



Community Services Department  
*Library Services Division*



# Winnipeg Public Library 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

**"Working Together to Build Strong Communities"**

[winnipeg.ca/library](http://winnipeg.ca/library)

## From the Director of Community Services and the Manager of Library Services

2005 was a banner year for Winnipeg Public Library. Although the highlight was undoubtedly the November grand opening of the Millennium Library, the Library Services Division of the Community Services Department dealt with a host of other significant matters of public interest.

In addition to our continued focus on offering quality customer service and developing collections that meet the needs of Winnipeggers, the Library presented an abundance of well-attended programs for adults on a wide range of topics. Children and youth were also well served through both our regular programs and special events planned to coincide with community events and public holidays.

On the technology side, we upgraded hundreds of public computers and purchased new electronic resources to better serve our community. We made extensive improvements to our website and started planning for the implementation of a public wireless Internet service.

The Library also helped launch the Manitoba: Life and Times website ([www.manitobia.org](http://www.manitobia.org)). Through this

resource, our users can access rare and unique documents free of charge in their full text searchable version.

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's legacy lives on in two of our branches that celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year. With our population on the rise in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Winnipeg needed more public library space. Thus were built the St. John's and Cornish branches, both of which opened to the public in June, 1915.

It is always a pleasure to work with the other members of the Library "family": the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Winnipeg Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. These organizations all contribute to the success of public library services in Winnipeg. To them, and to our staff who work to provide excellent public service to the citizens of Winnipeg, thank you!

For several years, the Library Foundation has worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Centennial Library Millennium Project. Thousands of hours have gone into making the Millennium Library a

reality. To all who contributed to the success of the project, thank you!



*Rick Walker, Manager of Library Services; Ursula Stelman, Director of Community Services*

### Facts and Figures

Indicator	2005	2004
Total population served	650,100	619,544
Library cardholders	398,786	424,348
New patrons registered	18,780	18,758
Annual visits	2,290,000	2,070,000
Holdings	1,696,838	1,660,245
Items borrowed	5,228,670	5,518,469
Reserves placed	521,092	354,323
Reference questions answered	250,072	256,082
Computer bookings	344,299	361,143
Website visits	822,318	731,252

## Millennium Library Opens!

The highlight of 2005 was the grand opening of the Millennium Library. After years of planning and fundraising, architectural design and construction, and developing new services and programs, the big day finally arrived on November 8, 2005, when the new Millennium Library was unveiled to the public.

Through the first months of the year, the Millennium Library continued its journey toward completion. With heavy construction ended, carpenters built service desks and display cabinets, while other workers completed the new fourth floor's railings, flooring and finishes. Shelving units started going up in June and collections were trucked in from where they had been warehoused during the building's closure. All told, Library staff reassembled collections from 30,000 boxes containing close to 500,000 items.

Other staff installed public computers, planned signage, and worked out public art details. New furniture and equipment arrived throughout October and everyone worked towards getting ready for the grand opening. In the midst of it all,



funding for the Millennium Library Park was announced. A new park south of the Library's spectacular new facade will be created thanks to the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.



The opening of this magnificent library is good news not only for our thousands of library cardholders, but also for all Winnipeggers who have been looking forward to this downtown development for a long time. In addition to The Honourable John Harvard, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the formal ceremony included Mayor Sam Katz; the Honourable Reg



Alcock, representing the Government of Canada; Premier Gary Doer; Dee Buchwald and Karen Kessler (Winnipeg Library Foundation Co-Chairs); children's entertainer Fred Penner and the Sister MacNa-



mara School Choir; and Rick Walker, Manager of Library Services.

We hope that you will make the new Millennium Library a regular part of your day. Stop by, get a coffee, admire the architecture, ask questions, borrow materials, attend a program, sit in the light, and enjoy the space.

## Highlights

### Take Pride in Reading

From January through March, eight branches of the Library hosted Take Pride in Reading, a partnership with Take Pride Winnipeg! Conveyed through stories and games, the message of taking pride in one's community was enjoyed by children in elementary grades and their families.

### Spring Break

A splendid time was guaranteed for children in all areas of the city as the Library celebrated the arts during Spring Break, with Shirley Levacy's Art Studio; Mr. Mark, the One-Man Band; origami with Bob Frayer; the Bubbleman; storytelling with Leigh-Anne Kehler; singer and musician Damien Lussier; and Cathy Spack, who introduced kids to yoga on an Asian theme.

### Manitoba Book Week

In partnership with the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, the Library celebrated Manitoba writing and publishing through a variety of author readings, signings and book launches during Manitoba Book Week. Events were held from April 17-23 at several branches of the Library.

### Birthday Celebrations

Two of our branches celebrated nine decades of public service in 2005. St. John's Library opened to the public on June 2, 1915. With its dark oak woodwork and antique reading tables, the building today retains the solid yet refined character of early 20<sup>th</sup> century libraries. Its sibling Cornish Library opened less than two weeks later in Wolseley. The oak study tables scattered throughout the library are consistent with the building's distinctive architectural style.

### Reading through the Summer

The national TD Summer Reading Club encourages children to visit their library and read during the summer months. Participants received free Canadian Space

Agency fact sheets and collector cards as well as a voucher for a Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball game. Throughout August, teen participants in the Read Aloud Program gained valuable volunteer work experience, received training as a reading partner, and provided reading support to children.

### TD Canadian Children's Book Week

In partnership with The Canadian Children's Book Centre, the Library hosted TD Canadian Children's Book Week, the largest national literacy festival for children in Canada! This celebration of Canadian children's books and their creators featured readings by children's authors Karleen Bradford, Richard Scarsbrook and Bonnie Murray.

### Writer-in-Residence

Duncan Thornton finished his residency, working with young writers interested in developing characters and inventing their own imaginary worlds. In November, the Library welcomed new Writer-in-Residence John Weier, who worked with the public through individual consultations, workshops and seminars. John also allocated time to his own writing projects. His first book, a collection of poems entitled **After the Revolution**, was published in 1986; his tenth, **Stand the Sacred Tree**, a work of creative non-fiction, was published in 2004.



*A new Winnipeg Transit bus in 2005 promotes Winnipeg Public Library services.*

### Programs for Everyone

Throughout the year, Winnipeg Public Library presented hundreds of programs for all interests and tastes: genealogy, Internet searching, finances, home and garden, photography, English as a second language and others too numerous to mention. Children and their parents chose from Baby Rhyme Time; Time for Twos; Toi, moi et la mère l'oise; Preschool Story Time; l'Heure du conte; and other offerings for our youngest citizens.

## Partners

### Winnipeg Library Foundation

2005 was a very important one for the Winnipeg Library Foundation. As preparations were being made for the November grand opening of the Millennium Library,



the Foundation was honoured to be included in the planning and festivities. We had a fabulous gala evening where we welcomed the many donors who supported the campaign so generously. The gala and the grand opening gave the Foundation an opportunity to thank the individuals who had driven the campaign to a successful level. These events also brought the Foundation together with the Library's management and staff, with much mutual admiration and friendship.

Most of all, 2005 was a year of thanksgiving for the people who support the Winnipeg library community. While 2005 witnessed the results of hard work by many, 2006 will lead the Foundation into a new era as we wind up the Millennium Campaign and look to future library projects in Winnipeg.

### Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

In April, the Friends presented their first Books and Brunch event at McNally Robinson's Prairie Ink Café. The event was a sell-out! Lawyer/arts commentator Naomi Levine and CBC Radio host Terry MacLeod



shared their favourite reads on the topic of "Books That I Love and Why".

In October, the Friends held their first Craft and Book Sale at Grant Park High School. Thousands of used books were donated and 65 crafters displayed their unique items for sale. The event was a huge success and will become our annual fall event. Proceeds from the sale went to the gift shop and were used in support of library initiatives such as the Writer-in-Residence program.

Late in the year, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library held a contest to name their new gift shop, located in the foyer of the Millennium Library. It will be known as **Best of Friends**.

### Winnipeg Public Library Board

One of the goals of the Winnipeg Public Library Board is to increase public awareness of the Library. This year, the Board's Jack Montgomery Community Outreach Award was given to the staff of Sir Wil-



liam Stephenson Library, who used the grant to add materials to their teen section and to develop new programs for teens. The \$5,000 award is given annually to the branch that best considers new ways of increasing usage among segments of their local community that are not regular users.

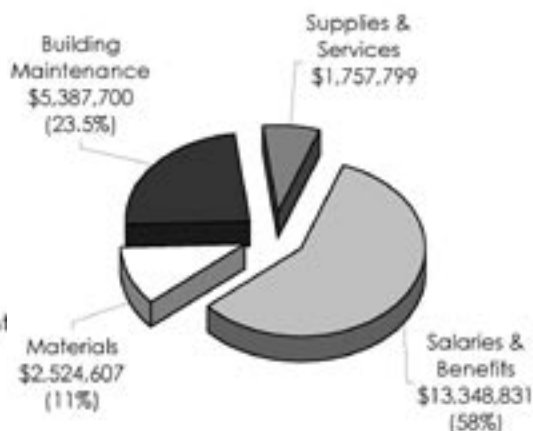
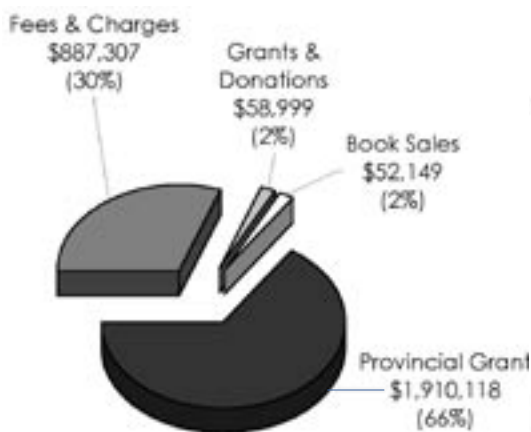
Thanks to the Board's efforts, Winnipeg City Council approved \$100,000 in additional funding for the Library's 2005 materials budget. The increase brings the budget to approximately \$2.5 million.

The Board's Library Advisory Committees conducted a user satisfaction survey at all branches during November. Library users were asked for their feedback on library services, programs, resources and facilities. The survey results will be reviewed by the Library Board in consultation with the Library's Administration to identify any changes that can be made to further enhance user satisfaction.

# 2005 Financial Statement

**Revenue: \$2,908,573\***

**Expenditures: \$23,018,937\*\***



\*Does not include City mill rate support

\*\*Does not include capital expenditures; includes Community Services expenditures on Finance, Human Resources, Strategic Support, Facilities and Library IT Reserve

## Library Administration

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 Bruno LeGal  
 Carol Mahé  
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 Betty Parry  
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 Communications/French Language Services  
 Branch Services  
 Outreach Services  
 Support Services (Public)  
 Information Technology Services  
 Adult Programming

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