



**Richmond**  
Public Library

## **RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY** **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2006**



### **Message from the Library Board Chair Leslie Wilson**

2006 was a remarkable year. The major renovations to the Brighthouse Branch of Richmond Public Library (RPL) were completed in April and the community now has fantastic displays of popular and best selling books; a brand new TD Canada Trust Language Learning Centre; dozens more study carrels; a new Computer Centre; comfortable reading lounges; silent and group study areas and seminar rooms; expanded program space; the Ben and Esther Dayson Reading Lounge; a self-serve DVD Dispenser and more self-checkout stations. As always, staff work tirelessly to provide customers with a positive and welcoming library experience.

With the introduction of the new Ralphy Library Card and Hamilton Library Services, RPL is busier than ever. Sincere thanks go to our special Friends of the Library (FOL) group, who are dedicated to supporting RPL through fundraising and volunteer efforts. The community, of course, knows them best for their popular book sales, and their partnership with us is invaluable. Thanks to the FOL's generous \$5,000 donation, Steveston Branch doubled the size of its kids' French book collection. Sincere thanks also go to our donors, partners and Library Board Trustees who are all central to the success of Richmond Public Library.

### **Quick Facts 2006**

- ▶ Over 1.8 million customer visits
- ▶ Over 13.67 million RPL Web site visits
- ▶ Over 4.21 million items borrowed
- ▶ 135,263 active library card users
- ▶ 455,892 items in the collection
- ▶ Over 88,200 new items added last year
- ▶ 129,233 questions answered
- ▶ 2,195 programs and 81,858 people attended

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **The Ralphy Library Card**

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ministry of Education, Public Library Services Branch, RPL carried out the BC OneCard province-wide library card initiative by creating a library card and awareness campaign. Introduced in fall 2006, **Rediscover Your Library: Go Anywhere, Learn Anything, Read Every Day®** is the first phase of the campaign and focuses on children. It features the unique round Ralphy Library Card designed by children's author/illustrator Trevor Lai. Over 1,600 kids and adults attended the Ralphy Card launch in March



2007. By the end of May, 3,553 people had registered for a Ralph Card! We believe it's the *world's first round library card*. Thanks go to the Richmond Sunrise Rotary Club and Vancity for sponsoring book prizes.



## Brighouse Branch Renovations

Thanks to Mayor Brodie and City Council for their strong support and valuable contribution of \$1,031,700 towards the library renovations, the Brighouse Branch had a total makeover. Renovations were complete in April 2006 and the new Brighouse Branch is extremely popular. Customers borrowed 33.5% more books, DVDs and other items than the previous year and borrowing at all RPL branches increased over 18%. Staff registered 16,863 new library card customers last year alone, and these huge increases were accomplished with no additional staffing. A Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Grant of \$1.738 million dollars also enabled us to make changes that impact the community in many positive ways.



## Hamilton Library Service

People living in the Hamilton area now have access to popular weekly RPL services in their neighbourhood, thanks to \$100,000 in funding from the City of Richmond.



Offering kids' programs, library card registration, book borrowing and returns and advice choosing books, the collection contains kids, teens and adult books. The first phase of the library service, offered from June 2007 until the end of August, takes place at the Hamilton Community Centre. Library services are carried out in partnership with the Hamilton Community Association and Richmond Family Place.

## S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Richmond Youth Campaign

Committed to promoting the benefits and importance of respecting library materials as well as the rights of all library users, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Richmond Youth partnered with RPL to launch "*My Library, Your Library, Everybody's Library*," a public education and awareness campaign. Their interactive program of activities for the community included a video, contests, displays, pamphlets, original comics and more. The S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Richmond Youth are remarkable role models for the community, and are totally committed to protecting the resources in our libraries so that everyone can fully enjoy them.



*My Library,  
Your Library,  
Everybody's  
Library.*



- ▶ Internet access for job hunters
- ▶ Blockbuster movies
- ▶ Music CDs
- ▶ Home Delivery for 69 customers.

## VIRTUAL LIBRARY SERVICES

- ▶ RPL joined in the new province-wide virtual reference service called AskAway, that uses online chat technology
- ▶ Technological improvements make it easier for customers to place holds on library items, receive email notices for holds, and view the library website in Chinese
- ▶ The number of public use computers at Brighthouse Branch increased from 74 to 92.

## PROGRAMS @ THE LIBRARY

Practical, recreational and life-skills programs enrich customers' lives, encourage early childhood reading and provide valuable information.

- ▶ Daily storytimes
- ▶ Reading Buddies Program
- ▶ New Immigrant Orientation Programs
- ▶ Diabetes Prevention Day
- ▶ Chinese New Year celebration
- ▶ Philosopher's Cafes
- ▶ Author readings
- ▶ ESL Reading Club
- ▶ New homework help program for kids at Ironwood Branch: "On Your Marks: School Report and Presentation Skills Made Easier"
- ▶ Monthly storytime for families at the Hamilton Community Centre, in partnership with Richmond Family Place
- ▶ Favourite Friends Storytime introduced at Cambie Branch
- ▶ Nearly 4,000 children enjoyed Summer Reading Club and improved their reading skills.

## LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ALL

Our job is to make learning easier for you, spark your imagination and stimulate your mind. We want you to feel connected to your community and have access to all kinds of information that will improve your life.

- ▶ Computer stations for preschoolers and school-age children
- ▶ Convenient browsing categories in Kids' Place help early childhood learners, parents and caregivers



## Thank You, Donors !

We want to thank our many generous donors who support the library's goal of empowering its citizens by providing free access to information for all. Knowing that libraries enhance the lives of those who use them, our donors' contributions have enabled us to improve and expand essential programs, collections and services.

### Cash and In-Kind Donations Received in 2006

\$50,000:	TD Canada Trust
\$20,000-\$25,000:	Mr. Kwok-Chu Lee
\$10,000-\$14,999:	Iready.ca Communications; Or Sai Kit
\$5,000-\$9,999:	The Ben & Esther Dayson Charitable Foundation; Vancouver International Airport Authority
\$2,500-\$4,999:	TD Bank Financial Group; Richmond E-Venti Marathon
\$1,000-\$2,499:	Canada Post Heritage Club Vancouver-Fraser Chapter No. 30;

CUPE 3966; Ben Dayson;  
Richmond Sunrise Rotary Club;  
Starbucks Coffee Company

**\$500-\$999:** Lyn Greenhill; Robin Percival-Smith;  
Richmond Lion's Club

**\$250-\$499:** Greg Buss; Canadian Federation  
of University Women – Richmond;  
Cate V. McNeely; Gregory Smith;  
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office

**Up to \$249:** Jane Anderson; Henry Beh; Anita Chan;  
Irene Chapman; Celia Cooper; Dulce Cuenca; Peggy Doi;  
Sheri Duguid; Brenda Floyd; Friends of the Richmond Public  
Library (in memory of Eleanor Henricksen); Vivian Garfinkel;  
Roberta Hawbolt; Diane Hirata; Irene Ho; Karma Book Club; Vit  
Laisanitselikul; Connie Lau; Jie Li; Loosey Gooseys Book Club;  
Lulu Belles Book Club; Patricia McAllister; Bill McNulty; Cyndi  
and Max Mintzberg; Doreen O'Hara; John Parker; Lynn Pugh;  
Si Yun Qin; Dorothy Rogerson; Marge Sakata; Noreen Timms;  
Leslie Wilson; Chun Yan You.

## RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY 2006 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Revenue:

City of Richmond contribution	\$ 6,310,400
Grants	583,921
Late charges and other revenue	538,754
Donations	190,078
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	7,623,153

### Expenditures:

Automation	88,652
Books and periodicals	1,290,304
Building, leases and maintenance	256,018
Utilities	243,436
Minor capital purchases	8,713
Resource sharing services	68,677
Salaries and employee benefits	4,780,624
Supplies and equipment services	545,898
General and administration	192,720
Contribution to City of Richmond for Brighthouse Library Renovations	121,133
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	7,596,175

Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	26,978
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Financial equity (deficiency), beginning of year	9,473
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Financial equity (deficiency), end of year	\$ 36,451
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The Richmond Public Library Board acknowledges the Public Library Services Branch, Ministry of Education; Human Resources Development Canada Labour Market Grant; and British Columbia Equity Grant, Ministry of Education for their generous support.

## 2006 RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Standing (L to R): Susan Leong, Ron McLeod, Dulce Cuenca, Henry Beh, Lyn Greenhill (Vice-Chair); Seated: Greg Smith, Arlene Yoshikawa, Leslie Wilson (Chair), Cllr. Bill McNulty

### BRIGHOUSE (MAIN) BRANCH

100-7700 Minoru Gate

Weekdays 9:00 am - 9:30 pm

Sat & Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Information 604-231-6413

Kids' Place 604-231-6412

Library Cards & Accounts 604-231-6404

### IRONWOOD BRANCH

Steveston Hwy & No. 5 Rd

Weekdays 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sat & Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Information 604-231-6468

Library Cards & Accounts 604-231-6471

### STEVESTON BRANCH

4111 Moncton Street

Weekdays 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Fri & Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sun 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Information 604-274-2012

### CAMBIE BRANCH

Cambie Rd & No. 5 Rd

Sat & Sun 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Mon 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Tue-Fri 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Information 604-273-ABCD (2223)