

C.E.O.'s Annual Report 2006

The North Bay Public Library continued to provide quality public library service to the citizens of North Bay. Our commitment to collection development, new and innovative services and enhancements to our access mode were all addressed in 2006.

The current Library Board entered its third and last year of its term. The Board members were Jan Perfect, Peter Handley, Ann Fudge, Richard Denis, Dave Wylie, Dianne Lafrance, Jeannine Ringuette, Alain Brandon and Sarah Campbell as City Council Representative. Jan Perfect was elected Chair at the January meeting. Alain Brandon resigned from the Board in June and was not replaced. The Board worked very diligently to improve service and fulfill the goals and objectives outlined in the mission statement.

A highlight of the year was the awarding of the Ontario Library Trustee of the Year for 2006 from the Ontario Library Association to Jan Perfect. This is the second time in six years that a North Bay Public Library Board member has been so honored. Gwen MacDougall received the award in 2000.

The Board was especially active in identifying current usage and developing a framework for future planning. During 2006 the library conducted 3 one month surveys of library usage broken down by department, time of day and age. This data was useful in providing a profile of the community's use of the library. A committee was struck to develop a strategic plan for the library. Due to resignation and the appointment of a new Board, planned surveying has been delayed to June 2007.

The library continues to strive to be on the forefront of innovation and development of technology to better service the community. In 2006 the Library received a SDF grant of \$20,000 from the Ministry of Culture. The project was to develop a virtual Children's library by using digital and SIM technology. The goal was to virtually recreate the Children's department and develop it as an educational tool for introducing the school age children of North Bay to the library. The North Bay library was also part of a \$40,000 SDF grant to develop a regional website and information portal. This will enable more efficient resources sharing. The libraries have worked very closely with the Blue Sky Economic Growth group in developing information technology and applying economic and business applications.

The strong partnership between the Library, the Corporate Service Division and the Information Technology Section at City Hall continues to enable the Library and the City to develop efficient and cost effective public information services. A special thank you to Michael Burke, Managing Director, Corporate Services and Scott Bradford, Head of IT Services.

All Library Departments were very active in 2006, continuing to upgrade and enhance their collections and services. Due to the closure of the Library in 2005 for asbestos

removal, all usage comparisons are based on 2004 figures. The total circulation of all materials in 2006 was 434,998, a decrease of 5.2% over 2004. This continues a slow decline in traditional benchmark measures. While it is noted that many libraries in the province not experiencing large growth are facing similar decline, the library is committed to stem the declines and renew our efforts. These declines are reflected in all traditional media sources, television, radio and newspapers as our community of users move to more online and individual sources. The goal of the library is to introduce more online resources, market them effectively and incorporate them into our benchmark measurement.

While acknowledging the current situation in regards to circulation, all the departments have been very proactive in developing new resources. The Adult department has a continuous program of collection review to ensure an up-to-date and attractive selection. In addition the department has greatly expanded its teen and graphic novel collection which has proven extremely popular. The Audio-Visual department has emphasized the development of the DVD, CD and audio book collection. Unfortunately the discontinuation of video cassettes and audio cassettes have resulted in significant declines overall. The Children's department has faced the greatest challenges. The decline of school age children in the city and the advancement of interactive technology into the schools and children's daily lives has had a dramatic effect on the department. The department has been extremely active in working with the school boards in their welcome to kindergarten program and early years. As noted the library is developing the virtual children's library project.

The French department has been active in developing its genealogy section and visiting the French schools to promote the library's activities. The Reference department has been moving on-line to enhance our collections. These initiatives will bear fruit in the coming years.

The Library had revenues of \$1,742,261 and net expenditures of \$1,734,856 carrying a surplus of \$7,675 over to 2007. The library has made efforts to increase its revenue sources. In 2006 the library established new Auditorium and Boardroom rental procedures, installed a vending machine in the Adult department and employed a collection agency to retrieve outstanding fines. The Library's continued financial achievements are a result of Ron Mimee, Treasurer for the Board and City Budget Manager.

While the Library had no capital budget for 2006 due to the asbestos removal, the library was able to install a drinking fountain with the generous support of MacIntosh-Redpath.

The Library experienced staffing changes in 2006. Ken Hernden, Head of Audio/Visual/Reference and Information Systems resigned to assume a position in Sault Ste. Marie. The Library was very fortunate to hire Rebecca Larocque in September. The Library, Board and Staff celebrated 15 years of service for Louise Anderson, Library Assistant in the Children's Department.

Attached are the reports from the Department Heads which I urge the readers of this report to read so that you can get a better indication of the efforts these departments put forth and the depth of the services offered.

The Library would not be the success it is without the efforts and commitments of Nora Elliott-Coutts, Judith Bouman, Rebecca Larocque, Robert Boisvert, Carrie James and our dedicated staff and volunteers.

My personal thanks to the Board for their support during the past year and the staff of the North Bay Public Library for their conscientious service to the public. The Library could not offer any of these services without a committed Library Board of Trustees, effective Department Heads and efficient staff, a supportive public and the financial support of the City of North Bay and the Ontario Government, Ministry of Culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Walker
C.E.O.