

MERRICKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2008

MERRICKVILLE LIBRARY MAKES ITS MOVE IN 2008

ANNUAL LIBRARY USE

PATRON VISITS: 12,609
+8%

CIRCULATION: 28,436
+15.5%

E-COLLECTION USE: 3,500+

INTERNET USE: 2,848
+6.5%

NEW MEMBERS: *+26%*

HOUSEHOLDS: 120

INDIVIDUALS: 250

ACTIVE MEMBERS (2008):

INDIVIDUALS: 1,406
+23%

HOUSEHOLDS: 696
+33%

NEW BOOKS (ETC.): 1,355

BUSIEST MONTH: JULY

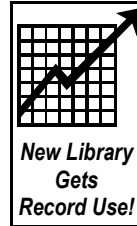
AVE. LIBRARY USE:
11.6 PATRON VISITS/HR
(INCLUDES PROGRAMS)

PUBLIC SAYS "WOW" TO NEW BUILDING!



On June 7, 2008, the Merrickville Public Library opened in its new building to record crowds, which continued through the summer, as the community flocked to visit its new library.

Enthusiasm for the new library is evident in the dramatic increase in use experienced in 2008. As well as having our busiest summer ever, **annual Library visits were up 8% from 2007, borrowing increased 15.5%, and public Internet use was up 6.5%** and use of the library's online databases & e-books has more than **doubled**. The number of local households using the library **increased 33%** over 2007, with 176 new members joining the library since the move.



To keep up with the demand, the library added **over 1,350 books and other media** to our collection in 2008. Thanks in part to the Friends of the Library's Adopt-a-Book campaign, we expanded our fiction collections for adults and youth, and our Large Print, audiobook, and graphic novel collections, as well as increasing our early literacy and homework resources (print & online). **The library currently holds over 19,000 books & other media.** *(cont. on p. 2)*

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY DONORS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our new library a reality.

Chris & Julia Babcock
Kathleen Bodger
Patricia & John Bonneau
John Burrell
Carol & Brian Carty
Christmas in Merrickville
Coba Studios
John Cove
Colette Durand
Matthew Eby
Elaine Empey
Friedrich Yap Family
Lorna Gendreau
Gillian & David Hammonds
Grace MacKinnon Hone
Margo & David Honeywell
Graham MacKay
Fred McFarland
McKibbin Tree Farm/ Brown Family
Merrickville Knitting & Crochet Club
Merrickville Phoenix
Merrickville Snowflake Festival
Judith Moore
RBC Foundation
Alec & Jocelyn Rait
Brian & Brenda Reid
Elaine & Peter Richards
Gillian Rubinstein
St. Anne's Guild
Sinclair Accounting Services
Brad & Charlotte Smith
Jeffery Smith
Edward & Susan Stevens
United Church Sunday School
Joanne Watson
Joan & James Weller
Heather Wilson
Frank & Diana Yates



LIONS' CLUB MAKES IT HAPPEN!

The new library could not have happened without the leadership and community spirit of the Merrickville Lions' Club.

The Lions' Club saw Merrickville-Wolford's need for a larger and more modern library and came up with the plan to purchase the former Canadian Recreational Canoe Association building to donate to the community as the library's new home!

The Library Board appreciates the enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work of all the members of the Lions' Club—and especially of Jim Jordan, Gerry Seguin, and Jim St. James — in initiating and fundraising for this project. We thank you and the community thanks you.

TRILLIUM SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY

THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO

The Library Board was delighted to receive a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in 2007-08, to assist in our new building project.

The library received a Trillium grant of \$47,200 under OTF's mandate to improve access to community resources. The grant was used for new shelving, carpet, signs, and computer equipment needed to convert the building into a library.

The Library Board appreciates Trillium's support for the library's role in our community's cultural, educational, and recreational well-being!

Access the library's online resources: www.merrickvillelibrary.ca



Town Crier
Cy Drake
kicks off the
Opening

NEW LIBRARY (Cont. from p. 1)

The library's Relocation Celebration, on June 6, was attended by Mayor Doug Struthers and representatives from Montague Township, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Merrickville Lions' Club, and our many community donors and volunteers, including the Friends of the Library.

The opening, organized by board members Jim Cooper and Paulette Kimball, was the culmination of months of planning on the part of the Library Board and staff. The former Canadian Recreational Canoe Association building, purchased and donated by the Lions' Club, was extensively renovated by local contractor Jamie Sels, and decorated by interior designer Judith Moore, who generously donated her expertise.

The building is now a beautifully open library space featuring new shelving and furniture - thanks to a Trillium grant and community donations - that make it a comfortable and inviting spot with plenty of room to browse the collection, use computers, and spend time working or reading by the fire. The downstairs of the building is fully accessible, and the board is currently working to extend this to the upper floor.

The Library Board feels we have been successful in our goal of making the library more "user-friendly", and appreciates all the help we received in making this come true.



Community members enjoy the new library's spacious interior!

Board Chair Brian Reid says a few words.



Mayor Doug Struthers and Montague councillor Bill Eckersley unveil the plaque.



Reps from Merrickville-Wolford, Montague Twp, Lions' Club, Trillium, Friends of the Library & the Library Board join the librarian in cutting the ribbon for the new library.



GETTING BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

THE BOARD WISHES TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library have a long history of volunteering their time to fundraise on behalf of the library.

These efforts paid off in 2008, when the Friends were able to contribute \$8,000 to the renovations of the new library building. The Friends also played an active role in the library's Relocation Celebration and Grand Opening Day.

The Friends continue to fundraise for the library through their Spring Plant Sale, Fall Bulb Sale, used book sales, and a very successful Adopt-a-Book campaign.

In 2008, these funds were also used to sponsor the library's children's programs, Talking Books for visually impaired patrons, and other library projects.



Adopt-a-Book adds \$2,000 of books to library's shelves!

LIBRARY = READING + FUN

The library offers children's programs year round to promote literacy and pre-literacy skills and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Our weekly **StoryTime** program for pre-schoolers combines music & rhythm instruments with stories and a craft. In 2008, StoryTime incorporated the *Every Child Ready to Read* program which focuses on key pre-literacy skills.

SUMMER READING

During the summer, the library runs summer reading programs to help preserve and develop reading skills.

In 2008, the library ran the **TD Summer Reading Club** (sponsored by the TD Bank) - this year with a theme of **LOL - Laugh Out Loud**. This included an independent reading program for older kids, and a craft & reading program for younger children. The program included prizes and poster draws.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The library also held special children's pro-



Our spacious and colourful new Children's Area is a hit with kids and parents!

grams for Halloween & March Break, including Juice Jam (music program) by Polly Beach, craft activities, and evening storytimes.

THANKS!

Our thanks to Polly Beach and to Tia Lutes & Shelby Brown for their help with the summer program and to the Friends of the Library for providing prizes, and craft & snack supplies for our programs.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

IN LIBRARY: 62

ATTENDANCE: 946



Kids clown around in our



"Laugh Out Loud" TD Summer Reading Club



Children's programs encourage young library users

Juice Jam music fun with Polly Beach



REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY!



In 2008, the library continued outreach services to community groups & schools.

The librarian took children's story programs to **Merrickville Play Group** (biweekly) and the **Health Centre's Well Baby Clinic** (monthly).

The library was active in reaching out to local schools. The librarian provided resource material and visited classes at **Merrickville, Wolford & Montague schools** with programs for Halloween & Christmas and with book talks. The librarian also offered workshops on using the li-

brary's online resources to school classes.

The library provided resources for **Merrickville Day Nursery School**, the municipal **Sizzling Summer programs**, and other children's groups, as well as supplying books for several local **Book Clubs**.

The library continues to work with community groups, such as the **Historical Society, Health Centre, Chamber of Commerce**, and, of course, the **Merrickville Lions' Club**. Our new meeting room provides space for community groups, such as the **Agricultural Fair Board** and the **Knitting Club**.

LIBRARIAN VISITS

TO COMMUNITY GROUPS:

36 VISITS

TO SCHOOL CLASSES:

44 VISITS

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

1,167

Library fun comes to the classroom!



LIBRARY SERVICES: BOOKS & BEYOND!

Books are just the start of today's library services. Merrickville Library offers Internet access, online resources, magazines, special formats, including audiobooks (CD, tape, & downloadable eAudio-books), and more for all our patrons.

LIBRARY SERVICES

BOOKS - FOR ALL AGES!
 LARGE PRINT BOOKS
 ONLINE DATABASES
 E-BOOKS
 MAGAZINES
 AUDIOBOOKS
 CHILDREN'S VIDEOS
 COMPUTER GAMES (KIDS')
 TALKING BOOKS
 TEEN SPACE
 GENEALOGY COLLECTION
 LOCAL HISTORY
 INTERLIBRARY LOAN
 MEETING ROOM
 INTERNET ACCESS
 WIRELESS ACCESS
 WORDPROCESSING, ETC.
 SCANNER
 PRINTING, COPYING, FAX
 STORYTIME
 SUMMER READING CLUB
 & MORE

ONLINE RESOURCES!



HOMEWORK HELP @ THE LIBRARY

Students of all ages have free online access to a huge selection of print reference & journal resources available anywhere through the library's website.

SMALL BUSINESS @ THE LIBRARY

Online resources include journals for small business & the tourism sector. Plus, online access to databases for health, auto repair, & popular magazines, such as Consumer Reports.

WIRELESS INTERNET

The library's wireless high-speed public Internet access is increasingly popular in our larger location.

SPECIAL NEEDS

To make the collection more accessible, the library offers Large Print books and audio-books. LP books are also sent regularly to *Rosebridge Manor Nursing Home*. A provincial CNIB Talking Book service is also available for members with serious visual impairment.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

Our **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** service continues to be popular, especially with local Book Clubs. We received **890 loans in 2008** (close to 2007's all-time high).



This service enables members to borrow from public libraries across Ontario, allowing the library to satisfy demand within a limited book budget. In 2008, our library loaned **over 500** books to other libraries.

GENEALOGY / LOCAL HISTORY

The library is partnering with the Merrickville & District Historical Society to make their digitalized archive collection available for public access in our new Local History room. This room also houses the extensive collection of local genealogical records, compiled by Alice Hughes.

MEETING ROOM

The library's new meeting room is available for use for library programs, like the library's new Book Club, and by community groups.

ENERGY METER

The library continues to offer energy meters (to measure home energy consumption) for loan to the community.



INTERNET FUNDING

In 2008, the library received funding to support public Internet service from the Community Access Program (CAP) and the provincial Connectivity program.

CAP	\$ 1,430
CONNECTIVITY	\$ 1,212



TEEN SPACE



Thanks to community donations, the new library has an "awesome" Teen Space that offers our teen users more room for books, computers & getting together.

VOLUNTEERS

The library would like to thank our volunteers who donate their time to tasks such as processing, repairing, and shelving books, program help, and maintaining our website. Without the contribution of our volunteers, the library would be unable to provide our current level of service.

Thank you,

IRENE BRIGGS
MAUREEN GROSS
GILLIAN HAMMONDS
DIANNE HYNDMAN
DIANA MCCAVERA
GILLIAN MORDEN
BRENDA REID
LIZ SINCLAIR
MARY SMALL
LINDSAY SUTHREN
DAWN ZAVERSENUKE
TIA LUTES
SHELBY BROWN
 &
PETER RICHARDS



MERRICKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS 2009

BRIAN REID, CHAIRPERSON
 SUE BIRTA
 MARTINE GOW-COOPER

TIMOTHY MOLLOY, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
 OLIVIA ENNS, MONTAGUE REPRESENTATIVE
 ANNE TENER, MONTAGUE REPRESENTATIVE

AND YOUR LIBRARIAN ... MARY KATE LAPHEN