



**ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**ANNUAL** Report  
2005

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# **ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD 2005**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The St. Catharines Public Library Board is committed to providing all the citizens of St. Catharines with the highest level of library services, materials, and facilities within the resources available to meet their informational, educational, and recreational needs.*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Public libraries play a special role in the communities they serve. Their doors are open to everyone regardless of age, ability, education or economic status. They provide access to information and cultural resources, offer literacy and life long learning programs and serve as vital social spaces. In 2005 the St. Catharines Public Library marked 117 years of service.

The *Strategic Agenda: Information and Innovation 2004-2006* provided the framework for the ongoing development of the Library. The strategic plan was developed in 2003 by the Board and staff utilizing the input obtained from the Community Needs Assessment Survey.

## COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

A primary role of the library is to develop and provide access to collections that address the information, leisure and research needs of the community. The collections include print and non-print material as well as electronic databases and Internet resources. The Library provides 24/7 access to the online catalogue, patron records and e-databases. In 2004 the Library subscribed to 5 electronic databases which provided access to 2,500 full text magazines, newspapers and reference books. In 2005, as a member of the Large Public Library Electronic Resources Consortia, the Library was able to increase the subscriptions to 22, providing access to 16,521 magazines, dailies and reference books. Patrons can access the electronic databases in the Library or remotely via the website.

In 2005 the Library created an automated Local Names Index which provides access to birth, death, marriage, and engagement notices, in partnership with *The Standard*. Data begins with 1900. The Royal

Canadian Henley Regatta Database was also expanded to include digitized versions of the original programs starting in 1904.

## **PROGRAMS**

Another focus for the Library is the development of literacy and research skills. To support this objective the Library offered the following programs for children: Time for Tots, Toddler Time, Preschool Story Time, Story Stairs, an annual summer reading program for children 5 to 12 years of age, and the Lollipop Summer Reading Program for ages 4 and under. Lollipop Club registration increased by 39% over 2004. In March 'Homework Help for Children' was introduced for those in grades 3 to 6 and their caregiver.

Teens and adults can attend a variety of research skills development programs offered in our computer lab including: Introduction to Computers, Internet I, II, III, Government Information on the Net, Genealogy Online, Searching E-databases, etc. The half day 'Grade 8 Research Skills Development Program' continued to be offered and a one-hour program 'Homework Help for Teens' was introduced in April. In 2005 the Library's young adult poetry and short story contest, 'Fresh Ink' was opened to all teens in the region of Niagara. Poetry submissions increased by 48% in 2005. Other teen programs included: St. John Ambulance Babysitters Course, Travel Adventures of Young Adults, and a summer reading program 'Survivor Island.'

Adult programs covered a wide variety of topics including: tax clinics, legal aid, wills and powers of attorney, vision loss, bladder awareness, travel logs, book clubs, T'ai Chi, etc. The Canadian Authors Association presented an Evening of Poetry and an Evening of Short Stories. Author readings were

provided by Hans Tammemagi (*Environmental Issues*), Peter Edwards (*Night Justice*), and Hannelore Headley (*Blond China Doll*). In November Dr. Rupwate presented a paper on the historical significance of the BME Church in honour of its 150th Anniversary.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

In 2003 the St. Catharines Public Library, Niagara College, Niagara Health System, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Regional Municipality of Niagara formed a consortia to investigate the creation of a high-speed fibre optic network. In 2004 Niagara Regional Broadband Network Ltd. began construction and by July 2005 the Library network was upgraded to fibre.

On March 1st wireless Internet access was installed at the Central Library for wireless enabled laptops and PDAs. In the spring a Request for Proposal to upgrade the current automated library system was distributed to vendors. The selection process took several months and a final report was submitted to the Board in October who approved the installation of the new system in 2006. In 2005, Industry Canada's Sustainability for Public Internet Access Program provided \$13,624.76 for public access workstations.

## **VISITING LIBRARY SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

Volunteers (which include staff) delivered 3,514 items to housebound individuals. In addition the Library provided regular book deposits to a number of senior's residences and read-out large print material to the Shaver Hospital. Throughout the year staff provided outreach to daycares and schools, and participated in a variety of community activities. The Library is an active member of a number of local and regional committees including the City of St. Catharines Culture

Committee and the Region of Niagara Culture Committee. Library staff input submitted data and design *Culture News*, which is printed by the City.

## **MEETING ROOMS**

The Central Library serves as a meeting place for community groups. In 2005, 478 meetings were held.

## **COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT**

In 2005 the Library negotiated a three year collective agreement with CUPE Local 2220 which will expire December 31, 2007.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES**

- Access To The Internet
- Book Clubs
- Collections
- Print
- Non-Print
- Electronic Resources
- Computer Training
- Information Services
- Interlibrary Loans
- Local History/Genealogy
- Meeting Rooms
- Programs for Children, Teens, Adults
- Visiting Library Service
- Word Processing

*The Library gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the following: the City of St. Catharines; the Provincial Government; sponsors of our programs; and the many donors who assisted the Library through contributions to the Endowment and Trust Fund, Honour With Books, and Gifts In Kind.*

## **STATISTICS**

### **Collection**

Volumes held .....	355,194
Periodical Titles Held .....	710
Periodical Titles Electronic .....	16,521

### **Library Use**

Circulation .....	1,272,231
In-House Use .....	977,184
Information Requests .....	176,384
Visits	
In Person .....	503,392
Virtual .....	214,267
Holds Filled .....	90,732

### **Program Attendance**

Programs .....	9,628
Class Visits .....	3,434

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2005**

### **Revenues**

Municipal Contribution .....	4,277,000
Provincial Grant .....	228,616
Miscellaneous Revenue .....	267,397

**Total Revenues .....** **4,773,013**

### **Expenditures**

Salaries and Benefits .....	3,043,825
Library Materials .....	834,932
Occupancy Costs .....	466,256
Library Services and Supplies .....	204,735
Operating Capital .....	73,265

**Total Expenditures .....** **4,623,013**

**Unexpended Revenue .....** **150,000**

# LIBRARY LOCATIONS

## Central

*54 Church Street, L2R 7K2*  
*905-688-6103, fax 905-688-6292*

Tues. - Thurs.    10 am - 9 pm  
Friday            10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday         9 am - 5 pm  
Sunday            1:30 pm - 5 pm  
                      \*Oct. - Dec.\*  
                      \*Jan. - May\*

## Grantham

*Scott and Vine Streets, L2M 3W4*  
*905-934-7511*  
*and*

## Merritt

*149 Hartzel Road, L2P 1N6*  
*905-682-3568*

Tues. - Wed.     10 am - 5:30 pm  
Thurs. - Fri.     10 am - 9 pm  
Saturday         9 am - 5 pm

## Port Dalhousie

*23 Brock Street, L2N 5E1*  
*905-646-0220*

Tuesday          1 pm - 8 pm  
Thursday         10 am - 12 noon  
                      1 pm - 8 pm  
Saturday         11 am - 4 pm



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