



# Brockville Public Library

## *Annual Report*

### 2004

Where the money comes from:

Municipal support	\$506,182
Provincial support	\$ 44,624
Project grants	\$ 45,167
Library revenue	\$ 49,847
Donations	\$ 10,958

Where the money goes:

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 475,544
Collections	\$ 62,753
Operations	\$ 51,848
Computer Services	\$ 19,543

Fast Facts:

Open Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 51 hours (Closed Sunday in July and August)	
Number of library visits	129,450
Total items circulated	202,293
Number of uses of Public PC's	13,300
Number of public computers	15
Program attendance	4,220
Number of information inquires	9,550



23 Buell Street  
(opposite the Post Office)  
P.O. Box 100  
Brockville, Ontario  
K6V 5T7

Telephone: (613)342-3936  
[www.cybertap.com/~bpl](http://www.cybertap.com/~bpl)

#### HOURS

Monday—Closed  
Tue-Thurs—10 am—9 pm  
Fri & Sat—10 am—5 pm  
Sun—1 pm-5 pm

(Closed Sundays between Canada Day and Labour Day)

**“INFORMATION  
FOR A LIFETIME”**

## MEET THE STAFF:

Margaret Williams, CEO/Chief Librarian  
Maureen Wharton, Manager of Public Services  
Amanda Robinson, Manager of Access Services  
Cindy Fischer, Office Manager  
Library Assistants:  
Margie Bentley  
Eleanor Denny  
Donna Hunt  
Laura Julien  
Dena Kreissler  
Dinah Merx  
Leisa Price-Story  
Holly Millious, Collaborative Seniors' Portal  
Curt Perrin, Custodian  
Student Pages: Nicholas Dinh, Sara Duncan,  
Susie Fischer, Elisabeth Harrison, Marta Kowalski and Scott  
Leroux , CAP student: Nicholas Leroux

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Charles D. Quick, Chair  
Nancy Van Ulden, Vice-Chair  
Margaret Wicklum, Treasurer  
Margaret Williams, CEO, Recording Secretary  
Howard Alexander  
Jennifer Cullen  
Marilyne Powers  
Robert Hammond  
Janet Wlodarczyk  
City Representative: Stewart Williams

## Other News

**Murals:** On August 31<sup>st</sup> family and friends attended the unveiling of two beautiful murals in the children's department to honour retired staff member Jacquie Johnston who died in June 2003. One mural depicts a group of children (one of them Jacquie at age nine) reading on the banks of the St. Lawrence River surrounded by favourite story book characters. In the background is the Johnston family's island cottage. The other mural features favourite storybook characters. Both were designed and painted by local artist Mary Lynn Baker. We received generous financial donations from Graham Sifton and Harry Johnston for this project.

**Library in Bloom:** Arlette Martin and other volunteers from the Brockville Horticultural Society offered to design and plant the large planter on Buell Street in front of the library. Free annuals were provided by the Society's President Doug Avery.

**Collaborative Seniors' Portal:** The Federal and Ontario governments and the City of Brockville jointly funded the development of an innovative website, [www.seniorsinfo.ca](http://www.seniorsinfo.ca), in order to assist seniors and their families and caregivers in quickly finding relevant government information. It was decided to open an office in Brockville and the Brockville Public Library was chosen as the site. Holly Millious was hired for a one year contract to answer queries by phone and email and to advise on the ongoing development of the website.

### Friends of the Library:

Throughout this important year our Friends of the Library assisted with fundraising, special events and birthday festivities. They held a successful used book sale and helped with our *Roots and Wings Campaign*. The executive members were Barb Healy (Chair), Sara Easter (Vice-Chair), Jim Elks (Treasurer) and Frank Fairfax (Secretary).

**Community Access Program:** Thanks to renewed funding from Industry Canada's CAP program we were able to hire Nicholas Leroux to give free computer and Internet instruction.

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Brockville Public Library  
is a non-profit organization and  
can issue receipts for income tax purposes.

## Ontario Public Library Week, October 18-24:

We marked this annual celebration with special events throughout the month of October. The Friends of the Library paid for a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday banner and the City displayed it across busy Stewart Blvd. Maggie Wheeler and Rosemary Rutley returned as our guest speakers on October 13th. Ms. Wheeler read excerpts from her new novel, *The Brother of Sleep*, the sequel to *A Violent End*. Mrs. Rutley told stories of her life growing up in Wales, one of the lost villages. On October 20<sup>th</sup> award-winning writer and broadcaster Mary Cook entertained us with stories of her life growing up in rural Renfrew during the great depression. On October 21<sup>st</sup> the local COGECO cable station interviewed board treasurer Margaret Wicklum, staff member Maureen Wharton and Friend Jean Sutcliffe about library governance, funding, and services. On October 28<sup>th</sup> we buried a time capsule one hundred and one years after the official cornerstone laying ceremony for our Carnegie library in 1903. The Barclay Funeral Home donated an urn to preserve items such as coins and library memorabilia. Mayor Te Kamp, and Councillors Stu Williams and Bob Huskinson brought congratulations from the City.

**Roots and Wings Campaign:** In honour of our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we decided to raise \$100,000.00 for the improvement of the library's collections, programs and services. We began in 2003 with a letter-writing campaign to local businesses and community leaders and by October 2004 had raised more than \$25,000. At this point we launched our public campaign. Our dedicated committee members were volunteers Jean Sutcliffe, Sandy (Laura) Rogers and Susan Anderson; library trustee Nancy Van Ulden; and library staff members Cindy Fischer, Laura Julien and CEO Margaret Williams. At the end of October we held a very successful silent auction. With donations of gifts and services from local, provincial and American businesses, and from community organizations and individuals we raised \$7,000 for the campaign. By the end of 2004 we had raised almost \$40,000.00.

## 2004 HIGHLIGHTS:

**100th Birthday Celebrations:** 2004 marked the centenary of our Carnegie building and 100 years of public library service to Brockville and area communities. In April 2002 a committee of library trustees, staff and volunteers began planning for this important milestone. We hired Catherine Fifield to help us design an official logo which the library board approved in the fall of 2002. The committee then decided to organize fundraising events in 2003 so that we could celebrate in style. The Thousand Islands Quilters Guild made beautiful quilted book bags for us to sell. And our talented local artists and craftspeople donated their unique works of art to a very successful silent auction. These events raised \$6,000.00. Throughout our year long celebration, every staff member participated in planning special birthday events and programs.

**The Mayor's Levee:** On January 1, 2004 we organized and hosted Mayor Ben Te Kamp's New Year's Day levee, a popular annual event that was attended by 150 Brockville citizens. This was an opportunity to celebrate the Library's successful partnership with the City of Brockville over the past one hundred years. The Brockville Infantry Company (1862) re-enactors in their red uniforms added an element of drama.

**Storyfest:** During Heritage Week from February 19 to 22 the Library and the Brockville Storytellers held their fifth annual Storyfest with guest storytellers Marylyn Peringer and Celia Lottridge. In addition to the \$500.00 provided by the library we also received funding from the Kinsmen and Kinettes, the Lions Club, and the Second Cup. Our community partners were the Brockville Museum and the Early Years Centre.

**One Book One Community:** In partnership with Leeds County Books we launched eastern Ontario's first One Book One Community adult literacy project in April, a celebration of our writers, bookstores, publishers and readers. We invited everyone to read Maggie Wheeler's first novel, *A Violent End*. The historical setting for this murder mystery is the flooding of the St. Lawrence River during the building of the Seaway, a project that resulted in the destruction of several villages and hamlets and the relocation of 6,500 people. Seventy people came to hear Maggie read from her book and to share their personal and sometimes difficult memories with her and local historian Rosemary Rutley. The Lost Villages Historical Society conducted a bus tour in May and provided a complimentary barbecue which was attended by area politicians.

## HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

**Drums to the Max:** On May 25<sup>th</sup>, thanks to a generous donation, we presented two free performances of Jeunesses Musicales' *Drums to the Max* with talented Montreal percussionists Bruno Roy and Janic Gingras. Our National Librarian Roch Carrier was our special guest at the afternoon performance and graciously autographed copies of his book "The hockey sweater" for his fans.

### Birthday Parties:

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we officially celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with two parties. In the afternoon, invited guests including MP Joe Jordan, Mayor Ben Te Kamp, and members of city council, media representatives, retired and current staff, and Friends, volunteers and patrons all gathered in the library meeting room for birthday cake and refreshments. Letters of congratulations were received from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Prime Minister Paul Martin, Premier Dalton McGuinty, MP Joe Jordan, and MPP Bob Runciman. The Prince of Wales School Recorder Ensemble under the direction of their teacher, library trustee Howard Alexander, entertained everyone with style and enthusiasm. In recognition of Mr. Andrew Carnegie's Scottish heritage Mr. Stewart Nimmo from the Brockville Pipe Band acted as our official piper. In the evening there was a second birthday party for children and their families with McNut the Clown to entertain everyone and more birthday cake. The birthday cakes were provided compliments of Tait's Bakery.

### Children's Events:

In addition to our regular programming, the library offered twenty-one special programs in conjunction with this year's TD Summer Reading Club theme "Dragons, books and quests". Among the highlights, children read to trained therapy dogs in the popular *Paws to Read* program. And on July 22 popular children's entertainer Doug Barr delighted everyone with his musical show, a free event. We held our "One Author One Community" literacy event in July, and invited children to come to the reading tent set up in the meeting-room to delve into the fascinating fact-filled books by acclaimed Canadian children's author Shelley Tanaka. On July 29<sup>th</sup> Ms. Tanaka visited the library to share with children and their parents how she had researched and written such favourites as *In the time of the knights* and *On board the Titanic*.

### Organization of the Year:

In September the Friends of the Library submitted an application to the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce nominating the Library as Organization of the Year 2004. At the awards dinner, which happened to take place during Ontario Public Library Week on October 20<sup>th</sup>, Barb Healy (President of the Friends), Board Chairman C. Quick, and CEO Margaret Williams were on hand to accept this prestigious award from the business community.

### Santa Claus Parade:

In November we participated in the city's annual Santa Claus Parade. Library staff, assisted by family members, made Santa's reindeer barn on wheels and decorated it with lights. Staff children and their friends portrayed Santa's reindeer. Despite the pouring rain, this event was a great success.