



Edmonton Public Library
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2V4
www.epl.ca



Edmonton
Public
Library



Great Libraries Great Cities

2007
*Annual
Report*



Quick Facts

5,578,124
in-person visits made
to 16 locations

6,976,091
visits made to
www.epl.ca

9,639,141
items borrowed

1,892,738
questions answered

149,027
people attended
5,242 programs

131,091
adult and children's
books added

96,211
paperbacks added

66,205
av materials added

35,391
periodicals added

4,896
reference books added

8,001
world language
books added

3,902
volunteer hours
donated by the
Friends of the Library
and Library Access
Division volunteers

Message from the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Sheila Bertram



Linda C. Cook

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) was not surprised when the federal census announced that Edmonton is growing faster than any other Canadian city. Anyone who lives, works or plays here knows the city is growing and changing rapidly.

Throughout 2007 EPL changed to reflect this dynamic city. We are welcoming newcomers from around the world who need a convenient, reliable and affordable way to access essential information and connect with their community. We are working with Aboriginal groups to make the Library a source of their writings and culture and to ensure it is a friendly and relevant place for them. Together with the Alberta Council on Aging and the City of Edmonton, we are updating our services and spaces so that Edmontonians of every age can comfortably use their library. Working with Child Friendly Edmonton, the University of Alberta and Edmonton's cultural community, we have kept Edmontonians reading and writing.

The following pages show examples of how EPL changed during 2007. We are proud of our accomplishments and of the support we receive from individuals, the City of Edmonton, the province and the many agencies and groups working closely with us. This is a great library, and great libraries make great cities.

Dr. Sheila Bertram
Chair, Board of Trustees

Linda C. Cook
Chief Executive Officer



Mayor Stephen Mandel and Edmonton Oiler Dwayne Roloson help EPL promote literacy.

2007 Board of Trustees

The Edmonton Public Library Board consists of 10 trustees, one of whom is a member of City Council.

Dr. Sheila Bertram, Chair

Dr. Diana Davidson, Vice-Chair

Councillor Don Iveson
(appointed October 23, 2007)

Councillor Michael Phair
(retired October 23, 2007)

Mr. Roger R. Breault

Mr. Tim Haysom

Ms. Karen Lynch

Mr. Brent McDonough

Mr. Colin W.J. Minor

Dr. Carol Suddards

Mrs. Joan Welch



Councillor and Trustee
Michael Phair

A Great Library for . . . New Edmontonians



Linda Goyette

Jalal Barzanji

NEW STORIES

EPL Writer in Residence Linda Goyette created a support group for immigrant writers and began an anthology called *The Story That Brought Me Here*, asking newcomers to submit true stories about their journey to Edmonton. Jalal Barzanji began a one-year term as Edmonton's Writer in Exile, a position housed at both EPL and the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts. A writer who spent three years in an Iraqi prison, Barzanji is using his term to transcribe his prison notes.

NEW SERVICES

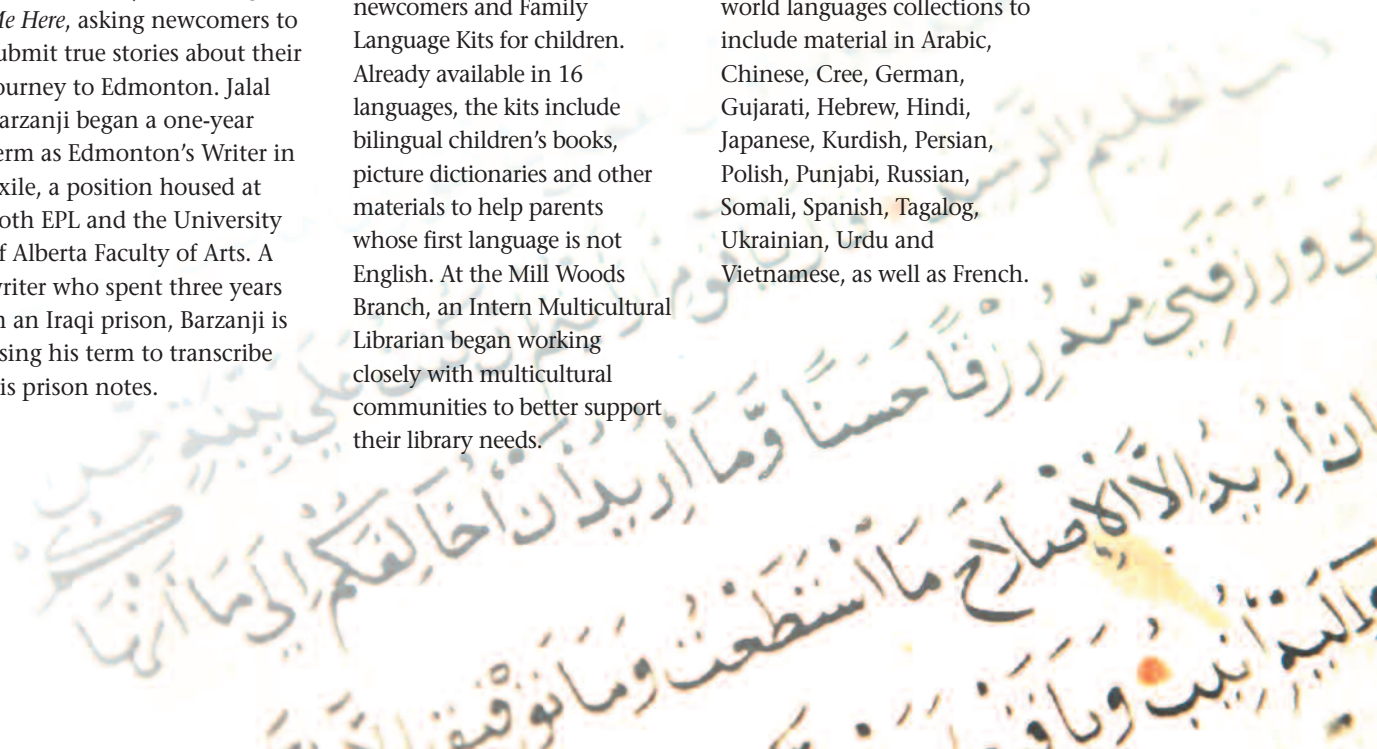
EPL introduced book clubs for newcomers and Family Language Kits for children. Already available in 16 languages, the kits include bilingual children's books, picture dictionaries and other materials to help parents whose first language is not English. At the Mill Woods Branch, an Intern Multicultural Librarian began working closely with multicultural communities to better support their library needs.

NEW LANGUAGES

During 2007 EPL expanded its world languages collections to include material in Arabic, Chinese, Cree, German, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Kurdish, Persian, Polish, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese, as well as French.



The fastest growing city in Canada, Edmonton is now a city of many languages and cultures. EPL's 16 branches have become neighbourhood centres where newcomers connect with each other and access the information they need to succeed.



Edmonton currently has the second largest Aboriginal population in Canada. EPL welcomes Aboriginal people, showcases Aboriginal culture and gives a voice to the Aboriginal community.



A Great Library for ... the Aboriginal Community

UNDERSTANDING

In 2007 EPL became the first library in Alberta to hire an Aboriginal Services Librarian, another step toward meeting the recommendations outlined in the *2005 Library Services for Aboriginal Peoples Task Force Report*. EPL created an Aboriginal Services team to work with Aboriginal agencies, offered cultural awareness training to all staff, added music, film and books to the collection, created programs and worked with educational institutions to learn about the community's unique educational needs.



David Bouchard

BELONGING

David Bouchard read from his book *Nokum is My Teacher*, the story of an Aboriginal boy who has a hard time understanding why he is in school. The event was one of many EPL programs bringing Aboriginal people into the Library.

COMMITMENT

EPL and the Centre for Family Literacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a formal commitment to work together to improve literacy in Edmonton. The partnership will support Story Sacks, a new service for Aboriginal parents with preschool children. Each Story Sack contains a book and several props which adults can use to bring a book to life.



Literacy is essential for survival in a complex, information-driven society, and EPL is making sure teens stay connected to literacy and libraries.



A Great Library for . . . **Teens**

TEEN SPACES

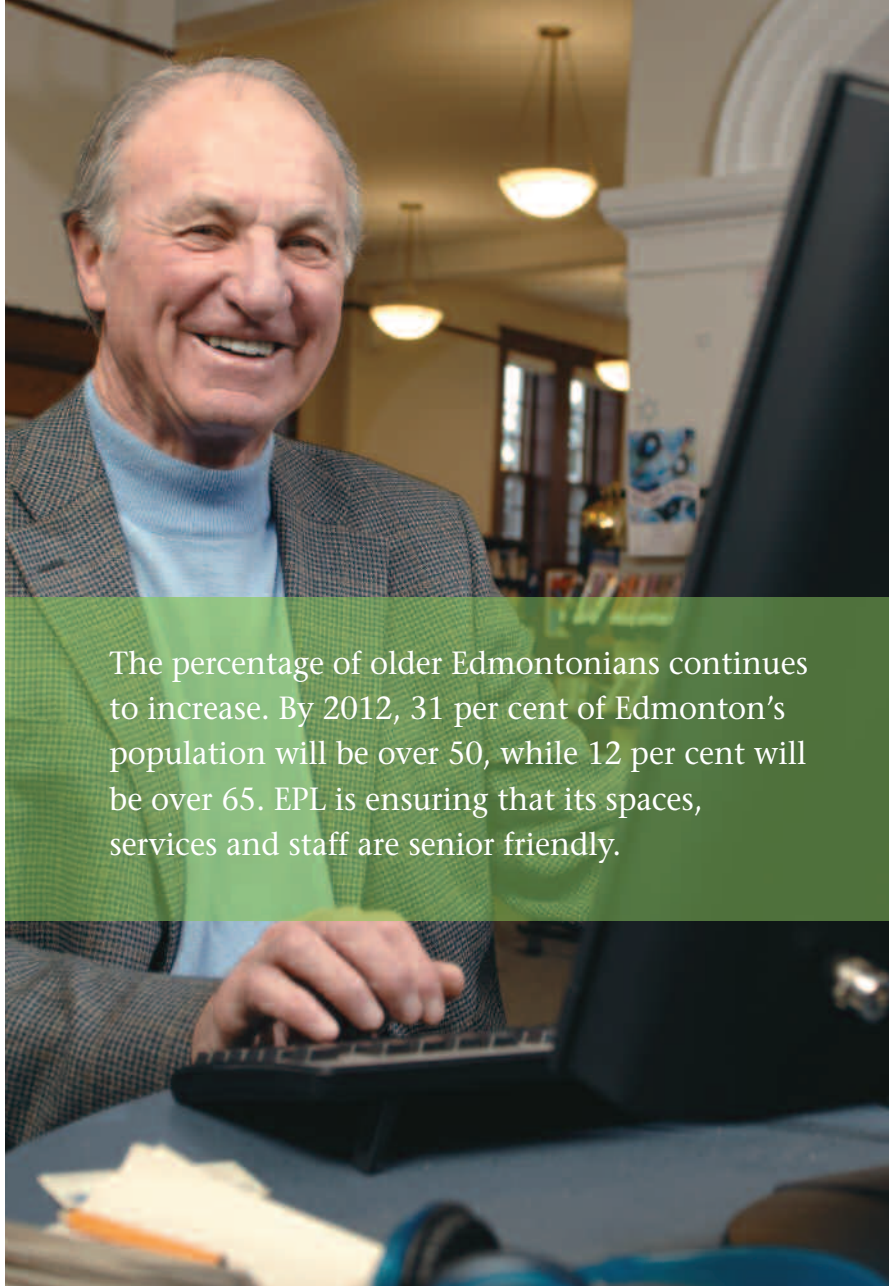
EPL's Teen Gamers Palace program won an Award of Excellence for Library Services from the Library Association of Alberta, recognizing EPL's commitment to bringing teens into the Library. Teens aged 12 to 17 take over the Library on Friday evenings, making it a Teen Gamers Palace, where they can eat pizza, listen to music, sing Karaoke and play video and traditional board games.



TEEN COOL

For a second year, EPL partnered with radio station 91.7 The Bounce to hold a Back to Cool contest. The Bounce aired ads inviting junior and senior high students to go to the Library website to answer a skill-testing library question and enter the Back to Cool contest. EPL received more than 320 entries and the five winners chosen at random won free Beyoncé concert tickets and school pizza parties, where The Bounce DJs and EPL staff showed students that libraries can be cool.

A Great Library for . . . Older Adults



The percentage of older Edmontonians continues to increase. By 2012, 31 per cent of Edmonton's population will be over 50, while 12 per cent will be over 65. EPL is ensuring that its spaces, services and staff are senior friendly.

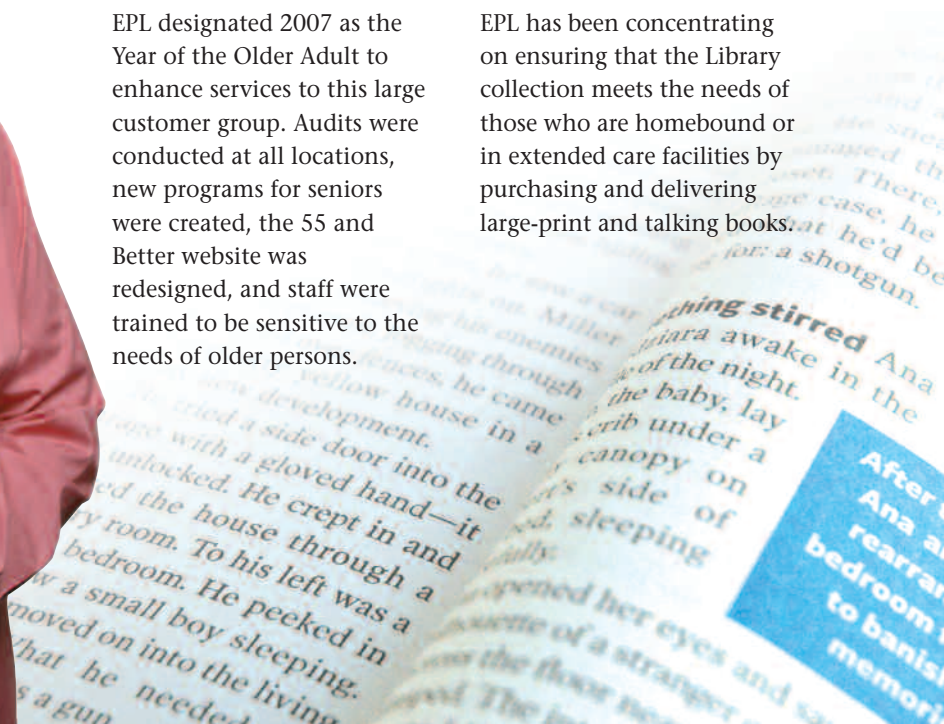


SPECIAL SERVICES

EPL designated 2007 as the Year of the Older Adult to enhance services to this large customer group. Audits were conducted at all locations, new programs for seniors were created, the 55 and Better website was redesigned, and staff were trained to be sensitive to the needs of older persons.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

EPL has been concentrating on ensuring that the Library collection meets the needs of those who are homebound or in extended care facilities by purchasing and delivering large-print and talking books.





Edmonton was named 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada in recognition of its support for arts and culture. Edmonton's active cultural groups joined with EPL to inspire writers and readers.

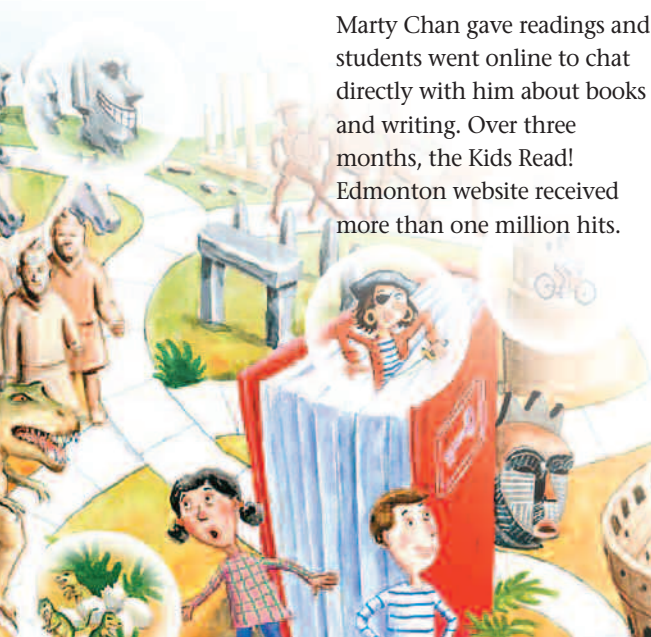
Photo courtesy of the Edmonton Journal

Marty Chan reading from *The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul*

A Great Library for . . . Readers and Writers

YOUNG READERS

Kids Read! Edmonton, EPL's first city-wide children's book club, was launched in September 2007 with Marty Chan's *The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul*. Child Friendly Edmonton and the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation provided funding for 2,000 copies of Chan's book which EPL distributed to schools. Marty Chan gave readings and students went online to chat directly with him about books and writing. Over three months, the Kids Read! Edmonton website received more than one million hits.



Rawi Hage

ADULT READERS

EPL chose *De Niro's Game* by Canadian author Rawi Hage for the city-wide book club, Edmonton Reads: One City, One Book. EPL invited Edmontonians to read *De Niro's Game* and then staged public events and an online forum, where readers could discuss the award-winning novel set in civil-war-era Lebanon.

WRITERS

EPL expanded the *Edmonton: A City Called Home* online collection and moved it to the EPL website. Started in 2004 in celebration of Edmonton's centennial, the updated online collection houses citizens' stories, interviews and photographs, edited and catalogued by the Library's Writer in Residence Linda Goyette. During her term with EPL, Goyette critiqued the work of hundreds of new and established writers and travelled to schools and Alberta cities and towns to meet with writers. She also set up seniors groups, where seniors could remember and share their stories, and founded the Sunday afternoon Writer's Corner, in order that published and unpublished writers could meet to talk about their craft and the publishing business.

A Great City for . . . Libraries



Great cities support great libraries, and EPL enjoys support from government, citizens in every community and other libraries. The City of Edmonton is a direct and active supporter of EPL. In 2007, newly elected Councillor Don Iveson joined the EPL Board of Trustees, replacing Councillor Michael Phair who retired after serving the Library for six years and Edmonton City Council for 15.



Front row, left to right: Colin W. J. Minor, EPL; Dr. Sheila Bertram, EPL; Judith Umbach, CPL; Joan Welch, EPL; Laura Sugimoto, CPL *Back row:* Dr. Carol Suddards, EPL; Ann Craig, CPL; Jamie Niessen, CPL; Terry O'Grady, CPL; Karen Lynch, EPL; Donna L. Campbell, CPL



Councillor Don Iveson

LIBRARIES

In November, an historic event took place when trustees from Edmonton Public Library and Calgary Public Library met in Red Deer. Serving over 70 per cent of the population, the two large urban public library boards drafted a joint Vision and Goals Statement for submission to the provincial government.

GOVERNMENT

During 2007, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) became operational at all EPL branches, thanks to \$6 million in government funding—\$3 million from the City of Edmonton and \$3 million from the Government of Alberta. EPL is the first large urban public library system in Canada to introduce RFID, a system that allows customers to check out their own books. For customers, RFID is easy, fast and private.

CITIZENS

EPL held its second Books2Eat Gala, an evening of music, food, wine and silent auction items. All proceeds went to the Lois Hole Library, which will open in 2008 in the city's west end. Named after The Late, The Honourable Lois E. Hole, 15th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Library will serve a west Edmonton population expected to grow by more than 72,000 by 2010. Edmonton chefs donated edible creations to the Books2Eat Gala.



Lynn Mandel,
Honorary Chair,
Books2Eat



Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the year ended December 31, 2007, with comparative figures for 2006.

	2007	2006
Revenue		
Grants		
City of Edmonton	\$28,347,000	\$25,917,179
Province of Alberta	3,056,157	3,056,157
Annual Registration Fees	694,775	723,790
Fines and Charges	1,010,083	944,362
Other	661,710	609,384
Total Revenue	33,769,725	31,250,872
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	20,681,063	19,178,481
Books and Library Materials	5,790,726	5,204,162
Supplies	2,408,736	2,119,578
Maintenance of Properties	3,070,051	3,173,695
Property and Equipment Rentals	1,624,433	1,529,629
Total Expenses	33,185,387	31,205,545
 Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	 \$194,716	 \$45,327



Collections and Services

	2007	2006
Visits to Library		
In Person	5,578,124	5,413,008
Website Visits	6,976,091	5,666,487
Total	12,554,215	11,079,495
Items Borrowed		
Adult	5,196,271	5,085,344
Juvenile	2,902,247	2,895,775
Web Renewals	1,471,529	1,447,748
Telephone Renewals	69,094	79,318
Total	9,639,141	9,508,185
In-house Collections Use	1,671,280	1,723,550
Public Internet Use	1,080,332	1,003,835
Questions Answered	1,892,738	1,751,218
Programs Presented	5,242	4,734
Program Attendance	149,027	147,484
Items Purchased	374,919	363,822
Magazine Subscriptions	2,865	2,879
Total Collection	1,640,892	1,607,290
Number of Databases	90	77
Population of Edmonton*	730,372	730,372
Number of Libraries	16	16

**Census of Canada 2006*