



**NEW
TRAINING
LAB OPENS**

**GROUNDBREAKING
FOR EAST SIDE
LIBRARY CELEBRATED**



THE LIBRARY TIMES

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY • ANNUAL REPORT 2003

TOP STORIES

Section
A

Circulation Reaches Record-Breaking Highs

ERIE COUNTY – The B&ECPL experienced the busiest year in its history in 2003. Patron self-initiated requests and online renewals contributed to an 8.8% increase in circulation activity, with totals rising from 8,155,364 in 2002 to 8,875,762 in 2003. A record-shattering 117,660 boxes of library materials and supplies were shipped among B&ECPL's 52 locations, representing a 20% increase over 2002.

Ground Broken for New East Side Library

BUFFALO – Public officials from the local and state level, community leaders, B&ECPL trustees and staff, library supporters and residents attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a new 20,000 square foot branch library on the City of Buffalo's East Side. Using the African village as inspiration for the building's design, the \$4.2 million dollar project will include an African American Resource Room, adult and youth reading rooms, technology training lab, auditorium, 35 parking spaces and an African motif in the block facade. The new building will be named after **Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.**, editor and publisher of *The Criterion* newspaper.



LIFESTYLES

Section
B

The End of the Bun!

ERIE COUNTY – To dispel long-held stereotypes surrounding the librarian profession, the B&ECPL conducted a unique promotional campaign entitled, “Librarian Life: Not Your Typical Librarian Anymore,” during National



Library Week. Posters featuring four different B&ECPL librarians engaged in a variety of dynamic or atypical activities were distributed to schools, cultural organizations and businesses throughout the area. The campaign received national attention.

ENTERTAINMENT

Section
C

Reinventing the Wheel

BUFFALO – From May through October, the Central Library hosted a special programming series to coordinate with *Art on Wheels*, the region-wide art in public spaces project, displaying outdoor sculptures based on the wheel, transportation and recycling. The *Sprockets to Rockets* series featured a different transportation theme each month, which was explored through entertaining and informative programming for both children and adults.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Section
D

Zoomtext, the advanced screen magnification program for vision-impaired computer users, was installed on at least one workstation at every B&ECPL location.

At a special event in September, library supporters, staff, trustees and public officials celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Bladell Branch.

After seeking public input for one year, the B&ECPL Board of Trustees approved a demonstration project where Erie County Executive **Joel Giambra** agreed to provide capital funds to construct a new, state-of-the-art library to replace the Cazenovia and Dudley branches in South Buffalo.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Section
E

For the first time in 20 years, the B&ECPL increased the fine rates it charges for the overdue return of library materials. Key changes include increases in the basic fine for regular library materials from 10 cents to 25 cents per day, children’s materials from 2 cents to 10 cents per day, videocassettes and DVDs from \$1 to \$2 per day (excluding children’s titles) and the maximum fine for regular items from \$10 to \$15. The revenue generated from the increases was used to bridge gaps in the 2003 Library operating budget and sustain public service at 2002 levels.

TECHNOLOGY

Section
F

BUFFALO – Through a generous \$50,000 grant from Verizon SuperPages, the Central Library opened a second computer training lab in March. The Libraries Expand Access for Discovery (LEAD) Lab provides teachers, students and adults access to computers, the Internet and instructional opportunities.

The fully-illustrated CD-ROM, *Huck Finn: The Complete Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Manuscript – Teaching and Research Digital Edition*, was completed in June. Produced through collaboration with the Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County, the CD-ROM includes a variety of resources for users of all ages and educational levels to understand and appreciate Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in a completely new manner. The project was funded primarily through the generosity of the John R. Oishei Foundation with additional funding received from the Baird Foundation and the Constance Stafford Charitable Lead Trust.

SPORTS

Section
G

During July, “Hit the Books,” a summer reading program sponsored by UPS and the Buffalo Bills, encouraged 1,864 children in Erie County to read 6,991 books.

ENVIRONMENT

Section
H



In a joint effort, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the B&ECPL offered a recycling program to address the tens of thousands of cell phones no longer in use. Beginning in December, individuals were able to take old cell phones to any library within the B&ECPL System. For every phone returned, the local library received \$3 to be used for programming or new materials. The cell phones collected through this program were shipped to a company that either refurbished or recycled the components.

B&ECPL FAST FACTS FOR 2003

Section
I

PEOPLE SERVED

All **Erie County** communities for a total population of **950,265 residents**.

REGISTERED BORROWERS

343,119 (enough to fill the HSBC Arena more than 18 times).

MATERIALS LOANED

Circulated approximately **10 items** (books, magazines, media, etc.) for every resident of Erie County.



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
 1 Lafayette Square
 Buffalo, NY 14203

Board of Trustees

Terms Expire 12/31

Daniel T. Roach, Chairman	2003
Rebecca L. Mahoney, Vice Chair	2008
Annette A. Juncewicz, Secretary	2008
James W. Burns, Treasurer*	2002
John B. Long, Treasurer	2006
W. Lawrence Buck	2007
William P. Brosnahan	2005
Phyllis A. Horton	2004
Susan Maggiore	2007
Elaine M. Panty	2007
Abdul H. Raof	2005
Judith K. Summer	2006
Sharon A. Thomas	2006
Raul Vazquez	2004
Wayne D. Wisbaum	2004

*Deceased March 2003

Administrative Officers

Michael C. Mahaney, Director
 Ruth A. Collins, Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer
 Kenneth H. Stone, Deputy Director - Chief Financial Officer
 Shirley P. Whelan, Deputy Director - Chief Information Officer

For complete statistical information, visit www.buffalolib.org.

LIBRARY GENERAL OPERATING*	Expenditures
Staff Salaries and Wages	\$ 19,176,749
Books, periodicals, binding, audio visual materials and CD Roms	4,950,401
Equipment	47,936
Building Maintenance	1,517,941
Supplies	173,508
Retirement, social security and health insurance	5,901,037
Other Costs	1,830,565
	\$ 33,898,136

*Of this amount \$2,138,572.00 was paid to the Library by the State of New York under the State Aid Program, Local Library Services Aid and Local Services Support Aid, and a total of \$29,287,807.00 was paid to the Library by Erie County as the share of the County Property Tax Levy and Tobacco/Bond proceeds designated for Library purposes.