

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Message from the Board

It's our job to respond to community needs. That means continuously looking for opportunities to expand and improve services. Take a look at the list of 2006 highlights and future plans outlined here. We think you will agree much was accomplished in 2006 and the future is equally exciting.

We count on the community to help us make decisions about service improvements. Last fall KPL conducted a survey to better understand customer awareness of library programs, collections and services. We learned a lot from the 900 participants and will use this information to serve you better.

KPL Board and staff also listened closely to what citizens had to say about a new central library on Centre Block. In response to the support you expressed for an improved central library and the current location, we initiated a study of the existing main library. The study results will be shared with the community in 2007.

During the central library project, we heard repeatedly how you value KPL's community libraries. We absolutely agree. To ensure our branch libraries continue to be vital resources in Kitchener's neighbourhoods, we plan to review their role and make recommendations for future growth.

2006 was a successful year and KPL's future is bright. It's all thanks to generous library supporters and donors and hard working staff, volunteers and partners.

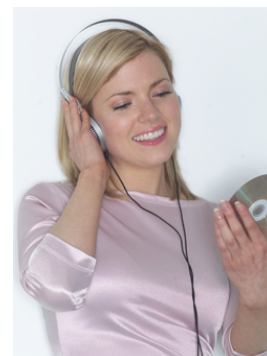


Dan Carli, 2007 Chair

KPL Quick Facts

Did you know . . .

- The library has over 1 million in-person visits annually
- 600,000 "virtual" visits are made via the library website
- Over 2 million items are borrowed each year
- KPL offers collections in 26 different languages
- Over 100,000 reference questions are answered annually
- 1,000 new library cards are issued each month
- 65,000 people attend library programs or events each year
- Nearly 125,000 people use a free library computer each year
- Our volunteers give over 10,000 hours of their time annually



2006 Financial Statement

Revenues

City of Kitchener	
Operating	\$ 7,718,540
Capital	\$ 709,952
Province of Ontario	\$ 286,755
Special Grants	\$ 79,943
Fines, Fees & Misc.	\$ 476,921
2005 Surplus	\$ 79
Total Revenues	\$ 9,272,190

Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 6,339,495
Library Materials & Processing	\$ 1,228,187
Public Programs	\$ 42,730
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 646,985
Administrative	\$ 224,878
Capital Projects	\$ 709,952
Special Grant Projects	\$ 79,943
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,272,170

2006 Surplus \$ **20**

2006 Highlights

- Our *Book Smart, Water Smart* campaign resulted in a 30% increase in new child library card registrations
- Teen Summer Reading Challenge saw local teens read over 260,000 pages, which was more than double the library's challenge!
- Nearly 900 people participated in our library survey; a phenomenal participation rate for a survey of this kind
- Introduced a digital audio book collection, enabling customers to download popular audio books directly to their mp3 device
- Introduced *Rosetta Stone*, an interactive online tool for learning a variety of different languages
- Introduced *Newspaper Direct*, a same-day service for foreign language newspapers from around the world
- Redesigned our teen and children's web pages; making them easier to use and more meaningful to our younger online users
- Welcomed a team of librarians from the tsunami ravaged nation of Sri Lanka; providing the group with insights on library governance, strategic planning, and services for children and teens
- Introduced online library card registration via our website; a great convenience for both customers and staff
- New library card registrations increased by 20% system-wide in 2006; and by nearly 30% at the main library alone
- Electronic resource use increased by nearly 50% in 2006; showing that many customers increasingly look to the library, and not just the Internet, for help with their information needs

Your 2006 Library Board

Mr. Bruce MacNeil, Chair
Mr. Dan Carli, 1st Vice Chair
Mr. Brian Burnley, 2nd Vice Chair

Ms. Elizabeth Esenberg
Mr. Bryan Isaac
Ms. Kimberly Lane
Ms. Maxine Neller
Mrs. Diane Slimmon
Mr. George Zador
Councillor Mike Galloway
Councillor Berry Vrbanovic

Looking Ahead

To better serve our growing community KPL will:

- Review the role of the Community Library within the KPL system and make recommendations for future growth
- Continue planning a larger, revitalized Central Library
- Audit all KPL Facilities to improve accessibility
- Implement solutions to the main library's short-term space needs
- Prepare a comprehensive business continuity plan
- Update and enhance our library website, including the development of an E-Library branch, to meet the needs of our rapidly expanding virtual users
- Provide students with the latest technology by upgrading the main library's Homework Centre computers
- Expand our multilingual collections by adding a children's Arabic collection
- Make it more convenient for customers to learn about our non-fiction resources by introducing a new electronic newsletter

Your Library Locations

Main Library

85 Queen St. North
519-743-0271

Country Hills Library

1500 Block Line Rd.
519-743-3558

Forest Heights Library

251 Fischer-Hallman Rd.
519-743-0644

Grand River Stanley Park Library

175 Indian Rd.
519-896-1736

Pioneer Park Library

150 Pioneer Dr.
519-748-2740

