

Annual Report 2008

Message from the Board

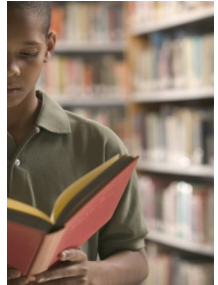
In this our 125th year, it is inspiring to reflect on how far public libraries have come over the past century. Libraries have progressed far beyond their beginnings as austere repositories of books where both children and activity were frowned upon. Today, libraries are welcoming community spaces filled with every format of information imaginable along with fun and informative programs and activities for people of all ages. Libraries today reflect the evolving demographics and technologies of their communities, and few achieve this more fully than Kitchener Public Library. At KPL, there really is something for everyone.

As we look back on our successes of 2008, it's easy to dispel the myth that public libraries are no longer relevant in today's high-tech world with ever expanding home Internet access.

At KPL, we have embraced the Internet and the opportunities it affords. Alongside traditional collections and services like books, magazines, and in-person assistance, we also offer downloadable audio and electronic books, instant-messaging reference service, 24/7 access to dozens of information databases, an interactive online library catalogue, and so much more. Technology has allowed us to connect with our community and provide services and access to library

collections in ways we could not have even imagined a century ago.

The evidence of library usage speaks for itself. This past year alone, we have seen double-digit increases in both visits to our library locations and in borrowing of library materials. In addition, participation in library programs for children's, teens and adults has steadily increased.



Demand for library services comes at an opportune time for KPL. This past October City Council approved our plans to expand and renovate the Main Library on Queen Street. When completed in early 2013, our renovation project will create a state-of-the-art library facility that will serve the residents of Kitchener well into the future.

Branch libraries are also a key part of our city-wide library network, and as our community grows, we also anticipate opening a new southwest branch by 2016.

Thank you for your support over the last 125 years and for your continued support in the future.

Dan Carli, 2008 Chair, Kitchener Public Library Board

2008 Financial Statement

Revenues

City of Kitchener	
Operating	\$8,395,545
Capital	\$ 417,140
Province of Ontario	\$ 286,755
Special Grants	\$ 94,755
Fines, Fees & Misc.	\$ 479,945
2006 Surplus	\$ 239
Total Revenues	\$9,674,399

Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$6,871,619
Library Materials & Processing	\$1,396,824
Public Programs	\$ 40,945
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 637,378
Administrative	\$ 215,695
Capital Projects	\$ 417,140
Special Grant Projects	\$ 94,775
Total Expenditures	\$9,674,376
2008 Surplus	\$ 23

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2008 Highlights

A selection of successes this past year:

- Launched an improved user-friendly website featuring easier access to online services and collections.
- Unveiled a redesigned, updated, and more cost-effective *In Touch* magazine in partnership with the Waterloo Region Record.
- Implemented free library membership to residents across Waterloo Region.
- Received City Council approval for our Central Library renovation and expansion project.
- Assembled a special collection of World War I and II Soldier Information Cards for public viewing.
- Introduced a real-time online chat research and information service in partnership with public and academic libraries across the province.
- KPL's Sharron Smith named "Librarian of the Year" by the Ontario Library Association.
- Welcomed award-winning journalist Trevor Cole as our annual Writer-in-Residence.
- Developed a joint literacy partnership with the Children's Museum.



Looking Ahead

To better serve our growing community KPL will:

- Select an architect to design our Central Library renovation and expansion.
- Launch a capital campaign to help raise funds in support of our renovation and expansion plans.
- Implement RFID technology to more efficiently track inventory and enable customer self-checkout.
- Develop increased parking in association with our Central Library renovation plans.
- Establish free wireless Internet (wi-fi) access at all library locations.
- Investigate creative merchandising strategies to more effectively profile our library collections.
- Implement a program in partnership with the K-W Multicultural Centre to provide on-site support to new Canadians.
- Develop new literacy initiatives in cooperation with our community partners.

Your 2008 Library Board

Mr. Dan Carli, *Chair*
Mr. Bruce MacNeil, *1st Vice Chair*
Ms. Elizabeth Esenbergs, *2nd Vice Chair*
Ms. Lynn Gazzola, *Finance Committee Chair*
Mr. Brian Burnley
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