



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

A substantial increase in circulation capped a very hectic 2008 in which the library laid the operational foundations for future expansion.

As more people joined the library, our circulation jumped 7.1% to 132668 items. This increase keeps Arnprior in the top percentile of per capita library usage in Ontario.

To allow for easier access to all materials, we physically shifted some of our collections and edited our database in preparation for the migration to a new software system in early 2009. To that end, we are also better able to track our circulation and pinpoint our book expenditures.

A new server and other computer upgrades will assist the library's growth. The library is now registered with TechSoup – a distributor of new software to the non-profit sector. We purchased software and licences worth \$11705 (US) for less than \$600 (CAN). This is a purchasing program the library will be able to access on an annual basis.

The community now has greater access to the Internet with free access through our wireless (WiFi) at the library as well as the addition of a fifth Internet station which serves as a 15 minute express machine.

Our capital expenditures included new library tables and new children's programming furniture – both long-term investments in the library. In the final quarter of 2008, more than 75 discs were repaired with the newly acquired DVD / CD repair unit – this piece of equipment has already paid for itself and will be a major contributor to an expanded audio/visual collection for years to come.

Our dedicated volunteers continue to make things happen at the library. Howard Ransom and Joe Descent offer their financial background; Anna Lorz brings her MLS and experience in academic libraries to assist with inventory and a myriad of other tasks; Jonathan Scobie brings his enthusiasm to shelve children's books; Sharon Groulx, Kate Burman and Sarah Brooks brought their joy of books to help with the After School Program throughout the spring.

The library's outstanding contribution to the province's Interlibrary Loan service was recognized with an invitation to participate in an advisory group to establish revised network guidelines.

A R N P R I O R P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

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New and continued partnership initiatives included a joint venture that provides our patrons with free passes to Ottawa's major museums; outreach to the Arnprior Villa to provide books for their residents; presentation of literacy workshops at the Renfrew County District School Board; presentation of our summer program successes at the Ontario Library Association conference in Toronto; and for the second consecutive year, participation in the Arnprior event hosted by Renfrew County Literacy Plus.

The library also continues a vital community link with the non-profit sector providing meeting room space – which often is booked 3 or 4 times daily by different groups.

The newly formed Friends of the Library group has set the foundation to raise the library's profile in the community. Its first major event was a reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, a collaboration with CBC Radio. This standing room only event created wonderful excitement that had patrons anticipating more events in the years to come.

Children's programming continued to set record attendance numbers through the first 3 quarters of 2008 with 5 regular weekly programs for children aged 5 months to 8 years. In addition we hosted regularly scheduled and special class visits, provided outreach to all area schools and daycares and collaborated with the Nick Smith Centre to offer a special March Break event.

Summer students Stephanie Zamojski and Shannen Trudeau provided a total of 1146 programming spaces in July and August. Our second annual Super Reader Day celebration was a grand success with 38 area children earning the invitation to ride the fire trucks from the library to Robert Simpson Park by reading at least 40 books in the summer. Many thanks to the fire departments in Arnprior and McNab-Braeside for contributing to this event.

Due to staffing constraints in the fall, programming was reduced – the After School Program was put on hold; the number of class visits was reduced by half; and two registered programs were held for 2 rather than 3 sessions; and 11 outreach requests were declined.

Respectfully submitted by Karen DeLuca,  
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ARNPRIOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

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