

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
Edmonton Public Library



BUILDING COMMUNITY, SHAPING TOMORROW.



Edmonton Public Library

QUICK FACTS

17 NUMBER OF LIBRARIES

5,264 PROGRAMS PRESENTED

1,623,500 IN-HOUSE COLLECTIONS USE

2,089,400 QUESTIONS ANSWERED

390,296 ITEMS PURCHASED

1,990,732 TOTAL COLLECTION

9,787,701 ITEMS BORROWED

146,742 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

754,412 POPULATION OF EDMONTON

1,083,326 PUBLIC INTERNET USE

13,494,912 VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

GOOD



> GREAT

MESSAGE

CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

With rapid advances in technologies, along with changes in society's understanding of both literacy and libraries, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has seen its role shift away from the traditional model of a library, to one that is more dynamic, flexible, and responsive. No longer just a place for "books, newspapers and keeping your voice down," the modern library now includes CDs, DVDs, graphic novels and video games, and is a welcoming environment for programming, playtime and personal interaction. This shift has also meant transitioning from the type of library system that simply welcomes people in, to a library system that ventures out and interacts with the communities it serves. EPL has eagerly embraced these changes and continues to move forward as an open, technologically nimble and community-oriented organization.



Dr. Diana Davidson

Without the continued support of Edmonton's City Council, this evolution would not be possible. Facilities like the new Lois Hole Library, which will be a hub of activity in Edmonton's west end for many years to come, are but one example of the amazing commitment City Council has shown to EPL. Council's ongoing dedication to libraries has positioned EPL as one of Canada's pre-eminent library systems and one of Edmonton's most important cultural institutions. We are grateful for this support as well as Council's unwavering belief in the value of public libraries.



Linda C. Cook

This was another extraordinary year for EPL. Within these pages are numerous examples of how we have broadened our reach, increased our access, and strengthened our capacity to serve Edmonton's many diverse communities. Edmonton Public Library is *one staff, one library, one collection*, and whether it is the opening of a new facility, the introduction of a new service, or the ongoing community work and partnerships, we will continue to ensure that the needs of our customers are always being met. Despite all the changes, service is and always will be our number one priority.

Dr. Diana Davidson
Chair, Board of Trustees

Linda C. Cook
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



Councillor Don Iveson and Dr. Diana Davidson, Chair, EPL Board of Trustees

- › Dr. Diana Davidson, Chair
- › Ms. Joan Welch, Vice-Chair
- › Councillor Don Iveson
- › Dr. Stan Blade
- › Mr. Roger R. Breault
- › Mr. Tim Haysom
- › Ms. Karen Lynch
- › Mr. Brent McDonough
- › Mr. Colin W.J. Minor
- › Dr. Carol Suddards

BUILDING

IDYLYWLDE RENOVATIONS

After a year of renovations, and a temporary relocation to Bonnie Doon Mall, the Idylwylde branch reopened its doors in November. Designed with a focus on energy efficiency and creating a community play space, the new Idylwylde branch features a fireplace and surrounding seating area, express check-out and automated check-in services, as well as exterior walling made of glass, which illuminates the space and makes it a warm and welcoming environment for customers. Further renovations will add a six foot aquarium, a children's CD station and a reading house, where youngsters can curl up and read a book with a parent or caregiver.

eplGO UofA



EPL and the University of Alberta expanded their partnership in 2008, leading to eplGO, an EPL branch located inside the University of Alberta's newly renovated Cameron Library. eplGO, the 17th branch in the EPL system, is the first public library branch in Canada to be located inside an academic library. The collection features DVDs, graphic novels, best sellers, paperbacks and popular fiction. eplGO will serve the University of Alberta's 47,389 students, faculty and staff, as well as the general public.



Idylwylde Branch



Idylwylde Branch



Mayor Stephen Mandel, Councillor Jane Batty, and Councillor Don Iveson



LOIS HOLE LIBRARY

In September, EPL officially opened the Lois Hole Library, named after The Late, The Honourable Dr. Lois E. Hole, 15th Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, and a passionate champion of public libraries.

Constructed to meet the demands of a growing west Edmonton population, the 25,000 square foot, barrier-free facility is more than double the size of the Lessard Branch it replaced. Lois Hole Library is also a LEED® Silver Certified green facility, and was awarded the *2008 Top Project: Institutional* award from *Alberta Construction Magazine*.



Life-size statue of Lois Hole, sculpted by Danek Mozdzenski



Mayor Stephen Mandel, Linda C. Cook, Jim Hole, Dr. Diana Davidson and The Honourable Ray Danyluk

COMMUNITY

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

Continuing its commitment to Edmonton's diverse and ever-growing population, EPL's services brochure was translated into Arabic, Russian, Punjabi, French, Vietnamese, Spanish, Kurdish, Amharic (Ethiopian), Somali and Chinese. To date, ten other brochures have also been translated for those with English as a second language. Two Community Librarians with a focus on multicultural issues were also hired in 2008. Housed at the Mill Woods and Londonderry branches, the Community Librarians will operate both within and beyond library walls, promoting lifelong learning, literacy and inclusiveness in consultation with the many communities in north and south Edmonton.

LEAP WORKSTATION

A new LEAP (Library Equal Access Program) workstation was introduced at the Stanley A. Milner Library, providing people with disabilities better tools with which to read, view and listen to materials. The station combines special hardware, software and equipment for customers with unique visual, learning or physical needs. Motorized furniture, large print keyboards, a Braille printer and voice-operated dictation software are just some of the tools utilized at the LEAP workstation by EPL customers.



FINE-FREE DAY

On November 29, EPL piloted a Fine-Free Day at all of its branches. With a goal of eliminating barriers to access, customer fines were waived with either the return of lost or overdue items, or the donation of a non-perishable food item. The day saw increases in adult membership renewals, items checked out, and items returned. Two tonnes of food were also collected for the program's community partner, Edmonton's Food Bank.





Elementary school students interacting with staff at *Kids Read! Edmonton*



Author Ted Bishop and The Honourable Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs

READERS AND WRITERS

Riding with Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books, by award-winning Edmonton author Ted Bishop, was chosen for *Edmonton Reads 2008: One City—One Book*, EPL's city-wide book club. Along with hosting a variety of public events—including a special launch event featuring members of Edmonton's many motorcycling clubs and Minister of Municipal Affairs Ray Danyluk in full biking gear—EPL encouraged readers to participate in a web-based music program and online forum on the *Edmonton Reads* website.

Kids Read! Edmonton, a city-wide book club for children, showcased the award-winning *Several Lives of Orphan Jack*, by B.C. author Sarah Ellis. *Kids Read!* introduced young Edmontonians to an exceptional work of Canadian children's literature, and featured an interactive web page where they could play games, publish their own stories, and participate in chat rooms with author Sarah Ellis.

Cree/Métis author and poet Marilyn Dumont served as EPL Writer in Residence for 2008. She promoted literacy, culture and the arts, while also being a helpful resource for Edmonton's writing community. Brazilian journalist, poet and author Rita Espeschit began her term as Edmonton's second Writer in Exile. Espeschit will spend her term working on writing projects, doing public speaking engagements, as well as helping other immigrant authors with their writing.

SHAPING

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

EPL expanded its library card program with the Edmonton Public School Board in 2008, adding another 77 schools, and bringing the total number of participating schools up to 157. The library card program was also expanded to include Edmonton Catholic Schools, with 63 schools taking part in the program. The program, through the help of teachers and schools, places more library memberships into the hands of young Edmontonians. EPL and the Edmonton Catholic School Board also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008, formalizing a partnership that has been in place for many years.

INNER CITY ENGAGEMENT

EPL continued to reach out to those with “no place to call home,” connecting with agencies in the downtown core to better understand the barriers surrounding library access and service, as well as foster community dialogue about homelessness. Six-month internet passes were distributed to agencies serving homeless people, allowing the homeless to more easily access library computer services. EPL organized a panel discussion on the state of housing and homelessness in Edmonton in October, participated in Homeless Connect Edmonton and HomeFest, and hosted tours and computer training sessions for both the Bissell Centre’s *Strengthening Our Spirit* pre-employment training program and the University of Alberta’s Humanities 101 program. Staff also made regular visits to more than 15 inner city agencies and organizations serving Edmonton’s most socially vulnerable.

SENIOR FRIENDLY DESIGNATION

In 2008, EPL was the first library in Alberta to receive a Senior Friendly™ designation from the Alberta Council on Aging. Facility audits were completed, and action plans were developed at all EPL branches in order to better address the needs and concerns of seniors using EPL services. EPL also committed to having 65 percent of its staff receive Senior Friendly™ training. That target was exceeded, with about 75 percent of all staff receiving the training.



Adrian LaChance

ABORIGINAL SERVICES

Building on the hiring of Alberta's first Aboriginal Services Librarian in 2007, EPL created an Aboriginal Advisory Team in 2008, and continued towards its goal of making the library more accessible and relevant to Aboriginal Peoples.

EPL Writer in Residence Marilyn Dumont established an Aboriginal Women's writing circle, and several EPL branches hosted performances by Adrian LaChance, a traditional dancer. Aboriginal art displays were circulated throughout the branches, and in April EPL was awarded the Library Association of Alberta's *Award of Excellence in Library Service* for its leadership in providing library services to Aboriginal Peoples.

TOMORROW

WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICES

EPL became a Wi-Fi Hotspot in 2008, with free wireless Internet services at all of its branches. Customers with their own laptop can now connect to EPL's wireless network and use the Internet without time restrictions or a scheduled time on an EPL computer.

VIDEO GAMES

In December, EPL became one of the first public libraries in Canada to add video games to its collection. Beginning with over 130 titles on three different platforms (Xbox 360, Wii and PS3), the collection offers a wide range of popular games in a variety of genres, including action/adventure, sports, survival, simulation and puzzle games.

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT AND AUTOMATED CHECK-IN

A Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) initiative, jointly funded by the Province of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, was implemented at EPL in 2008. Using RFID technology, express check-out stations were installed in all EPL branches, allowing customers to take out materials quickly and efficiently. Automated check-in systems were also installed at Idylwylde, Londonderry, Mill Woods, and Whitemud Crossing, as well as the Lois Hole Library.





BOOKS2EAT GALA

The 3rd annual Books2Eat Gala was a delightful evening of food, wine, music and good company, capped off by a successful silent auction and the extraordinary cake creations of some of Edmonton's finest chefs. All of the proceeds from the Books2Eat Gala went towards the purchase of new materials for the Lois Hole Library.



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	2008	2007
CITY OF EDMONTON	31,609,000	28,347,000
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA] Grants	3,231,157	3,056,157
FINES AND CHARGES	972,884	1,010,083
ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES	683,265	694,775
OTHER	648,623	661,710
TOTAL REVENUE	37,144,929	33,769,725
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	23,561,321	20,681,063
BOOKS AND LIBRARY MATERIALS	5,981,607	5,790,726
MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTIES	3,171,099	3,070,051
SUPPLIES	2,840,369	2,408,736
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT RENTALS	1,586,602	1,624,433
TOTAL EXPENSES	37,140,998	33,575,009
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$3,931	\$194,716

For the year ending December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007.

COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

	2008	2007
› In Person	5,494,912	5,578,124
› Website Visits	8,000,000	6,976,091
TOTAL VISITS TO THE LIBRARY	13,494,912	12,554,215
› Adult	5,131,921	5,196,271
› Juvenile	3,027,065	2,902,247
› Web Renewals	1,557,029	1,471,529
› Telephone Renewals	71,686	69,094
TOTAL ITEMS BORROWED	9,787,701	9,639,141
IN-HOUSE COLLECTIONS	1,623,500	1,671,280
PUBLIC INTERNET USE	1,083,326	1,080,332
QUESTIONS ANSWERED	2,089,400	1,892,738
PROGRAMS PRESENTED	5,264	5,242
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	146,742	145,027
ITEMS PURCHASED	390,296	374,919
MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	2,950	2,865
TOTAL COLLECTION	1,990,732	1,640,892
NUMBER OF DATABASES	97	90
POPULATION OF EDMONTON*	754,412	730,372
NUMBER OF LIBRARIES	17	16

*City of Edmonton, 2008 Municipal Census

The savings below are achieved when postconsumer recycled fiber is used in place of virgin fiber. This annual report (cover and text) uses 313.14 kg of paper, which has a postconsumer recycled percentage of 100%.



6 trees preserved for the future



142 kg solid waste not generated



9 kg waterborne waste not created



278 kg net greenhouse gases prevented



10,658 litres wastewater flow saved



4,695,221 BTU's energy not consumed

Savings from the use of emission-free wind-generated electricity:



345 kg ghg emissions not generated

~ 142 from windpower savings

~ 203 from carbon offset savings



179 cubic meters natural gas unused

Savings from the use of wind-generated electricity are equivalent to:



not driving 1,210 km

OR



planting 52 trees

~ 496 from windpower savings

~ 714 from carbon offset savings

