



Community Services Department • Library Services Division

“Working Together to Build Strong Communities”

Winnipeg Public Library

Annual Report 2007



winnipeg.ca/library

Message from Community Services



Clive Wightman (Director of Community Services) & Rick Walker (Manager of Library Services)

2007 was a year of renovation, innovation, and celebration for Winnipeg Public Library.

The year got underway with news that a **new West End Library** would be built as part of the planned renovations at the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. Construction on the project began following a groundbreaking ceremony with Mayor Sam Katz, Premier Gary Doer, Member of Parliament Joy Smith and members of Cindy Klassen's family.

Over the next several months, the Library made available several **new technological applications** to better meet the needs of our patrons and provide innovative services not only in libraries but also in peoples' households and offices via the Internet. Early on, we added **Microsoft Office software** (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) to public

workstations across the library system. In September, we launched our **wireless service** in partnership with MTS Allstream and, later in the year, we began circulating **eBooks and audio books** through a partnership with the Province of Manitoba, Public Library Services. Innovation continued to be the theme as the Library unveiled an **email notification of holds service**,

followed a few months later by **pre-overdue notifications** for patrons.

In February, we paused to celebrate the **10th anniversary of the Sir William Stephenson Library** as well as **Family Literacy Day** and **Freedom to Read Week**, the latter with a 24-hour event at the Millennium Library. As summer rolled around, the Library celebrated the continued successful fundraising efforts of the Winnipeg Library Foundation with the dedication and opening of the **Pattison Reading Garden** at the Millennium Library. The fall brought with it celebrations for **World Diabetes Day**, **Freedom to Read Month**, **Canadian Library Month**, and the launch of the Winnipeg Library Foundation's **Amazing Stories fundraising campaign**.

In spite of all that was

accomplished in 2007, the year ahead looks even busier! **Renovation projects** are in the planning stages for the St. John's Library homework room and for the Osborne, Louis Riel, and Cornish branches. With its "Laugh Out Loud!" theme, the **2008 TD Summer Reading Club** promises a fun-filled summer. And plans are in the works to expand our **Read Away Your Fines** program to all branches in the system.

We wish to thank all of our partners who help make our library system a well used and loved service by the citizens of Winnipeg. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our stakeholder groups, community partners, the Province of Manitoba and Winnipeg City Council, as well as the residents themselves who make Winnipeg Public Library a great place to visit.

"It's one thing to be in a bookstore. But to see your book in a library, to me that really means something."

David Sedaris

Facts and Figures		
Indicator	2007	2006
Population served	653,300	648,651
Library cardholders	430,879	413,529
New patrons registered	20,816	23,783
Annual visits	3,500,000	3,500,000
Items in collections	1,604,582	1,678,418
Items borrowed	5,431,786	5,532,720
Questions answered	284,386	292,632
Computer bookings	442,212	431,783
Website visits	1,074,610	987,368
Programs offered	3,293	3,519
Program attendance	63,057	70,369

Highlights

The Library's ongoing partnership with **Winnipeg in motion** resulted in monthly workshops covering a wide variety of topics, from laughter yoga and simple workday exercises to getting fit at home and bicycle tune-ups. Throughout the series, participants were encouraged to get up, get out and get moving for health benefits.

In support of **Manitoba Book Week** (April 22 - 29), a celebration of the rich variety of books published in the province, the Millennium Library hosted several author readings, a panel discussion and a book launch. The Women in Politics panel featuring Tim Higgins, Faith Johnston and the Hon. Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, provided some of the best moments.

The **Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival** returned to the Millennium Library in May. Organized through the Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba, the Festival strives to teach tolerance to Winnipeg kids, one story at a time. Close to 1,400 young people attended events at the Library, where the Festival presented a lengthy list of celebrated storytellers.

In June, the Library took part in the 25th annual **Winnipeg International Children's Festival** at The Forks. Library staff were joined by members of the Winnipeg Public Library Board and the Library's Youth Advisory Council. Many thanks to all our hard-working volunteers who welcomed

over 600 people to the tent for reading, book-making and balloon sculpting!

Writer-in-Residence Chandra Mayor met with 120 people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and experiences who wrote in all genres. Reported Chandra: "I just can't emphasize enough what an incredible gift and opportunity this program is – for both clients coming through the door, and for whichever writer is lucky enough to be sitting behind the desk." In November, Doug Whiteway started his term as Writer-in-Residence, which will take him to June 2008. The Writer-in-Residence program is co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Manitoba Writers' Guild and the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library.



Thousands of children took part in the **TD Summer Reading Club** and explored great stories based on the Lost Worlds theme. As part of the program, several Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball players read stories, answered questions, and shared with children the fun and importance of reading. Our thanks to the Goldeyes for donating free game tickets to each

branch, and to the Friends of the Library for their donation of book bags.

Over 2,300 people took in the Millennium Library's **Skywalk Concerts and Lectures Series**. Among the many highlights of 2007 were Robert Gold's lecture on The Acropolis of Athens, Vesna Milosevic-Zdjelar's presentation on The Search for Life in the Universe, and Ken Johns' talk about Led Zeppelin. On the musical side, the public enjoyed taiko drumming by Phoebe Man, Sierra Noble's virtuoso fiddle, and rising stars from the piano studio of Megumi Masaki, Brandon University.

Mayor Sam Katz was on hand to launch a new **public wireless service** that provides access to Internet hotspots at all branches of Winnipeg Public Library and the Pan Am Pool. The new service builds on the free Internet access available from the Library's computer workstations and provides greater access to city e-government services.



"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

Highlights...continued

In September, the **THIN AIR International Writers Festival** presented its noon-hour series at the Millennium Library. William Gibson, the man who brought us *Neuromancer* and the term "cyberspace," talked about text and technology and his work as a writer. Roch Carrier, author of one of Canada's all-time classics, *The Hockey Sweater*, delighted children and adults alike with his story of a boy experiencing the collision of French and English cultures.

Public attendance at the Library's **computer workshops** increased by 54% over last year, with 700 people sampling from a menu of Computer Basics, Introduction to the Internet, Email Basics, Internet Search Techniques, Keyboarding Drop-In, and Online Job Searching. This increase in attendance is a clear indication of the popularity of the training opportunities we offer in this area.

TD Canadian Children's Book Week (November 17 - 24), organized by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, is the largest national celebration of Canadian children's books and their creators. Once again this year, the Library welcomed several guest readers who shared Canadian stories and poems with hundreds of elementary school students. We thank them for volunteering their time to share with children and promote the importance of reading.



Donors

The Library wishes to thank the following donors:

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Partnerships in Action

The Library extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Winnipeg Library Foundation and the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library for their support over the past year. It's a great pleasure working alongside people who translate their belief in the value of libraries into action by helping make our Public Library a better place for all Winnipeggers.



and the Jack Montgomery Community Outreach award.”
**Sandy Hyman, Chair
 Winnipeg Public Library
 Board**

“2007 was a busy year for the Winnipeg Public Library Board. We developed a three-year strategic plan and advocated on behalf of the Library for increased provincial funding, as recommended in the Province’s Public Library Review report. We also conducted a Materials Selection Study to ensure that current funds are being used effectively, and continued our community outreach through Language and Literacy grants



“The Winnipeg Library Foundation diligently pursued its fundraising initiatives in support of the Millennium Library. The latest chapter of our community campaign, put together with the help of marketing company Tangent Strategies, was unveiled in

the fall with a goal of raising \$600,000 for the purchase of books and other materials for Winnipeg Public Library’s magnificent downtown branch.”

**Karen Keppler, Co-Chair
 Winnipeg Public Library
 Foundation**

“In 2007, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library continued to support the Library as a place to be informed, enlightened, and inspired. Our successful Books and Brunch fundraiser at The Gates on Roblin – featuring fabulous food and an insightful discussion between Morley Walker and authors David Bergen and Margaret Sweatman – and our Autumn Leaves Craft and Book sale allowed us to again

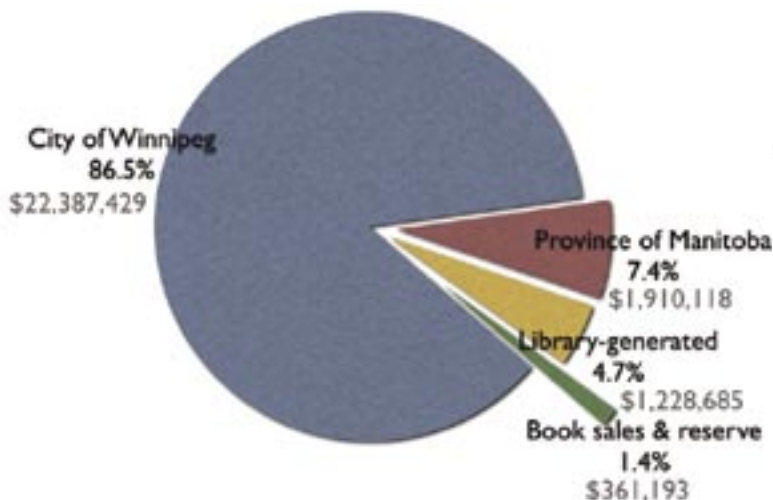
sponsor the Library’s Writer-in-Residence and Spring Break programs.”

**Susan Fraser, President
 Friends of the Winnipeg
 Public Library**

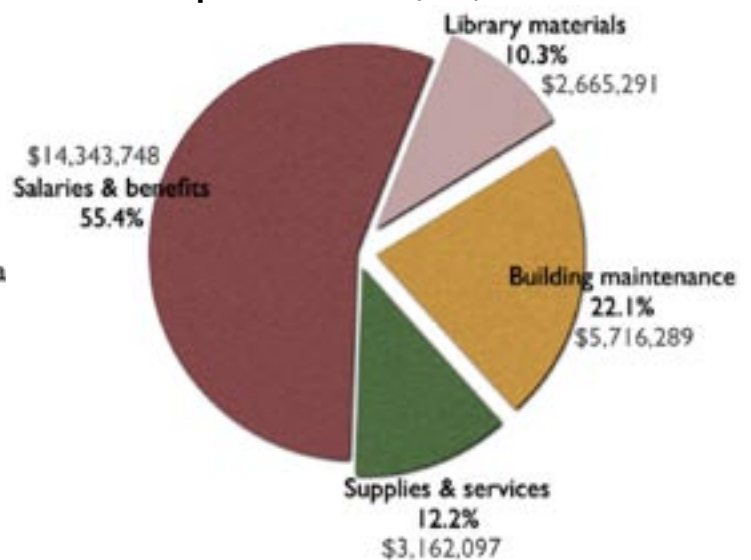


Financial Overview

Revenue: \$25,887,425



Expenditures: \$25,887,425*



* Does not include capital expenditures

Looking Ahead

The New Year will bring some exciting new programs and services to library patrons. Here is a glimpse of some of the projects that we will be working on in 2008.



ing access to a wide array of resources. The new teen website should be available in early 2008.

Community outreach

New partnerships will allow us to extend our services to inner-city neighbourhoods through our Outreach Services unit. As part of the City of Winnipeg LiveSAFE strategy, the Library plans to bring books and literacy-based programs to high-needs communities, thereby reducing barriers to accessing these vital resources. We will also continue to support initiatives such as Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre's community library and partnerships with the International Centre and immigration organizations to reach newcomers.

the West End community significant improvements in services and amenities. From increased study and reading space to improved collections, from additional programming opportunities and enhanced computer technology to increased parking and a universally accessible layout, the new library will meet the changing needs of library users and members of the community who regularly use the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. The project is funded through Council-supported capital budgets. The new library is expected to open in late 2008.

New Teen website

Thanks to a generous donation from Key to Giving™ – the national corporate citizenship program of Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life – the Library is developing a new website for teens. This exciting initiative contributes to the Library's goal of improving services to youth by enhanc-

New West End Library

Construction is underway on the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, which will house the new West End Library. The 6,000 sq. ft. library will offer



"The best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self-activity."

Thomas Carlyle

Contact Us



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