



Community Services Department • Library Services Division

“Working Together to Build Strong Communities”

Winnipeg Public Library

Annual Report 2008



winnipeg.ca/library

Message from Community Services



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

In 2008, the Library Services Division made significant improvements to public service through an increase in programs, the establishment of new partnerships, and the enhancement of buildings and collections.

In the company of His Honour **John Harvard**, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Millennium Library commemorated **Manitoba Day** (May 12) with a public information program that highlighted the role of Upper Fort Garry in our province's history. One month later, the Library participated in the **Winnipeg International Children's Festival** at the Forks. In October, the St. James-Assiniboia Library celebrated 50 years of public service with an afternoon tea, organized by the Assiniboia Library Advisory Committee. The Millennium Library hosted the launch of **On the Same Page: Manitoba Reads!**, a project that brought together the Winnipeg Foundation, the Manitoba

Writers' Guild, and Portage and Main Press by way of **Beatrice Mosionier's** classic *In Search of April Raintree*. The Library's ongoing partnership with Winnipeg *in motion* produced several well-attended workshops, as did our association with Red River College's Student Connections for computer workshops.

Each year the Library participates in a number of local and national events. Starting

with **Manitoba Book Week** in April, other events followed including the **CIBC International Friendship Festival**, **National Aboriginal Day celebrations** and **Canadian Library Month**. These events helped to raise awareness of public libraries and the diverse services we offer.

Library stakeholders continued to play valued roles in the promotion and improvement of library services. The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library sponsored a fulfilled week of Spring Break programs. The Winnipeg Public Library Board, through its **Jack Montgomery Community Outreach Grant**, helped establish the Broadway Jack project, an initiative aimed at people living in shelters who do not enjoy the same access to library materials as other citizens. For its part, the Winnipeg Library Foundation kicked off its **Fill the Shelves** fundraising campaign to strengthen the Millennium Library's collections.

Collection development was a key area of focus in 2008. Through the Winnipeg Public Library Board, a consul-

tant was hired to review how we select materials and what we collect to meet the needs of our users. The results of that study are now being used to make improvements in our collection development processes. The year also saw the addition of new collections, including adapted books, as well as a significant donation from Winnipeg's Chinese community.

Lastly, our library system was recognized through two awards of distinction. **Rawi Hage**, selected as the 2008 recipient of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, was nominated by a Millennium Library staff member. Later in the year, the Millennium Library project architects – **David Kressock** of LM Architectural Group and **John Patkau** of Patkau Architects Inc. – received the Governor General's Medal in Architecture for the redevelopment of the Library's main branch.

2008 was a busy, productive year. We look forward to the improvements in service that next year will bring as we strive to meet the changing needs of library users.

Facts and Figures

Indicator	2008	2007
Population served	660,000	653,300
Library cardholders	437,848	430,879
New patrons registered	19,960	20,816
Items in collections	1,619,847	1,604,582
Items borrowed	5,449,525	5,431,786
Questions answered	289,542	284,386
Computer bookings	424,365	442,212
Website visits	1,150,537	1,074,610
Catalogue searches	9,432,061	6,912,037
Programs offered	3,176	3,303
Program attendance	63,270	63,057

Highlights



Work on the **new West End Library** continued throughout the year at the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. From concrete floor slabs, roofing and interior partitions to dry-wall, carpeting and millwork, at year-end the space looked very much like the future home of the West End branch.

In February, the Library launched **Booked, an interactive website** that represents a new direction in online services for the Library. Booked includes polls, book reviews, Top 10 lists and other features for teens to create and upload their own content. Made possible in part by a donation from The Key to Giving™ national corporate citizenship program of Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, the new website was designed and built by Modern Earth Web Design, a local award-winning company. The Manitoba Library Association selected the *Booked* website as a winner of the 2008 Library Innovation of the Year Award.



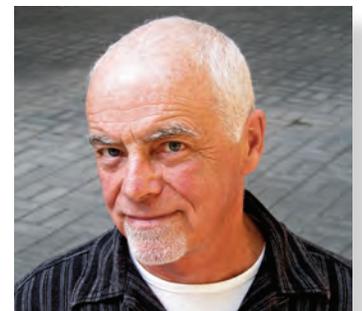
A lunchtime tradition since 1990, the **Skywalk Concerts & Lectures Series** shows no signs of slowing down. Through the winter months and again in the fall, nearly 2,000 people attended the Millennium Library's concerts and lectures. Music lovers were regaled by Clyde Heerah's steel drums, the Rembrandt String Quartet and Ron Paley, among others. Particularly popular with lecture audiences were Sociology Prof. Helmut-Harry Loewen, speaking In Defense of Human Rights Commissions, and Physics Prof. Melanie Martin, speaking on Unlocking the Mysteries of Brain Disorders. The Skywalk Series is a co-production of Winnipeg Public Library, the University of Winnipeg and Virtuosi Concerts, Inc.

Over four frenetic days in May, the Millennium Library welcomed more than 2,200 children to the **Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival**, featuring Leigh-Anne Kehler, Laura Simms, Paul Taylor, Liz Terkel and many other tellers. The theme for the year's event, co-chaired by Khari and Justine Jones, was The Rights of the Child. The annual Festival explores how people use storytelling in innovative ways to build community and peace in Manitoba.

In June, award-winning author Doug Whiteway closed out his term as Library **Writer-in-Residence**, a program co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Public Library Board, the Manitoba Writers' Guild, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library, and Manitoba

Culture, Heritage, Tourism, and Sport. Over the course of eight months, Whiteway met people who wrote for many different reasons, but all were helped in their writing journey. In the fall, the Library announced the appointment of Bruce McManus, the first playwright to serve as Writer-in-Residence. For the first time, the Writer-in-Residence service was offered province-wide.

To meet the needs of families in Winnipeg's inner city, the Library introduced the **Check it Out! Reading Zone**, a biweekly service that aims to increase access to books, promote literacy, and encourage use of the public library. The Check it Out! Reading Zone set up shop at Freight House Leisure Centre and Norquay Community Centre where the Library presented stories, literacy-based games and activities, as well as a mobile library collection of popular fiction and nonfiction for all ages. The new service is offered year-round in partnership with Frontier College.



*Bruce McManus,
Writer-in-Residence*

*“Our lives begin
to end the day we
become silent
about things that
matter.”*

**Martin Luther King
Jr.**

Highlights... continued



In July and August, children made close to 400 visits to the Library to read with teen volunteers as part of the **Read Aloud Program**, a shared reading experience that helps to prevent summer learning loss while providing a relaxed environment for strengthening literacy skills. **Read Away Your Fines** is another innovative program that helps children and teens to restore their borrowing privileges by reading in the library and reducing the money owed.

This year's **TD Summer Reading Club** welcomed 4,376 children – a 16% increase over last year – who logged their time spent reading, using activity kits supplied by the organizers. As part of the program, Winnipeg Goldeyes players visited the Millennium Library to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the team's support of the summer reading program. Many thanks to our partners the Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Club and the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library for providing prizes to celebrate reading achievement.



The Library was honoured to host **Rawi Hage**, one of Canada's up-and-coming authors who this year scooped the world's richest literary prize, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Reading from his debut novel *DeNiro's Game* and his new book *Cockroach*, Hage entertained the near capacity crowd in the fine art of writing. Nominated for the Dublin award by the Library's own staff, *De Niro's Game* was selected from entries from 162 libraries in 122 cities in 45 countries.



The Millennium Library's **Blankstein Gallery** came into its own in 2008 with a series of compelling monthly exhibits from a cross-section of Winnipeg painters, artists and collectors. One of the highlights was Stories from Baker Lake, an astonishing array of Caribou Inuit tools, carvings, prints, tapestries and clothing from the private collections of Fred Ford. Another major exhibit consisted of works by Clarence Tilenius, widely recognized as one of Canada's premier artists.

Donors

The Library wishes to thank the following people for their generous contributions in 2008:

Allison-Simms, Trish
Babcock, Ken
Balfour, Tannis
Batchelor, Bryon
Beaulieu, James & Rose
Bennett-Gratton, Kathleen
Betker, Joan
Bodman, Amy
Boning, Sigrid
Boote, Elizabeth
Bourne, Gertrude Mary
Breiter, Pauline
Burge, Geraldine
Burns, Carol
Bursten, Laurence
Carpenter, Dora
Cosby, Helle
Crielaard, Marlene & Gysbert
Cumming, Margaret
Dickson, Gordon
Dilschneider, Adrian
Dimitrijevic, Nada
Douglas, Lorraine
Dryburgh, Keith & Jeanette
Dueck, Harold
Edmondson, Bertha
Edwards, William
Ethans, Renee
Franklin, Sandra
Geddert, Anna Marie
Genik, Rosella
Gislason, Rachel
Gopalkrishna, Cheppudira
Gow, John & Melanie
Graham, Heather
Granger, Gail
Greenaway, Pearl
Gunning, Lucienne
Hage, Rawi
Harrison, Dossie
Kalinsky, Phyllis
Keachie, Joan
Laucht, Marlene Pauls
Lay, Audrey
Lewis, Melanie
LIGHT Inc.
Loadman, Rita
MacDonald, Gorma

Marshall, Alexander Robert
McInnes, David
McIntosh, Ross
McLeod, Jennifer
Michalecki, M.J.
Neufeld, Hertha
Norris, Helen
Osborne, James
Owens, Thompson
Pauls, John
Pichurski, J.
Pona, Maria
Pringle, Dave & Lisa
Richardson, Margaret
Robb, Patricia
Ruppel, Larry
Sack Goldblatt Mitchell LLP
Sanger, Herbert
Sanger, John
Schwartz, S.
Scotiabank (Rita Burgess)
Scott, Ethel
Segal, Josef
Selch, David
Sherwood, Shirley
Smith, David Allan
Taylor, Brenda
Toews, Elaine
Waldman, Menorah
Weiss, Roberta
Williams, Elizabeth
Willis, Deborah
Wilson, Dorothy
Winnipeg Public Library Board
Wylie, John & Suzanne



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.



community partnerships that both the Winnipeg Public Library and the Library Board have developed.”
**Sandy Hyman, Chair
 Winnipeg Public Library
 Board**

“In the implementation of its strategic plan, the Library Board continued to advocate for increased provincial funding and sustained city funding in support of the Winnipeg Public Library. The Board presented a brief to the Province’s adult literacy forum, stressing the many roles that public libraries play in literacy, and also cited examples of the types of programs and



“The Winnipeg Library Foundation has been busy this year raising funds for materials for the Millennium Library. While

we have a beautiful building and, as a result, many more services for patrons, the Foundation is continuing its work on adding to the collections. We believe that Winnipeg’s library patrons deserve the best and most up-to-date information available in any form, be it books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs or the Internet.”
**Karen Keppler, Chair
 Winnipeg Library
 Foundation**

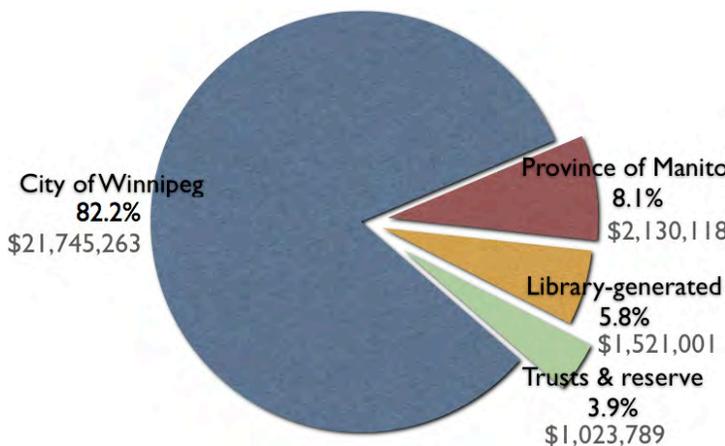
“In addition to our annual sponsorships of the Writer-in Residence, Spring Break and Summer Reading programs, we were very pleased to donate \$3,500 to furnish the new West End Library tutorial room. The donation was made

possible by the huge success of our fall Book Sale. The Best of Friends gift shop, now in its third year of operation, became self-sustaining. Thanks to our hardworking Board, 2008 was a very productive year for the Friends; we look forward to more success in 2009.”
**Susan Fraser, President
 Friends of the Winnipeg
 Public Library**

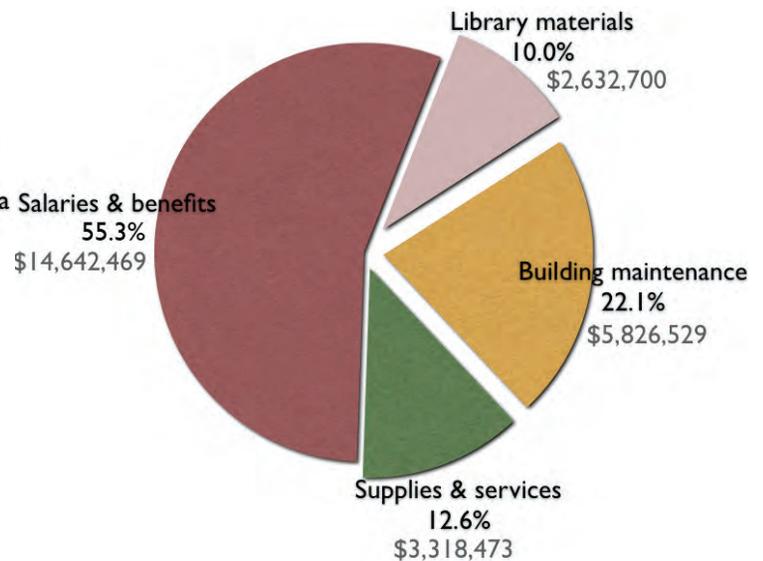


Financial Overview

Revenue: \$26,420,171



Expenditures: \$26,420,171*



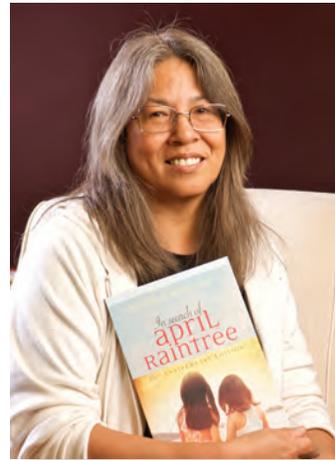
* Does not include capital expenditures

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 2009.

New West End Library

Construction is nearing completion on the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, which will house the new West End Library. The 6,000 sq. ft. library will offer the West End community significant improvements in services and amenities. With increased study and reading space, improved collections, more computer workstations, new programming opportunities, an open floor plan and increased parking, the new library will meet the changing needs of library patrons 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 early 2009.



On The Same Page: Manitoba Reads!

In 2008-2009, the Winnipeg Foundation's On the Same Page: Manitoba Reads! project encouraged Manitobans to read *In Search of April Raintree* by Beatrice Mosionier. Building on the success of the inaugural year of the project, in 2009-2010 Winnipeg Public Library will assume a coordinating role, including arrangements for author/speaker events, development of discussion guides, book

distribution and publicity. Beginning with an invitation to the community to help select the featured book, this literacy initiative will bolster public engagement by involving adults and youth in a shared reading experience.

Learning Collections

The Library received monies from the Manitoba Government and the Winnipeg Foundation's Literacy for Life Fund to develop and strengthen its collections for Winnipeg's adult literacy and English-as-an-Additional-Language learners and practitioners. Scheduled to be added to all branches in the latter half of 2009, these updated collections will mark a meaningful change to the way the Library serves our growing numbers of newcomers and literacy learners.

"Without books, the development of civilization would have been impossible. They are engines of change, windows on the world and lighthouses erected in the sea of time. Books are humanity in print."

Barbara Tuchman



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Winnipeg Public Library... Inspiration and Information.