Waverley Resource Library
285 Red River Rd., P7B 1A9
General Inquiries.............344-3585
Reference.....................684-6815
Circulation...................684-6814
Children’s.....................684-6816

Brodie Resource Library
216 S. Brodie St., P7E 1C2
General Inquiries.............623-0925
Reference.....................624-4200
Circulation...................624-4209
Children’s.....................624-4208

County Park Branch Library
County Fair Plaza, P7B 1K6
General Inquiries.............768-9151

Mary J.L. Black Library
151 W. Brock St., P7E 4H9
General Inquiries.............475-5906

Virtual Library 24/7 ..........www.tbpl.ca
Lost or Stolen Cards ......684-6801
Automated Renewals.......344-7138
E-mail ..........................commserv@tbpl.ca

Contact the Library
A Message from the Board Chair and Chief Librarian/CEO

When you look toward the future, what do you see? The Library asked this question a couple of years ago during community consultation sessions for our strategic plan. The Library’s vision, stated simply, is to enlighten, engage and enrich our citizens and our community. This vision continues to inspire and energize your Library Board and Staff.

This Report to the Community provides examples of how the library continued to work on its vision and mission during 2007. We are proud of our accomplishments which are contained in these pages under broad headings that match the directions in our strategic plan. They are:

Change
Continuity
Youth & Seniors
Aboriginal Peoples
City Building
Partnerships

48 An original painting by artist John Ferris was installed at the Brodie Library to celebrate Aboriginal culture and heritage. Part of the painting can be seen here. Visit the Brodie Library Reading Room to view it.

49 The Library continued to collect and promote works by Aboriginal authors and artists.

50 The Library celebrated First Nations heritage with a presentation by the Spirit Wind Singers.
A connection was established with a number of local Aboriginal groups, including regular presentations at the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre.

The Library has also been working diligently on a facilities renewal program and presented a business case to the City in November 2007. We will continue to work with the City to incorporate our renewal plan into the long-range capital budget. Rest assured - your Library Board will continue to operate four libraries and has resolved to renew each of them, beginning with Mary J.L. Black. Stay tuned for developments.

Finally, please accept our thanks for making 2007 another successful year and for continuing to value and support your library.

George Saarinen
Board Chair

Gina La Force
Chief Librarian/CEO
Library Board and Staff

Library Board
George Saarinen
Chair
Margaret MacLean
Vice Chair
Charles Campbell
Mary Catherine Chambers
Ginny Czaczkowski
Barb D’Silva
Councillor Larry Hebert
Vince Riccio
Terrence Yahn
Gina La Force
Secretary/Treasurer

Management & Department Heads
Gina La Force
Chief Librarian/CEO
Joanna Aegard
Head of Virtual Library Services
Cherri Braye
Accounting Supervisor
Stephen Hurrell
Head of Automated Support Services
Dennis Jarva
Head of Maintenance
Larry Joseph
Head of Technical Services
Angela Meady
Head of Children’s & Youth Services
Barbara Philp
Head of Adult Services
Sylvia Renaud
Head of Reference Services
Tina Tucker
Director of Community Development

Library staff conducted a workshop to assist students with resume writing and attending interviews.

The Youth Advisory Council created a promotional video tour of the Library. It can be seen on the Library’s Web site and on YouTube.

Two surveys were conducted to ask teens their opinions about library services and to determine the needs of users of the Web site.
“I’ve been meaning to write this for a couple of years now. I just wanted to let you know what a stellar service I think you provide to our community. I’ve always accessed the library’s resources for my own purposes, but I am especially impressed with the services you provide for children. The children’s section is a bright, friendly space with not only a wonderful selection of books, but puzzles, toys, computer stations, and wonderful staff. I also love your online services. It makes life for a busy mother of a young child so much easier. Thank you! I have been to libraries in a couple of other cities and their children’s services do not compare. Great job!”

1. eAudiobooks were made available for Library users to download from the Web site.

2. Thunder Bay Public Library was re-accredited for five years by the Ontario Public Guidelines Program. To achieve accreditation, libraries must meet or exceed over 100 guidelines dealing with policy, planning, resources and services.

3. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries published *Telling Our Stories* in 2007. This is a booklet of inspiring and poignant tales of how libraries impact lives. One of the runners-up in the contest, Tanya Elchuk, chose Thunder Bay Public Library to receive a cash prize in her honour.

4. A number of new electronic resources, including Encyclopedia Universalis, Ancestry Library Edition and the Small Engine Repair Reference Centre were added to www.tbpl.ca.
New books written in French, Spanish, German, Finnish, Italian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Polish were added to the Library.

Immigrants and new Canadians met at Waverley Library to practise English reading and conversation in an ESL (English as a Second Language) Circle.

Wireless (WiFi) access was established at all library locations.

118 classes visited for a tour of the Library. Many of the schools travelled to the Library on Thunder Bay Transit buses at no charge.

The Library launched a funky new ‘kids’ card featuring the Library’s mascot, Zoose.

185 children in grades one, two and three were matched with reading partners at Mary J.L. Black, Brodie and Waverley and benefited from one-on-one reading assistance in the Readers are Leaders program.
Sponsors and Supporters

8 A satellite collection of video tapes and audio books was located at the 55+ Centre.

9 Internet classes designed specifically for seniors were held during June to celebrate Seniors’ Month.

10 The Youth Advisory Council began visiting Versa Care to participate in inter-generational readings, crafts and fun events like a murder mystery night.

11 A new page was created on the Library Web site to encourage grandparents to visit and use the library together with their grandchildren.
Numbers Help Tell A Story

918 .............. Number of programs offered to the community
21,507 ........ Number of people who participated in programs
83,750 ........ Number of questions reference staff answered for you
213,450 ........ Number of times library computers were used
282,500 ........ Number of items used in the library in the last year
381,350 ........ Number of visits made to your virtual library
506,150 ........ Number of times library members used online databases
541,150 ........ Number of visits made in person to your library
902,915 ........ Number of items borrowed by library members
2,720,320 .... Number of times you used your library in 2006
2,932,772 .... Number of times you used your library in 2007

36 440 children learned all about “Lost Worlds” while participating in the nationwide TD Summer Reading Club.

37 Staff visited local high schools to demonstrate electronic resources to help students with their research and homework.

38 Library staff welcomed students and provided them with library information and cards during orientation week at Confederation College and Lakehead University.

39 Children’s staff wrote new shows and created new puppets and props to add to their popular repertoire of puppet shows.
Sponsors and Supporters

12 The Library participated on the Children’s Charter Committee which produced a report on children’s literacy in our community.

13 Directional signs were installed on city streets to point the way to Library locations.

14 The Library added new books and other items about urban planning, green cities and economic development to support the City’s Clean, Green and Beautiful initiative.

15 The Library participated in the International Literacy Day Celebration which was organized in partnership with Literacy Northwest.
Friends contributed $29,768.80 to buy many new books and other materials as well as 55 copies of MS Word for public computers. A DVD/CD viewing and listening station and other items were also purchased by the Friends to spruce up our libraries.

Digital talking book readers allowed our home service clients to use this technology for the first time. These readers were generously purchased by the Friends of the Library.

Friends delivered items to 98 home bound Library members on a monthly basis.

Main Funders
The Thunder Bay Public Library would like to thank our key funders and supporters for their continued investment in public library services for the community:

• City of Thunder Bay
• Province of Ontario
• City of Thunder Bay Taxpayers
• All Library Members
• Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library
• Library Donors and Sponsors
• Library Volunteers

Memorial Donations
The Thunder Bay Public Library accepts memorial donations to honour friends and loved ones. In 2007, the Library received donations in memory of:

Elma Anderson
Janet Bartley
Catherine Cameron
Mildred L. Climie
Kay & Les Corbett
Doris Delyea
Ethan DeGiacomo
Shirley Franchi
Brenda Golden
Douglas Harper
Mavis Hocevar
Margaret Ann Joblin
Athol D. Kemp
Sophia MacDonald
Mrs. Mary Marks
Birgit Mercier
Patricia Morgan
Sinnik Saakkuinen
Lois S. Proctor
Maria Dos Anjos Raposo
Lisa Richardson
Lynda Scarnati
Archie Semenick
Elizabeth Jean Thomas
Catherine R. Thompson
Florence Travolo
Gail Willson

Memorial Donations
Nadine Ellement, President, Friends of the Library

Friends

Nadine Ellement, President, Friends of the Library
Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting and supporting public library service in Thunder Bay. Their activities are managed by a small, but mighty group of Executive Members. The 2007 Executive included:

Nadine Ellement, President
Roberta Welbourne, Vice President
Delina Hay, Secretary/Treasurer
Anne Harper, Director
Robert Morrison, Director

The Friends raise funds each year in a variety of ways, including: operating a used bookstore at Victoriaville Mall; conducting monthly bingos as a member of Thunder Bay Community Bingo; raffles; special book sales; silent auctions and Definition Quest for Literacy.

The Friends have also committed to help the Library raise funds for future building projects, starting with the renewal of the Mary J.L. Black Library.

Library staff assembled an online voter information centre to provide information about the provincial election.

The Library Web site featured 75 community events and City reports including the pre-budget consultation documents and Mr. Green’s Guide: Reuse It! Recycle It! Reduce Waste.

In keeping with the City’s goal of a Clean, Green and Beautiful City, the Library hosted Eco-Superior’s global warming film and discussion series.

Delina Hay, Volunteer of the Year
Your Tax Dollars at Work

2007 Revenues
City of Thunder Bay .......... 4,704,700
Province of Ontario .......... 235,097
Fees / Charges ................. 120,176
Other .............................. 95,327
Total ........................... 5,155,300

2007 Expenditures
Salaries / Benefits .......... 3,829,124
Library Services .............. 171,353
Library Collections ............ 476,743
Buildings and Equipment ...... 378,571
Administrative ................ 215,671
Total ........................... 5,071,462

Carried forward
deficit from 2006 ............... (17,827)

Surplus 2007 .................... 66,011

Definition Quest

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Grand Champions  St. Joseph’s Care Group “The Freudian Slips” Suzanne Allain, Darryl Vance, Holly Haggarty (pictured l to r)

Best Costumes  Thunder Bay Public Library “Bookish Beach Bums”


Supportive Sponsors  The Chronicle-Journal, Newcap Radio, Good Design by Jess Vamplew, Maverick Entertainment Group

Omnipotent Judges  Mayor Lynn Peterson, Police Chief Bob Herman, Library CEO Gina La Force

Amazing Quizmasters  Lila Cano, Ken James, Janis Swanson

Definition Quest 2007 raised $9,000 in support of literacy materials and programs at the Library and in our community.
Our Web site now highlights 24 partnerships we have with community organizations, including the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Sleeping Giant Writers Festival, Northwestern Ontario Writers’ Workshop and Eco-Superior Environmental Programs.

Eco-Superior Environmental Programs donated electronic energy meters to the Library. The meters may be borrowed by library users and are quite popular.

Satellite collections of donated books at Shelter House and the Salvation Army helped to extend the Library’s reach.

One hour Internet service was established to shorten wait times and to increase availability of computers with Internet access in the Library.

Facebook and MSN were used to ensure the Library takes advantage of new ways to communicate with users.

Classical music lovers were offered a new online music library called Naxos which has over 75,000 tracks available for downloading.

After a national search, a new Chief Librarian/CEO, Gina La Force, was hired to work with the Board and Staff to continue to deliver top-notch Library service to our community.
“Unfortunately, owing to my husband’s terminal illness, we decided to move to Montreal in order to be nearer to family. We both greatly miss Thunder Bay, and have left a part of our hearts behind. I especially miss the library and all the fine professionals who work there. I think the TBPL does an exceptional job, and hope you get all the support necessary to continue to provide these great services, particularly what you do for the children with your many programs, including “Readers are Leaders”. You have people of vision, for you have risen to meet the opportunities of the new technologies admirably. Thanks for nearly 19 years of wonderful service.”

“Every time I go to the Library I leave there asking myself “why can’t other services be run this way?” The staff is always helpful, courteous, knowledgeable, friendly and eager to assist me. I feel they go above and beyond expectations. I am highly grateful for their assistance and I am proud to say that I’m a library cardholder.”

27 Small business resource links were added to the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Web site to highlight information available at the Library to assist business.

28 The Slow Food Network presented programs that highlighted the benefits of locally grown food.

29 Expert Reference Staff at Brodie and Waverley Resource Libraries helped people to access government services via the Service Ontario Web site.
The Library would like to thank the donors listed here for their generous gift of $150+ in 2007. We are also grateful to 361 additional donors who contributed between $10 and $149 each last year, for a grand total of $35,278. Your donations helped to put over one thousand additional titles into the hands of children, young people and adults in our community. Thank you for your tremendous support!

Gold Plus Partners ($150+)
Violet M. Aber
Bruce & Linda Adamson
Birubi Biman, Harshad Telang & Family
Maurice & Jackie Black
In memory of Patricia Anne Morgan
Paul Brucha
Buhler Mechanical Service
Ethel & Charles Calabakas
Joan Cameron
Charles & Sharon Campbell
Roy Carrier & Family
Guy & Joan Coutanche
Glenn, Laura & Sinclair Craig
Dolores Dickey
Mary Louise Doig
Andrew Dzubiinski
Mary Evans
Wayne Fletcher
Granberg Family
Allan Harris
Maurice & Beryl Harris
Secret Garden Perennials
Marlene Hurrell
Eleanor & Bob Huston
Shirley A. Hyslop
Mary A. Imperius
Rose Kendall
Erik S. Knutsen
Gina La Force
Connie H. Lake
Jennifer Lehto & Stefan
Margaret MacLean
John & Janeen Mann
Susan & Larry Marrier
Dr. M.J. McCormick
Marlene McRobb
Pat & Bruce Melville
Brenda Miller
Dr. R.H. Mitchell & Valerie Dennison
Nina V. Morash
Patrick Morash & Janine Chiasson
Shirley & M.O. Nelson
Dan Newton
Jack & Anne Oliphant
Billy & Ruth Otto
In memory of Lois S. Proctor
Angelo Perozzo in memory of Ilca Perozzo
Nancy & Graham Post
Dan Preley
Lynn & Allen Quackenbush
R-II Realty Holdings 4P
J.M. Richardson
Anne Ross
Lisa Shaffer
Shaffer Jobbitt
In Memory of Murray David Shavik
Susan Sinclair
Patricia Vervoort
Catherine Walsh
Robert & Beth Workman
Terrence A. Yahn
Anonymous (8)

The Library Board re-affirmed their commitment to continue to operate four libraries in our city. The Chief Librarian prepared a business case for renewing library locations and this case was presented to the City in November. Once City funding has been confirmed, the Library will begin renewing branches starting with Mary J.L. Black.

A new air handling unit was installed at Brodie Library to increase comfort.

Online tutorials were created to make it easier to use online databases and our Web site.

The lower level of the Waverley Library was re-carpeted and collections were re-organized to improve access.
“The library has always been sacred for me - a sanctuary, a reservoir, a think tank. As a child, the sheer number of books at the public library thrilled me. All those words, ideas, characters.”
Paula Todd

“Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this.”
Toni Morrison

“The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, and all the sweet serenity of books.”
Henry Wordsworth Longfellow

“Libraries are not made; they grow.”
Augustine Birrell

“Books are a comfort in times of sorrow and a rich delight in times of joy. Like old friends, they have the power to soothe and inspire, to heal and transform, to bring fresh insight, imagination and wisdom into our lives. A building full of books; a billion worlds at your fingertips; what a treasure to behold!”
Tanya Elchuk

Mission
The Thunder Bay Public Library strengthens our community by engaging people in the pursuit of local and global information and knowledge, and promoting literacy, lifelong learning and leisure.