www.wpl.ca

Off the Shelf

Your Guide to Programs and Services at the Waterloo Public Library

Winter 2006 | Issue 5

Toy Lending Library at MCC

On November 7, WPL Vice-Chair Bob Ernest joined McCormick Branch Manager Doreen Disney, Denis Hartlieb from the Lakeshore North Optimist Club, and Mayor Herb Epp in a ceremony to recognize the generosity of the Optimists in providing $22,000 in funding for a Toy Lending Library at the McCormick Branch.

The funding from the Optimist Club will allow WPL to establish a collection of educational and developmental toys which will be available for loan at the McCormick Branch in the same way that books and other library materials are loaned.

Hundreds of toys will be purchased with the funding from the Optimists. The Toy Lending Library will be up-and-running early in 2006.

"We are very, very grateful to the Lakeshore North Optimist Club for their generosity in supporting WPL and the McCormick community in this way," says Bob Ernest. "There are many families who cannot afford to buy a $40- or $50-toy, and this is a way to ensure that no family is left behind."

Ernest notes that studies show that play is critical in early child development.

"This Optimist Club has a history of doing excellent work in the community," he says. "And once again they are showing their support for children and families through their generosity in funding the Toy Lending Library at the Waterloo Public Library."

Small Business Seminars at WPL

The Waterloo Region Small Business Centre will be holding four seminars in February at the Main Library (35 Albert Street).

Topics include Starting a Small Business, Creating a Small Business, Market Research for Small Businesses, and Preparing Financial Projections.

continued on page 13…

From left to right: Denis Hartlieb (Lakeshore North Optimist Club), Mayor Herb Epp, Doreen Disney (McCormick Branch Manager) and Bob Ernest (Vice-Chair, WPL Board).

Inside the Covers

- Thank You WPL Volunteers 5
- Technology @ WPL 6
- The Charm of Tasha Tudor 9
- Check out the Comics @ your Library ...11
- Shopping @ WPL 14

MISSION

The Waterloo Public Library, through a team of friendly, knowledgeable and well-trained staff, volunteers and trustees, is dedicated to providing people of all ages with innovative, lifelong learning and leisure opportunities through information, inspiration, education and entertainment.

2004-2006 Library Board Members

Mr. Tim Jackson, Chair
Mr. Bob Ernest, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dave Caputo
Ms. Katherine Chiang
Ms. Barbara Dembek
Mr. Roger Gratl
Ms. Raegan Little
Councillor Ian McLean
Ms. Ophelia Tong
Councillor Mark Whaley
Ms. Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian and Secretary-Treasurer to the Board

Hours and Locations

MAIN LIBRARY

35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5E2
Phone: (519) 886-1310

- Monday to Thursday - 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday - 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday - 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sunday - Open 1:00pm to 4:00pm until May 7, 2006

MCCORMICK BRANCH

500 Parkside Drive
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5J4
Phone: (519) 885-1920

- Tuesday to Thursday - 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Friday - 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Saturday - 10:00am to 5:30pm
- Sunday and Monday - Closed

HOLIDAY HOURS 2006

The Library will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, April 14 – Good Friday
- Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday
- Monday, April 17 – Easter Monday
- Monday, May 22 – Victoria Day
- Saturday, July 1 – Canada Day
- Monday, August 7 – Civic Holiday
- Monday, September 4 – Labour Day
- Monday, October 9 – Thanksgiving
- December – Christmas hours to be announced

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Last fall, the Kitchener Public Library Board announced that it would be eliminating the non-resident fee that it applies to all library users who live outside the City of Kitchener.

At WPL, we welcomed the news and KPL's decision to join the three other public library systems in Waterloo Region in providing a seamless library service that (as we like to say at WPL!) puts more books into the hands of more readers.

The library systems in Waterloo, Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo (which serves the rural areas) have had reciprocal borrowing agreements in place for some time now, which allow residents of our three communities to use the public libraries in the neighbouring municipalities without charge.

At WPL, we believe that these arrangements recognize the reality of life in Waterloo Region. You may live in Cambridge, but go to school or work in Waterloo or one of the rural areas of the Region, and go to the movies or eat out in Kitchener. People move effortlessly between the municipalities in Waterloo Region in the course of their daily lives.

We wanted, and were successful in developing, a model for library service that reflected this reality.

As a result of WPL's philosophy of seamless service, I believe that we are offering residents of Waterloo and its neighbouring communities the best of both worlds: a library service that has accountability at the local level and that grows and develops in terms of the priorities of the municipality that funds it, and the flexibility of access to a larger network of library services.

At WPL, we know that the reciprocal borrowing arrangements are appreciated and that they just make sense to our communities. WPL has been providing library service to over 7,000 residents of Kitchener free-of-charge for many years now, even though fewer than 1,400 Waterloo residents have paid KPL's non-resident fee and used that larger library system.

We hear from residents of other municipalities in the Region who use WPL that they enjoy the convenience of accessing library service when they want it, where they want it. And that has been our goal.

Much has been written about the difference in funding between the libraries in Waterloo Region, and between Kitchener and Waterloo in particular.

There is no doubt that improved funding is a goal at WPL, and we are grateful for the support shown by Waterloo City Council over the past two years in helping the library move closer towards its funding goal.

However, the fact is the per capita funding between Waterloo and the other libraries in Waterloo Region will never be equal because each library system has chosen a different strategic path.

AT WPL a key focus of our service delivery model is meeting the community's needs for service by enabling new technologies. Many of these new technologies grew up in Waterloo, and continue to develop here.

And so, initiatives like our eBranch and the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) to provide options such as self-checkout of library materials are a priority. We are enabling new technologies to provide a cost-effective library service to the community, and to meet residents' needs through technology-based citywide services not tied to specific facilities.

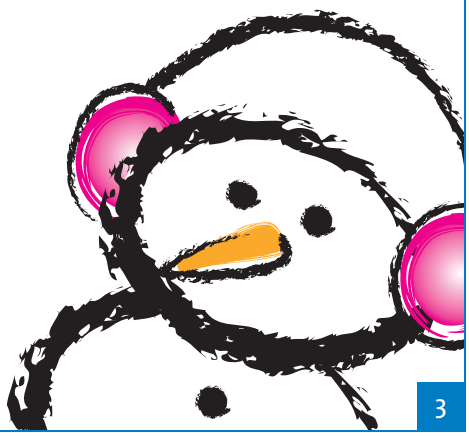
Our service delivery model also places a heavy emphasis on extending library service through partnerships and collaboration.

At WPL, we believe that we are providing public library service in a unique environment – there are three other public library systems, two universities and a community college in our Region, and these make a difference in terms of services and how we provide them. There are some excellent opportunities for partnership development here, and real opportunities to reduce duplication and realize efficiencies in delivering an excellent library service.

When it comes to funding and reciprocal borrowing, what is important is the amount of money that a library system directs to support its collections. And the happy news is that WPL spends as much on its book collections on a per capita basis as the other library systems in the Region.

WPL currently has reciprocal borrowing agreements in place with Cambridge, Hamilton, Brant County and the townships in Waterloo Region, and we celebrate the convenience that these arrangements offer to our public. We welcome the news that Kitchener will be joining Waterloo, Cambridge and Waterloo Region in reciprocal borrowing in 2006.

Tim Jackson
Chair, Waterloo Public Library Board



Welcome
to the WPL Book Club!

Our "open" book club was first organized in 2002 and has been going strong ever since. Drop in and attend once in a while, or come faithfully every month, the choice is yours.

Join us on the second Monday of each month from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Board Room on the lower level of the Main Library. Everyone welcome!

Upcoming Titles for 2006

January	*No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith
February	*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant
March	*Paris 1919* by Margaret Olwen Macmillan
April	*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster
May	*Saturday* by Ian McEwan
June	*Russlander* by Sandra Birdsell
July	*Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman
August	*One Book, One Community* 2006 title
September	to be announced

Doreen Disney is retiring!

After 32 years of service, Doreen will be closing the book on her career as Manager of WPL's McCormick Branch library and will be retiring in February 2006.

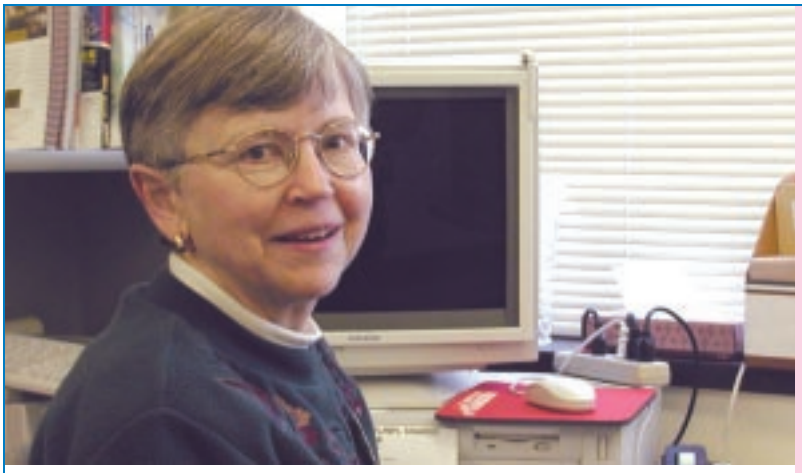
Doreen joined WPL in August 1973 as supervisor of the Parkside Branch library, which opened in September 1973, in what is now known as the Albert McCormick Community Centre in Waterloo's Lakeshore Village area.

Over the years, Doreen has seen many changes, including an interior renovation and re-naming of the Parkside Branch to McCormick Branch in 1990. She saw the library go from 8- and 16-mm films to DVDs; vinyl LP records to CDs; typewriters to computers; card catalogue to online catalogue and the Internet; books and magazines to electronic databases and e-books, and manual checkout of materials to automated circulation.

Doreen has been a familiar and friendly face to users of the branch library from day one. Neighbourhood kids who attended her story programs and asked for homework help have returned over the years with their own children. Folks visiting the Main Library have also come to know Doreen when she works there on Sundays and Mondays when the branch is closed.

In her own words, Doreen is leaving the library with "mixed feelings" and notes that her "32 years have been challenging, fulfilling and very interesting" but "it is time to move on to the next phase of my life."

Doreen will be sorely missed by McCormick Branch and other WPL users, by her co-workers and friends on library staff and by the Library Board. We wish her well as she explores a new future for herself and thank Doreen for all her years of wonderful service!



Thank You WPL Volunteers

At WPL, we're proud to say we have over 140 friendly volunteers helping with a variety of tasks. Our volunteers assist with everything from shelving books to helping in the preparation for children's programs, tallying grocery tapes, clipping newspapers for our vertical files and making our Visiting Library Service possible.

At the recent Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, twelve volunteers from the Main Library and the McCormick Branch were nominated to receive certificates and pins for years of service.

WPL volunteers' helping hands make things happen! Thank you!

5-Year Service Awards

- Lois Magee
- Miriam Houghton
- Lois Brubacher
- Victoria Doidge
- Joy Barrett
- Lynne Thomson
- Helen Gordon
- Marilyn Schiller
- Marilyn Pfaff

10-Year Service Awards

- Sheila Macdiarmid
- Jane Cagnin
- Christine Marx

Visiting Library Service at WPL

A special service of the Waterloo Public Library is the delivery of material to those who are not able to visit the Library themselves. The Visiting Library Service (V.S.L.) distributes books and recorded books to individuals, as well as to seniors' residences in the City of Waterloo.

Our staff liaison matches a volunteer to the customer. The volunteer visits the customer to learn their reading preferences, then comes to the Library to select the appropriate books. The books are then checked out on the customer's card for a six-week loan. When arranged, the volunteer will pick up the books, return them to the Library and start the selection process once more.

For information on receiving the Visiting Library Service program please call Sandra Wright at Outreach Services 886-1310 ext. 119 or email at swright@wpl.ca

Visiting Library Service Volunteers Needed

We are actively recruiting volunteers for our popular Visiting Library Service.

Responsibilities include:

- selecting appropriate material for homebound customers
- delivering and returning borrowed library items on a regular basis on behalf of the V.L.S. customer
- performing record keeping tasks associated with borrowed items
- acting as a liaison between WPL's Outreach Services and the V.L.S. customer

Qualifications include having:

- an appreciation of books
- familiarity with the library environment
- flexibility and the ability to work independently
- an understanding and appreciation of the elderly and challenged individuals, and their needs

If you are interested in volunteering with our V.L.S., please call Sandra Wright at Outreach Services 886-1310 ext. 119 or email at swright@wpl.ca

Technology @ WPL

BOOK A COMPUTER

We provide free access to the Internet and computer workstations at the Main Library (Adult and Children's areas) and at McCormick Branch.

Software on the computers include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Publisher. The Children's Department and McCormick Branch computers also have interactive programs such as Arthur, Barney, Dr. Seuss, Magic Schoolbus, and more.

Reservations are recommended. To book a computer call the Information Desk (Adult) at 886-1310 ext. 124, Children's Department (Main) at 886-1310 ext. 129 or the McCormick Branch at 885-1920.

SAVVY IN CYBERLAND SEMINARS

Join us for this free series of introductory technology seminars. This series is presented by Student Connections, a project group from the Laurier Business and Economics Department. All seminars will be held in the Main Library's (35 Albert Street) auditorium from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. To register call 886-1310 ext. 124.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Money, Money, Money
Tuesday, February 21st
Learn about on-line banking tools, stock research and money management

Doing Your Taxes Online
Tuesday, March 21st
Quick and painless tips for online filing

Internet Threats & Security
Tuesday, April 18th
Immunize your computer

For information on Savvy in Cyberland courses being held from May to November 2006, visit www.wpl.ca

WEB PICKS FROM CHRIS

When the weather gets cold, people start planning a winter getaway. Here are some helpful websites to check out to aid in your vacation planning.

Library of Congress – Portals to the World
http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html
Whether you are traveling or merely researching, this site allows you to explore profiles of various locations around the world including useful information about each country's weather, economy, culture, history, health, and national security. To view even more detail, click on the map located on the right-hand side of the screen.

Foreign Affairs Canada – Consular Affairs
http://www.voyage.gc.ca/consular_home-en.asp
This site provides assistance to Canadians living and traveling abroad. Information includes what Canadians abroad should do in case of emergency, travel warnings and reports, Canadian government offices abroad and current issues relevant to Canadians abroad relating to health, security, travel documentation and natural disasters.

Canadian Border Services Agency
www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel/canadians-e.html
Don't leave home before checking out this great site! Find useful information relating to required travel documentation, travel health advisories, restrictions on what you can bring back to Canada relating to plants, pets or animals, limits on how much alcohol and tobacco you can bring back to Canada, duties and taxes.

Transitions Abroad
http://www.transitionsabroad.com/index.shtml
Whether you want to work, study, travel, or live abroad, this site provides resources, information and web links to information on budget travel, traveling alone, home exchanges, expatriate life, volunteer assignments, finding a job overseas, teaching English abroad and more.

Christine Brown, Information Services

/4teens is Fun, Cool and, Yes, Even Educational

/4teens is a section on the library website that is, as it says, just for teens. The pages include everything from homework help to suggested reading to lists of links to fun and entertaining websites. Visit /4teens at www.wpl.ca

Homework!

A huge section of links organized by Ontario high school curriculum subjects. The links will take you to sites offering help with Math, English, Science and History assignments and more.

Read!

Gotta read a book for English? Want a book to take with you on summer vacation? Find it here.

Fun!

Everyone deserves a break and to just have fun. Fun! includes links to sites about music, sports, movies, comics, anime, and more.

Life!

Easy access to sites that answer life questions. You know the type... the ones you won't ask your parents or teachers – acne, sex, dating, depression, etc.

Your Turn!

We want to hear from you. E-mail us your reviews of current books, movies and music at /4teens@wpl.ca. You can even display your artwork or photography on-line. Let your voice be heard and your creativity flow.

Homework Help for Homework Success

In /4teens on the WPL website, there are many resources to assist you with that sometimes overwhelming amount of homework.

In Homework, you will find links for:

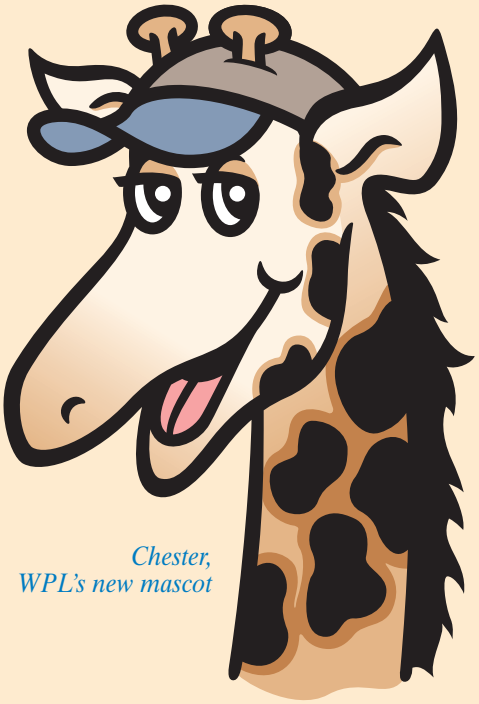
- Sites pertaining to the major school subject areas
- Articles on-line
- Canadian content
- Current events
- Image and graphics
- Tools

Don't forget WPL's eBranch (at www.wpl.ca) where a wide range of databases is available for free at the click of your mouse.

A few thoughts for the exam bound student:

- Treat school like a job; it's what you have to do to get where you want to be
- Believe in yourself
- Keep everything in perspective; know that you are doing the best you can
- Success can be attributed to one thing: hard work
- Get plenty of sleep before your exams, as they can be both mentally and physically exhausting
- Don't panic, everyone feels overwhelmed at times
- Budget your time; make time to study, but also make time for yourself

KidBits



Chester, WPL's new mascot

Both the Main Library and the McCormick Branch offer a variety of free programs for children throughout the year. Our regular programs include:

StoryKorner

Children ages 4 to 7 years can drop in and enjoy a tale or two.

Baby Time and Onederful

You and your child can learn songs, rhymes and fingerplays together. These programs are for our youngest library customers. Babytime, at the Main Library, is for tots ages 3 to 18 months; Onederful, at the McCormick Branch, for little ones 12 to 23 months.

Preschool Songs and Stories

There will be stories, songs, fingerplays and fun exercises for young children to enjoy! Children should be able to walk. For ages 1 to 4 years.

Kool Kids

Come and be cool with us! Crafts and activities for kids ages 6 to 10 years.

Time 4 Twos

A WPL tradition! Children ages 24 to 35 months (and accompanied by a parent or caregiver) will enjoy making crafts and learning new, silly songs.

Tiny Tots

Another long-standing, always-popular program at WPL. Tiny Tots is a mixed program of songs, games and crafts and is for children ages 3 to 5 years who are ready to separate.

Stories by Chance

If you happen to come by the Main library at the magic time then you will have the opportunity of hearing some special stories.

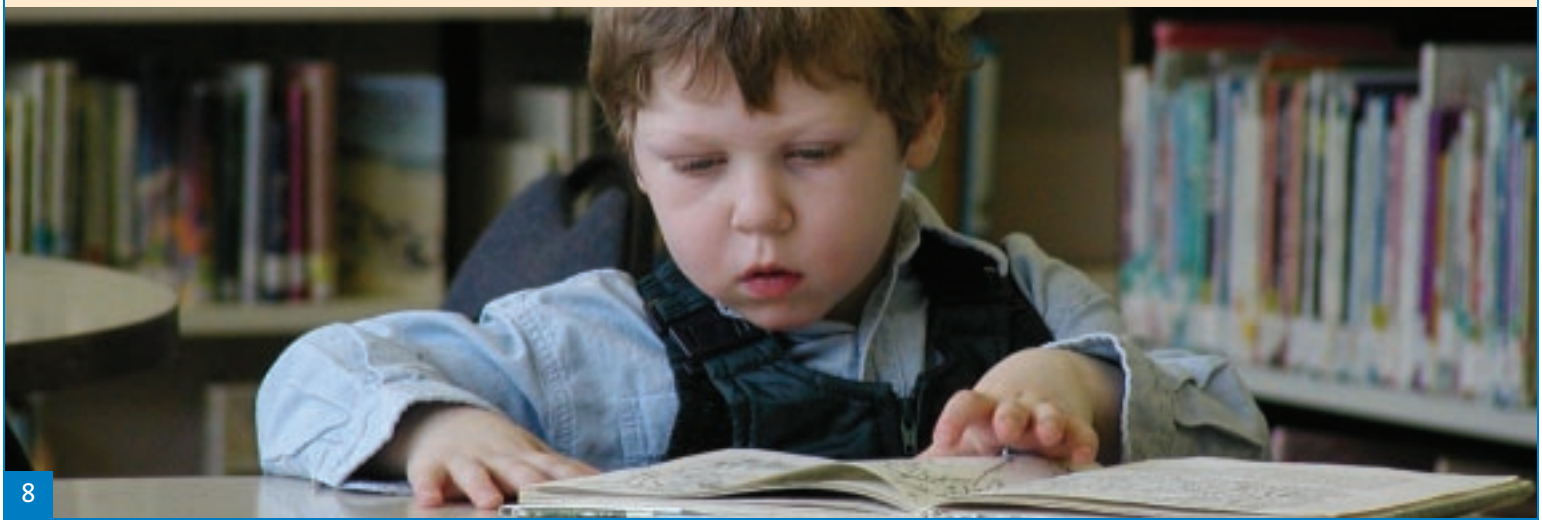
Chess Club

This popular club is hosted by Alan McGowan, the President of the K-W Chess Club. Kids of all ages can come to learn the basics and meet other chess enthusiasts.

Family Storytime

In this program we will be offering stories, songs, poems and fingerplays for an interactive family storytime. Everyone welcome!

Throughout the year, other unique, fun programs and events are organized at WPL. These include Family Fun Day, magic shows, movie afternoons, theatrical and musical guests, drama workshops and more. Visit KidBits at www.wpl.ca to find out times, dates, locations and registration information.



The Charm of Tasha Tudor

Tasha Tudor

This is the first anniversary edition of WPL's *Off the Shelf* and I would like to mark this special occasion by taking the opportunity to introduce you to my favourite Children's book illustrator – Tasha Tudor. Picture books and fairytales that are richly illustrated have always held a special place in my heart and there are many talented artists who have used their craft to make a story memorable. There have been numerous occasions over the years when library patrons have told me that they don't remember the title or author of a particular book that they are looking for, however many will say "I'll know it when I see it". Such is the power of illustration.

Tasha Tudor's art is memorable for me because it radiates warmth and the charm of a bygone era. Much of the inspiration for her work comes from her own unique lifestyle, which is strongly influenced by the early 1900s. In fact, she lives her life as if it were the 1830s and two adult books have been published over the last couple of years that have succeeded in making her a lifestyle icon: *The Private World of Tasha Tudor* by Tasha Tudor and Richard Brown and *Tasha Tudor's Garden* by Tovah Martin and Richard Brown. Her beautiful cottage garden, doll house, pet cat, doves, corgis, antique dresses, weavings, wood stove, etc. have all become familiar friends to her fans. Her children and grandchildren are dressed in period clothes and become the models for her books. A good example of this is *A Tale for Easter*, which is still available in the library. The decorative borders around each picture are her trademark and children will have a lot of fun finding flowers, candies and small animals peeking out at them.

Ms. Tudor is perhaps best known for her illustrations in *The Secret Garden* and *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Both books are enduring favourites that have been reprinted many times and are still readily available. Younger children who are just learning the joy of counting or reciting the alphabet may enjoy *1 is One* a counting book, and *A is for Annabelle: a Doll's Alphabet.* Big and little girls alike will want to have a doll just like Annabelle with her sweet porcelain face and exquisite wardrobe.

Tasha Tudor has led a prolific life. She is now in her 90th year and lives in her rural home in a picturesque corner of Vermont. She is living her dream. For more information about her please visit her website at www.tashatudor.com. On dreary days when I need to get away to a cozy place I just pick-up a book by, or about, Tasha Tudor and brighten up my day – hopefully she will do the same for you.

Kerstin, Children's Librarian

In a Faraway Place

Imagine yourself with a fruity drink in hand, a comfy lounge chair, waves lapping up on the beach, a handsome houseboy waving palm fronds and a great book. Oh wait, that's my dream. Check out these novels if you dream of travel and adventure in faraway places.

***Up Country* by Nelson DeMille (Vietnam)**
Retired army investigator Paul Brenner (previously featured in The General's Daughter) is called back into service to return to Vietnam and investigate the death of an American officer by a fellow American thirty years earlier. As Vietnam celebrates the Tet holiday, Paul must try to locate the eyewitness, a North Vietnamese soldier.

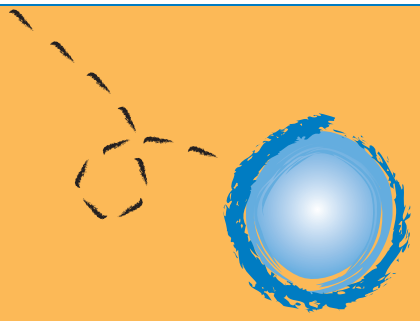
***A Blade of Grass* by Lewis DeSoto (South Africa)**
Mèarit Laurens is a British newlywed living on a remote South African farm with her husband. When violence tears her world apart, leaving her husband dead, Mèarit struggles to keep the farm working despite disputes between the farm workers and the local Afrikaner community.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan)**
This is the story of the friendship of Amir and Hassan, two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household, they nevertheless grow up in different worlds. Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man. Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara, a member of a shunned ethnic minority. When Amir and his father flee the country he realizes you can't escape the past.

***The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd. 2005 (South Carolina)**
Jessie is called home to Egret Island, off the coast of South Carolina, in order to take care of her eccentric mother. While on the island, she encounters a handsome monk from a Benedictine monastery and finds herself questioning her commitment to her staid marriage as she awakens to a newfound passion of both spirit and body.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (Belgian Congo)**
In 1959, Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary, embarks on a mission to the Belgian Congo with his wife and his four daughters. Initially, the family shares in the belief that they are bringing a superior culture to the people of the village of Kilanga. However, as their efforts fail and Nathan clings tenaciously to his mission, the women must each come to terms with the reality of their situation.

***Small Island* by Andrea Levy (Jamaica-England)**
In 1948, Hortense Joseph, a well-educated, impeccably groomed, honey-skinned bride, arrives in England from Jamaica full of hopes and dreams. Hortense and husband Gilbert rent a room in Queenie Bligh's boardinghouse. When Queenie's husband finally returns home from the war, he is horrified to find "coloureds" in his house and England a very much-changed place. Each of them must come to accept the reality of a world changed beyond their expectations.



Armchair Travel

Have you always wanted to travel to someplace new and exotic? You aren't the only one. Warm up your winter by reading about the sun-drenched, heartwarming experiences of these adventurers.

***Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy* by Frances Mayes (Tuscany, Italy)**
In this memoir, Mayes reveals the pleasures she found living in rural Italy while renovating an abandoned villa in Cortona. In the Tuscan countryside, Mayes experiences the thrill of finding frescoes beneath the whitewash in her dining room, the joy at discovering a vineyard under the overgrown brambles in the garden and the beauty and honesty of the Italian people.

***Monkey dancing: a father, two kids, and a journey to the ends of the earth* by Daniel Glick (Southeast Asia, India, Europe)**
In an effort to bond with his two children, aged 9 and 13, following a devastating divorce, Daniel Glick embarks with them on a six-month trip around the world. An experienced traveler and journalist, Glick shares his family's travel experiences as they move from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to Bali, Southeast Asia, India and Europe.

***An Embarrassment of Mangoes: A Caribbean Interlude* by Ann Vanderhoof (Caribbean)**
Who hasn't fantasized about saying goodbye to the rat race, and escaping to some exotic destination in search of sun, sand, and a different way of life? Canadians Ann Vanderhoof and her husband, Steve did just that. In the mid 1990s, they were 40-something professionals looking for an escape from their stressful lives. They quit their jobs, rented out their house, moved onto a 42-foot sailboat called Receta ("recipe," in Spanish), and set sail for the Caribbean on a two-year voyage of cultural and culinary discoveries.

***Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure* by Sarah Macdonald (India)**
In this often-funny chronicle of her adventures, journalist Sarah Macdonald details her decision to quit her dream job in order to follow her partner to New Delhi, the most polluted city on earth. During her two-year stay in India, Sarah explores Hinduism, Tibetan Buddhism, Sikhism, Vipassana meditation, Judaism, Zorastrianism, and Sufism. From spiritual retreats and crumbling nirvanas to war zones and nightclubs, this is a journey that only a woman on a mission to save her soul, her love life – and her sanity – can survive.

Christine Brown, Information Services

Check Out the Comics @ Your Library

There's a whole new world of comics at the library, where a wide selection of graphic novels is flying off the shelves. Never heard of a graphic novel? Think of it as a book length comic. The range and variety of these books have increased steadily since the 1980s to become one of the fastest growing areas of publishing in the past few years. No longer stocked only in specialty comic shops, graphic novels have gone mainstream and appear on the shelves of bookstores everywhere. What's the appeal?

Like your superheroes? There's a great selection of comics featuring heroes in tights. Look up J. Michael Straczynski's ***Amazing Spiderman*** series. It is pretty amazing. Or check out titles including ***Batman*** and ***Sin City*** by the ever-popular Frank Miller. Brian Michael Bendis serves up ***Ultimate X-Men*** and ***Ultimate Fantastic Four*** and ***Ultimate Spiderman***.

But, there's a lot more than superheroes in today's graphic novels. Take ***Persepolis***, Marjane Satrapi's autobiography about growing up as a young girl during the Islamic Revolution. ***Publisher's Weekly*** calls it "powerfully understated" and sets it next to the Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novel ***Maus*** by Art Spiegelman (1992). Spiegelman revolutionized comics when he created ***Maus***, which tells the story of his father, a Holocaust survivor, by combining visual images with text in a way that was innovative at the time and is still powerful today. Other non-fiction graphic novels to look for are ***Safe Area Goradze*** by Joe Sacco and ***Louis Riel*** by Chester Brown.

Neil Gaiman has won many, many awards for his graphic novels, which include the horror/fantasy series ***Sandman*** that is noted for stunning illustrations combined with good stories. Contrast Gaiman's work with the New Yorker-like style of Seth's ***It's a Good Life If You Don't Weaken*** or Michael Rabagliati's ***Paul Has a Summer Job***, both Canadian authors. And don't overlook Kitchener's own Dave Sim and his independently published ***Cerebus*** series.

Manga is the Japanese word for comic and is a fast growing part of the North American comics market. Manga is published for every age and kind of audience and many of the titles, translated directly from the Japanese editions, are read back to front. Popular series include: ***Inu Yasha, Ranma ∏, Dragon Ball Z*** and many others. Media tie-ins with cinema (Japanese anime films), games and other products featuring Japanese characters and stories have added to the interest in manga.

How about the kids? While the largest portion of graphic novel publishing is targeted to young adults (twenty-somethings) there are more and more titles for teens and children. To find teen titles type the following

words into a keyword search in the library catalogue: graphic novel and teen. Or for children's titles try this keyword search: rated all ages.

But they're just comics! More pulp fiction you say. Don't underestimate the sophistication of graphic novels. To really appreciate them you want to read more than the text, which for those of us who grew up in a print world, can be a new experience at first. But don't count yourself out without giving them a try – the reward is worth the effort when you slow down to really take in the illustrations alongside the text.

Of course graphic novels have a natural appeal for a generation of visual learners that grew up on video games, where success depends on a player's ability to process visual information, assimilate it and then act on it. Young people have an instinctive understanding of how to read graphic novels. It's a whole new kind of literacy that includes more than reading words. We're not just living in a print world anymore. Yes, they're comics and just look how far they've come.

by Alannah Hegedus

LIBRARY SERVICES AND BENEFITS

Membership at WPL

Library membership is free for anyone residing in Waterloo Region. Memberships are renewed once a year with a quick, verbal confirmation of your personal information.

How Do I Get a Card?

Simply bring one piece of identification with your name and current address on it to the library, and we'll provide you with a card.

Cards for Kids

Children of any age can get a library card – even babies! Children 12 years of age and under must have a parent or legal guardian sign the card, accepting borrowing responsibility.

Welcome Students!

University and college students are welcome to become WPL members. Bring one piece of identification with your name and current address on it e.g. rent receipt, piece of mail etc. to the library, and we'll provide you with a card.

PINs Protect Your Privacy

Access to your account is protected by your PIN (Personal Identification Number). A PIN is needed to place holds and to renew material on-line.

View Your Account

You can view your account from any Internet-enabled computer. Simply go to www.wpl.ca and click on View Your Account (under Borrowing).

Circulation Services

Holds

If an item isn't available on your library visit, you may wish to place a hold on it. Holds are free. You can place a hold in person, through the library catalogue or website at www.wpl.ca or by telephone. We will notify you when the item is ready to be picked up.

Renewals

You can extend the due date for a library item by renewing it. Books, videos, magazines, recorded books, and compact discs may be renewed a maximum of two times. DVDs and kits cannot be renewed.

Renew items in person or through View Your Account at www.wpl.ca. For phone renewals call the Main Library 886-1310 ext. 110 or McCormick Branch 885-1920 during business hours. After hours, use our automated TelRenew Service at 886-5480.

Returning Library Materials

You can return all WPL material at either the Main Library or McCormick Branch. An outdoor returns chute is available at the Main Library. The chute is located on the Dupont Street level, in the wall just past the large glass windows. There is a separate slot for DVDs and CDs.

DO NOT return Waterloo Public Library materials at Kitchener Public Library.

Loan Periods and Renewals

The limits below are per membership. Items with long waiting lists may have their loan period reduced. For a complete listing of loan periods and renewal policies, please visit Borrowing at www.wpl.ca

Books and Magazines

- 3-week loan period; renewals are available
- No limit on fiction and paperbacks, but 4 per topic in non-fiction and 4 per title in magazines

CDs and Recorded Books

- 3-week loan period; renewals are available
- Maximum of 5 CDs and 5 recorded books

DVDs and Videos

- 1-week loan period; renewals available on videos only
- Video maximum of 3 adult and 3 children's titles
- DVD maximum of 2 adult and 2 children's titles

Kits – Language etc.

- 3-week loan period; no renewals
- Maximum of 2 kits

Vacation Loans

Going on a vacation? Books (new titles excluded), recorded books, magazines and compact discs may be checked out on a special 6-week loan. Ask the Circulation Desk staff for details.

Fines and Fees

A complete fines and fees schedule may be viewed at www.wpl.ca under Borrowing. Please return library materials promptly as other customers are often waiting for them. Fines may be paid by cash; personal cheque or Interac (Main Library only) are accepted.

Information Services at 886-1310 ext. 124

Ask Us!

Our trained staff is here to help you. Information and reference services are available to both adults and children. No question is too big or too small!

Book a Computer

WPL provides free computer workstations and free access to the Internet. Software available includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Publisher. Reservations recommended.

TechTutor Volunteer Trainers

Are you new to the world of computers? Sign up for our free one-on-one computer training program. We will match you with a knowledgeable volunteer computer trainer.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND BENEFITS, continued

InterLibrary Loan

Access books, articles and microfilm from other libraries in Ontario and across Canada. Call or email illo@wpl.ca for more information.

Tours

Trained library staff will take your group on a tour of the Main Library. We will demonstrate how our collections can help in your job search, small business activities or school research.

Minimum of 2 weeks notice is required for a tour. For more information, call 886-1310 ext. 124 (adults) and 886-1310 ext. 129 (children).

Special Services

Visiting Library Service (V.L.S.)

Through V.L.S., we arrange the delivery of material to those who are not able to visit the library themselves. Our volunteers bring material to individuals who are housebound or institutionalized. For more information, call 886-1310 ext. 186 or email swright@wpl.ca

Books to Grow

Our Books to Grow volunteers take books and story kits into homes, daycares and other child care environments for children who might not otherwise be able to come to the library. The volunteer will do a story time and help support reading and literacy development. Call 886-1310 ext. 129 or email jtaylor@wpl.ca for details.

Meeting Rooms

An auditorium and a small meeting room are available for rent at the Main Library. Rooms may be viewed on-line at www.wpl.ca under Services – Meeting Rooms. For more information, call 886-1310 ext. 186 or email swright@wpl.ca

Photocopying and More

Self-serve, black and white photocopiers are available at both libraries. Microform Reader-Printers are located at the Main Library. Laser printing from the computer workstations is also available.

Free Wireless

WPL with Atria Networks offers free wireless access to the Internet at the Main Library. Bring your laptop to WPL!

SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS AT WPL

Continued from cover

These seminars will take place in the Main Library's (35 Albert Street) Auditorium from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The cost is $25.00 (plus GST) per person per seminar. Pre-payment is required to reserve your seat. To register, call 741-2986.

For information on other Waterloo Region Small Business Centre seminars visit www.waterlooregionsmallbusiness.com

Starting a Small Business

Thursday, February 2nd

Learn what it takes to start a small business. Topics will include: personal assessment; advantages and disadvantages of different types of business registration; government regulations and possible sources of financing.

Creating a Business Plan

Thursday, February 9th

You will learn how to write an effective business plan for any small business. We will discuss why a business plan is essential, effective layout, specific items to include, what projections are needed for business owners and possible lenders.

Market Research for Small Businesses

Thursday, February 16th

Market research is essential to every business. In this seminar you will learn where to find the important information required when planning your business.

Preparing Financial Projections

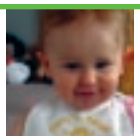
Thursday, February 23rd

Maintaining a strong cash flow is vital to any businesses' success. In this informative seminar you will learn how to complete and read a cash flow statement, prepare accurate projections, and the value of being able to compare actual results with projections.

Laurier Students for Literacy

The Laurier Students for Literacy (LSFL) held their annual fundraising walk in November, and designated the proceeds from the walk for WPL's ***Books to Grow*** program. The library partners with LSFL to support tutoring and literacy activities for children in the community.

Books to Grow was launched in 2004 to take reading and literacy activities into homes and daycare centres, for children and families who may not be able to come to the library. Although ***Books to Grow*** was initially funded through a donation from the Kiwanis Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, it will certainly benefit from the infusion of money raised by the Laurier students.



Shopping @ WPL

We are happy to offer for sale special fundraising merchandise items, produced exclusively for Waterloo Public Library. These items also make wonderful gifts.

Baseball Caps – Top quality, brushed twill caps with the library logo embroidered discreetly on the back. One size fits all. $20.00

Bistro Mugs – Almond-coloured ceramic with royal blue trim. 11 oz., classic style, with a charming graphic. $9.00

Umbrellas – Royal blue and white. Compact. Easy to open and close. Great for getting those books home nice and dry. $15.00

Book Lights – Clamshell book lights in royal blue, clips safely onto your book. Perfect for reading in bed. $12.00

Baby Bibs – Terry cloth bib with tie closure. For the tot who was born to read! $6.00

Butterfly Bookmarks – Soft bookmarks with plush butterfly and leaf decorations. $3.50

Pens – Ballpoint pens bent into the shape of a giraffe (like our Children's mascot, Chester!) or our Place to Grow butterfly. $3.00

Literally Delicious Cookbooks – 600 recipes submitted by staff, friends, family and library customers. High quality coil binding. Each recipe is accompanied by the cook's favourite book title. Over 1,000 sold! $12.00 each or 2 for $20.00

Book Bags – Sturdy, washable canvas book bags with zippered outer pocket. $10.00

Historical Notecards – Unique blank cards featuring photographs from the Local History Department. 4 note cards and envelopes per package. $4.00

All fundraising items are available at the Circulation Desks at both the Main Library and the McCormick Branch.

Circle of

You can help support one of the community's most important civic institutions – the library.

Since 1876 the Waterloo Public Library has been a meeting place for people, ideas, learning and culture.

The library is used by children, students, parents, entrepreneurs, new immigrants and seniors – people from all walks of life.

Supporting the Waterloo Public Library means that you're helping everyone to access the information and lifelong learning opportunities that are central to a growing, vibrant community, and are the cornerstone of a literate and democratic society.

Where will your money go?

Every day, more than 1,400 people visit the Waterloo Public Library. The library changes lives – giving people new skills, new ideas and new ways of making sense of the complex world we live in. It gives everyone a chance to discover the joy of reading.

We need friends like you – people who truly appreciate the importance of library services – to ensure a strong library service today and for the future.

As a Friend of the Waterloo Public Library, you'll support these important initiatives:

Outreach Programs for Children

To bring library collections and services to children who live in vulnerable social and economic circumstances.

Family Literacy

To develop the reading, writing and counting skills of children in a family environment, and to promote a love of reading. Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Research shows that children's self-esteem grows and family relationships are strengthened when family members enjoy literacy-building activities together.

Adopt-a-Magazine

To enlarge WPL's newspaper and magazine collection.

Library Collections

To add more books to our shelves, and to ensure that the library is at the forefront of today's knowledge economy – knowledge that must be available to all citizens of Waterloo.

A great library needs more than a building…

Friends

To make a donation, mail a cheque made payable to "Waterloo Public Library" to:

Waterloo Public Library,
35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5E2
Attention: Business Office

Or you can make a donation in person at any service counter at the Main Library or McCormick Branch.

Honouring others with a gift to WPL

Did you know that you can make an individual donation to the Circle of Friends campaign or you can make a donation in the name of another person?

Your donation may be a memorial gift, or it may be your special way of honouring a friend or relative who has made a difference in your life. Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasions with the gift of literacy!

For details about honouring someone with a library donation, please contact Chief Librarian Cathy Matyas at (519) 886-1310 ext. 123.

WPL's Endowment Fund

The WPL Endowment Fund has been created so that Library Friends can make a long-lasting donation to help WPL continue as a vital and growing resource into the future.

WPL's Endowment Fund is managed by the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation, an organization dedicated to fostering quality of life for all citizens. When you make a donation to the WPL Endowment Fund, you can be confident that your donation will be professionally managed and that your gift will have a lasting benefit.

Your gift to WPL's Endowment Fund is preserved as principal. The income your gift generates is used for services, special projects and collections.

To discuss a donation to the Endowment Fund, please contact Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian, at (519) 886-1310 ext. 123.

it needs friends.

Maureen Williams

Memorial Fund

The Waterloo Public Library has announced the creation of a special memorial fund to celebrate the contribution of Maureen Williams to children's services and the love of reading in families in Waterloo.

The Maureen Williams Memorial Fund will support the expansion of the picture book collection for children at the Main Library and McCormick Branch.

Maureen Williams was a children's librarian at the Waterloo Public Library for many years. She passed away on September 1, 2004 in her 90th year. The creation of the special memorial fund has been initiated with a donation of $2,000 by the Williams family.

"It's a wonderful tribute to someone who helped bring a love of reading to many young people," said Chief Librarian Cathy Matyas. "This fund will ensure that early learning and family literacy continue to be supported in our community, in a way that was important to Mrs. Williams."

Mrs. Williams was born in Linwood, and attended McMaster University, where she received an Honours BA in English and French. She received her Bachelor of Library Science from the University of Toronto. She began work at the Waterloo Public Library in the mid-1940s. She retired from WPL in 1971.

Articles that appeared in *The Kitchener-Waterloo Record* in 1961 describe how Maureen Williams created a modern children's library in the former Carnegie Library on Dorset Street, bringing the lower level of the building to life after it had been used for storage for 58 years.

After her retirement from WPL, Mrs. Williams traveled to many places in the world. However, she continued to give generously to her community, through her volunteer work at the Emmanuel Day Care, where she worked with children with special needs, and by establishing a library for her own church.

To make a donation to the Maureen Williams Memorial Fund, or for more information, please contact Cathy Matyas, Chief Librarian, at (519) 886-1310 ext. 123.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of $10 or more.

Waterloo's Carnegie Library 100 Years Old!

"Waterloo Library shall be as a spring from which there shall ever gush forth a fountain of knowledge and truth that will be a blessing to the whole community." – Reverend Mr. Lee, 1909

Waterloo Public Library has grown in popularity with each passing year. The following is a brief history of the Library's beginnings.

In the 1800s, associations known as Mechanics' Institutes were being organized. Their mandate was "... to provide their members – mechanics and workingmen – with lectures, reading rooms and lending libraries."

Waterloo's Mechanics' Institute was formed in late 1875 and was located on the main floor of the Town Hall. Rules were strictly enforced.

- **No person under the age of fifteen years will be allowed to select books.**
- **Not more than two persons from one family will be allowed in the Library on the same evening.**
- **The utmost good order and decorum must be observed by all persons.**
- **Fifteen minutes will be allowed each party for the selection of Books.**

By the year 1888 the Mechanics' Institute transferred its assets to the "Municipal Corporation of the town of Waterloo" and the Waterloo Free Library was born.

In 1902 Mayor David Bean applied to Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish philanthropist, for a $10,000 donation to erect a Library building in the town. He quickly received a positive reply and enlisted Charles G. Moogk, who was responsible for the building of some of Waterloo's most important structures, as architect and builder.

Work commenced on the Carnegie Library on July 11, 1903. The Library was built in the Classical Revival Style using red Milton pressed bricks. The Grand opening was held on November 1, 1905. At this event Miss Emma Belle Roos was introduced as Librarian, a position she would hold for 46 years.

The new library was a success! Circulation soared and was so impressive that it was even reported in the local paper. In 1966, the population and collection outgrew the Carnegie building and a new Waterloo Public Library was built at 35 Albert Street. The Carnegie became the local police station and, currently houses the national head office of Habitat for Humanity.

For more information on WPL's history, visit the Ellis Little Local History Room or www.wpl.ca

Memories: a Carnegie Customer Reminisces

"They say that ancient memories are sometimes tugged out of the closets and attics of our minds by familiar smells and sounds. For me, wide, wooden stairs that creak remind me of the old Waterloo Public Library. The pungent odour of wet wool can also take me back [more than] 50 winters to the times when my sister and I would make our bi-weekly visit to the upstairs children's section.

Most coats were woolen back then, and so were the socks and the mitts we wore; we kids were quite accustomed to an indoor ecology where the amply-varnished shelves, and the waxed floors, and the old steam radiators did battle with the musty smells of our clothing and our boots. I remember clearly how on a busy Saturday, the library odours would lose the battle until late in the afternoon, when the crowds of kids had thinned out somewhat. By then, the ticking of the large school clock on the wall would finally re-assert itself as well!"

Photos and Memorabilia Wanted

Our Local History Department is looking for old library memorabilia as well as wintertime photos. Do you have photos of your ancestors sledding, skating, having a snowball fight, cutting ice, etc.? Please contact Local History Librarian Janet Seally at 886-1310 ext. 126 or jseally@wpl.ca if you'd like to share your treasures with WPL.

Then and Now Comparisons

In the Beginning at WPL	Now at WPL
• 818 books were borrowed in November 1905	• Over 93,000 items were borrowed in November 2004
• Members had to be 15 years of age and over	• Newborns and up have memberships
• The library was open 4-1/2 hours a week	• Open over 60 hours a week
• Customers were allowed 15 minutes to select their books	• Customers can stay all day

www.wpl.ca

a place to grow

Waterloo Public Library