



ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Board Chair

In a year marked by many exciting events, the one that stands out in 2015 is our successful application for a Canada 150 grant towards the redesign of the Brantford Public Library's façade.

Thanks to CEO Kathryn Goodhue and senior staff for their excellent work pulling together this project proposal – improving the BPL façade has long been identified as an important need. Mayor Chris Friel and all city councilors – especially Larry Kings and Cheryl Antoski – deserve a big thank you for endorsing our proposal. And, ultimately, thank you to MP Phil McColeman and the federal government for recognizing the value and worth of the Brantford Public Library to the city by providing this generous and much appreciated award.

Successful and vibrant communities always have invested and supported public libraries. They understand that libraries are not only repositories of knowledge and resources for education, but they also can be drivers for economic development and incubators for innovation. Our civic leaders knew that 100 years ago when Brantford was an industrial leader with major companies such as Cockshutt Plow, a community with strong innovators such as Alexander Graham Bell and a place that nurtured noted writers, including Pauline Johnson, Sara Jeanette Duncan and Thomas B. Costain. Those leaders, notably Judge Alexander David Hardy, contacted Andrew Carnegie and successfully persuaded him to pay for that beautiful building which still faces Victoria Park.

Fast forward 100 years, and that library, now located on Colborne Street,

has continued to grow and evolve. Sure it continues to hold information about other Brantford greats and their accomplishments, including James Hillier and Wayne Gretzky. But now the library also is a space where people come together to create by using 3D printers and technology, to investigate by using databases and books and to collaborate by using all available spaces.

Nearly 400,000 people make the trek into downtown Brantford every year to use the library, taking advantage of dozens of programs regularly offered here. One example is the Read On program which provides tutoring in literacy and numeracy for children, aged seven to 12.

It is evident that the leaders in Brantford today also understand the importance of ensuring that community has a strong dynamic public library. With the financial boost from the Canada 150 grant, we will be able to redesign the library's front entrance to improve accessibility, increase visibility and provide more of a presence for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Security will be improved through

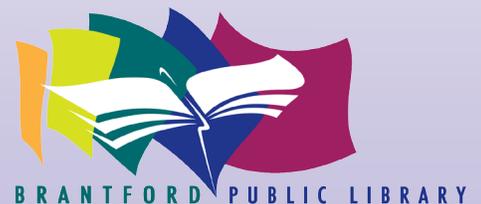
better sightlines. The book drop and sorting area will be moved and the walls bumped out to provide an open and inviting space. And, finally, the front desk will be redesigned in keeping with our goal to continually improve the customer experience.

And the timing is perfect. The Brantford Public Library will have a modern and rejuvenated look in keeping with other transformations in the downtown brought about through the presence of Laurier Brantford and construction of a new athletic complex for Laurier and the YMCA.



Caroline Freibauer

brantford.library.on.ca





2015

FAST FACTS

2015 LIBRARY BOARD

Caroline Freibauer, Chair
Marion McGeein (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Antoski
Nancy Church
Josie Heath
Councillor Larry Kings
Penny MacKenzie
Craig Mann
Bob Wyatt

411,548

in-person visits

831,360

items borrowed

678,809

virtual visits

14,145

attended programs

\$333,333

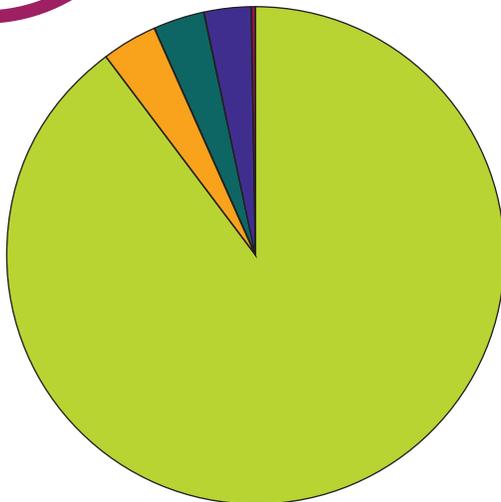
in funding announced through the Canada 150 program for a new façade at the Main Library to be completed in 2017.



2015

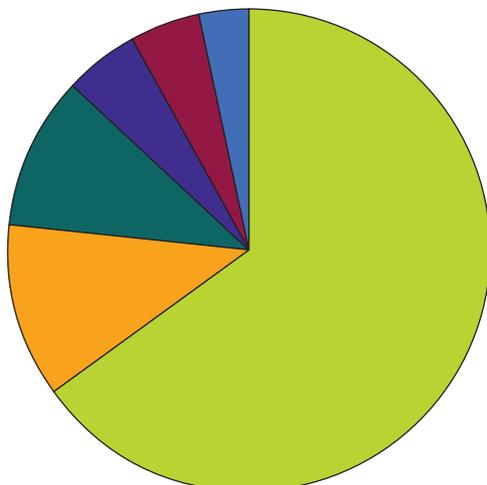
FINANCIALS

REVENUE



- City of Brantford - \$4,191,781
- Contracted Library Services - \$148,178
- General Revenue - \$140,111
- Government of Canada - \$12,499
- Province of Ontario - \$174,225

EXPENSES



- Building - \$220,037
- Capital and Transfers - \$469,375
- General Expenses - \$144,506
- Library Materials - \$543,099
- Other Operating Expenses - \$244,730
- Salaries and Benefits - \$3,045,047



MORE THAN 100

students visited the library to take part in a Geek Squad branded event.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS, SPONSORS, FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

In memory of Mary Alonzo
- Shirley and Gord Allan

In memory of Douglas Bond
- Carole and Roy Timm

In memory of Marilyn Game
- Shirley and Gord Allan

In memory of Doug Game (eBooks)
- Shirley and Gord Allan

In memory of Marilyn Jones
- Shirley and Gord Allan

In memory of Marion Mackenzie
- Shirley and Gord Allan

In memory of Ernie Varga (Cancer Research)
- Shirley and Gord Allan

Children's Programming
- Jessica Irving

Genealogy
- Mary Rusbridge

Summer Reading
- Al's Shoes Factory Outlet
- City of Brantford Parks and Recreation
- Dairee Delite
- Mother's Pizza
- Sanderson Centre
- SC Johnson
- TD Canada Trust
- Wacky Wings
- Westfield Heritage Centre

Talking Books
- Richard Ward