

Brantford Public Library



Opening Ceremonies New Main Library

173 Colborne Street,
Brantford, Ontario

September 19, 1992





A Brief History of How The Main Library Came Into Existence

The old main library for the City of Brantford (referred to as the "Carnegie Library" because Andrew Carnegie donated the money for it) served this city well and for a longer time than most Carnegie buildings did in other communities. However, for many years and through many library boards it was felt that the building had outlived its time. The first mention in the library board minutes of the possibility of replacing it occurs right after the War in 1946. In the late 1960's there was more serious talk of replacing it. But this was silenced momentarily with the construction and opening of the St. Paul Avenue Branch Library in January 1975. In 1977 efforts began again triggered by the Ryan Report which was quickly followed by two reports from Beckman Associates – one in 1978 and one in 1981. Between 1981 and the spring of 1989 when the old downtown Woolco Department Store was selected as the location of the new main library facility, at least two joint committees of the City Council and Library Board were established to resolve the problem; two schemes were investigated and rejected – one to split services and one to go underground; and upwards of a dozen sites were looked at by various people, committees, library boards, etc. and rejected. When the former Woolco building became available it was the answer to the problem because it met the major criteria of being in the core area, close to good transportation and parking, and BIG enough (total 60,000 square feet) to house a main library facility that could carry Brantford into the 21st century.

Total Square Feet	60,000
Main Floor	24,000
Lower Floor	25,000
Unfinished Space	9,000
Purchase Price	\$1,870,000
Renovation Cost	\$3,309,000
Shelving & Furnishing	\$258,000

Official Opening Program

Welcome	Jerry Porte , Chairman Brantford Public Library Board
Dedication	The Reverend Herb Klaehn , Zion United Church
Ribbon Cutting	Mayor Robert Taylor , Corporation of the City of Brantford Jerry Porte , Chairman Brantford Public Library Board Michele Renwick , Representing the Library's clients Dale Dyce , Representing the Library's staff
Unveiling of the Plaque	Mayor Robert Taylor , Corporation of the City of Brantford
Presentation of the Key	Peter J. Vicano , Vicano Construction, Gene Kinoshita , Moffat Kinoshita Associates Inc. Jerry Porte , Chairman Brantford Public Library Board
Comments	Mayor Robert Taylor , Corporation of the City of Brantford Brad Ward , M.P.P. Barbara Clubb , Director Libraries and Community Information Branch, Ministry of Culture and Communications Carmela Henry , Library Board Chairman 1989-1990 Muzaffar ul Haq , Library Board Chairman 1991 Gene Kinoshita , Moffat Kinoshita Associates Inc. Carolyn Croke , Chief Librarian
Presentation to Former Board Members	Ken Strachan

The Master of Ceremonies is Ken Strachan,
Editor Emeritus of the Brantford Expositor.

1992 Members of the Brantford Public Library Board

Jerry Porte, Chairman
Melodie Daboll
Muzaffar ul Haq
Jay Johnson
Quintin Lang, Vice-Chairman

Jim MacDonald
George Rayner
Alderman John Sless
Richard Westbrook

The Brantford Public Library Board would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks the funding provided by the Taxpayers of the City of Brantford, the People of the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and individual donors.