

PUBLIC LIBRARY

# TORONTO

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



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Gerald McGoeys  
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## **Contact us:**

**Toronto Public Library**  
**789 Yonge Street**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**  
**M4W 2G8**  
**(416) 393-7000**

**Toronto Public Library**  
**Foundation**  
**789 Yonge Street**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**  
**M4W 2G8**  
**(416) 393-7123**

**Answerline**  
**(416) 393-7131**

**[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)**

## **Friends of the Toronto Public Library, South Chapter**

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## **Friends of the Merrill Collection**

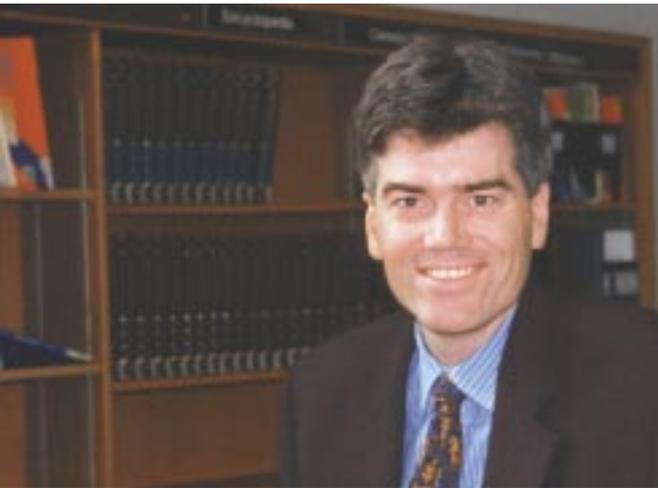
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## **Friends of the Osborne Collection**

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## **Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**

Doug Wrigglesworth, *Chair*  
Cliff Goldfarb, *Vice Chair*



Rick Goldsmith, CA, *Board Chair*



Josephine Bryant, *City Librarian*



Behind the simple allure of the first page of Toronto Public Library's new online catalogue are 9 million books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, CD-ROMs and other materials in a hundred different languages – all of it now within easy reach of anyone living in Toronto.

The birth of our new online catalogue in 1999 was a defining moment in the integration of Toronto's seven former public library systems. Unified access to the combined resources of the city's 98 public libraries is an important achievement with far-reaching implications for our customers. If, as Francis Bacon once said, knowledge is power, then the new Toronto Public Library (TPL) online catalogue has the potential to empower all the people of Toronto.

With a click or two of a mouse button you can find what you need, from the library, from home, or from any other place where you have Internet access. With a few more

clicks, you can have circulating materials transferred from any library in the city to your local branch.

The public library is an integral part of life in every community in Toronto. But the idea of community is expanding. People from all over the planet are connecting with each other over the Internet; many of the issues that affect life here in Toronto, affect people all over the world. Toronto Public Library aims to make a difference to community at every level, from the neighbourhood where each of our customers lives, to the city as a whole, to the province of Ontario, to communities that cut across geographic barriers.

# IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

As new communities emerge, the library responds. We regroup, we change, we grow. Some of our libraries have been around for decades, others for only a few years.



In 1999, while Goldhawk Park Library (left) was celebrating 7 years of service, Locke Library (right) was celebrating 50 years.

As Toronto's communities continue to grow and change, TPL will continue to look to its customers for guidance in creating a library that is alive and responsive to the knowledge, information and entertainment needs of the people of Toronto.



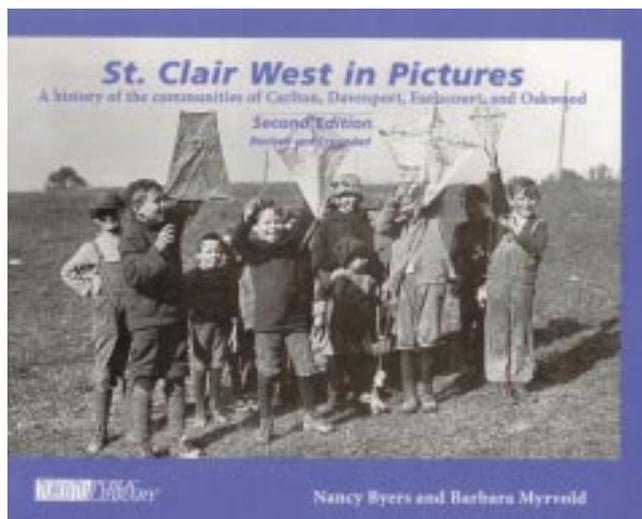
The new Alderwood Public Library opened its doors on December 20, giving customers access to a new type of collection that combines both public library and school library material. In a joint effort with the Toronto District School Board, the City of Toronto, and Alderwood Action after School, Alderwood Library has come to share both space and resources with the school library of Sir Adam Beck Public School. The multipurpose community centre that houses the new library also houses a day-care centre and a swimming pool.





Sunday service came to every corner of the city in 1999 as we opened District Libraries in Scarborough and York on Sundays. All 17 of our District Branches are now open Sundays throughout much of the year. Our Research and Reference libraries, North York Central Library and the Toronto Reference Library, are now open more Sundays, from early in September to late in May.

A revised and expanded 2nd edition of the Toronto Public Library publication, *St. Clair West in Pictures: A history of the communities of Carlton, Davenport, Earls court and Oakwood*, won the Heritage Toronto Award of Merit in 1999. First published in 1997, the book was written by Nancy Byers and Barbara Myrvold and is the first comprehensive history of the Toronto neighbourhood bordering St. Clair Avenue West between Oakwood Avenue and Old Weston Road. It documents the development of this area from the early days as a Native portage route and encampment to the present time.



**Oakwood Village Library and Arts Centre, Festival of the Arts 1999**

# IN YOUR CITY

Toronto Public Library serves the needs of everyone in the city, from toddlers to seniors, from new Canadians to special needs customers, from students to professional researchers. We are well on our way to making every single one of our branches fully accessible. We have materials in more than one hundred languages. We have programs for all age groups. We have special collections that include everything from 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts to original Audubon prints to local history materials. We have something for everyone.



The appointment in 1999 of Ken Setterington, Children and Youth Advocate for Library Services, reaffirms TPL's commitment to the children of our city, a commitment that has been ongoing since the early days of the century, when Librarian Lillian H. Smith made children's services at TPL her special project.



Children visiting the library learn to love books and reading, and, more recently, they learn to safely navigate the Internet and other electronic resources. Our Children and Youth Advocate is poised to work with other municipal departments, as well as with other interest groups, to make sure Toronto's children have the literacy skills they need to live robust and meaningful lives.



“The City has made a strong commitment to the well-being of children, and Toronto Public Library has much to offer in ensuring that every child has a chance to experience the joy of reading along with everything else Toronto Public Library has to offer.”  
– Josephine Bryant, *City Librarian*



The Toronto Star donated \$2.5 million in 1999 to help keep Toronto's citizens well-informed. As well as helping relieve overcrowding in the Toronto Reference Library's newspaper room, the donation represents a 20-year commitment by *The Star* to help meet demands for library access to popular newspapers.

"With this gift, we hope that even more citizens will have access to information about Toronto. After all, what could be more important to a newspaper than a literate community? This is why the library is such a natural partner for *The Star* and we look forward to our future ongoing relationship."

– John Honderich, *Publisher, The Toronto Star*

Forty thousand of Toronto's children benefited from the 1999 TD Y2Kids Summer Reading Program.

"Even the most reluctant readers will want to visit their local libraries, read as many books as they can and, above all, join in the fun."

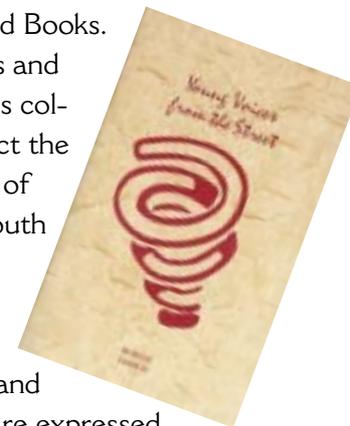
– Rick Goldsmith, *Library Board Chair*

The TD Summer Reading Club Program would not be possible without the generous support of the TD Bank Financial Group. TD has supported the program generously for the past four years.

**Y**oung Voices from the Street, a collection of writings by Toronto street kids, was published in 1999 by the Toronto Public Library with the support of the city's Children's and Youth Action Committee, and with the help of Groundwood Books.

"The stories and poems in this collection reflect the experiences of Toronto's youth living on the edge. Optimism, despair, joy and frustration are expressed in these works."

– from the Introduction



# THE LITERARY COMMUNITY

Libraries and books go hand in hand. Toronto Public Library regularly offers a wide variety of programs for children and adults, many featuring appearances by local and international authors. From the Write Hip Cafe – a series of alternative writing workshops led by Toronto’s hippest authors – to our Writer-in-Residence programs, Toronto Public Library continues to provide forums for writers and readers to meet together and to learn from each other.



**N**ovelist, short story writer and poet, the late Matt Cohen (left), appeared at the Toronto Reference

Library in April, 1999. The author of 14 novels, seven story collections, two volumes of poetry and several translations of Quebec writers, Cohen was also the Toronto Reference Library’s Fredelle Maynard Writer-in-Residence in 1997. Cohen also wrote a number of popular children’s books under the alias Teddy Jam.

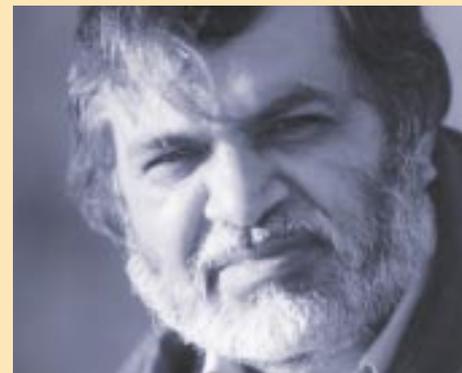


**W**inner of the Governor General’s Literary Award for English Language Fiction in Canada in 1989 for *Whale Music*, Paul Quarrington was part of a Canada Book Day reading that also featured Sarah Ellis, Michael Helm, Gordon Laird and Tim Wynne-Jones.



Award-winning novelist Ann Ireland was the 1999 Fredelle Maynard Writer-in-Residence. Besides working one-on-one with budding writers, Ann did a reading and a number of workshops.

Journalist June Callwood hosted Writers in Exile, a PEN Freedom to Read program that featured readings by playwright Tomson Highway and exiled writers Reza Baraheni, Martha Kumsa, Ismael Sombra and Goran Simic.



Giller Prize-winning novelist and short story writer M.G. Vassanji helped Toronto Public Library celebrate Heritage Month in February.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

New! Browse List

Library Catalogue

- New!
- Customer Information
- Community Information
- User Guide
- Home

Your Search: Best Sellers

Headings: 17

List Name	# of Titles
Canadian Small Press Highlights	20
Electronic Books (Rocket eBooks)	4
Best-selling Fiction	17
Best-selling Nonfiction	15
New Adult Fiction	51
New Adult Mysteries	11
New Adult Large Print	14
New Adult Science Fiction	10
New Adult Arts & Humanities	20
New Adult Science & Technology	48

epixtech

Best-selling fiction and non-fiction, great Canadian books, children’s books, newly catalogued books – find out what’s hot at TPL by clicking on “New” on the library’s Web catalogue, available from outside the library anywhere that you have access to the Internet.

# IN YOUR PROVINCE

Toronto Public Library's mission is to serve all the people of Toronto, but we are also committed to providing reference service to the province of Ontario, principally through the collections, services and programs offered by the Toronto Reference Library.

- How to use the VRL
- Research Guides
- About the VRL
- Library Information and Contacts

CityTV's Science and Technology Specialist David Onley helped launch the Virtual Reference Library, a new Canadian website dedicated to delivering electronic reference and information services to all Ontarians. The Virtual Reference Library provides students, educators and the general public with easy and thorough access to the collections and staff expertise of Toronto Public Library, the country's largest urban public library. "When the Toronto Reference Library opened in 1977, one of its mandates was to provide in-depth reference service for all people in Ontario. Access to its unique resources has remained a problem for users not living in Toronto. The Virtual Reference Library is going to help by offering electronic alternatives, not only for people throughout the province, but anywhere in the world."

— Josephine Bryant, *City Librarian*



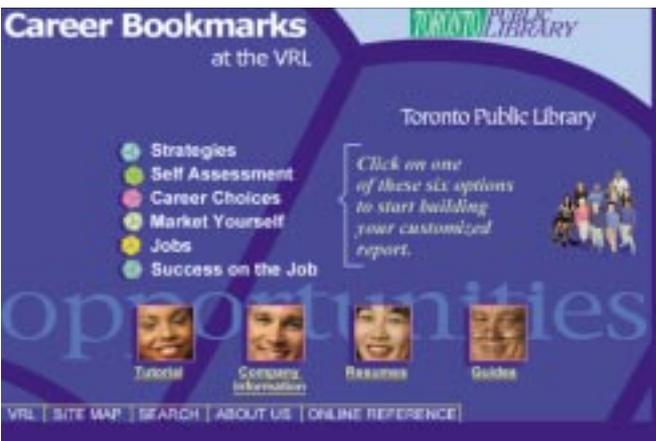
The development of the Virtual Reference Library has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, and a growing list of public and private sector organizations including Cisco Systems, Extend Media, helios/oceana, Silicon Graphics Incorporated, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Human Resources Development Canada.

THE VIRTUAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

→ Don't Miss!

Career Bookmarks, an interactive career and job search gateway.

Toronto Public Library presents



Career Bookmarks is a gateway to job and career related information. Library staff use their expertise to find, select and organize information, bringing together Internet and library resources in a well-organized, coherent website. Developed in cooperation with Devlin Applied Design, which co-ordinated the creative and technical development of the site, Career Bookmarks is more than a list of websites and books. Information has been organized according to the career planning and job search process and users are encouraged to develop their own customized list of resources called a 'filebox'.

The development of Career Bookmarks would not have been possible without the support of Human Resources Development Canada.



In a testament to our continued commitment to providing library services in accessible, welcoming and safe environments, Toronto Public Library won Ontario Library Association Building Awards for two of our buildings in 1999. Burrows Hall (top) won in the category, "Library as Part of a Community Centre"; Oakwood Village and Arts Centre (below) won in the category, "Library in an Urban Neighbourhood".



# THE WORLD AS YOUR COMMUNITY

The library represents the movement of information and knowledge; the flux and flow that characterizes information in any age. No matter what the current trend – books, e-books, or other digital storage media – the library is the conduit, the route information takes in finding its way to you. With the advent of the Internet, access to information at Toronto Public Library, much of it sought by people the world round, is now dramatically increased.

The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1999. The internationally renowned children's collection holds a wide range of children's literature, including both new books and rare treasures, hundreds of years old. The collection has attracted visitors from around the world. Some of the treasures include a 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript of Aesop's fables and the childhood library of Florence Nightingale.



At the Toronto Public Library we are taking measures to preserve important historical information by making it available in digital format. This means that information, once fragile and available to only a very few users, will be accessible to anyone in the world via the Internet, and without danger of damaging valuable original manuscripts.

## 30 GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

**TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**—Established, 1830.

Hall, in the centre of the Court-House Block.

*President*—T. G. Ridout.

*Vice President*—Hon. Robert Baldwin,

*2nd Vice President*—W. B. Jarvis, Esq.

*Treasurer*—W. Atkinson. *Corresponding Secretary*—C. Sewell.  
*Recording Secretary*—Wm. Edwards. *Librarian*—E. B. Palmer.

The Library contains 800 volumes of Books, and is open for distribution and reference every Monday and Thursday evenings. Public Lectures on Wednesday Evenings, during the winter season.

## TORONTO ATHENÆUM.

*President*—Rev. H. Scadding, M.A.

*Treasurer*—Thomas D. Harris, Esq.

*Secretary*—S. Thompson, Esq.

*Committee*—Messrs. Thomas Champion, C. H. Sabine, A. J. Macdonell, R. Cooper, and D. B. Read.

*Meeting for Literary and Historical Discussion*, every Thursday



Toronto Public Library is home to many internationally renowned collections. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, at the Toronto Reference Library, is the only library collection in the world devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle. The Toronto Reference Library also houses an extensive collection of primary source material relating to the history of Canada. The Canadiana Collection, at North York Central Library, highlights the historical and cultural development of Canada with emphasis on North York history, local history and genealogy. There are many other special collections at Toronto Public Library, from The Canada Trust Audubon Collection to Native Peoples collections to The Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy.

Keep in touch with friends and relatives in far-off places by making the short trip to the library. Email is just one of the many benefits of surfing the Net on one of Toronto Public Library's Internet workstations available at every public library in the city.



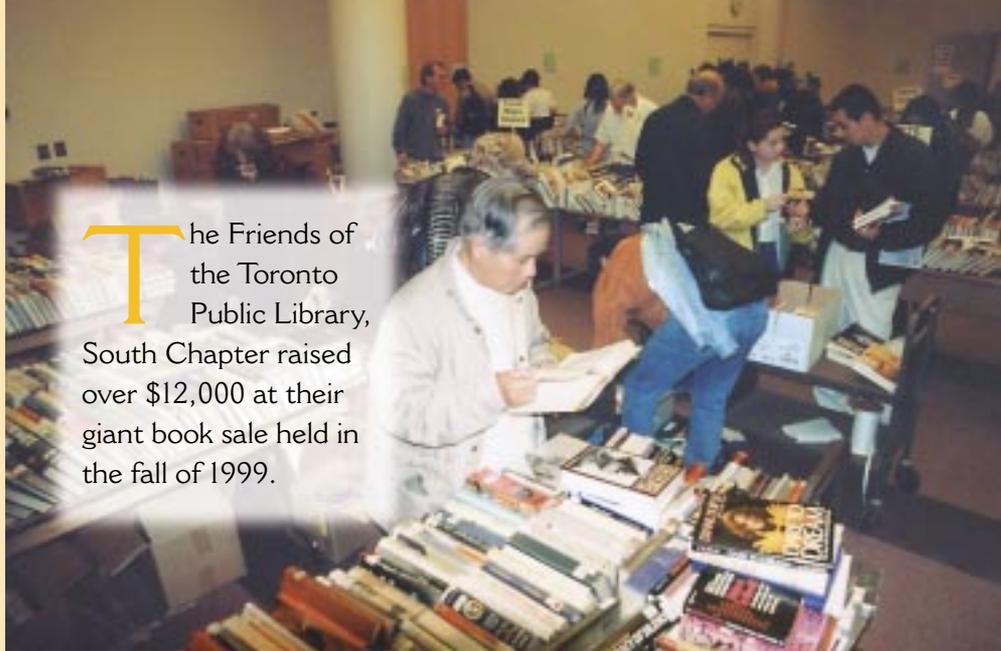
# A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Library support library collections, services and programs. Toronto Public Library is fortunate to have five groups of Friends devoted to making a good library even better. From raising money in support of children's literacy programs, to making invaluable contributions to special collections, Friends of the Library are people who volunteer their time to make a difference.



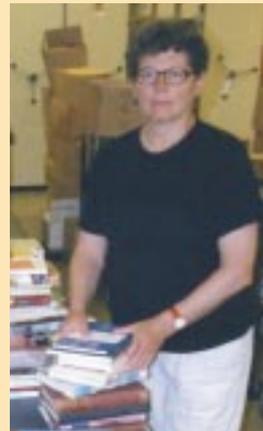
“Now I have my friends and they don't make fun of me, because I can read.” These words, from one of the many primary school children helped by the Leading to Reading program, perhaps best sum up what the program is really all about. Sponsored by the Friends of Toronto Public Library, North Chapter, the Flemington Park Leading to Reading Program partners volunteer tutors with elementary school children who are having trouble reading at their grade level. The program helps these children learn to love to read, but more important, it instils in them the sense of self-esteem they need to succeed.

The Friends of the Toronto Public Library, South Chapter raised over \$12,000 at their giant book sale held in the fall of 1999.



“I volunteer with the Friends of the Toronto Public Library because I believe universal access to free public libraries is essential to being an active citizen and a well-informed member of society. It’s one of the things that makes our city and this country a great place to live: the richness of our libraries and our access to those riches.”

– Elizabeth Amer, *Past President, Friends of the Toronto Public Library*



“I’m a Friend of the Toronto Public Library because the library provides services and resources that benefit me and give me pleasure, so it’s very satisfying to contribute my time and energy in return as a volunteer.”

– Janet Kim, *Vice President, Friends of the Toronto Public Library*



“As a retired librarian, Book Ends gave me the opportunity to participate in selling withdrawn library material – a very unique and marvelous idea indeed – to the public and to see how eager people are to learn, collect and pass on information to others. It is also very rewarding to know that the money raised goes to a worthy cause through the Friends-sponsored Leading to Reading program for primary school children.”

– Susan Layton, *Book Ends Staff Member, Friends of the Toronto Public Library*

# A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS



“1999 was a fantastic(!) year for the Friends of the Merrill Collection.

Hundreds of fans, of all kinds of speculative fiction, enjoyed a record number of activities including book launches, readings and the Fantastic Pulp Show. Of course, concrete support of the Collection is what the Friends are about. This year we purchased the rights to use *Martians Go Home*, a famous illustration by Frank Kelly Freas that was acquired by the Collection. Joining the Friends of the Merrill has been rewarding and a pleasure. I encourage everyone to join in the fun.”

– Lucy White, *Chair, Friends of the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation ad Fantasy*



“Working closely with Library staff, the

Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection support the ongoing growth and vitality of this world-renowned collection of works by and about Arthur Conan Doyle. The Friends boast a membership of supporters from Toronto, across Canada, and around the world who share in the belief that the ACD Collection is a unique resource, important to preserve and enhance.”

– Doug Wrigglesworth, *Chair, Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection*



“I grew up in a home where we learned to “give back” to the community; ironically, by volunteering, giving back, I continue to receive information, experience, and friendship. The Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books just celebrated its 50th anniversary and it is an honour for me to help in whatever way I can to enable the Collection’s riches to grow and be shared with the world community. The minutes I take or the envelopes I seal enable me to be a part of a living collection of joy and history.”

– Linda Granfield, *Secretary, Friends of the Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books*

# FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY



Just as a building's foundation supports the building and new foundations must be laid before the building can be extended, the Toronto Public Library Foundation provides the support needed to extend and enhance library service in Toronto. Formally, the Foundation is 10 volunteer Board members dedicated to exploring innovative funding and partnership ideas. But in reality it is much more. It is a network of corporations and individuals all committed to an idea of public library service as an essential component of community life.



“The Toronto Public Library Foundation envisions a future in which the Library goes beyond maintaining traditionally strong service. We see a public library system that continually evolves

to meet the expanding needs of the Toronto community. The Foundation and the Library plan to work together to reach more people in Toronto through improved and expanded programs, services and facilities.”

– Richard Boxer, *Chair, Toronto Public Library Foundation*



“We see our involvement with Toronto Public Library as an investment in the future of our children and also in the future of our country. If we want Canada to remain competitive in

the global economy, we need to provide our children with every possible advantage and help them develop to their fullest potential. What better way is there to help children to develop than by exposing them to books, and reading through the library.” – Charlie Baillie, *Chairman and CEO, TD Bank Financial Group*

In 1999, the TD Bank Financial Group donated \$55,000 in support of the TD Summer Reading Club.

# THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY

2 research and reference libraries • 17 district libraries • 79 neighbourhood libraries

16.5 million visits to Toronto Public Libraries in 1999; more than 45,000 visits, on average, every single day of the year.



25 million items circulated in 1999; more than 68,000 items, on average, every single day of the year.

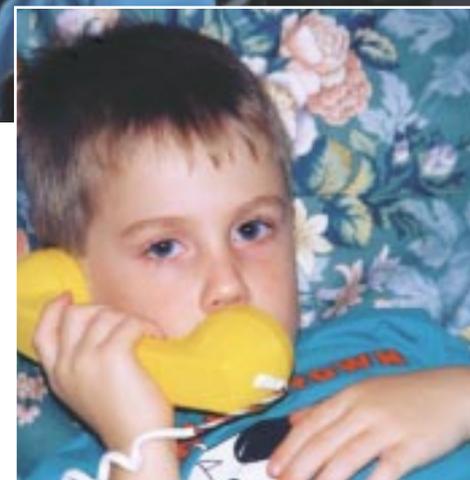




8.5 million information requests in 1999; more than 23,000 requests, on average, every single day of the year.



Electronic access increased. Database searches up 13.6%; Web pages viewed up 89.4%; Dial-A-Story up 24.2 %.



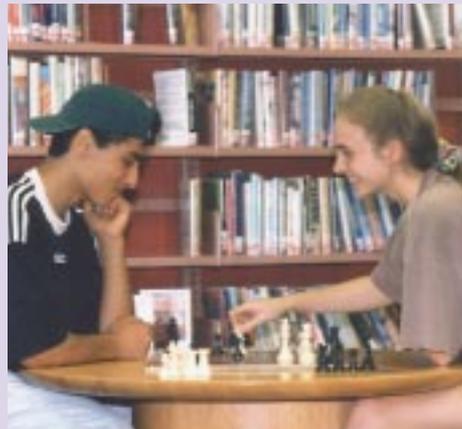
11.5 million items used inside libraries; more than 31,000 items, on average, every single day of the year.

# PROGRAMS

Nearly a half million people attended over 20,000 program sessions in Toronto Public Libraries in 1999.



145,161 preschoolers attended 6,391 programs; 223,876 children attended 7,608 programs.



9,489 young adults attended 416 programs.



46,211 adults attended 2,752 programs.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## EXPENDITURES

Staff costs	80,577,770
Purchase of services	15,332,875
Library materials	13,455,177
Debt charges, taxes & licences	3,861,505
Materials & supplies	2,127,811
Buildings, equipment & furnishings	240,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$115,595,138</b>

## REVENUE

City of Toronto	104,096,377
Federal & Provincial Grants	5,824,397
User charges, photocopiers & room rentals	3,776,930
Other sources	1,897,434
Previous year surplus	Nil
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$115,595,138</b>



## CIRCULATION

Print materials	20,872,985
Audiovisual materials	4,000,635
Other	133,358
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION</b>	<b>25,006,978</b>
Web pages viewed	7,373,631

Front Cover: Burrows Hall Library, Progress Ave. & Sheppard Ave. E.

Front & Back Cover: Central Library, formerly Mechanics' Institute, Church St. & Adelaide St. E., 1884

Inside Front Cover: Central Library, College St. & St. George St., Reference Reading Room, ca. 1920

Inside Back Cover: Lillian H. Smith Library, interior, College St. & Huron St.

This paper meets the requirements of  
CAN/CGSB-9.70-2000. "Permanence of Paper for  
Records, Books and Other Documents".

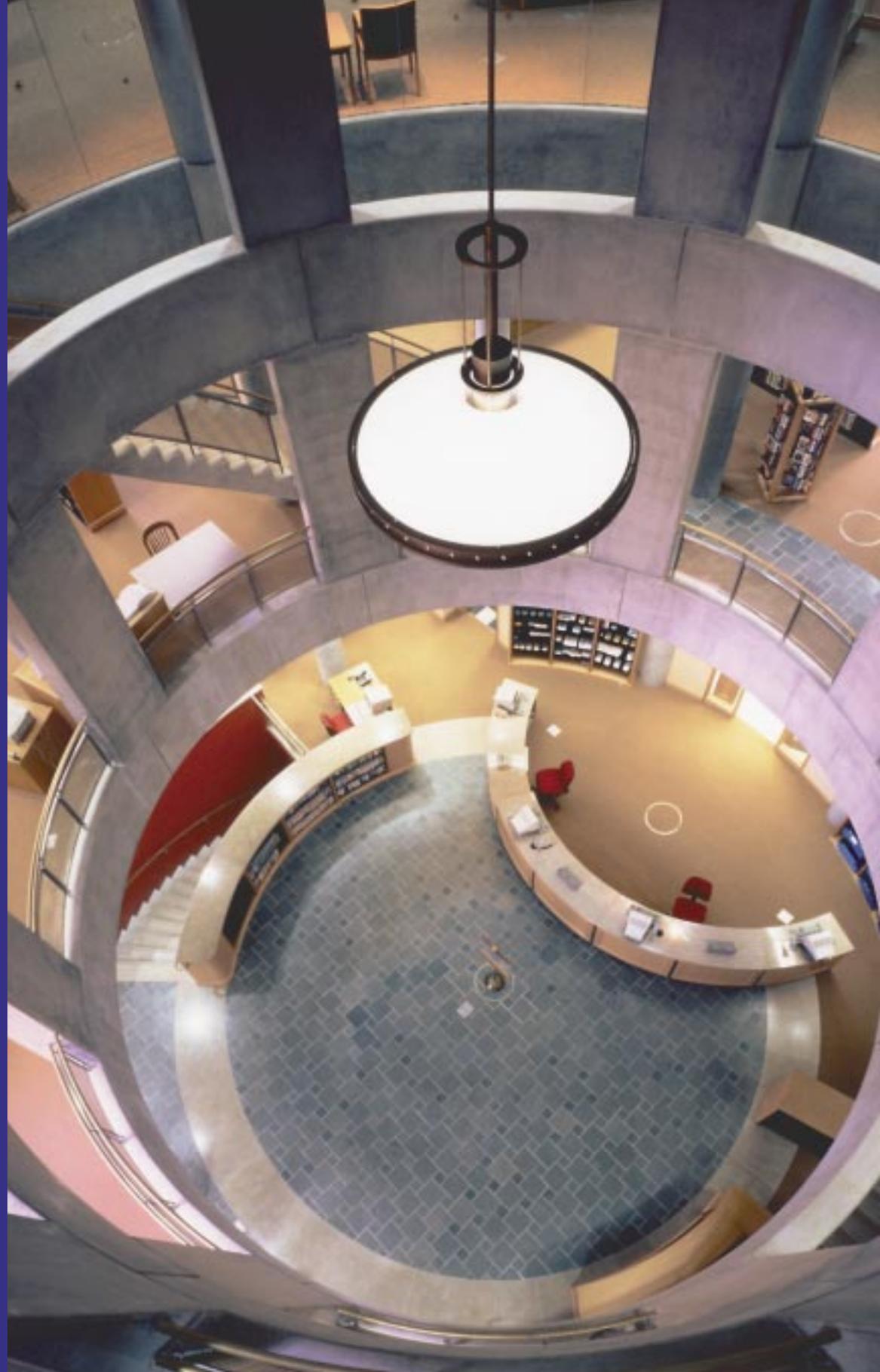
## Our Vision

Toronto Public Library inspires the spirit of exploration, the joy of reading, and the pursuit of knowledge for people of all ages and backgrounds, beginning with the very young.

As cornerstones of their neighbourhoods, our libraries connect people to each other, to their community, and to their hopes and dreams.

Our rich resources provide the opportunity for everyone to treasure the past and to create a future that is full of possibility.

The Library promotes and enriches the democratic, cultural, educational and economic life of our diverse and evolving City.



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

