

Shelf life

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Helping minds flourish...



Library volunteer Elizabeth Brem helps Patrick Lee with his reading at the Fairview Library

Library volunteer at work

“Being a reading partner is a rewarding experience for me. Watching the children progress with their reading skills, while enjoying a friendship with them is very gratifying.” -Patsy Fage, Children’s Reading Support

Six hundred library volunteers do everything from helping children and adults learn to read, to raising money for the library, to helping low-income individuals complete their tax returns. These Torontonians work hard to enhance 15 important library programs.

They were honoured for their dedication and hard work at Toronto Public Library’s Volunteer Awards 2001 program, held at North York’s Memorial Hall on April 24.

The many volunteers who received awards during the course of the evening had given between two years of service, by some of the library’s secondary school student volunteers, to 20 years of service by one of the Mobile Library Service volunteers.

Toronto Public Library welcomes volunteers in several important areas. If you would like to volunteer, please pick up the *I’d Like to Volunteer* brochure at your local library, or check out Toronto Public Library’s website at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

No reduction in library hours

City Council has approved a library budget increase that will keep all 98 libraries operating without reducing hours. The Library’s 2001 budget is \$110 million.

The Library’s capital budget of \$12 million will allow the Library to proceed with previously approved building projects at Leaside and Maria Shchuka branches as well as commence design and study work for St. Jamestown, Malvern and the Toronto Reference Library.

\$20,000 donated to literacy programs

As a result of the Richard Ivey Foundation’s recent challenge to the Toronto Public Library Foundation Board, we are proud to announce that over \$20,000 will be donated to fund **Leading to Reading** children’s literacy programs at the library.

Donations from Foundation Board members, past and present, were matched by the Ivey Foundation. The Toronto Public Library Foundation thanks the Board and the Ivey Foundation for their generous support.

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Library's bookmobile wheels into more neighborhoods



Local families using the bookmobile at St. Jamestown stop

Toronto Public Library added ten new stops in Scarborough and Etobicoke to the library's bookmobile schedule. With the introduction of these stops (see locations right), the library has harmonized bookmobile service in Toronto.

Senior Vivian Moore, who uses the bookmobile service regularly, is particularly pleased with the attention that is given to her. "I gave Mark (bookmobile staff person) a list of about five books and the next week he gave me all the books I had requested! Here was this big stack of books waiting for me."

The bookmobile reaches out to communities in all corners of the city. With 30 stops in its regular schedule, the bookmobile provides easy access to library services and materials to 1000 library patrons each week.

Library users who are unable to visit a branch or bookmobile stop because of age, illness or disability are encouraged to use Home Library Service to have materials delivered right to their door.

Times and locations of new bookmobile stops:

Scarborough

Camargue

Dean Park across
from Camargue Plaza
3 - 4 p.m.
every other Thursday

Centenary

Ellesmere Rd & Neilson Rd
10:30 a.m.-12 noon
every other Tuesday

Cliffside Plaza

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
every other Thursday

Glamorgan

Ellesmere Rd & Kennedy Rd
3 - 4 p.m.
every other Thursday

4694 Kingston Rd

11 - 11:30 a.m.
every other Thursday

4222 Kingston Rd

12 - 12:30 p.m.
every other Thursday

Etobicoke

Braeburn

75 Tandridge Cres.
3 - 4:30 p.m.
every other Tuesday

Mabelle

49 Mabelle Ave.
3 - 4:30 p.m.
every other Friday

Martinway Plaza

3 - 4:30 p.m.
every other Tuesday

Scarlettwood

Richview Rd & Scarlett Rd
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
every other Tuesday

Willowridge

44 Willowridge Rd
3 - 4:30 p.m.
every other Friday

The complete bookmobile schedule can be accessed at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca. More information about the bookmobile is available by calling 416-395-5560.

Keep the kids reading this summer



Parents and caregivers can bring children to the library to earn stickers for their very own clue-packed **TD Summer Reading Club** poster designed by Barbara Reid. Toronto Public Library's annual summer reading celebration features activities, posters, book lists, author/illustrator visits and lots of other fun programs, all revolving around a detective theme.

For details and to join the **TD Summer Reading Club**, call or drop into your local library. The Toronto Public Library is extremely grateful to the TD Financial Group for its ongoing support of this important children's program.

Musician extraordinaire a hit with audience



David Fallis, one of Canada's leading interpreters of operatic and choral-orchestral repertoire, spoke at the Toronto Reference Library on April 20 as part of the ongoing Performing Arts Lecture Series. Fallis has brought both the Opera Atelier and the Toronto Consort chamber group onto stages around the world. Highly regarded as a choral director, he has led the Toronto Chamber Choir and has performed Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, Handel's *Semele* and C.P.E. Bach's *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*. His work has also been featured on CBC's **Two New Hours**.

City's Poet Laureate at home in the library



Toronto's Poet Laureate, renowned Canadian poet and children's author Dennis Lee will "take up the pen" at an office in one of Toronto's public libraries. Councillor David Soknacki came up with the idea of creating a position of Poet Laureate. In introducing Lee to Toronto City Council on April 26,

Councillor Soknacki said, "Toronto's Poet Laureate will serve as our city's ambassador at events that promote the literary arts. He will also create a literary legacy project in cooperation with the community and the Toronto Public Library."

"We always welcome an opportunity to work with Canada's well known and much loved poets," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant, "and our staff are delighted to play a part in determining and defining his legacy project as the city's Poet Laureate."

A popular figure with young library audiences, Lee attracted over 3,000 children at 17 library locations during his recent readings from his latest book *Bubblegum Delicious*. The recipient of numerous awards, including the Governor General's Award and the Order of Canada, Lee is nominated for the 2001 Trillium Award. He is best known for his children's classic *Alligator Pie*.

Russell Smith helps emerging Toronto writers



Toronto Public Library Writer-in-Residence Russell Smith is meeting with aspiring fiction writers this spring to offer comments and feedback about their work. Smith has an office at Toronto Reference Library, where, as well as working with budding new writers, he will have the opportunity to work on his own literary pursuits, including a new novel *Muriella Pent* which was commissioned by Doubleday.

Smith says that the library's writer-in-residence program is "really enlightened" because "it gives people who may not have been to university the opportunity to meet with someone they might not otherwise have a chance to meet with."

Evelyn Lau: Four readings planned

Vancouver native Evelyn Lau, whose short stories, poetry and novels have established her as one of Canada's leading writers, is scheduled to hold four readings at the Toronto Public Library (see Upcoming Events, page 4).

"Library audiences have always been a good mix of people in terms of age, gender and cultural background," says Lau, "and they've been very receptive to my work."

Lau left home at fourteen because her parents wanted her to study medicine, and dismissed her interest in writing. After four years on Vancouver's streets, Lau wrote about her experiences in 1989 in her work *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*, which became a bestseller and a Canadian TV movie.

Three books of poetry and a collection of short fiction followed, and in 1995 Lau wrote her first novel *Other Women*. In 1999 Doubleday published *Choose Me*, Lau's collection of six short stories and a novella.

In her four Toronto Public Library readings, which are partially funded by a Canada Council grant, Lau will be reading from her latest book *Inside Out: Reflections On a Life So Far*.



Fast Facts

- 720,000 pages of **Career Bookmarks** viewed in the year 2000; it's the Virtual Reference Library's interactive career and job search gateway
- 434,000 new items added to the library's collection of 12 million
- 167,000 new library cards issued last year, bringing the total number of library members to 1.2 million
- 162,000 calls made to the **Dial-a-Story** program last year
- 196,033 questions answered by **Answerline**, the Library's quick reference telephone service last year



When was the Bloor Viaduct built?

Historians and researchers who are looking for information about Toronto's landscape can turn to the Toronto Public Library. The Special Collections Centre has recently acquired about 450 original photographs that document the Bloor Viaduct's construction from 1915 to 1918.

Improved newspaper room to offer more services

Preparations for reconstruction of Toronto Reference Library's lower level **Toronto Star Newspaper Room** are underway. The expanded and revitalized space will provide seating for about 100 people in three separate areas. One area will provide 30 microfilm reader/printers with adjustable lighting for the serious researcher and historic browser. The second will be a reading room for review of print newspapers, and the third will be a welcoming, comfortable lounge with current, local and international newspapers. Increased access to computer workstations will also be available for the public.

Full newspaper service will be available on the 4th floor during the reconstruction period.

The renovation, expected to be completed this fall, has been made possible through a generous donation of The Toronto Star.

Upcoming Events: May & June, 2001

Author Readings:

Russell Smith, Josef Skvorecky and Christian Bök

May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto Reference Library,
789 Yonge St

Evelyn Lau

May 23, 6:45 p.m.
Agincourt Library
155 Bonis Ave

May 24, 2 p.m.
Riverdale Library
370 Broadview Ave

May 24, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

May 25, 2 p.m.
York Woods Library
1785 Finch Ave W

Workshop: Writing Book Reviews for Fiction

by Russell Smith
May 30, 12 noon
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

TD Summer Reading Club 2001

Meet author/illustrator

Barbara Reid
June 5, 9:30 a.m.
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

Gay Pride Week

Meet authors Marnie Woodrow and Allan Stratton

June 13, 6:30 p.m.
Yorkville Library
22 Yorkville Ave

Exhibit: *The art of the illustrator: Original art from contemporary Canadian children's book illustrators*

June 13-July 21
Canada Trust Gallery
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

Reading and Discussion on Emma Goldman

Hosted by Theresa Morita and Albert Moritz with Special Guest Judy Rebick
June 14, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge St

Library Board Highlights

Due to the cancellation of the Library Board's April meeting, Board Highlights are not included in this issue. The next Toronto Public Library Board meeting will be held on May 28, at 6 p.m., Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street.

Shelf Life is published 10 times a year by the Toronto Public Library Board, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 2G8.

Marketing & Communications Office: 416-393-7117.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly from September through June at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Meetings are open to the public. The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.