

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2002



Dennis Lee (left) shares a laugh with Shakkir Brown.

## ***Alligator Card, Alligator Card***

***If I don't get one, my luck will all be hard.***

***Give away the green grass, give away the yard,***

***But don't give away my Alligator Library Card!***

— Dennis Lee



## Alligator Card, Alligator Card

### Junior kindergarten campaign aims for 5,000 new library card holders

A campaign to put library cards into the hands of all junior kindergarten children in Toronto got underway this month as dozens of kids enjoyed poems and ooey, gooey alligator pie with Toronto Poet Laureate Dennis Lee at Lillian Smith Branch.

To celebrate the library's card sign-up campaign, Lee taught the kids the latest stanza to his famous Alligator Pie poem, which he wrote especially for the campaign.

Junior kindergarten kids across the city will be given new library cards and library information at school this month. By June, the library hopes to see at least 5,000 youngsters come into the library to activate their cards — and receive their free gift pack.

"We know that there is a strong connection for young kids between reading, being read to and success at school," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "And we offer lots of free books, and lots of choice in books, to support this."

## Toronto Public Library busiest in North America

After emerging as North America's busiest library in 2000, with circulation twice that of New York or Los Angeles Public Libraries, Toronto Public Library got even busier in 2001, circulating close to 28 million items, an increase of nine percent.

For a snapshot of Toronto Public Library 2001 achievements, see *Going up* on page 2.

**2001  
Circulation**  
27.7 million  
up 9%

**New Items**  
1/2 million

**New Library  
Cards  
Issued**  
22% more

# Going up...

Toronto Public Library 2001

## Electronic services

- Redesigned Toronto Public Library website  
[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)
- 1,300 free high-speed computers
- New gateways for history buffs and small business
- 4 new Library Le@rning Centres: computer labs for hands-on instruction.

### Virtual Visits

10.4 million  
up 89%

### Electronic Database Searches

2.5 million  
up 61%

## Children and youth services

- Literacy and homework help expanded to 75 programs
- TD Summer Reading Club reached 45,000 children
- Over 50 Author/Illustrator visits

**Children's Registration**  
up 18%

**Teen Registration**  
up 40%

## Serving our diverse community

- ESL, Citizenship and other classes for newcomers to Canada
- Three additional adult literacy programs
- New Library Services for People with Disabilities guide (available at all Toronto library branches)

**Circulation of Multilingual Collections**  
up 28%

**Home Library Service Circulation**  
up 22%



## Roch Carrier at Toronto Public Library

National Librarian and well-known Canadian author Roch Carrier came to Toronto Reference Library on March 7 to check out The Toronto Star Newspaper Centre.

Carrier described the Centre as welcoming, open, spacious and very attractive. He was also impressed with the flying newspaper sculpture.

Young Roch Carrier wearing the dreaded Toronto Maple Leaf hockey sweater that inspired his book, *The Hockey Sweater*.



### Did you know...

Roch Carrier, who as a boy wanted to be the next Maurice Richard (and who claims to have been the worst hockey player in his village), was eventually given Richard's hockey sweater by his childhood idol.

Roch Carrier grew up in Sainte-Justine, Quebec, a village with no library and no books. Now the village has a brand new library — the Roch Carrier Library!

Borrow *The Hockey Sweater* (the book or the National Film Board video!) at Toronto Public Library.

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca); click on **Find Books...**

## New to Special Collections...



*A map of the Arctic Sea*  
Hand Coloured. Engraver/Draughtsman: John Gibson (1750-1792). Published in London, English gentleman's magazine, 1760.

... a fine collection of 30 maps, charts and illustrations, dating from 1574 to 1893, depicting key explorations and discoveries of Canada's northern and Arctic regions. Included is a late 17<sup>th</sup> century map by Coronelli, the first printed map of the North Pole, considered one of the "foundation" maps of early Arctic cartography.

Donated by George Weston Limited, in Toronto, these items complement the library's rare map collection and the substantial collection of printed material relating to the history of Arctic exploration in the Baldwin Room Book Collection at the Toronto Reference Library.

## Welcome



new library  
board member  
Mizan Ibrahim

Having served  
on the inaugural  
Toronto Public  
Library Board  
from 1998 to 2000,

Mizan Ibrahim was re-appointed to the Board in March 2002 as a representative of the Toronto District School Board. She is currently PR Manager for NCR Canada. Her long history of community service includes work with Frontier College, the Children's Aid Society Foundation, the United Way and Scarborough General Hospital. Mizan brings to the Board a strong commitment to children and youth services, and to literacy programming.

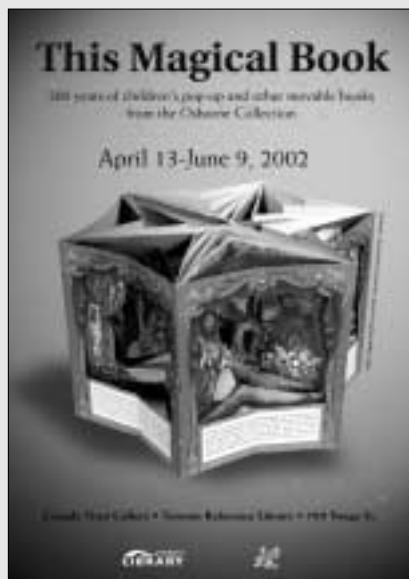
## This Magical Book — an exhibition

Children and adults alike will enjoy this enchanting look at children's pop-up and other movable books, some more than 200 years old, from the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books.

Children are invited to try out the hands-on reproductions and to make their own pop-ups.

To arrange a group tour, call the Osborne Collection at 416-393-7753.

For complete information and a virtual tour, click on **Programs and Events** on the library's website at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).



### **This Magical Book**

April 13 to June 9  
Canada Trust Gallery  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street  
Mon.-Thurs. 10-8; Fri. and Sat. 10-5;  
Sun 1:30-5

### **Pop-up Craft for Children**

Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
Make pop-ups with "the pop-up book lady," Joan Irvine.  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street  
Drop in or register at 416-393-7753.

## Get down to business at Toronto Public Library

Recommended reading — from the  
librarians in Business and Urban Affairs,  
North York Central Library

*Best Business Stories of the Year:  
2002 Edition.*

Andrew Leckey & Ken Auletta (eds.)  
Vintage Books, 2002

Thoughtful articles dealing with the impact of September 11 on the American economy and culture, plus colourful portraits of major business figures such as Larry Ellison, founder and chief executive of Oracle Corp., and the world's second richest man.

### **Did you know...**

#### **Canada Book Day – April 23**

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564 and died precisely 52 years later on April 23, 1616. The day Shakespeare died in England, Spain lost one of its greatest writers, Miguel de Cervantes, who also died on April 23, 1616.

## Library Board Highlights

April 8, 2001

### Presentation

Toronto Civic Employees Union – Local 416 C.U.P.E. gave a presentation on the 2002 Operating Budget and issues related to gapping.

### 2001 Annual Performance Measures and Strategic Plan Update

Jane Pyper, Director, Service Planning and Support, gave a presentation which shows that the Toronto Public Library continues to be the highest circulating library in North America and one of the busiest in the world. The Board congratulated staff on this achievement.

### 2002 Operating Budget

The Toronto Public Library Board adopted the 2002 Operating Budget of \$127.499 million gross and revenues of \$13.063 resulting in a net budget of \$114.436 million as approved by City of Toronto Council at its meeting March 4-8, 2002.

### 2002-2006 Capital Budget

The Toronto Public Library Board adopted the 2002-2006 Capital Budget of \$11.876 million gross in 2002 and \$24.165 million for 2002-2006, and net expenditures of \$9.627 million in 2002 and \$21.380 million for 2002-2006 as approved by City of Toronto Council.

### Audited 2001 Financial Statements of the Toronto Public Library Board and Its Trust Funds

The Board approved the 2001 Audited Financial Statements of the Toronto Public Library Board, and those of its trust funds, which are administered by the library and are primarily the result of donations.

*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. Meetings are open to the public. The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.

### Metnet Federation Centrex Contract with Bell Canada

The Board approved the extension of its portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada for a two-year period.

### Technical Environment Review

The Board received the Technical Environment Review report for information and approved recommended hardware and software.

*Next Library Board meeting: Monday, May 13, 2002.*

## Calendar of Events

April/May 2002

April 13-June 9

### **This Magical Book**

Over 200 years of children's pop-up and other movable books.

Canada Trust Gallery  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### **Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fantastic Pulp Show and Sale**

Lower Level, Lillian H. Smith Branch  
239 College Street

Monday, May 6, 5:30 p.m.

### **Everyman Al Waxman**

A celebration of the Al Waxman Collection in the Performing Arts Centre. Join Waxman's friends, family and colleagues. Enjoy film clips, vignettes and a display of the memorabilia donated to the library by Al and Sara Waxman.

Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Monday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

### **Author Series 2002**

#### **Lost and Found in Fiction**

Elizabeth Harvor reads from *Excessive Joy Injures the Heart*  
Maggie Helwig reads from *Where She was Standing*  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### **Pop-up Craft for Children**

Make pop-ups with "the pop-up book lady," Joan Irvine.

Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

### **Inventing and Patents:**

#### **Taking the Next Step to Success**

Mark Ellwood, President, Inventors Alliance of Canada  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 p.m.

### **The Inventive Spirit of Canadian Women**

Annie Wood, President and founder of Inventive Women  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Thursday, May 30, 12 noon

### **THE WRITE WORD**

#### **Writers' Workshops**

Poetic Travel Writing  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

Thursday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.

### **Three Poets, Different Journeys**

Douglas B. Smith reads from *Helsinki Drift: Travel Poems*  
Ruth Panofsky reads from *Lifeline*  
John Degen reads from *Killing Things*  
Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

*For more programs and events, see What's On, the library's guide to programs and services, or check out our website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)*