



History of the Library in Cobourg

FROM MECHANICS INSTITUTE – TO PUBLIC LIBRARY – TO COMMUNITY HUB

History of the Library in Cobourg

Cobourg has offered library service since the 1830's. Our library has evolved over the years, from a one-room Mechanic's Institute to the 2-storey public library we have today. We continue to change and to grow, and look forward to exciting challenges that the future will bring.



King Street



Chapel Street



Ontario Street

The Mechanic's Institute

- ▶ There is evidence to indicate the presence of a public-use library in Cobourg as early as the 1830's.
- ▶ Referred to as a Mechanics Institute, the early library was designed to provide educational opportunities for workmen and tradesmen through books and lectures.
- ▶ In 1886 – The Mechanics Institute and Reading Room had 128 subscribers from Cobourg and Hamilton Township.
- ▶ Members paid \$1 per year for use of the library six nights per week.
- ▶ The total budget was \$200 per year.

Cobourg in 1846

"The District Town of the Newcastle District, in the township of Hamilton; is pleasantly situated on a gently rising ground, on the bank of Lake Ontario, 103 miles from Kingston, and 72 miles from Toronto. The town is incorporated, and the corporation limits extend to the westward of the town."

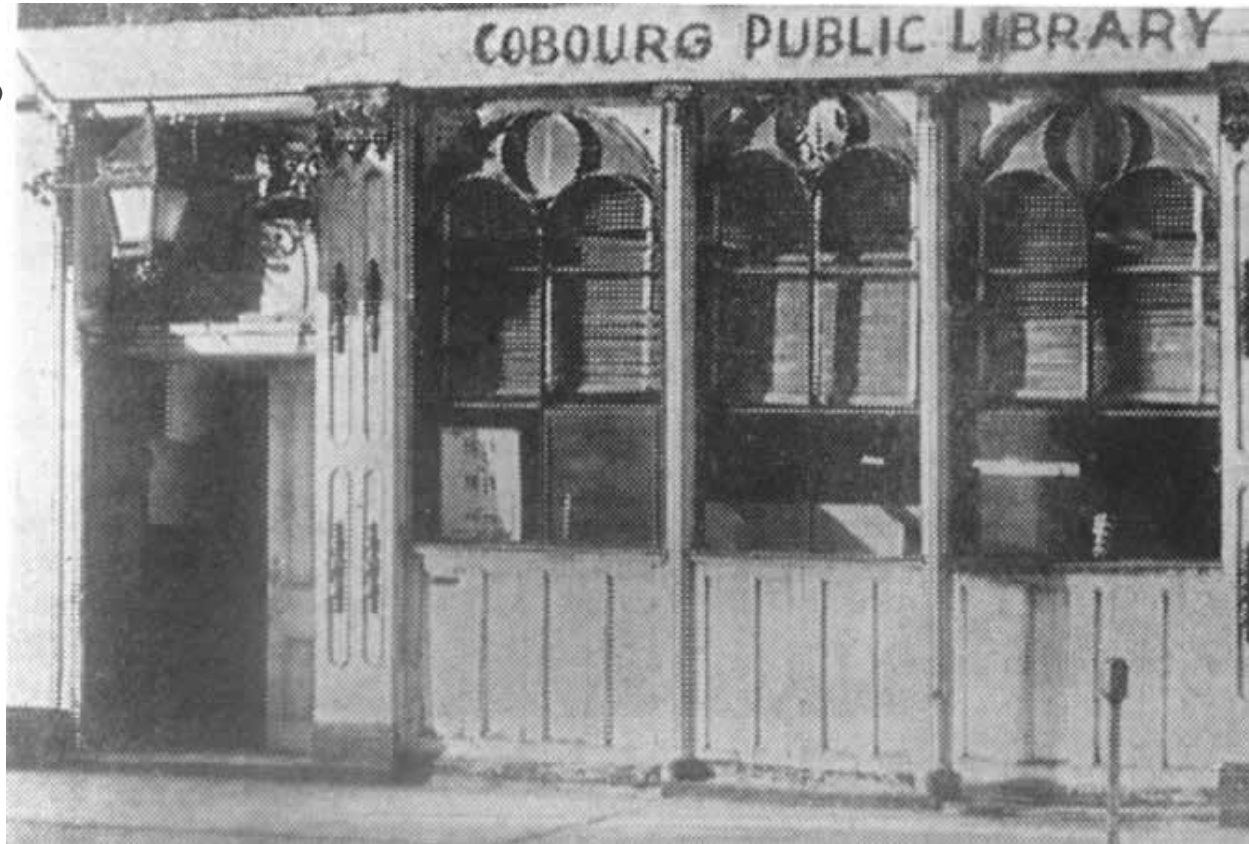
"Victoria College was founded by the Wesleyan Conference; the institution was chartered in 1835, as an Academy, and by Act of Parliament, in 1842, was constituted a College, with power to confer degrees."

"The merchants have established amongst themselves a "Board of Trade", for the purpose of regulating the commercial affairs of the place; they have a newsroom, where several papers are taken. There is also a Mechanics' Institute.

Post Office - post every day.
Population - 3,347
Professions and Trades - Six physicians and surgeons, seven lawyers, one steam grist-mill, two water do., two saw-mills, one cloth factory, one brewery, three distilleries, one ashery, one soap and candle factory, three tanneries, two foundries, twenty dry-good stores, ten groceries, two hardware stores, twelve taverns, two druggists, three printers, three booksellers, two surveyors, five waggon makers, one hatter, two livery stables, one veterinary

The Mechanic's Institute

- ▶ Early sources indicate that the library was located at the Town Hall, but in 1889 the Mechanics Institute rented space in the Y.M.C.A. building (86 King St. W) for an annual rent of \$40 per year.
- ▶ This location remained the library's home for the next 75 years.
- ▶ The Encyclopedia Britannica was purchased in 1891, and chess and checker games were added the following year.



Public Library in Cobourg

- ▶ In Cobourg the new term "**public library**" was first used in 1895 when the operation of the Mechanics Institute came under the Public Libraries Act.
- ▶ The library was funded largely by subscriptions from its members, with additional support from the Province and from the local municipal government.
- ▶ Board officials, elected by the membership, managed the Reading Room on a voluntary basis until 1899, when the first librarian's salary was offered.
- ▶ In December of that year, a chimney-fire resulted in a loss valued at \$585, the equivalent of an entire year's budget.

Public Library on King Street

- ▶ As the collection grew, handwritten lists of holdings became unmanageable. In 1902, the Board began to consider the possibility of obtaining a Carnegie grant for a new library building.
- ▶ The issue was still being discussed in 1911, but nothing ever came of it.
- ▶ In 1907 the library purchased its first 6-drawer card catalogue, and all items were catalogued using the Dewey Decimal Classification system.
- ▶ In 1908, the Librarian's salary went from \$75 to \$100 per year
- ▶ In 1914, the Town grant was \$100 ; by 1919, it was \$300, and remained at that level throughout the 1920's



Public Library on King Street

- ▶ In 1918, water damage from a plumbing catastrophe in the Domestic Science room above the library resulted in book damage and rendered the cards of the catalogue "unfit for use."
- ▶ By 1918, the library held 5,271 volumes, with an annual circulation of 16,923 books.
- ▶ By the late 1950's, Cobourg was one of only two towns left in the province still operating as a subscription or "association" library
- ▶ The tax levy was 20 cents per capita – the same since 1937. The library had 1 book per capita.
- ▶ The standard was \$1.00 per capita, and 3 books per capita.

Public Library on King Street

OVER 29,000 BOOKS CIRCULATED IN 1957

Cobourg Library Badly Needs A New Home

"This has been co-operation among the proper people — the Council, the Library Board and a service club."

No, this was not made in Cobourg. It was made in Ontario, at the Bowmanville Public Library a year ago. It took approximately a year to purchase, and a service club generously worked for six months to renovate and furnish the interior.

Here in Cobourg, it would be out of the question for a service club to offer such help to date; after over seven months of delay Cobourg Public Library is still attempting to function in a state of indecisive flux. At this time our library is one

of only TWO in towns this size in Ontario still operating under the association set-up.

to the doorway some days," says Miss Reynar.

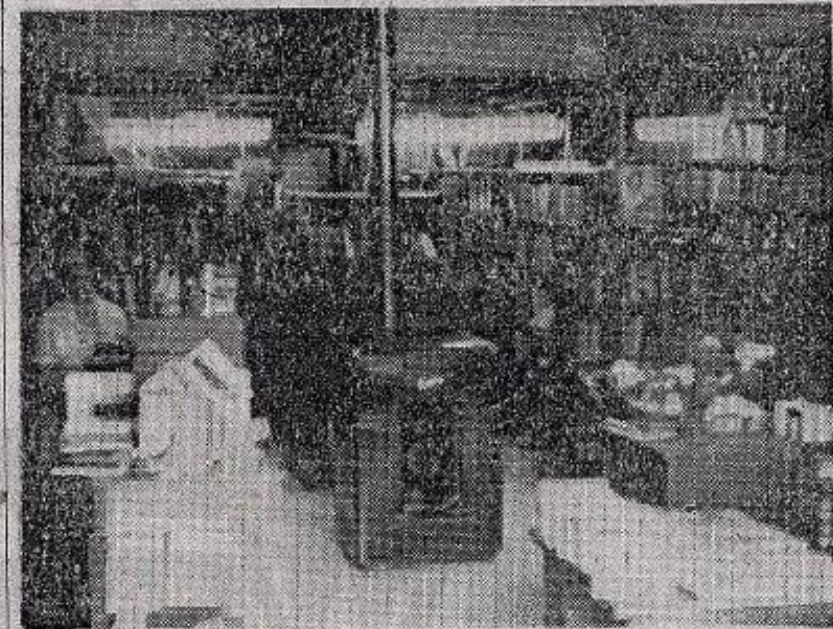
Asked how long the library has been located in the small room on King Street, the librarian replied, "It seems as if we've been here since the year One."

Library Services director Angus Mowat made an informal survey of the old building recently and came to the con-

clusion that if outer hall partitions were torn down, and the small area now used by the library was added, it would be possible to renovate the present premises at considerable cost. The premises would have been extended again within a few years. Special arrangements for a library, inadequate for the present, are now worse than ever. Members had been \$1 annually for adults, 50c for children. When the fiscal year ended this April 1, Council had taken no steps to appoint a new Library Board. The librarian hopefully extended members' cards for a 3-month period, charging a quarterly rate. This extension will expire again by the end of next month.

When trustees and a new

(Continued on page 2)



INTERIOR OF COBOURG LIBRARY

Public Library on King Street

- ▶ In June 1957, the Library Board petitioned to the Town Council to make the library a “free” library and, became a fully tax supported public library with a municipally appointed board in 1958.
- ▶ Judge H. R. Deyman was its first chairman, and the members were:
- ▶ Mayor Jack Burnet, Mrs. Jane Field, C. Gordon King, Mrs. Christine Gardiner, Mrs. Amelia Lawson, Mr. Grant Sine, Mrs. Lois Ann Verney and Mr. Alan J. McConvey.
- ▶ They held their first meeting October 1st, 1958.

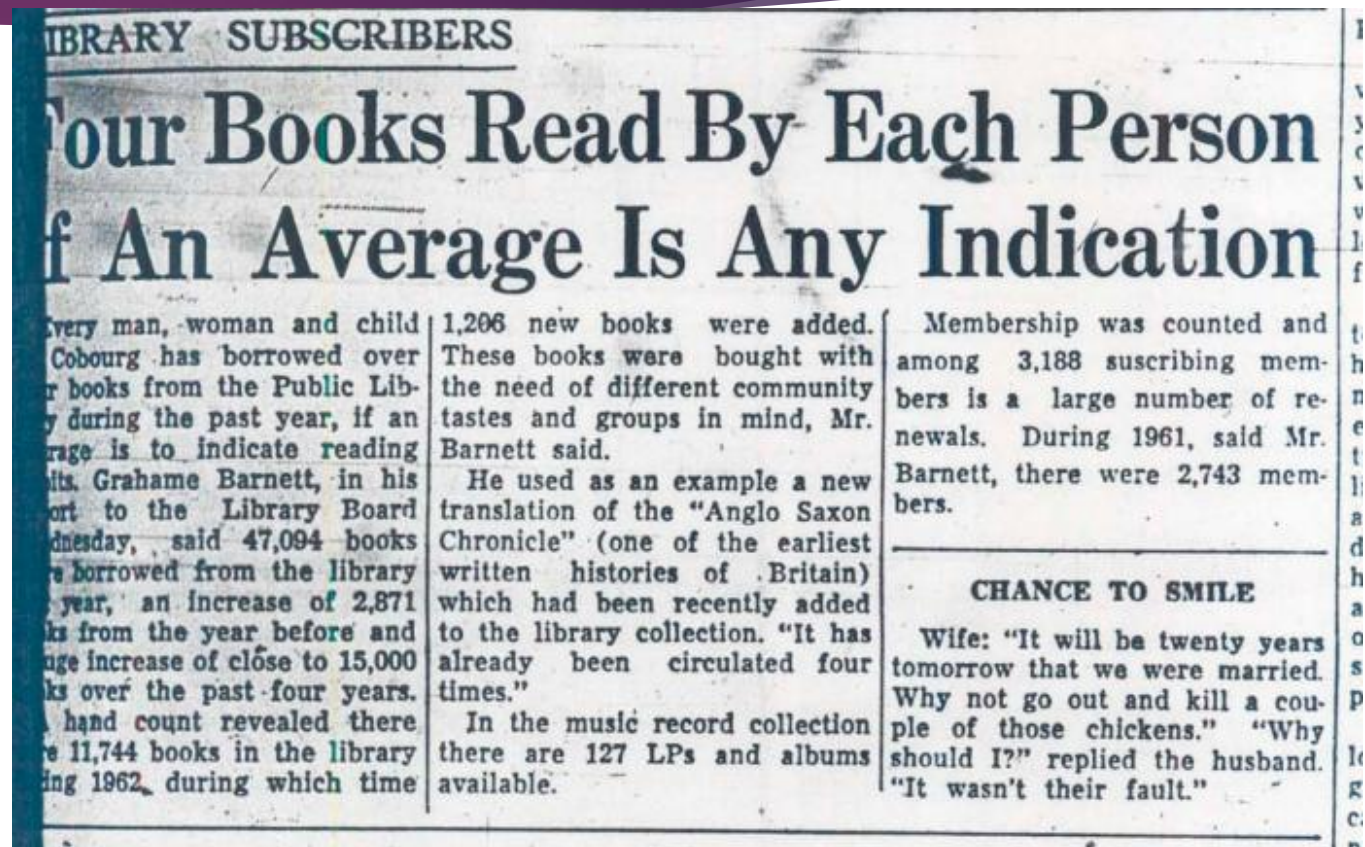
Public Library on King Street

- ▶ With the growth of the clientele, services were offered to all age groups.
- ▶ In April 1959, a separate room for the children's collection was established - the first facility equipped especially with children's needs in mind.
- ▶ Mrs. David Dick was in charge of the Children's Library.
- ▶ Mr. Grahame R. Barnett was appointed Chief Librarian in June 1959 – the Cobourg Library's first fully qualified professional librarian.
- ▶ He believed the Library should be a cultural centre – a place where people of all ages could gather and indulge their various tastes



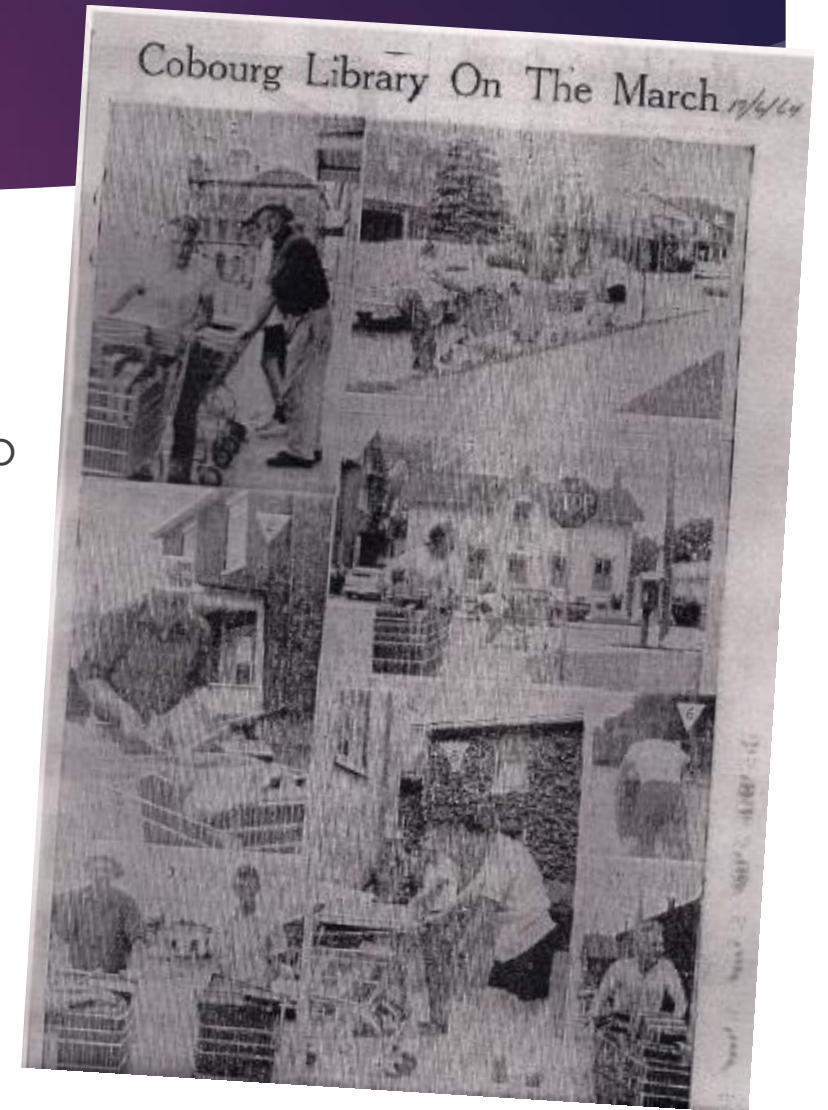
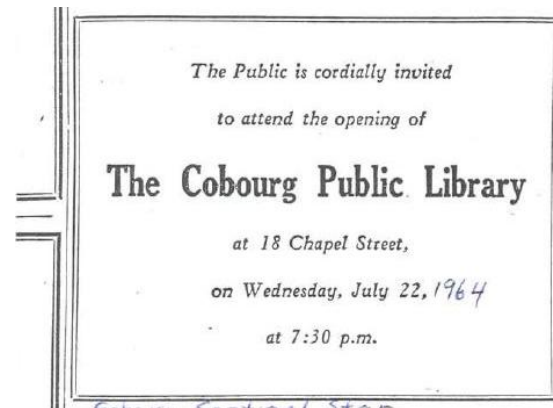
1963 article by Grahame R. Barnett

- ▶ Source: Cobourg Sentinel Star-Wed. Feb. 20, 1963
- ▶ “47,094 books were borrowed from the Library last year (1962), an increase of 2,871 books from the year before, and a huge increase of close to 15,000 books over the past four years.”
- ▶ “In the music record collection, there are 127 LPs and albums available.”



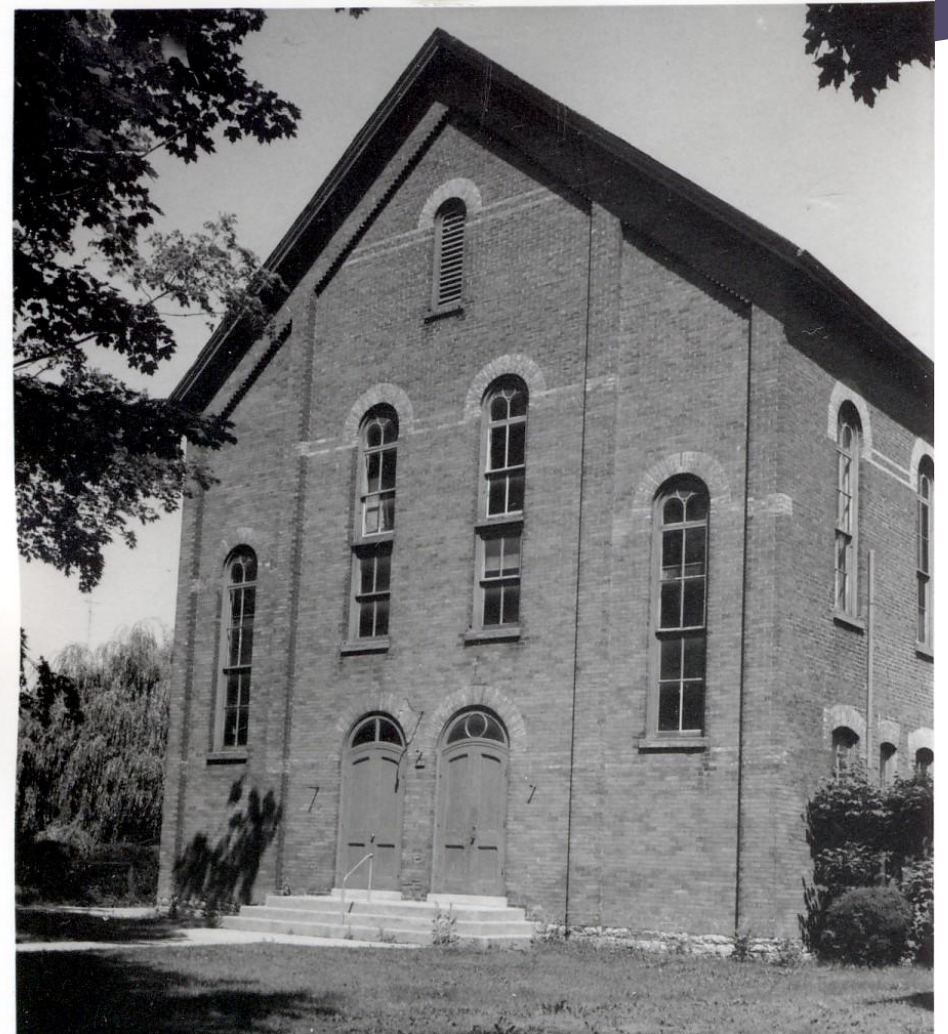
The move to Chapel Street

- ▶ Mr. Barnett pursued the vision of a new building – with adequate space and heat
- ▶ His dream was realized in 1964, when the Library moved to the former Trinity United Church Sunday School building.
- ▶ 14,000 books were wheeled by trolley and shopping carts from the Library on King Street to the new location



18 Chapel Street

- ▶ The brick Sunday School Hall of the Trinity United Church was built in 1881
- ▶ Previously, Sunday School had been held in a schoolhouse immediately south of the present church and later in the church basement.



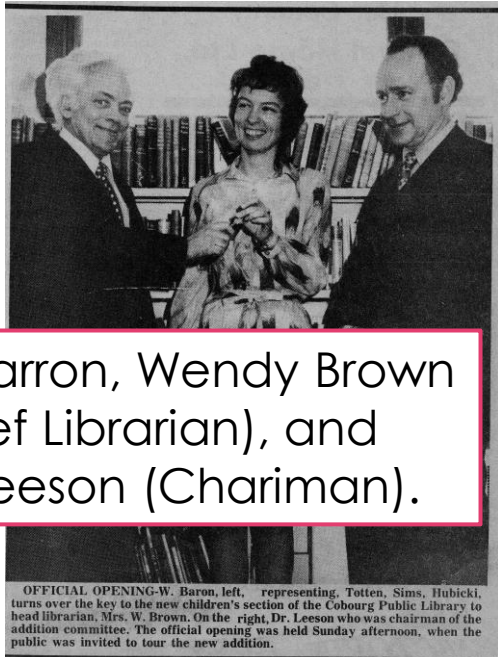
Cobourg Library History

- ▶ In **1968**, an official Inter-Library Loan policy was adopted.
- ▶ Provincial incentives encouraged the library board, under the leadership of its Chairman, Dr. Jack Leeson, to negotiate a contract for service with the Township of Hamilton.
- ▶ The independently operated **Gore's Landing library** was brought into the system in **1973**
- ▶ This building is still the site of the Gore's Landing branch library



New Children's Room added

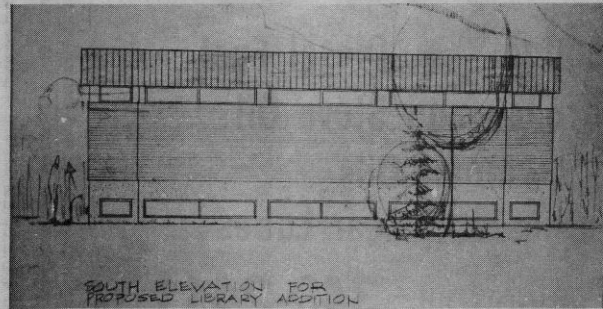
- ▶ A children's room was added to the library building in 1974.
- ▶ The seventies were years of growth, as membership and the circulation of library materials climbed steadily.



W. Barron, Wendy Brown (Chief Librarian), and Dr. Leeson (Chairman).

OFFICIAL OPENING-W. Barron, left, representing Totten, Sims, Hubicki, turns over the key to the new children's section of the Cobourg Public Library to head librarian, Mrs. W. Brown. On the right, Dr. Leeson who was chairman of the addition committee. The official opening was held Sunday afternoon, when the public was invited to tour the new addition.

Here's new Cobourg Library



Will face Chapel St.

Preliminary drawings for the proposed \$30,000 addition to the library have been completed by architect Grant Robertson of Totten, Simms and Hubicki Associates.

The new library addition will extend from the front of the library on Chapel

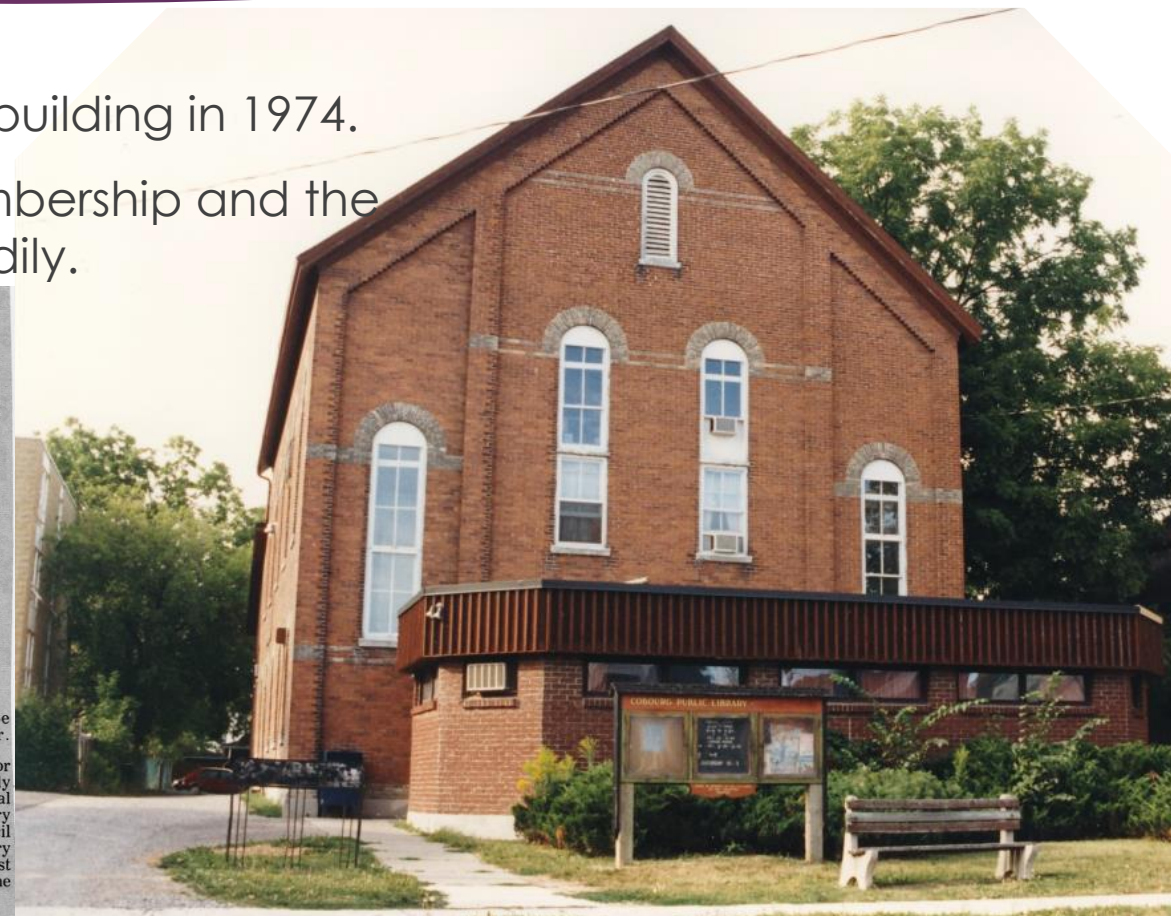
St., and house a new junior library with story-room and unfinished basement for further expansion. "We've had two meetings with the architect," said chief librarian Frances Marsh, "and he's come up with a basic shape and size."

It was originally hoped

the addition could be started this year.

However, final plans for the addition are not likely to be ready for formal presentation to the library board and town council until later on. The library board meets for the last time in June before the summer recess.

Sentinel Star May 17/72.



Chapel Street – Chief Librarians

- ▶ 1947 to 1959 – Miss Josephine Reynar
- ▶ 1959 to 1965 – Mr. Grahame Barnett
- ▶ 1965 to 1965 – Mr. A. A. Hrycuk
- ▶ 1966 to 1968 – Mrs. Barbara Dick (acting)
- ▶ 1968 to 1969 – Mr. Grahame Barnett
- ▶ 1969 to 1972 – Mrs. Francis Marsh
- ▶ 1972 to 1976 – Miss Wendy Binns (later Brown)
- ▶ 1976 to 1977 - Miss Judy Ettinger
- ▶ 1977 to 1999 – Miss Valerie Scott



Grahame Barnett

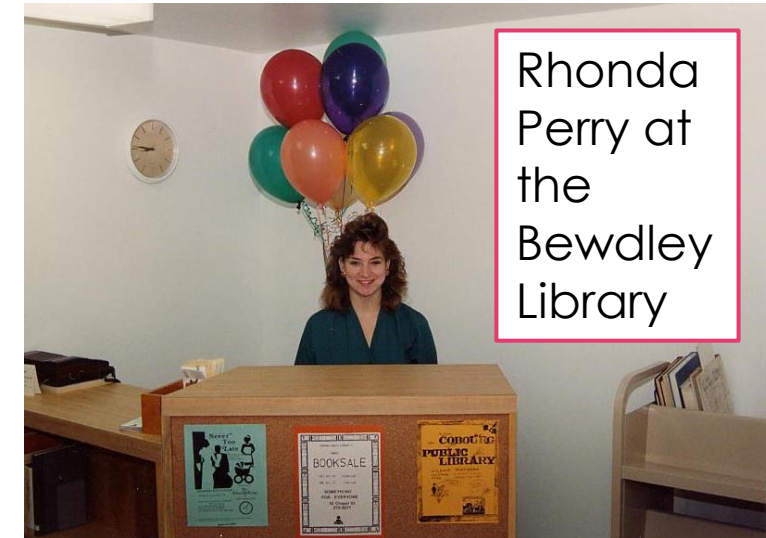
Miss Josephine Reynar



Mrs. Barbara Dick

Cobourg Library History – 1980's

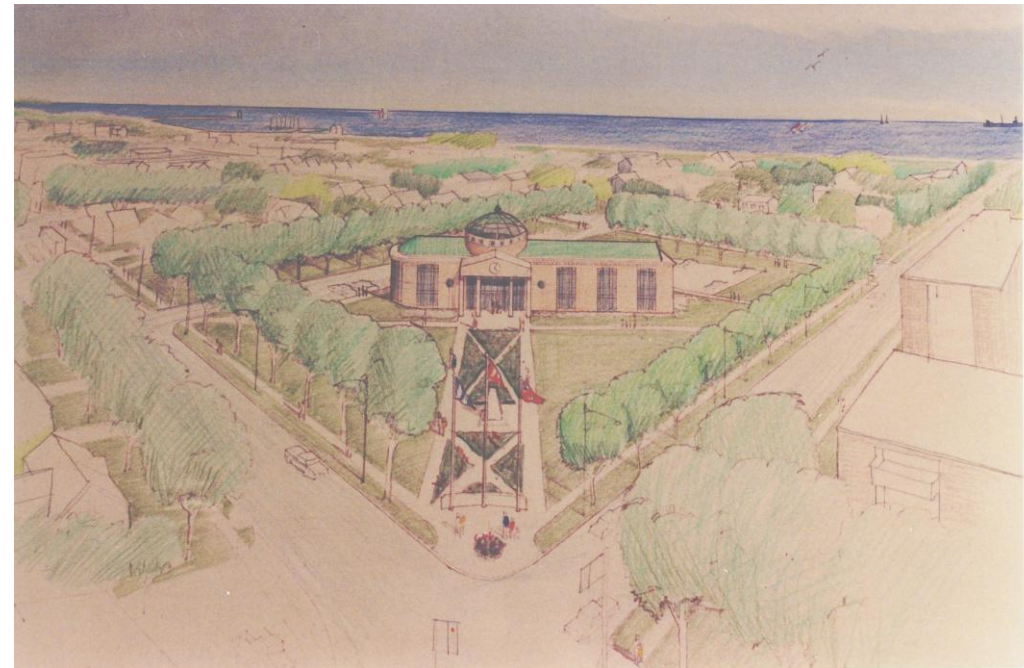
- ▶ In the **1980's**, a library branch was established in **Bewdley**.
- ▶ Outreach services were extended to local homes for the aged
- ▶ Large print and talking book collections were first acquired.
- ▶ Newspapers and documents relating to local history were microfilmed and indexed for easy access
- ▶ A government document collection was assembled.
- ▶ The library began to automate its catalogue of holdings, making the sharing of materials between libraries and the management of a 47,000 volume book collection more efficient.



Rhonda Perry at the Bewdley Library

Formation of the Foundation

- ▶ As the use of the Library increased, along with the population of the Town – it became obvious that a newer, larger building was required to meet the growing needs of the community
- ▶ In 1985 the Library Board, with the support of the Cobourg Rotary, created a Joint Feasibility Study Committee.
- ▶ Architect Philip Carter had submitted his recommendation for a new building to the “Cultural Centre Committee” as the building was originally planned to include the Cobourg Public Library, the Cobourg Historical Society and the Northumberland Art Gallery.
- ▶ The art gallery was later dropped from the plan.



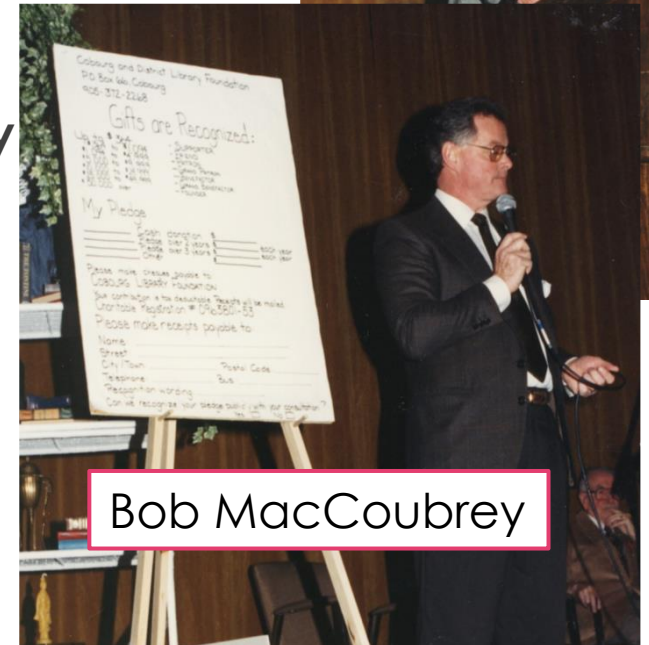
Cobourg & District Library Foundation

- ▶ In 1986, a campaign began to raise money for a new building
- ▶ The campaign intensified in 1991 when the town council stipulated that the Cobourg Public Library Board must provide the amount of \$500,000 towards the funding, the remainder being provided by the province and town.
- ▶ This inspired the formation of the **Cobourg and District Library Foundation**.
- ▶ Under the leadership of its Chairman, Jeff Rolph, and Vice Chairman, Bob MacCoubrey, the newly formed foundation more than rose to the challenge.

Jeff Rolph



Bob MacCoubrey



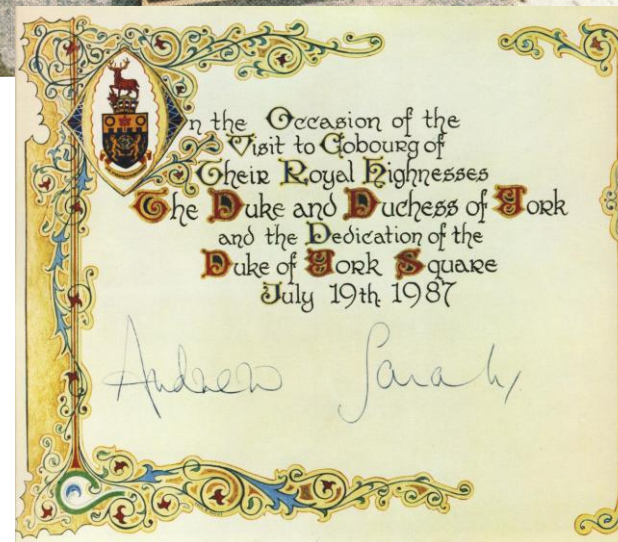
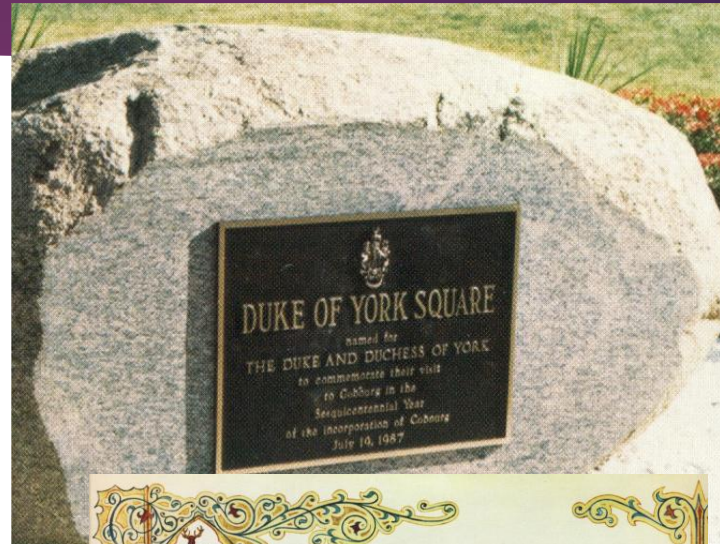
Cobourg & District Library Foundation

- ▶ Community response was overwhelmingly positive.
- ▶ The Foundation's fundraising efforts were so successful, that they not only reached their goal – they surpassed it!
- ▶ Several sites were considered – including the former Loblaw's site on Albert Street and the trailer park



New Library site chosen

- ▶ Then, in 1993 the decision was made to use Duke of York Square, so named after the 1987 visit of the Duke and Duchess of York.
- ▶ In previous years, this site had been the location of the CDCI West school playfield, and a baseball field named Five Corners.



The C. Gordon King Centre

- ▶ In 1993, Town Council announced the naming of the future new facility in honour of Col. C. Gordon King.
- ▶ The same year, the architectural firm of Moffat Kinoshita was selected to design the new building.
- ▶ In April 1994, the official ground-breaking ceremony at the Duke of York Square took place.
- ▶ Those in attendance included: Peter Delanty, Tony Farren, Mayor Angus Read, Col. C. Gordon King and chief librarian Valerie Scott.

PAGE 18 NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS - Wednesday, April 20, 1994



Cobourg library makes history

The first sod was formally turned at the site of the new Cobourg library at Duke of York Square. Doing the honors were chairman of the library building committee Gil Brocanier, representing Cairn Construction Paul Szczucinski, building committee member Peter Delanty, Cobourg

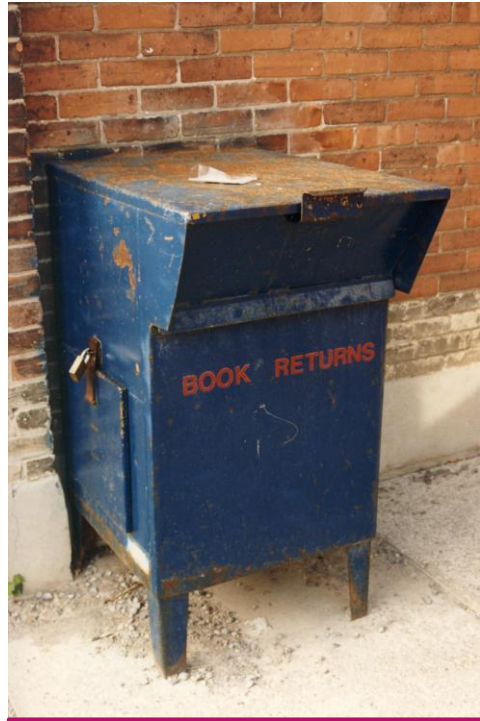
Councillor Tony Farren, Cobourg Mayor Angus Read, fundraising chairman Jeff Rolph, architect Gene Kinoshita, library namesake Col. C. Gordon King, architect Gord Robinson, library board chairman Bill McDonald and chief librarian Valerie Scott.

18 Chapel Street

- ▶ Although the Chapel Street location was indeed a giant step up from the King Street location, the building did have its limitations
- ▶ Initially, the 2nd floor, which was a great open space with high ceilings – accessed by climbing a set of wide curved staircases – housed the Art Gallery.
- ▶ After the Art Gallery moved, this space was used for many children's programs, and the annual book sale.
- ▶ Eventually, the floor was deemed too weak to support these functions, and became storage – with boxes around the edge of the room.



18 Chapel Street



Outdoor Book Return

Display Case – just inside main entrance



Hallway to the Adult Library

18 Chapel Street – Adult Main Room

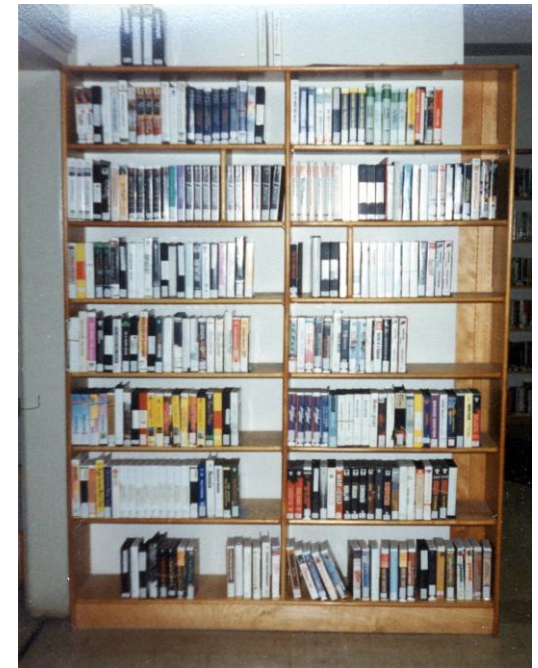
Selection of
Children's Materials



Circulation Desk for
the Adult Library

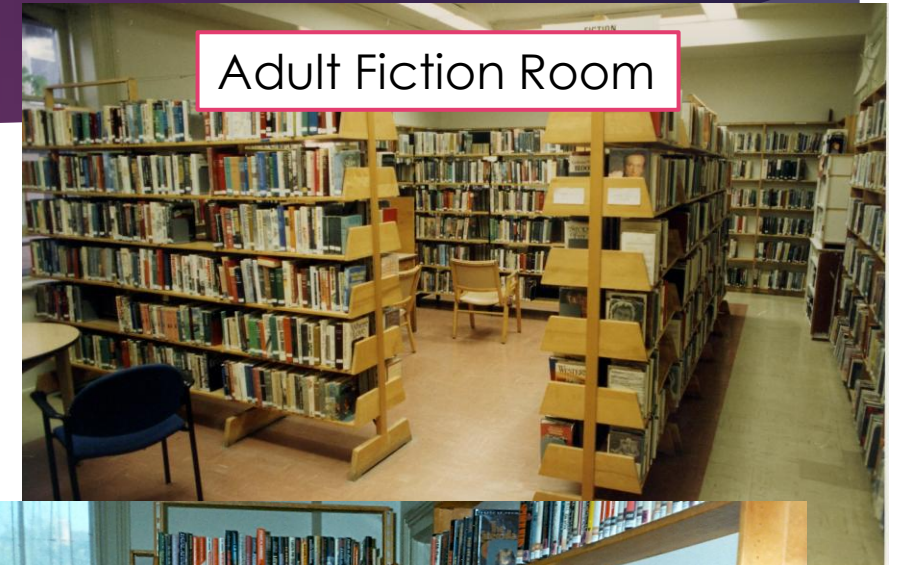
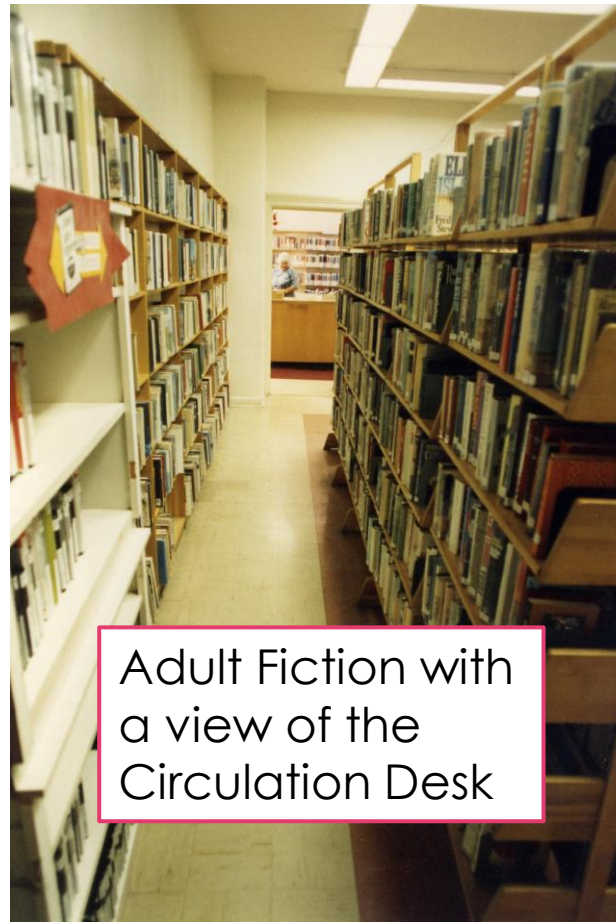


Adult Video
Collection



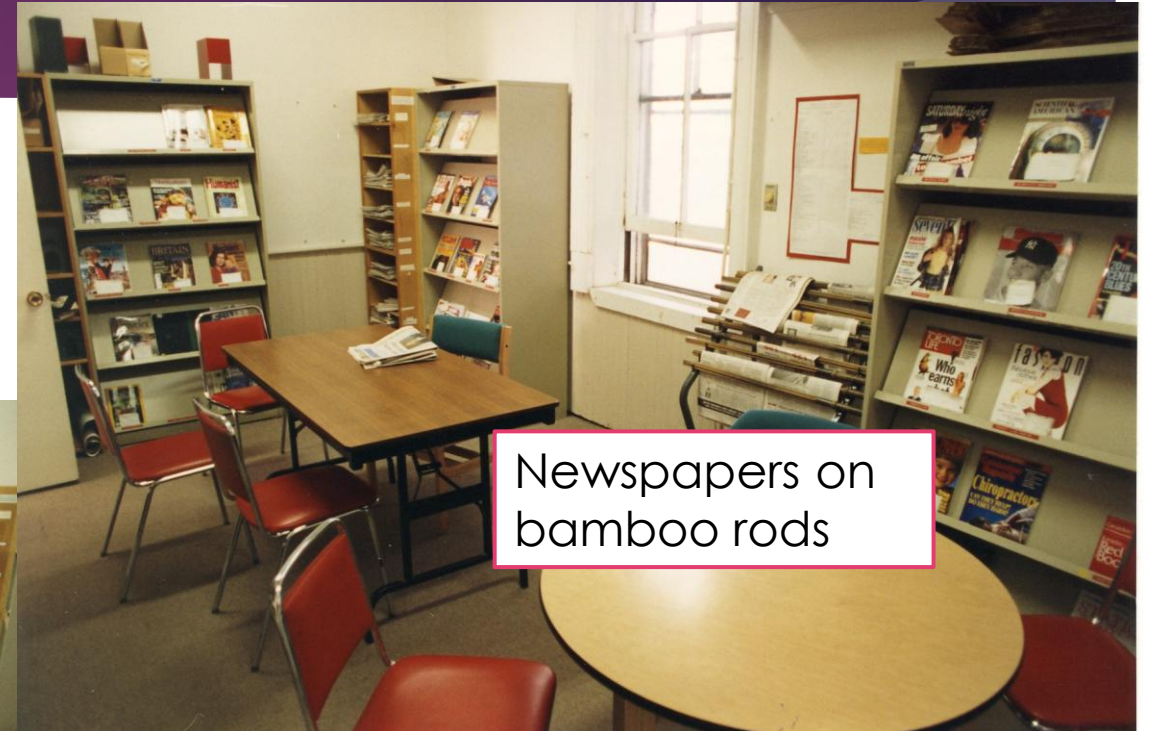
18 Chapel Street – Adult Fiction

- ▶ The Adult collection was broken up into many rooms.
- ▶ The Adult Fiction could be found in one room, while the Adult Mysteries, Large Print and CNIB talking books were in the main area, surrounding the circulation desk.



18 Chapel Street – Reading Room

- ▶ The magazines and newspapers could be found in a room next to the main desk
- ▶ Note the bamboo rods for newspapers



18 Chapel Street – Adult Non-Fiction

- ▶ The Adult Non-Fiction collection, was split into three areas. Two on the main floor . . .



18 Chapel Street – Adult Non-Fiction

- ▶ The rest of the Adult Non-Fiction collection could be found by ascending the spiral metal staircase. This is also where you would find the study tables



This librarian has the answers

By Valerie Reid

From moral issues of the late 19th century to the care of pet rabbits, Mary Maclean can help in many ways.

The Cobourg and District Public Library reference librarian has been asked plenty of questions during her 10 years on the job, some of which have required a lot of research.

Mrs. Maclean says there are two basic types of questions thrown at her: directional, which require her to direct the person to a particular area of the library; and traditional, in which she shows the person how to use a source and helps them to become familiar with the use of the reference department.

The two most researched topics are local history and genealogy.

The library has many interesting informa-

The library has some research materials as far back as the 1790s.

Mrs. Maclean receives questions by mail, fax, telephone and from people just stopping by.

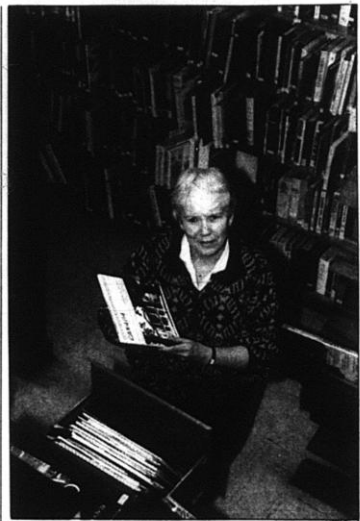
The library is there for users of all ages, from high school students preparing reports to adults in need of information on a company for a job interview, she said.

Privacy is an important factor. The library staff do ask awkward questions, Mrs. Maclean said, and try to make researchers feel as comfortable as possible.

In other cases, a person who has seen a movie might request help finding the book version. The library can help.

Likewise, the reference librarian can help to identify the body of criticism surrounding a popular author such as Margaret Atwood.

The reference section



Answers to questions — Mary Maclean fields inquiries in the library's reference section. Photo by Ted Amsden

"The Cobourg Daily Star is one of the oldest newspapers, and we often send people to the files we have

Mrs. Maclean describes her job as "wonderful," adding that, "the best part is the new faces at the



18 Chapel Street – Reference Area

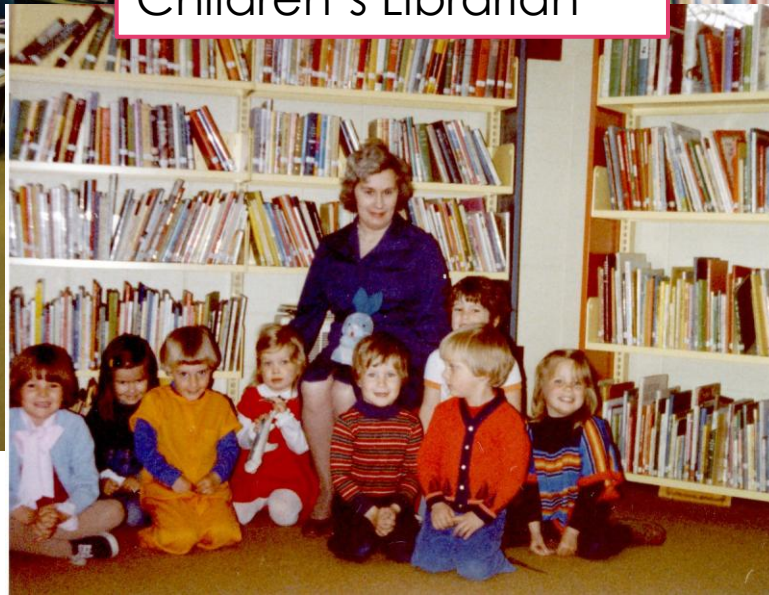
- ▶ The Reference collection was housed in the back area, along with the Microfilm collection and microfilm readers.
- ▶ Reference Librarian – Mrs. Mary Maclean

18 Chapel Street – Children's Library

- ▶ The Children's Library had its own entrance, its own checkout desk and card catalogue.



Mrs. Dorothy Lees
Children's Librarian



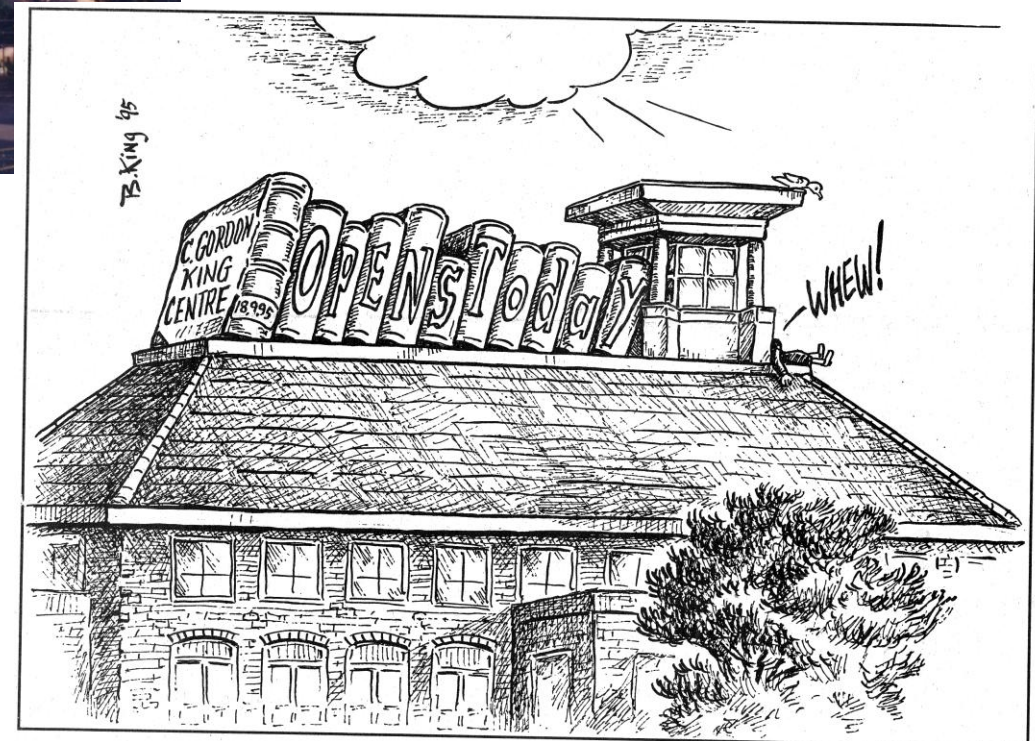
Building the C. Gordon King Centre



Building the C. Gordon King Centre



Building the C. Gordon King Centre




The C. Gordon King Centre

- ▶ In September 1995, the new facility officially opened its doors.
- ▶ The C. Gordon King Centre was accessible, with level access, accessible washrooms and an elevator – and offered new services and programs for children, youth, adults and seniors



Col. King – opening speech


Ribbon Cutting – Cobourg Mayor, Joan Chalovich, Col. C. Gordon King, Minister Mushinski



C. GORDON KING CENTRE - COBOURG, ONTARIO

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES PROGRAM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1995
2:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER	- Town Crier <i>Tom MacMillan</i>
WELCOME	- Masters of Ceremonies - Councillor <i>Douglas Sifton</i> - Building Committee Chairman <i>Gil Brocanier</i>
O CANADA	- Concert Band of Cobourg, Soloist - <i>Laura Halls</i>
INVOCATION	- <i>Reverend Stuart Macdonald</i> , Cobourg Ministerial Association
ADDRESSES	- Her Worship Mayor <i>Joan E. Chalovich</i> - The Honourable <i>Marilyn Mushinski</i> , Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
REMARKS	- <i>Reeve Charlette Clay-Ireland</i> , Township of Hamilton - <i>Lieutenant Colonel C. Gordon King E.D. (ret'd)</i>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY	- <i>Lieutenant Colonel King, Mayor Chalovich, Minister Mushinski</i>
PRESENTATION OF KEYS	
BUILDING TOUR AND SIGNING OF GUEST BOOK	- <i>William MacDonald</i> , Chairman, Cobourg Public Library Board



200 Ontario Street - 1995

- ▶ The collection included 53,000 books and 6,000 other pieces of information
- ▶ There was a Program Room for children, and a large meeting room for both Library programs and for use by the public with a kitchenette
- ▶ And the home of The Cobourg and District Historical Archives



200 Ontario Street – 1st Floor

- ▶ The Adult Fiction collection - now altogether on the 1st floor
- ▶ A bright, spacious windowed reading room for magazines and newspapers



200 Ontario Street – Children's Section

- ▶ An integrated Children's library on the 1st floor – including a large window
- ▶ 2 computers for children to access educational CD Roms



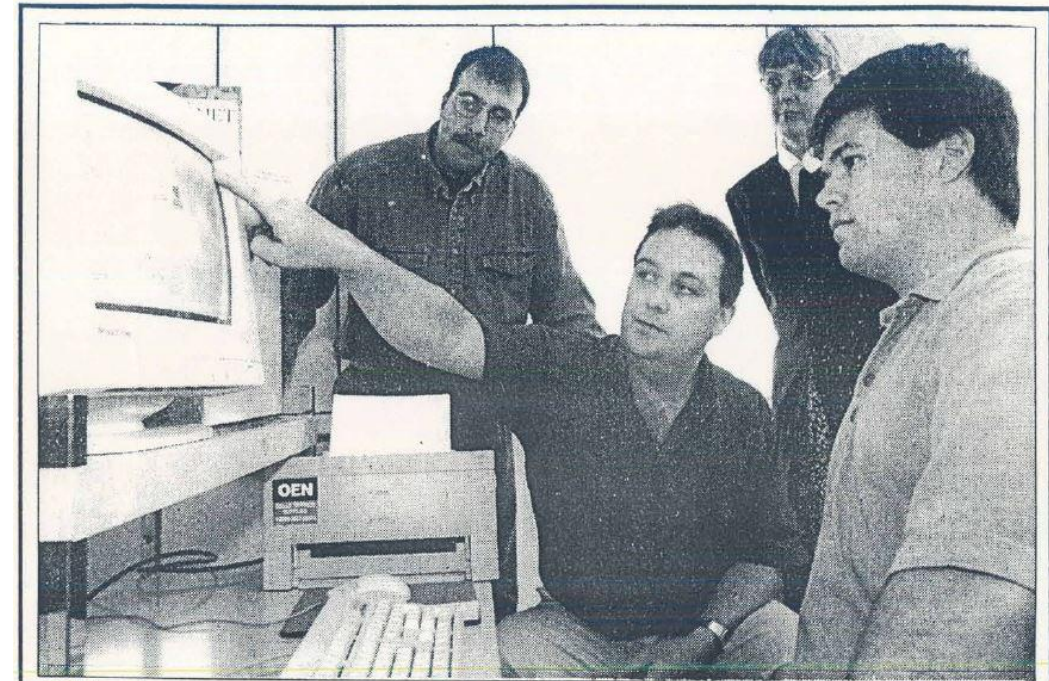
200 Ontario Street – 2nd Floor

- ▶ The Adult Non-Fiction and Reference collections were altogether on the 2nd floor – with many windows for natural light
- ▶ There was a separate room for the Local History materials
- ▶ Tables and study carrels, and a Group Study Room



200 Ontario Street - 1997

- ▶ In 1997, on the library's second anniversary, artist Alice Luke Chenevert's bronze bust of Gordon King was installed in the lobby.
- ▶ Also in 1997, the first Internet station was installed with dial-up access.



Making the connection — Kevin Siblock is introduced to the Internet at Cobourg Public Library yesterday by Randy Vilneff, technical consultant with the Northumberland Networked Community, a grassroots organization promoting the information system to which library card holders now have free access. Looking on are Michael Vanderpost, a co-ordinator with Networked Community, and chief librarian Valerie Scott.
Photo by Ted Amsden

COB STAR 2/5/96

200 Ontario Street – 1998/1999

- ▶ In 1998, the Friends of the Library Reading Group was formed
- ▶ In 1999, the library design was awarded for excellence by the Ontario Library Association.
- ▶ In September 1999, the library extended its service to 7 days per week
- ▶ The Library was now open 55 hours/week.



Photo by Ted Amsden

BOOKISH TYPES: Yvonne Green, left, and Lee Beech, co-ordinator of the Friends of Library Reading Group, talk about a book the group will be discussing during an upcoming session.

Library to open all week

By CECILIA NASMITH
STAFF WRITER

COBOURG — For the first time in its history, Cobourg will soon be able to take advantage of seven-days-a-week library service.

Sunday openings, which begin September 13, are a response to a 1997 user survey in which a large number of student patrons asked for Sunday opening, said library board chairman Art Cockerill. The Sunday openings bring to 55 the number of hours weekly in which the library is open. The board's 1998-2000 business plan envisions an eventual 64-hour library week.

At the time of the survey, said trustee Wendy Curtis, the library closed at 3 p.m. Fridays, leaving students only Saturdays to make use of the library over the weekend — a concern since the board is keenly interested in making the library's resources, including internet access, available to students, she said.

Sunday hours will continue throughout the school year, said Ms. Curtis. During that time, some kind of user survey will be undertaken to determine whether Sunday

usership is mainly confined to students. Should there be heavy family use of the library Sundays, she said, "we would strive to maintain those hours."

This is part of the board's shift from being a resource deliverer to trying to understand the needs of the community, she added.

The Sunday openings are from 1 to 5 p.m. The other hours remain the same as they have been for the past three months, when the hours were last expanded: 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Ms. Curtis is trying to determine how many other Ontario libraries offer Sunday service.

"My bet is very, very few," she said. "This is superior-quality service, and we are striving to do that in every way, shape and form."

The increased hours will not affect the library's two branches in Hamilton Township. In Bewdley, the hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. In Gore's Landing, the hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

2005 – 10th Anniversary on Ontario Street

- ▶ Much growth and change happened in those first 10 years
- ▶ Highlights include:
 - ▶ 72,000 books ; 2,700 videos ; 900 DVDs ; 1,000 Talking Books ; 1,800 periodicals
 - ▶ High speed internet access ; 13 public internet/word processing stations
 - ▶ Genealogy research computer – with CemSearch database access
 - ▶ Online databases – including full-text newspapers and magazines
 - ▶ Young Adult's section
 - ▶ Library webpage
 - ▶ Security system ; Automated calling system for Holds and Overdues



2006 – Archives

- ▶ We had a tour of the Archives in 2006



Work Area



Entry to Archives

Storage Area



Public Reception Area

2010 – 15th Anniversary

- ▶ The Library continued to grow and change
 - ▶ 60,000 books ; 4,000 DVDs and videos ; 1300 talking books
 - ▶ 1,400 music CD titles ; 200 game titles ; Graphic novels
 - ▶ 3 Genealogy Research computers ; Digital microfilm reader/printer
 - ▶ Dedicated computer with Accessibility software
 - ▶ Printer control software ; Computer reservation software
 - ▶ Wireless access for patrons
 - ▶ Databases – Ancestry, NoveList, Tumblebooks and more
 - ▶ Over 450 programs held – with 7,500 attendees



2010 – 15th Anniversary



Past CEOs – Donna Bright (2001-2008), Charmaine Lindsay (2009-2013), Valerie Scott (1977-1999)

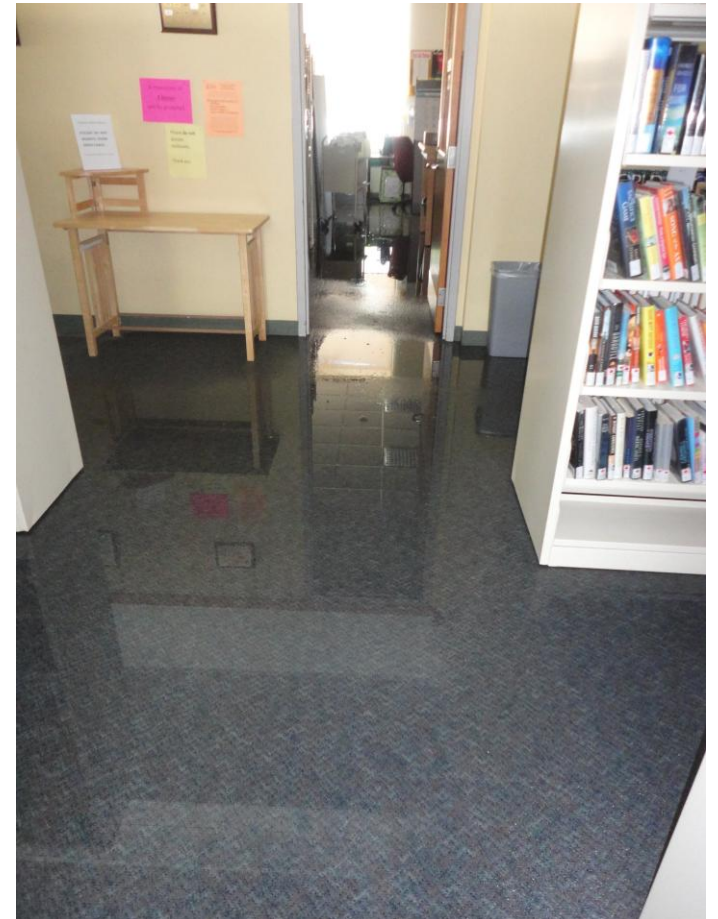
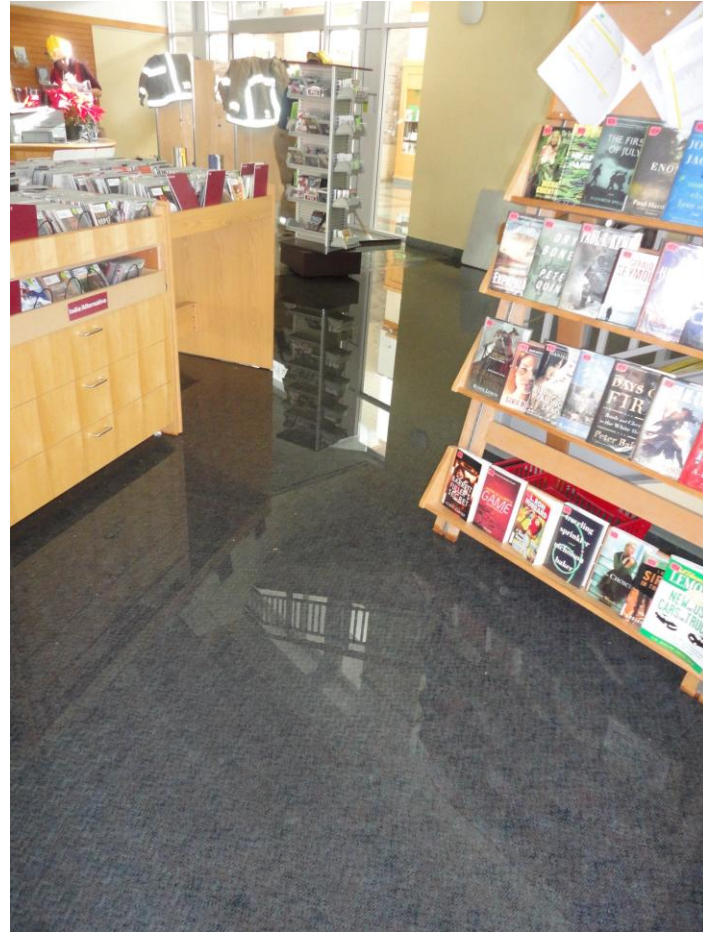


Board Chair, Patricia Fenner – CEO, Charmaine Lindsay - Mayor Peter Delanty - Hamilton Township Board Rep, Pat McCourt



January 2014 – The Flood

- ▶ In January 2014, a pipe burst in a washroom in the foyer, and flooded the entire 1st floor of the Library
- ▶ The Library was closed before new CEO Tammy Robinson had a chance to begin



2014 – The Flood – The Mall

- ▶ We were lucky to be able to open services at the Northumberland Mall in late February, while renovations took place
- ▶ We occupied 3 store fronts – Adult Services, Child and Youth Services and the offices



2014 – The Flood – The Mall – and Back Again

- ▶ Once renovations were complete, we moved back to Ontario Street in May, and had a Grand Opening BBQ in June
- ▶ New reading room chairs and study carrels were now available



2015 – 20th Anniversary



2nd Floor - DVDs



Children's Area



Reading Room



New computer tables



First Floor – with Game collection

2019 – Community Hub

New Adult DVD/Blu-ray shelving



YA Graphic Novels



Maker Space



New Outdoor Garden & Furniture



Story time Benches



DISCOVERY
BACKPACKS



Chess/Checker tables
and umbrellas

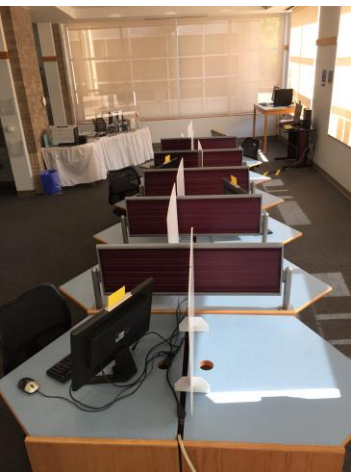


New Junior DVD shelving



2020 – 25th Anniversary (or the year we adapted)

- ▶ 2020 showed us just how adaptable we could be!
- ▶ Staff worked together (but apart) to provide:
 - ▶ Virtual programs
 - ▶ Curbside pick-up
 - ▶ Online Summer Reading Program
 - ▶ Story time on the lawn
 - ▶ Access to more digital resources
 - ▶ Computer Lab to 1st floor
 - ▶ **We kept our patrons engaged**



2020 – 25th Anniversary (or the year we adapted)

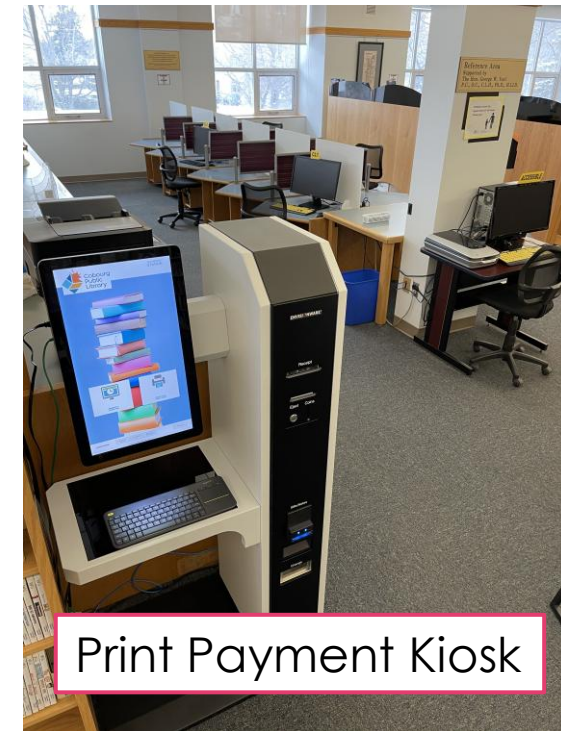
- ▶ Our staff (and patrons) continued to adapt and thrive in this new world.
- ▶ All three branch locations were temporarily closed to the public, but opened again with new safety protocols in place
- ▶ We added new collections – such as our **Ontario Parking Pass Kits** and our **Binge Bundles** (6 DVDs in one case)
- ▶ New Print Payment Kiosk with a touch screen to pay for printing / copies



Ontario Parking Pass Kits



Binge Bundles

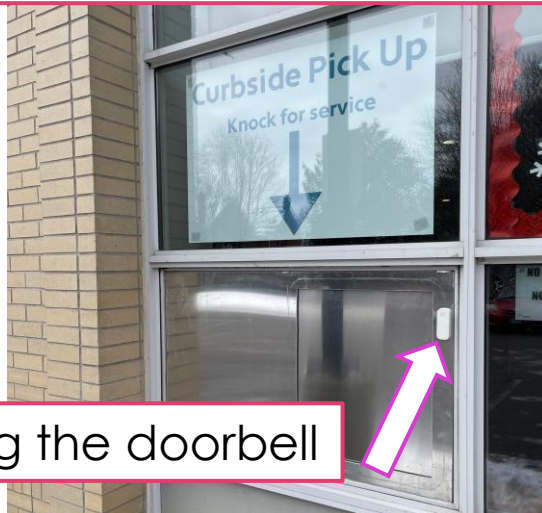


Print Payment Kiosk

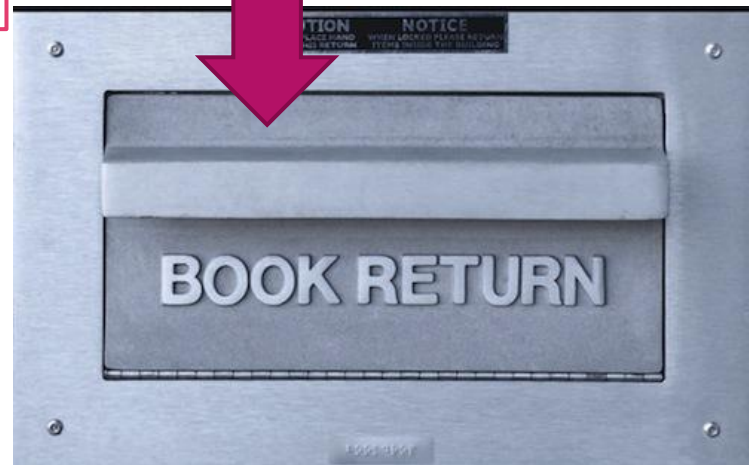
2020 – 25th Anniversary (or the year we adapted)

- ▶ Our **Curbside Pick-up** window was available for all patrons to pick up the materials they placed on hold – and for patrons who felt more comfortable not coming into the Library for materials
- ▶ All items were returned through our **dropbox**, and **isolated** before becoming available again.

New Curbside Pick-up Window



Ring the doorbell



Post-Pandemic

- ▶ We persevered through the pandemic - and came out stronger!
- ▶ Our staff developed lots of virtual programming to keep our patrons engaged
- ▶ The most popular of these, being Virtual Author Visits – allowing our patrons access to authors we would never have been able to have in-person.

virtual
Author visit with Kate Hilton & Elizabeth Renzetti

Join us on FaceBook
Sunday, June 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Bury the Lead

*Bury the Lead is a word-perfe through the world of small-to both hilarious and poignant, it and full of twists. I give it a st avation!
- Roz Nay, author

Virtual Family Storytime
Every Tuesday in December

Dec 7 - Meet Library Lexy
Dec 14 - Winter Storytime
Dec 21 - Holiday Storytime
Dec 28 - New Year Storytime

FURBY HOUSE BOOKS

BAT BOW VIDEO TUTORIAL

This Halloween, impress your friends with a spooky accessory you can make at home!

This bat bow tutorial will be presented on the Cobourg Public Library Facebook page this October 23rd.

Follow along and share your creations with the Cobourg Public Library!

All Ages
Virtual Program
No Registration Required

Special Collections available in 2025

Borrow and Build LEGO Sets

Borrow and Play Musical Instruments

VOX Books

Decodable Books

Jigsaw Puzzles

Ontario Provincial Park Day Pass Kits

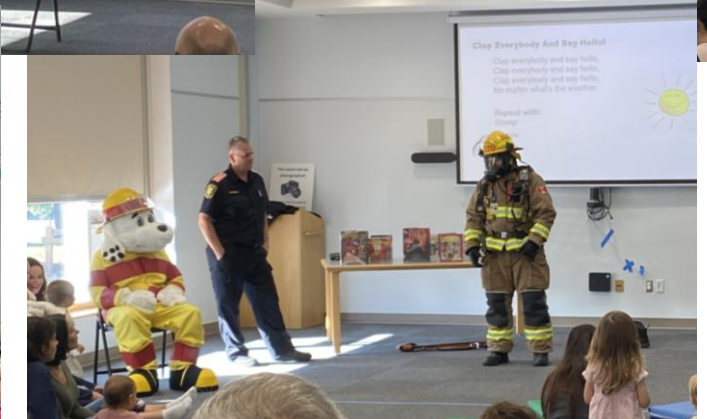
Discovery Backpacks

Binge Bundles

Board Games (for use in-house)

Children's Storytime

- ▶ Our children's storytime at the Cobourg Library is now held in the Rotary Room – and we see an average of 50 people per week!
- ▶ We have had many guest readers – including:
 - ▶ The Fire Department
 - ▶ The Police Department
 - ▶ The Paramedics
 - ▶ Members of Council

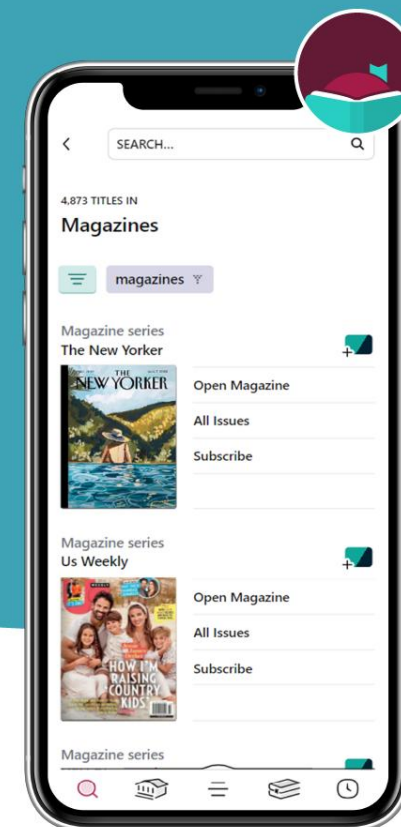


Digital Magazines

- ▶ We now offer access to over 5,000 digital magazine titles through our Download Portal and/or the Libby App.
- ▶ You can set alerts to let you know when the latest issue is available to read
- ▶ **No late fees!**
- ▶ You decide how long to borrow it.

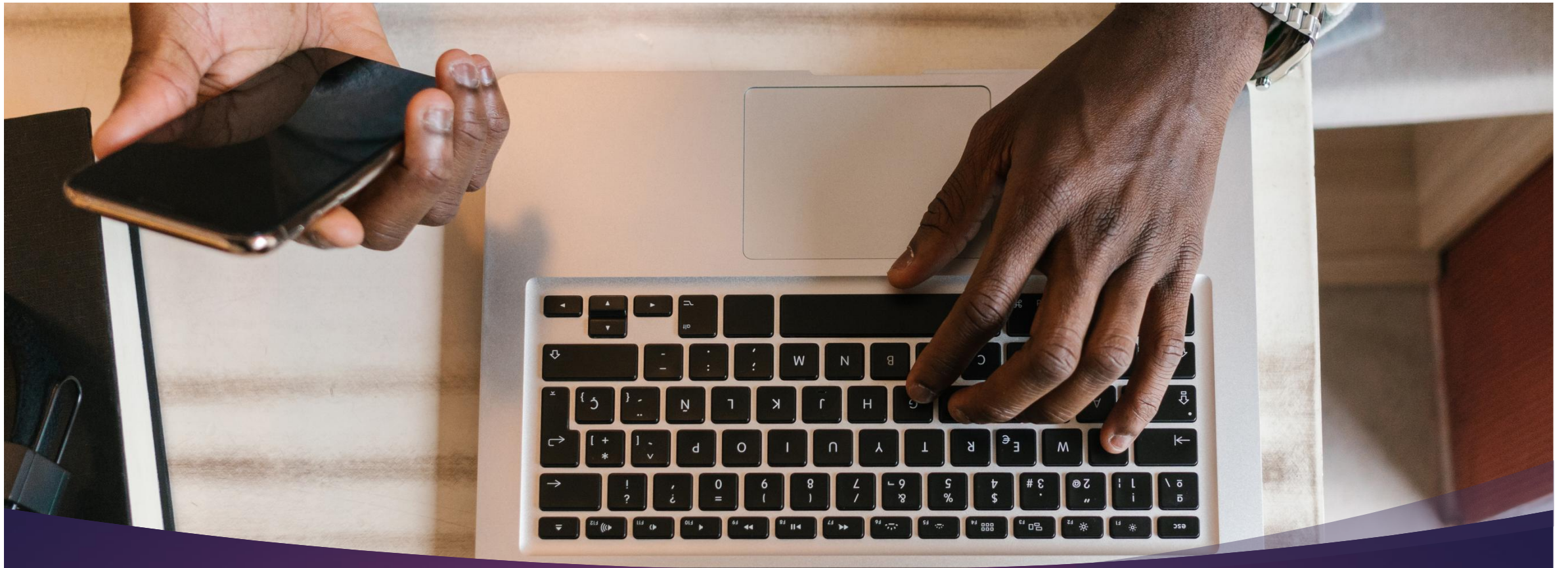
NEVER MISS A BEAT!

Subscribe to all your favorite magazines in Libby!



Libby.

The library reading app



Monthly e-newsletter – Subscribe today!



Video Games

VARIETY OF GAMES FOR THE MOST POPULAR PLATFORMS ARE AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM EVERY LIBRARY LOCATION



Hybrid Meeting Equipment

- ▶ We offer the use of our Hybrid Meeting Equipment for groups who book our Meeting Room.
- ▶ This allows users to attend a meeting either in-person or via Zoom.



Garden of Reading & Chess Tables

- ▶ Our Garden of Reading showcases garden boxes of vegetables and flowers
- ▶ The comfy seating allows for the enjoyment of the outdoors by patrons and staff
- ▶ The Chess Tables, with their umbrellas, allow for a friendly game of chess in the fresh air and sunshine.



New Branch in Cold Springs!

- ▶ On Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – we launched a new branch in Hamilton Township, located in the Cold Springs Memorial Hall

Looking forward

- ▶ As we continue to adapt to the needs of the community, we look forward to the meeting the challenges ahead, providing the resources and access required for the literacy, social and educational needs of our patrons.
- ▶ In the words of **Col. C. Gordon King** in his opening ceremony speech:
"diu floreat" - long may it flourish"

