects.
- Author visits included readings by Pierre Berton, Howard Engel, Jay Ingram and Nino Ricci, and workshops by Writer-in-Residence M. T. Kelly, who critiqued over 80 manuscripts during his six-month term.
- Armour Heights Community Branch celebrated 10 years of service, Amesbury Park Community Branch celebrated 25 years, and Downsview Regional Branch marked 30 years.

### **Increased Usage**

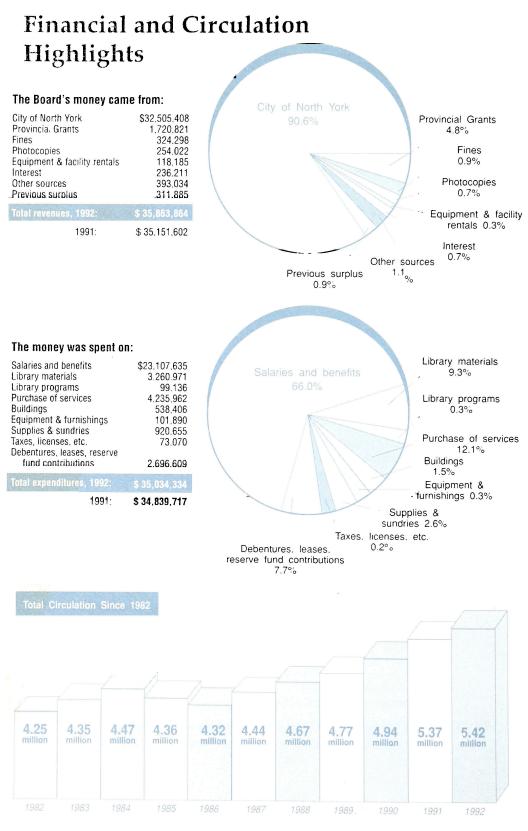
- Circulation increased by 1% despite a 3.1% reduction in service hours due to spending restraints.
- Library program attendance increased by 7.4% despite a 12% recessionary drop in the number of programs offered.
- ► Online Search requests increased by 24.9%.
- ➤ 15,664 children used the Central Library Children's Computer Centre.
- > 3,134 children took part in the Summer Reading Club.
- Quick Telephone Information answered more than 60,000 questions.

### **Public Services**

- The CD-ROM Reference Network was introduced in 12 locations to allow patrons to search periodical indexes on computer.
- By year end, the Automated Reserve Notifier was informing 700 patrons a day that reserved items were ready for pick-up, freeing up 10 person/weeks of staff time annually.
- > The video loan period increased from one day to seven.
- More than 1,388 activity programs included children's storytimes, babytimes, craft sessions, seasonal specials, young adult drop-ins, author readings, job-search classes, cultural celebrations, health seminars, parenting classes, English as a Second Language classes, films, business and financial workshops, book discussion groups and senior social groups.
- ➤ Public and staff mounted more than 150 displays in display cases across the system.
- Dial-in Access from home computers to the online catalogue began in January and totalled 2,500 calls.
- ➤ Staff purchased 53,063 titles (129,419 items) for the collections, 15% in languages other than English.
- Youth Advisory Groups of young adult community representatives were formed to help staff plan and improve young adult services and collections.
- Long-term accessibility efforts continued, with the new Barbara Frum Library and Woodview Park Community Branch joining the list of accessible branches.
- Adult Literacy Department staff and learners began helping Public Health Department staff to rewrite public information pieces into clear language.

### On the books for '93

- Additions and renovations will rejuvenate Don Mills and Downsview Regional Branches.
- The York Woods Library Theatre will be rebuilt to modern community theatre standards.
- Book Drops will be in place at all branches, allowing patrons to return material after hours at any library.



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# Friends of the North York Public Library

In just two years of operation, the Friends have established themselves as a dynamic and progressive group that can make a difference. In 1992 they donated \$19,000 to Library literacy initiatives and the Children's Design-a-Bookmark Contest. Cultural events such as their annual author reading, the second series of Cushion Concerts, and help at special library events remain a staple of their activities. The Annual Giant Book Sale of withdrawn materials proved so successful in 1992 that plans are now in place for a permanent store to open in the Central Library Concourse in the fall of 1993.

#### 1992

#### **Board of Directors**

Phyllis Chisvin (Chair) Gerry Tomany (Vice-Chair) Josephine Bryant (ex officio) Margaret Higgins Kathleen Hopton Arnold Miller Mary Nutley Judy Price Pat Robertson Deborah Whatley

#### 1992 Members

Eileen Allen Irene Arkin **Olive Arkless** M. Arndt Virginia Atkins Susan Back & Family Hilda L. Bailey Barbara Barak & Family Frances Bass **Juana** Berinstein Deborah Berman & Family Frank Besser Christopher Brands Arnold E. Brill Izrail Broytman Josephine Bryant & Family Wayne Burnett Councillor Barry N. Burton **Debbie Caddies** Capt. Douglas K. Campbell Carol Chandelier Ioan Clement Prudence Clunie Heather Davies Heather Davis Carol Downey Cheryl Eames Diana Fink Daryl Fridenberg Sheena Gailis Ana Gandolfi Lewis J. Getgood Nancy Giffen Lydia Godin Phyllis Goldman & Family Ken Haggerty Eva Halasz

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# North York Public Library Branches



#### Amesbury Park **Community Branch**

1565 Lawrence Ave. W. M6L 1A8 395-5420



Armour Heights **Community Branch** 2140 Avenue Rd. M5M 4M7 395-5430



Barbara Frum Library 20 Covington Rd. M6A 3C1 395-5440

Bayview Community Branch **Bayview Village Shopping Centre** 2901 Bayview Ave. M2K 1E6 395-5460

> **Black Creek Community Branch** 2141 Jane St. M3M 1A2 395-5470

**Brookbanks** Community Branch Ġ. 210 Brookbanks Dr. M3A 2T8 395-5480

**Centennial** Community Branch 6 578 Finch Ave. W. M2R 1N7 395-5490

> **Central Library** 5120 Yonge St. M2N 5N9 395-5700

**Don Mills Regional Branch** 888 Lawrence Ave. E. M3C 1P6 395-5710

**Downsview Regional Branch** 2793 Keele St. M3M 2G3 395-5720



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**Executive Offices** 5120 Yonge St. M2N 5N9 395-5500



Fairview Regional Branch 35 Fairview Mall Dr. M2J 4S4 395-5750



Flemingdon Park **Community Branch** 29 St. Dennis Dr. M3C 3J3 395-5820



Hillcrest Community Branch 5801 Leslie St. M2H 1J8 395-5830

Humber Summit **Community Branch** 2990 Islington Ave. M9L 2K6 395-5840



Jane Sheppard Community Branch Jane Sheppard Mall 2721 Jane St. M3L 1S3 395-5966



**Pleasant View Community Branch** 575 Van Horne Ave. M2J 4S8 395-5940



Victoria Village **Community Branch** 184 Sloane Ave. M4A 2C4 395-5950



Woodview Park **Community Branch** 16-18 Bradstock Rd. M9M 1M8 395-5960



York Woods Regional Branch 1785 Finch Ave. W. M3N 1M6 395-5980

Yorkdale Community Branch Yorkdale Shopping Centre M6A 2T9 395-5970

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