

# MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD & DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Dawn Fargey



Linda C. Cook

## 2003 at the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2003 in style with open houses, exhibitions, contests, a photo retrospective on the web, special editions of *The Source*, recommended book and music lists, and a commemorative poster.

From two libraries with a circulation of 130,000 in 1913 to 16 libraries with a circulation of 8.1 million in 2003, the Edmonton Public Library is well used and loved by Edmontonians of all ages. The Library has experienced tremendous growth in the past five years. The number of visitors has increased by more than 1.2 million, from 4 million in 1999 to 5.2 million in 2003.

Edmonton is a great city for readers and learners. The Library's Centre for Reading and the Arts hosted readings on November 8 by three Edmonton authors who were nominated for Governor General's Awards in 2003. Two days later, it was announced that Vern Thiessen won the Award for Drama and Glen Huser the Award for Children's Literature. Book clubs and discussion groups have blossomed — they have even gone online at the Library.

The Sprucewood branch will be undergoing significant renovations and expansion in 2004, the first for this branch in 45 years. Change, innovation and evolution are a constant for EPL. Our mission, "to connect the people of Edmonton to the knowledge and cultures of the world", is our motivation. Through a multitude of avenues EPL works to reach all Edmontonians from cradle through to the kitchen and boardroom and into retirement. Initiatives such as partnerships with multicultural groups, businesses, outreach programs and the media support and endorse our mission.

Embracing the future, we continue to integrate technology into our services, facilitating and enhancing our collections, services, and programs. Following the initial dramatic increase in the remote use of the new website, the growth in 2003 reflected the ongoing popularity of electronic services such as customer requests, online database, catalogue, and Internet searching. We will continue to explore new technologies to improve service delivery.

We have continued to enjoy tremendous support from all Edmontonians in many ways. Through the efforts of our dedicated fundraising volunteers and donations received, EPL is able to enhance collections, facilities and service. The Lois Hole Library Legacy Program has proven to be an endearing and favourable way for Edmontonians to support their local library and enrich the whole community.

We could not have achieved our historic landmark in the past 90 years without the dedication and hard work of present and past library staff and trustees. We shall continue to deliver excellent library service to all Edmontonians as we prepare to celebrate our city's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2004.

Dawn Fargey, Chair  
Board of Trustees

Linda C. Cook  
Director of Libraries

# 2003

# ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## Birthday

- To kick off the year-long celebrations, Strathcona branch hosted a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday open house on March 13, complete with staff from the Library and Fort Edmonton Park in period costumes, music, and refreshments.

- All three issues of the Library's magazine, *The Source*, were dedicated to looking at the Library's past, present, and future, including comparisons of books children used to read, music that was popular now and in the past, as well as major world and Canadian events in the past 90 years.

- Two exhibitions were held in September in the Stanley A. Milner Library, featuring historical photographs of the Library and the Summer Reading Program.

- In the "90 Books for 90 Years" contest, Edmontonians were asked to nominate their favourite adult and children's fiction books and then vote for the best of the best on the website. Chapters/Indigo and Laurie Greenwood's Volume II Books donated prizes for winners.

- Visitors to the website explored "90 Years in Photos", a celebration of the Library's past.

- Ten past chairs of the Library Board and several hundred guests and customers attended an historic event held in the Stanley A. Milner Library on October 20 to celebrate the Library's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Open houses were held at all branch locations during Alberta Library Week (October 20 – 24) when politicians and community leaders joined staff as guest hosts. A commemorative poster was a gift to library visitors.

## Readers

- On April 30, Whitemud Crossing branch co-sponsored, with CBC Radio, "Canada Reads Edmonton Authors", to celebrate Canada Book Week and Canada Reads. Featured authors included Tolowa Mollé (*The Orphan Boy*), Gloria Sawai (*A Song for Nettie Johnson*, Governor General's Award winner for fiction), Katherine Holubitsky (*Alone at Ninety Foot*), and Tim Bowling (*Darkness and Silence*). The program was recorded for broadcast on CBC's Richardson's Round-Up on May 19.

- Canadian authors who read in various branches during Canada Book Week included Wendy McGrath (*Recurring Fiction*), Guy Gavriel Kay (*Beyond This Dark House*), Karleen Bradford (*With Nothing But Our Courage*), and Arthur Slade (*Dust*), sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts.

- Stanley A. Milner Library's Centre for Reading and the Arts played host to Edmonton's Lit Fest (October 2 – 5) to promote the works of Canadian and international authors. Programs included workshops, readings, and discussion panels. Featured reader in the Library was Ian McGillis (*A Tourist Guide to Glengarry*).

- Three Edmonton authors who were nominated for Governor General's Awards in 2003 were hosted by the Centre for Reading and the Arts at a reading held on November 8. Vern Thiessen won the Award for Drama (*Einstein's Gift*) and Glen Huser for Children's Literature (*Stitches*). Tim Bowling was nominated in the poetry category (*The Witness Ghost*).

Mary T. McDonald joined Mayor Bill Smith to view the photo exhibit of "Jasper and 101 Street", presented by Linda Goyette of A City Called Home project, during Historic Edmonton Week.



Ten Past Chairs, (back row) Peter Caffaro, Neil Ramsay, Don Carmichael, (mid row) Helen Skirrow, Marco Adria, Sharon Pisesky, Avi Habinski, (front row) Terry Laing, Jean Mucha, and Nicholas Spillios joined 2003 Board Chair Dawn Fargey, Deputy Mayor Larry Langley (left of poster) and the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky (right of poster) to unveil the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster during Alberta Library Week.

## Catalogue

- After several years of planning, the Edmonton Public Library's new computer system, Sirsi's Unicorn, arrived on April 22 at 1 p.m. The automated system is essential to many aspects of library operations, including circulation, customer registration, and cataloguing.

- The hours of public online access to the Library's catalogue dramatically increased, available now 24 hours per day, seven days a week, with the exception of a few night-time hours of downtime per month for maintenance.

- An easy to use, picture-based Kids' catalogue was made available online.

- Thousands of customers signed up to receive notification by email to pick up their holds. This highly anticipated new service is beneficial for both customers and the Library as it expedites turnaround time and further reduces mailing costs.

- Other popular services introduced with the new computer system were the ability to view cover art, reviews and table of contents of many titles in the catalogue and to check their position on the Holds queue before requesting items. Bestseller lists are now displayed and searchable from the catalogue.

## Branches

- Circulation of library materials increased by 2.3 per cent to 8.1 million and visits to 16 library locations increased by 5 per cent to more than 5 million.

- Sprucewood branch held a Renovations open house in August to inform the community of its plans for renovations and expansion. Construction will be underway in early 2004.

- Plans are being made to renovate and expand the Strathcona branch, a heritage building and a registered historical resource in Alberta.

## Grow

- The Lois Hole Library Legacy Program, launched on March 4, planted seeds to grow library collections. Available year-round, this program encourages Edmontonians to make financial donations to honour special occasions such as birthdays, graduations, anniversaries or retirements. With the growing season peaking in spring and winter, the program raised \$116,000 to enrich library collections.

- The Hon. Lois E. Hole donated her portrait, painted by Izabella Orzelski-Konikowski and Bogdan Koral-Konikowski, to the Library to increase awareness of the Lois Hole Library Legacy Program. The portrait, unveiled during the media event to kick off anniversary open houses, became a permanent exhibit in the Stanley A. Milner Library.

- Due to the efforts of more than 200 fundraising volunteers, the Library had the most financially successful year for book sales in 2003, with \$81,500 raised from the three major sales: spring, Fringe and fall.

- An increasing number of supporters made donations online from the Library's website at [www.epl.ca/donate](http://www.epl.ca/donate)

- The Library was one of the beneficiaries and organizers of Raise a Reader, a project of The Edmonton Journal and Global Television, designed to raise awareness of the importance of literacy and raise funds for family and children's literacy. Funds donated to the Library were used to buy books for children's literacy.

- The Anti-Poverty Round Table Committee of the Mill Woods Presidents' Council, representing all community leagues in the area, made a donation of close to \$10,000 to the Mill Woods branch to purchase five new computers and four desks.



Alberta Chinese Orchestra performed at the Stanley A. Milner Library on Multiculturalism Day.

## 2003 Board of Trustees

Ms. Dawn Fargey, Chair  
Mr. Jason Ding, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Marco L. Adria, Past-Chair  
Dr. Sheila Bertram  
Dr. Diana Davidson  
Ms. Ann Dea  
Ms. Alison Faid  
Mr. Nashir Karmali  
Mr. Austin Mardon  
Mr. Douglas Meggison  
Councillor Michael Phair

## New Trustee in 2004

Colin W. J. Minor



**Ian McClelland, MLA, Edmonton Rutherford, presented a grant of \$125,000 from the Community Facility Enhancement Program to assist Whitemud Crossing branch renovations and relocation.**

**Fun**

- The Banned Book Café was held on February 24 in the Second Cup at the Stanley A. Milner Library, inviting visitors to recite banned books to celebrate Freedom to Read Week. Councillor Michael Phair, the Poet Thugs, CJSR's Master Crocodile, and Vue Weekly's book editor joined in the fun.
  - The Library and the Banzai Animé Klub of Alberta co-sponsored "All About Animé" on June 14 as part of the program of Animethon 10, the 10th annual Japanese Animation Festival in Edmonton.

- Television weather specialists, A-Channel's Dawn Chubai, CFRN-TV's Ian Leonard, and Global Television's Claire Martin, helped promote the Summer Reading Program, "Read Up A Storm", by posing for a promotional poster and the cover of *The Source*.

- The Library's S.W.A.T. Team (Stories With A Twist) conquered Attack of the Killer Fringe in August. Inspired by the theme of the Summer Reading Program, staff from eight branches performed to hundreds of Fringe Festival attendees, while family, friends, and other staff contributed to set, costume design, and props.

- Ninety-six Dewey Decimators represented the Library in its first attempt at the Corporate Challenge when they raced, walked, pulled, ate (chicken wings), scavenger hunted, cheered and played to a 21<sup>st</sup> place finish. Director Linda Cook placed third in the CEO challenge.

- Using humour and drama, the Library started an advertising and promotional campaign, "Ask Us", in the fall to promote reference services that customers can use on location, by phone, and online. The campaign will continue in 2004.

- To welcome CBC as a neighbour in the city center, library staff and trustees donated over \$1,000 and two birds (equivalent to 53 turkeys) to CBC Radio's annual turkey drive in support of the Edmonton Food Bank.

**Diversity**

- The First Annual Cultural Diversity Day, initiated by Canadian Heritage, was celebrated in the Stanley A. Milner Library on June 26 with a concert performed by the Alberta Chinese Orchestra, refreshments catered by Changing Together, an organization that works with new immigrants, and a display of selected writings by immigrants of their experiences.

- In partnership with Family Productions Inc., the Library launched the Multicultural and Business Centre in the Edmonton Woman's Fall Show (October 18 & 19) to promote the Library as a source of information for business and families as well as a resource for new Canadians.

**Literacy**

- The Library presented "Harmony in Words" on October 6 as one of the READ IN literacy campaign programs. Local musicians Gilbert Anderson and Kathleen Steinhauer Anderson performed Métis music from the Fort Edmonton era along with storytellers. Linda Goyette, the Library's Writer-in-Residence, produced the show with assistance from Carolina Roemmich. They are writers and researchers for the *Edmonton: A City Called Home* project to celebrate the City's centennial in 2004.

- Marlene Smith (wife of Mayor Bill Smith) and her grandson paid a visit to "Paws for a Story" in the Whitemud Crossing branch during READ IN week. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Pet Therapy Society of Northern Alberta, the program used therapy dogs and their handlers to help children improve their literacy skills.

- The Library and the Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association presented a Readers' Theatre at the Mill Woods branch during READ IN week.



**Library staff Therese Gavigan "hawked" newspapers to raise funds for the "Raise a Reader" program, of which the Library was one of the beneficiaries.**

**The Edmonton Public Library Statement of Revenue and Expense**

For the year ended December 31, 2003 with comparative figures for 2002

	2003	2002
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Grants:		
City of Edmonton	\$20,921,000	\$19,590,000
Province of Alberta	2,857,586	2,612,585
Annual Registration Fees	713,829	716,739
Fines and Charges	743,867	693,630
Other	274,130	274,709
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>25,510,412</b>	<b>23,887,663</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries and Benefits	15,852,084	15,097,038
Books and Library Materials	4,115,000	3,730,353
Supplies	1,912,046	1,652,501
Maintenance of Properties	1,976,937	1,829,139
Property and Equipment Rentals	1,504,681	1,252,709
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>25,360,748</b>	<b>23,561,740</b>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$149,664	\$325,923

**Collections and Services**

	2003	2002
Visits to Library	5,228,427	4,979,949
Items Borrowed	8,117,670	7,934,658
Adult	5,190,418	5,115,439
Juvenile	2,927,252	2,819,219
In-House Collections Use	1,651,700	2,070,774
Public Internet Use	831,899	795,911
Questions Answered	1,898,169	2,070,774
Programs Presented	3,962	4,256
Program Attendance	139,121	145,346
Items Purchased	286,716	274,851
Magazine Subscriptions	1,100	1,300
Total Collection	1,766,809	1,507,870
Population of Edmonton*	666,104	666,104
Number of Libraries	16	16

\* Federal Census 2001



1913 - 2003

**EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
2003 ANNUAL REPORT**

