

Shelf life



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWS AND VIEWS

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Pictured (l to r) Toronto Star publisher John Honderich, Councillor Kyle Rae, City Librarian Josephine Bryant, Library Board Chair Gillian Mason and Toronto Public Library Foundation Chair Rick Goldsmith reopen the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre at the Toronto Reference Library on November 27.

State-of-the-art newspaper centre

Newspaper buffs, students and researchers, up to 2,000 visitors a week, are pleased with the newly refurbished Toronto Star Newspaper Centre at the Toronto Reference Library, which reopened to the public on November 20. Funded in part by a \$2.5 million sponsorship from *The Toronto Star*, visitors to the centre now enjoy more space, more Internet access, more comfort and less noise.

Improvements were made in response to the increased demand for current local,

national and international news. The redesigned centre makes available 84 world-wide titles, including 39 Canadian titles. Expanded access via the electronic gateway *NewsConnect*, allows Toronto Public Library to provide more than 1,000 links to online newspapers and research tools from around the world in 77 languages, including materials in Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese and Persian scripts.

"Any public library system that can satisfy so many varied customers is a very civil-

ized system, in a very civil society, in the middle of a unique cultural renaissance," said Toronto Star Editorial Page Editor Emeritus Haroon Siddiqui at the centre's official opening on November 27.

"This beautiful facility is spacious, and equipped with state-of-the-art technology," said Toronto Public Library Board Chair Gillian Mason. "We are grateful to *The Toronto Star* for its generous sponsorship and we hope this support will be an inspiration to others."

Historicity a hit!

Historicity: Toronto Then and Now, the library's Web service about the city of Toronto and its neighbourhoods, had more than 3,400 visits during October, an increase of 43 per cent over September.

"I can't tell you how much I am enjoying your site. It is absolutely breathtaking in its scope," enthused one *Historicity* user.

Historicity brings together on the Internet many sources of information about Toronto, including thousands of photographs, paintings, drawings and maps of early Toronto. Check it out at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca



This year, Toronto Public Library is teaming up with First Night® to bring six days of New Year's fun (December 26-31) to the city. A community-based and alcohol-free alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry, First Night® Toronto brings people together to mark the passage of time through the arts.

The \$10 admission buttons are on sale at all 98 Toronto Public Library locations. One dollar of each button sold at library branches will go to Toronto Public Library.

For more details on the events for the full six days, call 416-362-3692.

All the best for the holiday season!

Library Board Highlights

December 3, 2001

Comparison of Foundations Working on Behalf of the City

Staff compared the mandate and programs of five public foundations directly or indirectly working on behalf of the city: The Toronto Public Library Foundation, The Toronto Zoo Foundation, The Toronto Arts Council Foundation, The Canadian National Exhibition and The Toronto Atmosphere Fund Foundation. This report, which was received by the Board for information, will be forwarded to the city's Budget Advisory Committee in response to its request.

Plan to Promote Bequests for Libraries and Other City Programs

Planned gifts represent a welcome source of additional revenue for the Library and will be encouraged by the Foundation through its major gift program. This report outlining the planned promotion of bequests, was received for information and will be forwarded to the city's Budget Advisory Committee in response to its request.

Policy for the Selection and Hiring of Professional and Consulting Services

Staff gave a presentation on the city Report, *Policy for the Selection and Hiring of Professional and Consulting Services; Use of Consultants and Expenditure Reduction Strategies; and Hiring of Professional and Consulting Services Review*, which was received for information.

Malvern Capital Project

– Architectural Services

The Board approved the awarding of a contract for architectural services for the Malvern District Library capital project to Phillip H. Carter Architect and Kingsland & Architects Inc., (in joint venture) with a contract value of \$272,315 including GST.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 21, 2002

– Committee Room #2, City Hall



Did you know?

Governor General Award-winning Toronto author Rohinton Mistry is Oprah Winfrey's latest author of choice. Her New Book Club Selection is Mistry's *A Fine Balance*. Toronto Public Library has 109 copies of the book as well as uncatalogued paperback editions.

Did you know?

Writer Rudyard Kipling was fired as a reporter on the *San Francisco Examiner*, which told him "You just don't know how to use the English language." In 1907, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Calendar of Events:

January 2002

Performing Arts Lecture Series 2002

Alexina Louie

January 11, 6:00 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St

Research Workshops:

• *Internet for Book Lovers:*

An introduction to online sources for literature and author information

January 11, 10:00 a.m.

• *SmallbizXpress:* New Small Business

Gateway for Ontario

January 16, 10:00 a.m.

• *Researching the News Online:* Session

will focus on electronic resources available for researching the news

January 24, 2:00 p.m.

All sessions: Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

Your Personal Finance Series 2002

The ABCs of Fraud

January 16, 6:30 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St

Exhibit:

Ink Paper Lead, Board Leather Thread
Wood engraved illustrations, fine bindings, books and broadsides

January 19 – March 17

Canada Trust Gallery

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St

Author Series 2002

A Taste of the Caribbean

Featuring Caribbean Canadian writers:

Arnold Harrichand Itwaru, H. Nigel

Thomas, Raywat Deonandan

January 21, 7:30 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St

Writer-in-Residence

Writing a Screenplay

Betty Jane Wylie

January 24, 6:30 p.m.

North York Central Library

5120 Yonge St

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Marketing & Communications Office:
416-393-7117.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly from September through June. Meetings are open to the public. The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.