

BROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

Improved Internet Service: In May we installed PC Booking software for our nine public Internet and word processing computers. This software maximizes access to our computers and allows us to produce statistical reports that track usage. Thanks to renewed funding from Industry Canada for its Community Access Program (CAP) we were able to hire Amy O'Brien from September to December to give personalized computer and Internet training.

Roots and Wings Campaign: A silent auction at the end of October concluded this capital campaign with a total amount raised of more than \$60,000. Throughout this campaign the library received tremendous support from community businesses, industries, service organizations, private donors and library customers. The committee members were volunteers Jean Sutcliffe, Sandy (Laura) Rogers and Susan Anderson; library trustees Nancy Van Ulden and Marilyn Powers; and staff members Laura Julien, Cindy Fischer and Margaret Williams.

Bequest: The Library was delighted to receive a bequest of \$65,600.00 from the estate of the late Herbert James (John) Field, 1919-2004. This very generous and thoughtful gift raised the *Roots and Wings Campaign* total to more than \$125,000.00.

Partnerships: Country Roads Community Health Centre donated books about breast cancer, a project funded by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Our Library joined *Every Kid in our Communities of Leeds and Grenville*, a collaborative partnership of more than twenty-five child and youth service providers, businesses, and organizations which have the shared goal of building developmental assets in our children and youth. We participated in *Doors Open*, a celebration of local history and architecture. The 1000 Islands Quilters Guild met at the library on Mondays to make quilts for distribution through Canadian Aid for Chernobyl Brockville.

Celebrating Our Past: On October 28, 102 years after the laying of the cornerstone for our Carnegie library in 1903, we unveiled a plaque that incorporates a photograph taken on that historic day. A generous grant from the Brockville Community Foundation funded this project.

Ontario Public Library Week, October 17 to 23: Brockville City Council proclaimed this week as **Ontario Public Library Week. This year's theme was *Destination Imagination – Discover us.*** We concluded our *One Book One Community* project with a public reading by Brent Robillard and an awards ceremony for the teen winners of the writing competition. Our annual *Storyfest* featured guest storyteller Jan Andrews who entertained and enthralled a family audience.

Children's Department: *Blast Off!* was the theme for our summer reading club, and Practice Reading and summer programs. Among the highlights were visits from dogs in the PAWS to Read program, and visits from children's author Chris Jackson and entertainer Doug Barr.

Advocacy: Library Trustee Howard Alexander made "good news" presentations to Brockville City Council in February and May. Board and staff members attended Chamber of Commerce events throughout the year.

There are two lasting bequests we give our children. One is roots; the other is wings.

Hodding Carter, Jr.



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**“INFORMATION
FOR A LIFETIME”**

**WELCOME TO THE
BROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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: Huy Dinh, Nicholas Dinh, Sara
Duncan, Susie Fischer, Marta Kowalski and
Scott Leroux
CAP student: Amy O'Brien

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Margaret Wicklum, Chair
Nancy Van Ulden, Vice-Chair
Janet Wlodarczyk, Treasurer
Margaret Williams, CEO, Recording Secretary
Charles D. Quick
Howard Alexander
Jennifer Cullen
Marilyne Powers
William Hamblen
City Council Representative: Bob Huskinson

Friends of the Library Executive:

Barb Healy, President
Sara Easter, Vice-President
Jim Elks, Treasurer
Frank Fairfax, Secretary



Where the money comes from:

Municipal support	\$532,829
Provincial support	\$ 44,624
Project grants	\$ 47,297
Library revenue	\$ 47,082
Donations	\$ 68,185

Where the money goes:

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 499,967
Materials	\$ 64,017
Operations	\$ 50,501
Computer Services	\$ 23,936

Fast Facts:

Open Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 51 hours
(Closed Sunday in July and August)

Number of library visits	144,820
Total items circulated	201,485
Number of public computers	16
Program attendance	4,109
Number of information inquires	11,700

Statistics: Compared with 2004

- Requests for Internet assistance increased by 25%
- Word Processing usage increased by 16%
- Requests for information increased by 28%

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

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

2005 HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Planning: The Library Board's new three-year strategic plan focuses on improving services and collections for young adults and seniors while continuing to support children and family literacy. Staff conducted a survey of our young adults to determine service gaps. A statement of commitment to excellent customer service was publicly displayed on each floor.

Friends of the Library: The Friends commissioned Keith Heine to make a beautiful carved wooden sign which was installed beside the main entrance. As well as organizing public workshops on topics such as collectibles and photography, our Friends assisted with the *Roots and Wings Campaign* fund-raising events and held their annual used book sale.

First Nations Public Library Week: From February 14 to 20 we joined Ontario's First Nations libraries in celebrating the many contributions of our aboriginal peoples and the libraries that serve them. This year's theme was *Proud past, Proud future @your library™*.

One Book One Community: We invited everyone to read *Leaving Wyoming*, the first novel by prize winning poet and award winning high school teacher Brent Robillard. We focused on teenage readers for our outreach programs. Mr. Robillard gave book talks in Brockville and area high schools, ran writing workshops for teens, and organized a poetry writing contest based on a passage from his book.

Collaborative Seniors' Portal: The Federal and Ontario governments and the City of Brockville jointly funded the development of an innovative website, www.seniorsinfo.ca, in order to assist seniors and their families and caregivers in quickly finding relevant government information. The 2004 contract with the Brockville Public Library to provide assistance in accessing this website was renewed for a further six months from March to September 2005.