



# BOOKS ARE JUST THE Beginning



The library used to be the place where you could **borrow books**. Today, it's much more! You can take out books in a **variety of languages**, plus borrow **eBooks**, **Blue-Rays**, **DVDs**, and **CDs**. You can access the **Internet**, work on a **computer** or join a **book club**. And your local library is also a **community gathering place** where you and your neighbours can come to enjoy **special events** and **cultural programs** together. The **expert staff** always look forward to greeting you with a smile and **providing assistance**. Whether you are looking for **homework help**, a **children's storytime** or a **learn-to-read program**, you can find it all for **FREE**. So remember, the next time you're stopping by to check out a book, check out all the other amazing things your local library has to offer!





# Teens HAVE A CRUSH ON US

“ The teen award ceremony was Adam’s very first official performance. We are grateful for such a phenomenal life experience. ”

In 2011, 670 teens chilled at Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) by attending **teen-focused programs** such as **The Hunger Games**, **Murder Mystery**, **Tween Club**, **Friday Flicks** and more. Over 1,000 **teens volunteered** at the library to earn their high school **community service hours** and participated in **Reading Buddies**, a VPL program where teens work with younger children to help them practice reading. They took part in our **Teen Readers’ Advisory Committee (TRAC)** too, sharing their thoughts on how we could improve our libraries for teens and they recorded **podcast book reviews**; a popular feature on our **Teen Vortex blog**. Well over 400 entries were received for the annual **Early Harvest Competition**, where teens showcased their creative skills and talent. Competition winners and teen volunteers were recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions at VPL’s **Teen Awards** at the City Playhouse.



# LIBRARY TIME IS Family Time

“ Staff always goes out of their way to help. ”

When families wanted to spend time together in 2011 quite often they did so at VPL. In fact, more than 32,500 participated in our core free library programs such as **Ready to Read**, **Toddling to Read**, **Ready Set Kindergarten**, **Tuesday Tickles**, **Family Storytimes** and a host of **author visits**. But they didn’t just pop by for the reading. Over 7,600 Vaughan-area families paid us a visit to participate in fun-filled programs such as **Bieber Fever**, **A, B & Sea**, **Astronomy for Kids**, and **Chess Club** too. One of the hits of the year was the **FREE Family Literacy Day Pyjama Party**. It was like a giant sleepover with kids, moms and dads sporting their favourite pyjamas and enjoying storytimes, sing-alongs, puppet shows, making crafts and best-selling illustrator and author Werner Zimmermann spinning stories.







# Place FOR EVERYONE

“...two human books had been mentioned in the newspaper article. I had little foresight what to expect. A wonderful surprise awaited: ten books were available; a welcoming, well-organized event and goodies to sustain us...”

Last year nearly 8,000 citizens attended the 1,100 **programs for adults**. Some of the most popular were **Beyond the Basics**, which pairs teen volunteers with adults and seniors to teach them how to use Facebook, YouTube and other social media platforms. Our first ever **eBook Open House**, which explained how to find, upload and use eBooks, was an overwhelming success with over 600 adults taking part. Once again **Book Chats**, our **Chinese Book Club**, **English as a Second Language (ESL) programs** and our afternoon movies were hugely attended. One hundred and sixty people stopped by for tax time tips at our free tax clinics.

## COMMITTED TO THE Community

In 2011 we **extended Maple Library's hours** so that it is now open to the community regular hours each Friday. To provide local college and university students with a quiet place to prepare for exams, after-hours **study halls** were set up at our Bathurst Clark and Pierre Berton Resource Libraries. We celebrated **Family Day** at three of our branches and offered a variety of family-fun activities. And to meet the needs of our ever-growing community, we are now planning a **new library in the North Thornhill Community Centre**. The helping hand of VPL extended beyond our library walls as well, as we collected for the local food bank through our **Food for Fines** and **Food Drive** programs and the **CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish Toy Drive**. Over 100 of our staff members and their families represented VPL in local festivities including the **Thornhill Village Parade** and riding the Christmas-in-the-Castle-themed float with Cinderella and Prince Charming during the City of Vaughan's **Santafest Parade**.

“The help I receive from library staff is fabulous. If I had a list of the top five institutions, VPL is on that list with Apple.com!”



## CONNECTING THROUGH Technology

“Great library I'm happy it's a free service”

Books are just the beginning at VPL, and there's no better example of that than our commitment to embracing the exciting world of technology. To meet the growing demand for **eBooks**, we doubled the size of our collection. You can always connect with VPL either through **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **YouTube**, Blogs or subscribe to our eNewsletter **the Buzz**. And to make it easier to get all the details on library services, programs and upcoming events, VPL now includes **QR codes** on promotional materials so all you have to do is scan the code with your smartphone and in seconds you'll have all the information you need.





## Vaughan Public Library Board:

*Front Row (from L): Lorraine de Boer, Michael McKenzie (Chair), Grace Lociento. Middle Row (from L): Suri Rosen, Rosanna DeFrancesca, Devender Sandhu (Vice-Chair), Marie Chiaromonte, Isabella Ferrara, Marilyn Iafrate. Back Row (from L): Vivek Gupta, Gino Rosati, Margie Singleton (CEO), Steve Kerwin, Rocco Capone, Pradeep Puri, Michael Di Biase*

# VPL produced impressive numbers in 2011.

- More than 2 million customers visited VPL
- Customers borrowed more than 2.8 million items
- 80,000 new items were added to VPL's collections
- 2,200 eBook titles available for downloads
- More than 9,800 eBooks were checked out (5 times more than in 2010!)
- 97,000 people attended over 3,000 programs
- Nearly 15,000 children used VPL's Early Literacy Computer Stations
- Visits to VPL's website exceeded 800,000
- Staff answered over 560,000 customer questions
- All seven libraries welcomed customers during the 17,861 hours they were open
- Over 14,700 new customers joined the library



## CONTACT US

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