

## 2007 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

This Report is respectfully presented to the residents of the City of Kingston and the County of Frontenac, and to the Mayor and members of the Council of the City of Kingston, the Mayors and members of the Council of the County of Frontenac.

The Annual Report is an opportunity for the Library to celebrate its successes and to communicate the progress made over the past year.

In 2007 the **Library Board** welcomed 3 new Trustees to the 11 member board: Mayor Jim Vandenhoeck, appointed by County Council, and Councillor Vicki Schmolka and Major Helga Grodzinski, appointed by City Council. The high proportion of returning Trustees ensured both continuity and the retention of a wealth of expertise. Board members spent the year planning for the future of public library services as they determined the best and most effective way to deliver quality collections and programs to the community.

The **Calvin Park Building** project continued on schedule. The Board selected the firm of Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd to design the building and the firm of M. Sullivan and Sons Ltd. to act as Construction Managers. The plans for the new building, which will be built to LEED silver standards, were unveiled at a public meeting in December.

The project to install **RFID** technology in all branches moved ahead as planned. All materials throughout the system were tagged and Express Terminals were installed in all the city libraries by November. The related project, the refurbishing of the Turner Branch, was completed late in the year.

In looking for ways to continue to change and improve services the Board established an ad hoc **Rural Branch Committee** to address some of the challenges unique to the rural branches.

The Board is committed to ensuring continued innovation and excellence in public service and were especially proud when KFPL staff received two prestigious **awards**: the Ontario Library Association OLITA Award for Innovation in Technology, and the Canadian Library Association/3M Canada Award for Achievement in Technical Services.

Once again the Library celebrated Public Library Month in style with a variety of successful events throughout the month of October under the banner **TWIO (The Word is Out) @ your library**. Writersfest, a week-long event that brought together Kingston Literacy, Indigo books and KFPL, and Kingscourt's Haunted Library Community Open House were two of the highlights of **TWIO 2007**. In November the Library participated in the Kingston Santa Claus parade for the first time thanks to the efforts of members of our **Teen Advisory Groups**.

In 2007 we bid farewell to 3 dedicated **staff members**: Library Technician Fernanda Pineu who retired after 33 years of devoted and efficient service to the library; Librarian Janice Coles who had served as Rural Librarian since 1998 and who left to become Deputy Chief Librarian at Wellington County; and Janelle Fitzpatrick who resigned from her position as Library Assistant at the Howe Island Branch. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Debbie Van Luven filled Fernanda's position and in turn was replaced by Lori O'Connor and Pam Harris became Rural Librarian. As a result of these changes we welcomed Library Assistants Vanessa Johnston and Katia Jacobs, and Librarian Bill Caskey. In June we were also pleased to welcome Doug Brown as Manager of Facilities.

We continued to participate in the University of western Ontario Faculty of Information and Media Studies **co-op program** and welcomed students Barb Janiceck, Monika Machacek, and Katrina Roddick throughout the year.

The Board recognizes the importance of having well trained, innovative staff members. Staff availed themselves of a number of opportunities for **professional development** throughout the year, including workshops, seminars, e-learning and library conferences. Once again KFPL sent the largest contingent of board and staff members to the Ontario Library Association Superconference in January.

To allow us to accomplish our goals we are grateful for the continued support of our key **partners** including the City of Kingston and the County of Frontenac. We are deeply grateful that the members of both of these bodies acknowledged the benefit of the library system to their constituents by passing the library budget as presented to them.

We extend a special thanks to the **Friends** of the Library. As well as funding individual initiatives such as Literacy Tutors and book club sets, the Friends have an annual commitment to the cost of printing the library newsletter *It's All Here*, library gardens, and KFPL's entry in the Kingston Literacy Spelling Bee. This year their support for *Live@ the Library*, our series of summer programs for children, allowed us to offer 26 performances across our 17 branches, connecting with over 3,000 children and parents during the summer months. The Friends have also pledged \$25,000 towards the Calvin Park Building Fund Raising Campaign.

We thank the **community** for their continued support including donations from the Ompah Book Club, the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and the Point St Mark Garage Sale Committee, as well as many other individual donors. In turn library staff served on the Boards and committees of Kingston Literacy, Kingston Employment Network, Kingston Area Association of Administrators of Volunteers, Volunteer and Information Kingston, Early Years Coalition, Kingston Technology Council, KANnet, Greater Kingston Community Foundation and the City of Kingston Cultural Planning Roundtable.

Finally, we recognize the fine work done by our many **volunteers**. It is they who make deliveries to shut-ins, water our plants, straighten our shelves, tune our pianos and serve on the library board. We thank them all for their generous donation of time and energy.

Once again it is our talented and knowledgeable staff who take our services and programs above and beyond the ordinary. Their Managers will expand on their accomplishments in the pages that follow.

Deborah Defoe,  
Chief Librarian, Chief Executive Officer