

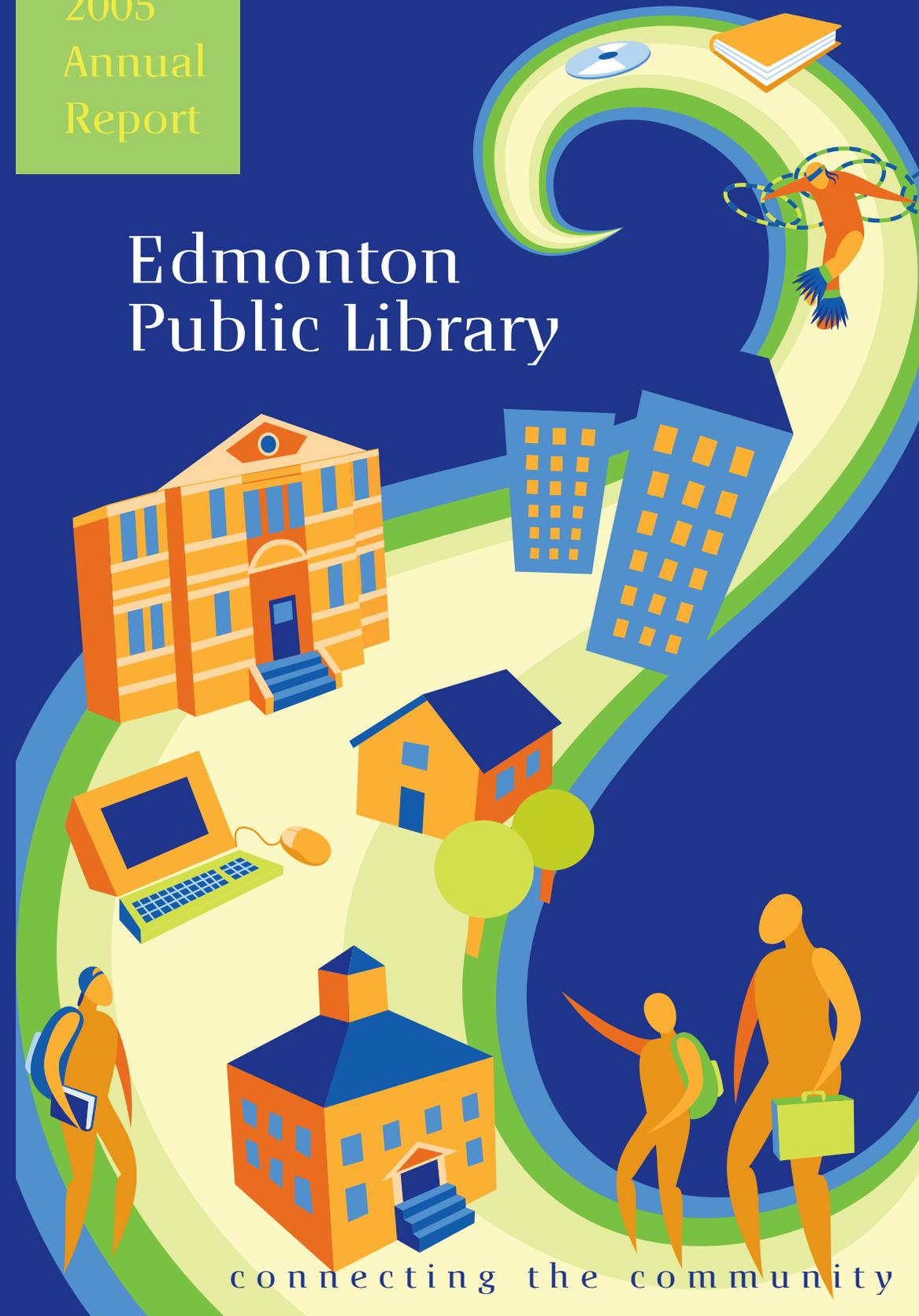
2005
Annual
Report

Edmonton Public Library



Edmonton
Public Library

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



connecting the community

Message

from the Chair of the Board and Director of Libraries

2005 was an exciting year for the Edmonton Public Library, focusing on building and strengthening connections. From infants to seniors, from students to business people, we looked for innovative ways to connect and engage with our many communities.

Funding support from the City of Edmonton for service and collection enrichment was greatly appreciated. It allowed us to put in place initiatives geared to connecting people with library services and increasing literacy levels.

We were saddened by the passing of the late Honourable Lois Hole, the 15th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta and a friend of libraries. To show our appreciation and recognition of her support, we named a new branch the Lois Hole Library, with the unanimous approval of City Council. The new library is to replace Lessard Branch and will open in 2007.

As part of our efforts to better serve our Aboriginal communities, we created a comprehensive strategy to enhance collections, programs and services, and to increase awareness. We also celebrated the Year of the Teen in 2005 and helped young people discover that "Libraries are in Style."

We take pride in the fact that our libraries are community centres for neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton. This past year, library users celebrated completion of the third phase of the four-year interior renovations of the Stanley A. Milner Library and welcomed expansion to the Castle Downs Branch. The Strathcona Branch was moved to a temporary location to allow for a restoration and expansion project that will transform Edmonton's first library building into a heritage landmark.

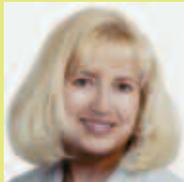
Providing innovative library services and technology has become an integral part of our offerings, and in 2005 we introduced free word processing, a "floating" video collection, a web-based music library and online same-day newspapers in many languages. Edmontonians have also continued their love affair with books. To meet the evolving needs of readers, we have introduced new collections, programs and services, and have continued with the popular online winter book clubs, the Teen Survivor summer reading club and a talking book club for library users with visual disabilities.

The "Beyond Words Library Story Contest" invited readers to tell us why the Library is important to them, and their stories will be published on the website in 2006.

As always, Library staff worked tirelessly to provide visitors with a positive experience. Our Library Board trustees, library staff, partners and advocates are central to the success of the Edmonton Public Library. We thank you for your dedication and for helping us to strengthen our many connections during 2005!



Alison Faid
Chair, Board of Trustees



Linda C. Cook
Director of Libraries

Quick Facts

5,364,329 visits
were made to the Library's
16 locations

4,395,593 visits
were made to the Library's
website at www.epl.ca

9,037,826 items
were borrowed

1,811,075 questions
were answered

150,177 people attended
4,369 public programs

148,926 adult and
children's books
were added to the collections

97,590 paperbacks
were added to the collections

50,144 AV materials
were added to the collections

41,432 periodicals
were added to the collections

6,135 reference books
were added to the collections

234 volunteers
donated 3,000 hours
to three fundraising book sales and
to provide Library Access service to customers
unable to use traditional library services

Connecting

to the Community



We continuously look for ways to better serve our communities by providing them with outstanding facilities, resources and services

- An official event on January 20th celebrated the completion of the third phase of the renovation and expansion of the Stanley A. Milner Library and thanked major benefactors Stanley A. Milner and the Clifford E. Lee Foundation for their contributions.
- Strathcona Branch moved to temporary quarters on April 4th, in preparation for a major restoration and expansion. When completed in 2006, the expanded 15,000-square-foot facility will have wheelchair and stroller access, space for comfortable reading areas, larger collections, more computers and an attractive meeting room for library and community programs.
- Readers and walkers joined forces to promote literacy during READ IN week (October 3rd to 7th).



Mr. Stanley A. Milner (right) spoke with Board Chair Alison Faid during the third-phase opening celebrations event at the Stanley A. Milner Library in January, with Trustee Colin Minor (top left)

Londonderry Branch and Londonderry Mall's Walk 'n' Roll Walking Club presented "Walk into History" on October 5th, featuring award-winning author Linda Goyette.

- Participation in the October 15th and 16th Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Career Fair at MacEwan College reflected the Library's Aboriginal strategy of increasing awareness of library resources, showcasing newly enhanced collections and promoting a career in public library work among Aboriginal people.

- Castle Downs Branch added 2,700 square feet to accommodate the increased demand for service for 250,000 visitors per year.
- The Lois Hole Library Project Team made plans for a new library to replace the Lessard Branch in the west end. Upon completion in 2007, the 27,000-square-foot building, named in honour of Alberta's 15th Lieutenant Governor, will achieve the silver rating of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards, to serve an area population of 72,000 by 2010.
- Plans were made to extend opening hours at Riverbend Branch by three-and-half hours per week beginning in 2006. With more than 350,000 annual visits to the branch, Riverbend is one of the busiest libraries in Edmonton.



The Library's entry in the Klondike Day Parade featured 100 Years of Children's Literature.



Councillor Jane Batty brings greetings from City Council at the Stanley A. Milner Library celebrations in January.



Connecting ... through innovation

... to youth

We explore innovative ways to reach young readers and inspire them to make libraries and literacy a part of their lives

- The Library celebrated 2005 as the Year of the Teen and allocated \$100,000 to expand teen collections, including graphic novels, books, magazines, paperbacks, comics, music and movies.



Charlene Higgs (left), Caroline Ford and Tanisha Ayotte agree that the Library is cool and the perfect place for meeting up with friends, relaxing, hanging out and catching up with their reading.

- Teen areas were updated with comfortable seating, music listening and computer stations. Teens were invited to submit suggestions for enhancing programs, including the popular “Banned Book Café” organized by Teen Advisory Board members to celebrate Freedom to Read Week in February.
- “Libraries are in Style,” featured a fashion show, library displays, performances and demonstrations on October 1st at West Edmonton Mall. WEM and radio station 96X Edmonton were partners.
- The Library co-sponsored the City’s Child Friendly Edmonton initiative by transforming, after hours,

Sprucewood and Highlands branches into a “Teen Gamers Palace” for young people aged 12 to 17 years. This took place on November 25th and December 9th. These evenings — with an educational component — featured music, dancing, video games, board games and refreshments. More than 175 teens participated in the pilot project.

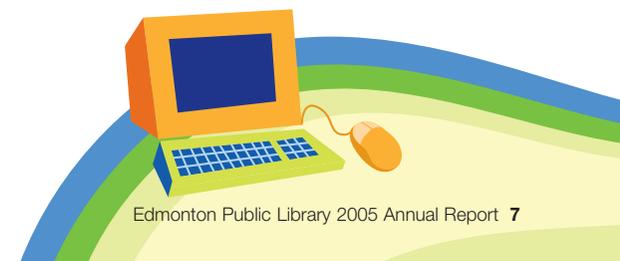
Teens pose with John Chwyl, the Fashion Guy (middle, last row), at the “Libraries are In Style” teen event at West Edmonton Mall in October.



May McDonald, a customer of Library Access Services, enjoys accessing the Division’s books on tape, talking books and adaptive technologies. May and Acana, her Seeing Eye dog, were featured on television and in print during the Library’s four-month autumn advertising campaign.

The Library pioneers innovative programs and services that allow readers to connect with literature, information, technology and each other

- “Bestsellers to Go for Kids and Teens” was launched in March, enabling young people to borrow current fiction and non-fiction bestsellers for one week, without waiting in the request queue.
- A pilot project to provide a free word-processing service was launched on October 3rd at Abbottsfield, Capilano, Mill Woods and Sprucewood branches. Training was provided by tutorials on the website, user guides at computer stations and a computer coach.
- The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology demonstration on November 30th received extensive media coverage. The new, user-friendly technology will allow convenient, confidential self-checkout. City Council approved \$3 million for transition to the new technology and matching funds will be provided by the Province in 2006.
- The Library introduced 23 new databases on its website during the year. Press Display, which provides 225 same-day newspapers from 58 countries in 33 languages, was popular with newcomers to Canada, people planning trips and students learning other languages.
- Naxos Online Music Library database offered customers more than 9,000 CDs, with new additions every month. The online alternative supplements the Library’s extensive existing music collections.
- Interactive presentations were developed to help businesses and individuals with research, allowing customers to determine currency, accuracy and reliability of information and sources.
- A “floating” video collection improved material management and increased customer satisfaction, without additional expense. Videos are now checked in where they are returned, resulting in more “new” videos in local branches and a speedier return to the shelves.



Connecting ... with partners

... through learning

We strengthen our commitment to support learning for readers, here at home and across Canada

- Children across the country participated in the Summer Reading Program, "Blast Off," sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group and Library and Archives Canada, with program development assistance from the Canadian Space Agency. More than 20,000 Edmonton children participated in the reading program and summer activities.
- To serve a culturally diverse city, the Stanley A. Milner Library and other branches hosted English as a Second Language conversation classes and literacy tutoring while providing resources to 740 adult learners.



Mayor Stephen Mandel, one of the celebrity judges of Sprucewood Branch's writing contest, took time to meet contest winners and children who participated in the four-week writing workshop, as well as staff (back row, from left) Barbara Zavitz, Sprucewood Branch Assistant Manager; Sarah Mackey, Project Organizer; Howard Saunders, Branch Manager; and Linda C. Cook, Director of Libraries.

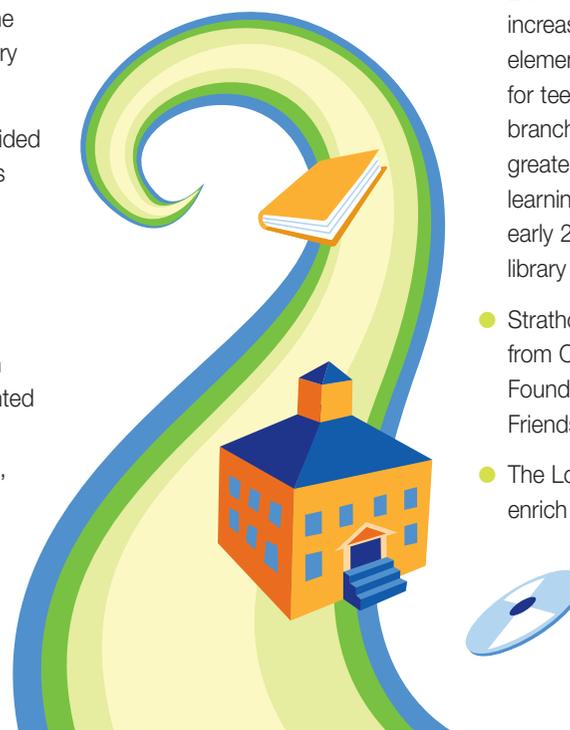
- Library staff visited 197 schools and talked to 25,000 students to promote Young Reader's Choice Awards. As a result, more than 15,000 students read books and voted for their favourites — the largest participation for a library in the Pacific Northwest.
- The Library gave 164 staff-guided library tours to 4,000 students in the "eXplore" program, introducing them to a world of educational riches and recreational treasures.
- Attended by 150,000 children and adults, the Library presented more than 4,300 programs that reflect its literacy, reading, learning and self-educational support roles.

Edmonton Public Library works with our partners and the community to improve programs and facilities that make libraries and reading more accessible

- The Library Services for Aboriginal Peoples task force recommended a strategy to ensure Aboriginal cultures are reflected in the Library's collections, programs and staffing. Initiatives include promotion of the Library as a resource to maintain and celebrate Aboriginal cultures, to find information on education, career and support services, and to highlight the contributions made by Aboriginal peoples.
- Based on the success of the event held in October during National Library Week (October 17th to 23rd), Edmonton Transit System and the Library plan to launch a Read 'n' Ride Online Book Club in 2006.
- A partnership between the Library and the Edmonton Public School Board focused on increasing reading literacy among boys at the elementary level and improving information literacy for teens at the secondary level. Selected library branches worked with schools in areas with the greatest literacy challenges, to develop strategies to enhance learning experiences for students. A pilot project will be launched in early 2006 to enable students in 45 participating schools to receive library cards.
- Strathcona Library's restoration project is supported by commitments from Centennial Legacies (\$275,000), Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (\$95,000), Crystal Glass (\$100,000) and fundraising from Friends of the Edmonton Public Library (\$77,000).
- The Lois Hole Library Legacy program raised \$73,000 to enrich collections.



Twelve-year-old hoop dancer Rena Whitethunder entertained guests at a reception in November at Sprucewood Branch, when books about diabetes were donated by the Canadian Diabetes Association to the Library.



Connecting ... to the future

As always, we work to improve programs and services today, while looking ahead to meet the needs of the future

- The Strategic Planning process, spearheaded by a team of trustees and staff, resulted in the publication of *Enriching People's Lives: Strategic Directions 2006 to 2010*. The process of developing a business plan to implement the strategies will start in 2006.
- The Library presented a ten-year capital plan (2006 to 2015) to City Council that proposed a \$49-million blueprint for two new branches, three new buildings, six major upgrades and other capital initiatives.

2005 Board of Trustees

Ms. Alison F.M. Faid, Chair
Ms. Ann Dea, Vice-Chair
Ms. Dawn Fargey, Past-Chair
Dr. Sheila Bertram
Dr. Diana Davidson
Mr. Tim Haysom
Mr. Nashir Karmali
Dr. Austin Mardon
Mr. Colin W.J. Minor

Ms. Joan Welch
Councillor Michael Phair

New Trustees in 2006

Mr. Roger R. Breault
Ms. Karen Lynch



The 2005 Christmas display at the Stanley A. Milner Library lent a bright and cheery atmosphere to downtown Edmonton over the holiday season.



The Library welcomed the public in August during the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who helped to celebrate the centennial of the Province of Alberta.



Board Chair Alison Faid in July accepted a donation of Chinese language books valued at \$25,000 from Ambassador Lu Shumin, Consul General Song Xizhu and Cultural Counsellor Yang Xuelin of the People's Republic of China.



Participating in a variety of both physical and electronic challenges, young people enjoyed the "Teen Gamers Palace" held at Highlands and Sprucewood branches during the fall.

Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the year ended December 31, 2005 with comparative figures for 2004

	2005	2004
Revenue		
Grants		
City of Edmonton	\$24,757,000	\$22,527,000
Province of Alberta	2,857,586	2,857,586
Annual Registration Fees	726,210	720,708
Fines and Charges	831,965	811,252
Other	283,073	254,008
Total Revenue	29,455,834	27,170,554
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	18,039,654	17,076,527
Books and Library Materials	5,000,000	4,571,000
Supplies	2,296,014	1,645,150
Maintenance of Properties	2,179,623	2,089,827
Property and Equipment Rentals	1,634,553	1,648,223
Total Expenses	29,149,844	27,030,727
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$305,990	\$139,827

Collections and Services

	2005	2004
Visits to Library	5,364,329	5,220,329
Items Borrowed		
Adult	5,884,292	5,449,358
Juvenile	3,075,869	2,886,665
Telephone Renewals	77,665	83,707
Total	9,037,826	8,419,730
In-House Collections Use	1,643,800	1,675,200
Public Internet Use	947,424	892,477
Questions Answered	1,811,075	1,774,298
Programs Presented	4,369	3,983
Program Attendance	150,177	138,745
Items Purchased	344,359	287,260
Magazine Subscriptions	1,120	1,120
Total Collection	1,926,066	1,561,972
Population of Edmonton*	712,391	666,104
Number of Libraries	16	16

* Municipal Census 2005