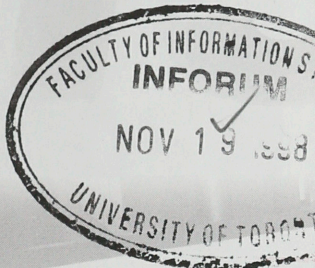


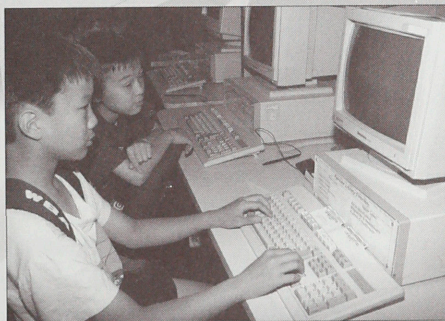
North York, Ont. Public Library. Annual Report

Library
Annual Reports

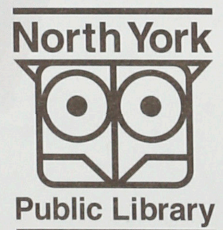


1997

Report to the Community



...a lot more than books!



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Vice-Chair

Councillor

Frank Di Giorgio

Councillor

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Secretary-Treasurer

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ex officio

From the Board Chair



We can bid farewell to our final year as an independent system knowing that North York Public Library (NYPL) continued to be a leader among public libraries in North America. It was

a year of cooperative efforts aimed at providing public service excellence using the resources at hand.

The 7,000 children who participated in the Summer Reading Fun program benefitted from the sponsorship of the Friends of the North York Public Library, Black Creek Pioneer Village, the Ontario Science Centre, the Royal Ontario Museum and the Toronto Blue Jays. The innovative partnership with the Blue Jays featured "Home Run Readers", a program that encourages children to read by offering them a chance to win a visit to a Blue Jays batting practice at the SkyDome.

We worked with a number of writers in 1997. Knowlton Nash spoke at the Friends of the Library Annual Author Afternoon to help raise money for library literacy programs. Our renowned Writer-in-Residence Program continued to flourish with Makeda Silvera seeing the year in and Governor General's Award-winner Nino Ricci bringing it to a close.

Helping out

We were approached by several organizations hoping to benefit from NYPL's considerable resources and staff expertise. Because our Dial-a-Story is one of the few digital collections in a Canadian public library, NYPL staff were invited to Ottawa to join representatives from libraries across the country to begin formulating a national strategy for digital libraries.

The Cumberland Regional Library in Nova Scotia requested a loan of Russian books to be used by children visiting for the summer from Chernobyl.

Chernobyl is still feeling the effects of the 1986 nuclear accident there, and the children were being given the chance to get away for awhile to enjoy the fresh air of Canada's East Coast.

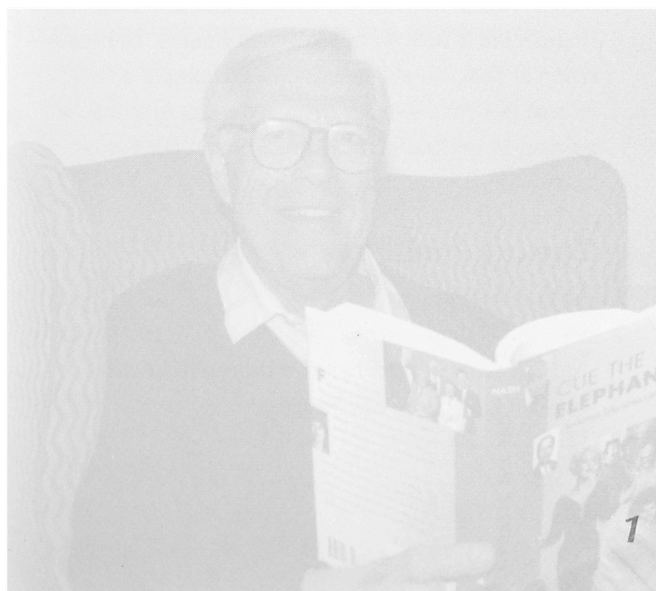
End of an era

The largest cooperative effort this year, however, came with the decision to amalgamate the seven existing Metropolitan Toronto municipalities into one new City of Toronto. This meant a transition from seven separate library systems into one 98-branch system, and the end of NYPL as we know it. Throughout much of the year, NYPL staff worked together with staff from the other Metro libraries to address the challenging task of forging a single library system for Toronto.

I am proud of the service North York Public Library has provided to the people of North York over the past 47 years. I know that the dedicated staff and the high quality of library service in North York cannot help but flourish in the new operations within the newly formed Toronto Public Library.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mitchell Weisberg".

Mitchell Weisberg
Chair, North York Public Library Board



From the CEO



Throughout North York Public Library's 47-year history, staff have looked for ways to enhance library service within the North York community. This year was no exception.

Public demand for electronic information led us to upgrade our computer and network capacity, opening the door for increased access to electronic information in graphic form such as that found on the Internet and on CATNYP Web, our new 'point-and-click' online catalogue.

Internet training

The proliferation of technology in libraries has created the need for staff to work closer than ever with our customers in the area of training. We increased training in 1997, and showed more people than ever how to use our online catalogue, CATNYP, and the Internet. For the first time, some of our Community Branches offered training sessions on CATNYP.

Renovations at Centennial Community Branch doubled public service space and gave the branch a much-needed facelift. Other branches that were renovated in 1997 include Amesbury Park and Flemingdon Park Community Branches and York Woods Regional Branch. The renovation at York Woods includes the addition of a User Education Centre — part of our program to make training an integral part of library operations across North York.

Topping 7 million

Despite the temporary closures needed to complete these renovations, overall circulation increased in North York; for the first time, users borrowed more than 7 million items from our libraries.

A service review of our Community Branches resulted in the implementation of a number of service improvements. We increased the number of children's videos and added popular videos at each of our 13 Community Branches. We also increased the number of mass-market paperbacks and other high demand material.

We continue to improve library service to people with disabilities by increasing the number of large print and talking books. We also allocated money to purchase 'described videos', in which scenes containing no dialogue are described by a narrator for people with visual impairments.

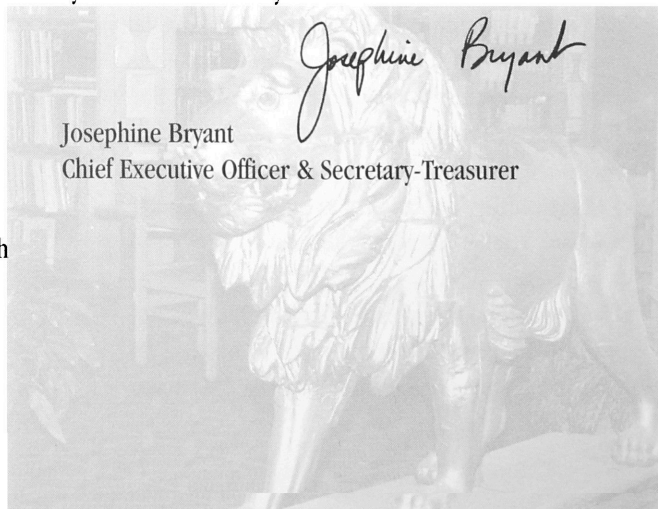
Proud history

It's fitting that in the last year of North York's existence as a separate municipality, we agreed to house the prized North York Historical Society artifact known as the Golden Lion. This life-size wood carving has been part of North York for 165 years, having made its first appearance in 1832 atop the Golden Lion Inn at Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue. The Golden Lion now stands proudly in the Canadiana Department at Central Library.

I am proud of the North York Public Library's 47 years of accomplishments and I'm proud of the way staff have moved forward into a new era of library service in the City of Toronto. I bid fond farewell to a great library system, but I look forward to increased access to library information, materials and services as our staff contribute to the development of a world-class library system in the new City of Toronto.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josephine Bryant".

Josephine Bryant
Chief Executive Officer & Secretary-Treasurer



From the Friends



At their conference in Ottawa this year, the Canadian Library Association provided an entire day of programs for library Friends. Participants explored possibilities around a national organization

of Friends of Library groups in Canada. By the end of the day, plans were in place to form a Steering Committee. By all indications, the Friends of Canadian Libraries (FOCAL) will be a reality by the time CLA meets in Victoria in 1998.

Forging ties

The Friends of the North York Public Library wholeheartedly embrace the trend toward greater cooperation among library Friends, particularly since libraries in North York will soon be part of the new Toronto Public Library. We look forward to forging ties with Friends in other parts of this wonderful and diverse city.

We continue to make Friends outside Toronto as well. While on a western vacation, our Vice-Chair, Sheena Gailis, met with Friends from Vancouver Public Library who described their activities and provided a tour of their gift shop. We've now begun to look into starting our own gift shop.

Book Ends booms

Book Ends, the Friends-run bookstore for withdrawn library materials, continues to stimulate great interest. Ajax Public Library's Friends were so impressed that they invited Book Ends' Executive members to speak at their AGM on managing a volunteer-run bookstore.

We also made friends in the corporate sector. Publishers from OWLPAG (Ontario Wholesalers, Libraries and Publishers Action Group) donated remaindered books to be sold in Book Ends. Material

of this nature can be specially priced above the store's normal prices, increasing funds raised for library literacy programs.

These literacy programs continue to be the cause of choice for the Friends. The \$30,000 we donated to fund three sessions of Leading to Reading at the Fairview Regional Branch helped over 200 primary school children improve their reading and writing. We also contributed \$2,500 to Summer Reading Fun, so that 2,000 additional children could maintain their reading skills over the summer.

Such generous donations are due largely to the success of Book Ends. In February, we raised our prices from 25¢ to 50¢ for paperbacks and from 50¢ to \$1 for hardcover books. In June, Book Ends celebrated all-time sales of \$100,000, and then went on to post record-breaking annual sales of almost \$40,000, up \$12,000 from 1996.

I'm very proud of the work our Friends volunteers do to support library literacy programs in North York and I look forward to seeing the Friends continue this support within the North York community. We are living in exciting times, full of new opportunities to cooperate with other Friends groups; but it's important in the vast new cityscape to maintain the wonderful sense of community North York has always offered. Grass-roots organizations such as The Friends of the North York Public Library are one way we can help make sure this happens.

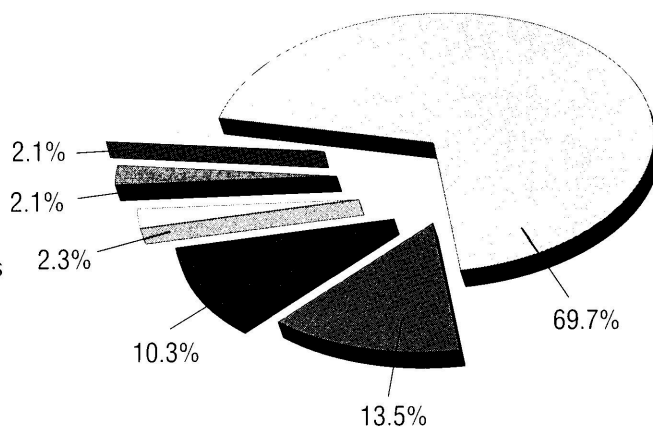
Pat Robertson
Chair, The Friends of the North York Public Library

Highlights

- The City of North York recognizes Friends of the Library Vice-Chair Sheena Gailis as a 1997 North York Volunteer of the Year.
- The Adult Literacy Program wins the Achievement in Literacy Award from the Canadian Library Trustees Association for our use of technology in helping Adults improve their reading and writing skills. This is the second time in three years Adult Literacy has won the award.
- In a partnership with Human Resources Development Canada, NYPL participates in the "Wide Area Employment Network" project. This valuable resource allows people with disabilities to come into the library to create resumés and then submit them via the Internet to prospective employers.
- CATNYP gets a "Recent Additions" list, allowing customers to see what's new on the library's shelves.
- North York Central Library celebrates its 10th birthday.
- Circulating CD-ROMs come to the Regional Branches.

Looking Ahead to '98

- On January 1st, seven library systems become one, as the challenge of developing a world-class library system for the new City of Toronto begins.
- Graphic-based Internet access comes to all North York Branches.
- Electronic Resources training comes to all North York Regions.
- Fairview Regional Branch loses its famous concrete ramps to renovations, but gains a training room. Armour Heights Community Branch gets a facelift.
- The "Wide Area Employment Network" for people with disabilities, originally available only to patrons coming into Central Library, becomes available from home or work to anyone with a computer and Internet access.
- Collections of books-on-cassette and multilingual videos increase in size.

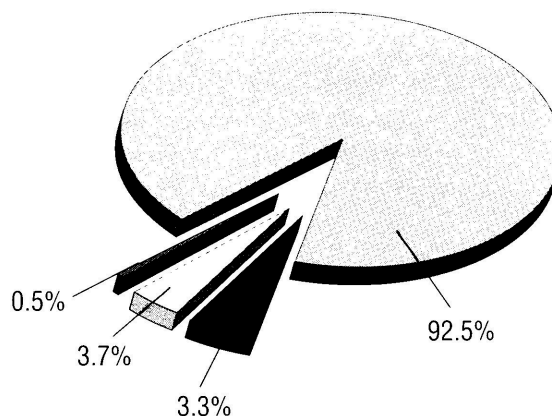


EXPENDITURES

Staff costs	22,732,057
Purchase of services	4,392,706
Library materials	3,371,654
Debt charges taxes & appropriation to reserve	747,942
Materials & supplies	676,656
Buildings, equipment, furnishings	691,509
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
1997	32,612,524
1996	32,794,922

REVENUE

City of North York	30,178,088
Federal & Provincial grants	1,060,370
User charges, photocopiers & room rentals	1,192,223
Other sources	181,843
TOTAL REVENUE	
1997	32,612,524
1996	32,794,932



North York Public Library Branches


 **Amesbury Park
Community Branch** 395-5420
1565 Lawrence Avenue West
North York M6L 1A8

 **Armour Heights
Community Branch** 395-5430
2140 Avenue Road
North York M5M 4M7

 **Barbara Frum
Library** 395-5440
20 Covington Road
North York M6A 3C1


 **Bayview
Community Branch** 395-5460
2901 Bayview Avenue
North York M2K 1E6

**Black Creek
Community Branch** 395-5470
2141 Jane Street
North York M3M 1A2

 **Brookbanks
Community Branch** 395-5480
210 Brookbanks Drive
North York M3A 2T8

 **Centennial
Community Branch** 395-5490
578 Finch Avenue West
North York M2R 1N7

 **Central Library** 395-5535
5120 Yonge Street
North York M2N 5N9

 **Don Mills
Regional Branch** 395-5710
888 Lawrence Avenue East
North York M3C 1P6

 **Downsview
Regional Branch** 395-5720
2793 Keele Street
North York M3M 2G3


 **Fairview
Regional Branch** 395-5750
35 Fairview Mall Drive
North York M2J 4S4

 **Flemingdon Park
Community Branch** 395-5820
29 St. Dennis Drive
North York M3C 3J3

 **Hillcrest
Community Branch** 395-5830
5801 Leslie Street
North York M2H 1J8


 **Humber Summit
Community Branch** 395-5840
2990 Islington Avenue
North York M9L 2K6

 **Jane Sheppard
Community Branch** 395-5966
Jane Sheppard Mall
2721 Jane Street
North York M3L 1S3

 **Pleasant View
Community Branch** 395-5940
575 Van Horne Avenue
North York M2J 4S8

 **Victoria Village
Community Branch** 395-5950
184 Sloane Avenue
North York M4A 2G4

**Woodview Park
Community Branch** 395-5960
16-18 Bradstock Road
North York M9M 1M8

 **York Woods
Regional Branch** 395-5980
1785 Finch Avenue West
North York M3N 1M6

A Special Thanks To Our Donors

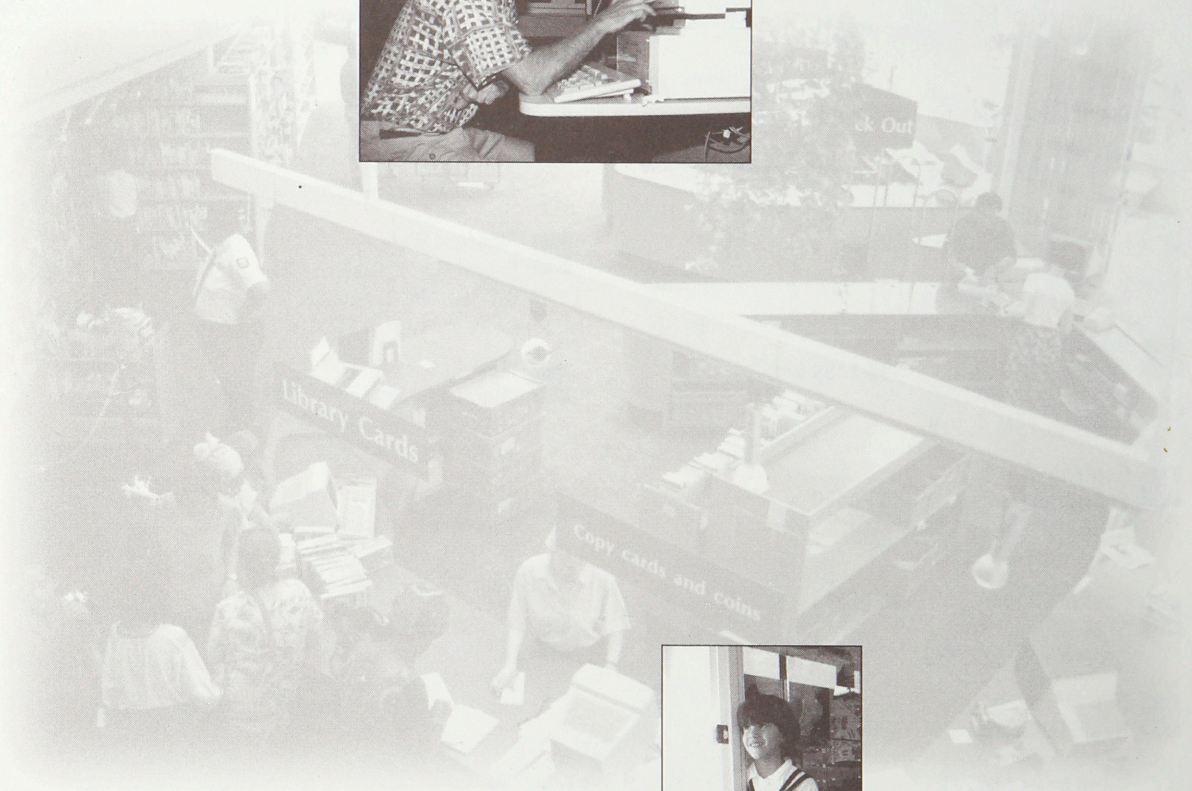
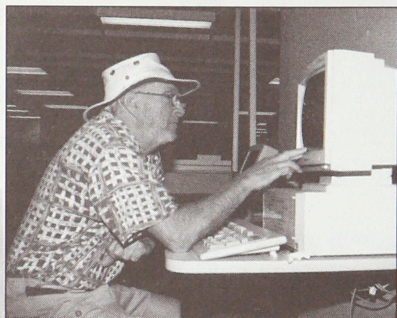
Thanks to everyone who supported the North York Public Library in 1997

The Friends of the North York Public Library

Supporters of the Veronica Fazekas Popper Memorial Fund

Donors who honoured the memory of long-time North York Public Library volunteer Olive Elliot

Dr. and Mr. Goldfarb who donated \$25,000 in memory of their
daughter, Marina Goldfarb Yabrov



...a lot more than books!

