

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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## A banner year

Lillian H. Smith branch gets new togs

THESE TWO LARGE (8' X 22') banners were installed recently on Lillian H. Smith Branch (239 College St., near Spadina) highlighting two of Toronto Public Library's special collections. Both the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books and the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy are housed at Lillian H. Smith Branch.

The Merrill Collection is a world-renowned popular culture collection with a focus on science fiction, fantasy and horror. The Collection includes novels, non-fiction, graphic novels, fantasy role-playing games and periodicals. The Osborne Collection contains books, artwork, manuscripts, archives and letters encompassing the development of English children's literature from the 14th century on.

## Stay cool this summer

Learning and leisure @ the library

PEOPLE LOOKING to be cool and stay cool this summer need look no further than their local library. Toronto Public Library provides information and enlightenment in the form of over 11 million books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and other items, and programs for everyone, from preschoolers to older adults, from newcomers to small business owners. For more information on library programs, visit the website at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

Children's summer programs include:

- TD Summer Reading Club
- Leading to Reading
- Kids@Computers
- Author/illustrator visits

User Education courses help patrons find and use library resources including:

- Our online catalogue
- Email and Internet access
- Job search tools

Programs for newcomers to Canada include:

- Settlement and Education Partnerships in Toronto (SEPT)
- Citizenship classes
- English as a Second Language (in partnership with Toronto District and Toronto Catholic District School Boards)
- English Conversation Circle (in partnership with CultureLink)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) preparation.

# TD Summer Reading

## Cool club for kids

THERE'S STILL TIME to sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club, on now at all branches of Toronto Public Library. In addition to encouraging children to read, the program offers free posters, stickers, activity books and special events featuring well-known children's authors and illustrators.

In 2001, 144,000 children in Ontario, including 45,000 in Toronto, received TD Summer Reading Club kits.

See the Calendar of Events on page 4 for a sample of the authors and illustrators visiting library branches across the city this summer.

To find out how to join the TD Summer Reading Club, drop into any branch of Toronto Public Library, call Answerline at 416-393-7131, or log onto [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and click on Kids' Space.



TD Summer Reading Club designer Ruth Ohi (left), TD VP Alan Convery and Toronto Public Library's Ken Setterington (right).

## Kids@Computers a success

LAST YEAR, the city's Neighbourhood and Community Services Department worked with the library to put computers into the homes of families on social assistance and to train members of those families to use them. Initially conceived as a summer pilot project, the 2001 Kids@Computers

program was so successful that it was extended into the fall. Computers were given to more than 300 families and more than 500 kids and their parents were trained.

"This year, the project is no longer a pilot," says Kids@Computers manager and library staff member Cheryl Skovronek. "We are running it spring, summer and fall and we've expanded from eight to 11 locations to make it easier for kids from all parts of the city to get the training they

need. By the end of this year, we'll have trained more than a thousand families."

The program, for families with children between eight and 14 years old, is a win-win situation, according to Skovronek. "It's a great program for everyone. We include a lot of library content in the lessons. We want these families to be able to use the computers, of course, but we want them to be library

users, as well."

"The children are all bright and eager," comments Kids@Computer

***"By the end of this year we'll have trained more than a thousand families."***

Kids@computers Manager, Cheryl Skovronek

trainer Jennifer Schmitt. "The younger children have no trouble keeping up with the older kids. They help each other out and, despite the difference in age, they all get along quite well."

The course begins with a look at basic mouse and keyboard skills and works up to research tips to help the kids with homework. Along the way, the children and their parents get important information about staying safe on the Internet.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department is currently poised to begin a pilot project of their own, based on the library's training strategy and modules.



Popular library project helps kids and their families become computer literate.

# Building better libraries

## Reconstruction projects begin

AS PART OF a commitment to work with communities to ensure that local needs are being met, Toronto Public Library continues to develop its branches in all parts of the city through a building and renovation program. This fall, members of the public will get an opportunity to have input into reconstruction projects at two branches.

### Runnymede

Runnymede Branch is tentatively slated to close in the spring of 2003 for a major renovation project, awarded to G. Bruce Stratton Architects. The renovation will take approximately one year to complete. Stratton has been responsible for a number of other library capital projects, including the construction of the multi-use Alderwood Centre that houses the only public library in the city that officially doubles as a school library.

Runnymede first opened in 1904 at the corner of Willard and Montye Avenues. In 1928, Toronto City Council granted the library \$100,000 to provide new branches for Runnymede and Danforth districts, and in 1930, the new Runnymede opened at its present site on Bloor Street. The branch was last renovated in 1978. It is currently listed on the Toronto Historical Board's Inventory of Heritage Properties and was featured on a postage stamp in May, 1989 as part of Canada Post's Canadian Architecture series.

Public consultation meetings have been planned for September 19 and November 14, 2002. The September

meeting will announce the renovation process to the public and ask for community input. At the November meeting, the conceptual design for the renovation will be presented and public comment will be invited.

Following the November meeting, plans for the renovation will be on display at the branch and comment forms will be available to the public.

Focus groups made up of community stakeholders and local interest groups will also be conducted beginning in September.

### McGregor Park

The McGregor Park Neighbourhood Branch building project contract has been awarded to ZAS (Zawadzki Armin Stevens) Architects, a firm that is currently working with the library on the Dawes Road Branch renovation and the new St. Jamestown Branch building project.

The McGregor Park building project involves demolition of the existing 42-year-old, 5,000 square foot building and construction of a new 7,500 square foot facility to be housed with the McGregor Park Recreation Centre on Lawrence Avenue East.

Public consultation is planned for the fall, as soon as conceptual drawings are ready. The plan is to begin construction in 2003 and to open the new branch in 2004. The current branch will remain open during construction of the new library.



### Related Clicks

G. Bruce Stratton Architects  
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gbsa>



A delegation of Chilean librarians toured Toronto Reference Library as part of their University of Toronto internship.

## Chilean librarians visit Toronto Reference Library

ON MAY 16, a delegation of Chilean librarians toured Toronto Reference Library as part of their University of Toronto internship. In a letter to the library, group leader Angela Montenegro, from Universidad Catolica de Temuco, wrote:

*One of the most important experiences from this trip was the visit to the Public Library in Toronto... Our delegation was... impressed by this library, how very well organized it is, the professional management that each of the departments has — how harmonic, suitable and assured. I would finally like to thank you for the wonderful experience you offered us, experience that (we) will share with (our) colleagues and friends.*

Angela Montenegro, Universidad Catolica de Temuco, Chile

## Toronto Public Library reaches agreement with library workers

THE LIBRARY BOARD ratified its 2002-04 collective agreement with Toronto Civic Employees Union Local 416 CUPE, Library Workers on July 15. The agreement was also ratified by Union members.

"Both parties can be pleased with what has been achieved," said City Librarian Josephine Bryant. Toronto Public Library is Canada's largest public library, with 98 branches. Every week, over 300,000 people visit its

branches, and borrow more than half a million items. The Union represents approximately 2,500 library workers including librarians, library assistants and maintenance and support staff.



### Related Clicks

For more information about Toronto Public Library and its programs, services and collections, check the website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)



## Library Board Highlights

July 15, 2002

### Toronto Reference Library – 25th Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Toronto Reference Library, 1977 – 2002. Upcoming fall celebratory events include well-known speakers and panelists, a gallery exhibit and a large banner for the Yonge Street (west) side of the building. Lectures will be given by David Foot, Robert Lantos and Alistair MacLeod.

### Sponsorship Policy

The Board approved a new sponsorship policy to establish guidelines for all sponsorships of library programs, events, activities and services. The Toronto Public Library Foundation will solicit and negotiate all future sponsorships in accordance with the new policy.

### Interim Leasing Agent

The Board authorized the library to negotiate an interim agreement with the TD Asset Finance Corporation for leasing of information technology hardware and software. Staff will report back to the Board after a leasing alternative is approved by the City.

### Toronto Reference Library Ground Floor

#### Renovation – Award of Contract

Lowest bidder, Derbtile Construction Inc., will complete renovations to the Toronto Reference Library Ground Floor, Phase 1, at a net cost of \$424,790.

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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.

### Awards of Proposal

Library officials will begin negotiations with, and may enter into an agreement with, the following:

- **Telus Enterprise Solutions** for the supply, delivery, installation and support of a Public Access PC Booking System at a net cost not to exceed \$284,604.

- **Ram Group** for supply and delivery of Toronto Public Library Desktop and CRT Monitors from IBM Corporation at a cost not to exceed \$1,507,670.

- **Dell Computer Corporation** for the supply and delivery of Toronto Public Library servers, at a net cost not to exceed \$250,000 in the first year.

- **Burntsand** for the supply, delivery and implementation of Toronto Public Library web migration, at a cost not to exceed \$707,584.

- **A-G Canada** for the supply, delivery, installation, implementation and support of a single search interface and remote customer authentication and authorization system, at a net cost not to exceed \$731,588.

### Jane/Sheppard Neighbourhood Branch Relocation

The Board approved capital funding of this branch relocation in co-development with the City of Toronto's Shelter, Housing and Support Division at an estimated net capital project cost of \$0.284 million.

The Board will request pre-approval from Policy and Finance Committee and Council on condition that only the net capital project cost be attributed to Toronto Public Library's approved capital budget.

### Dawes Road Neighbourhood Branch Retrofit – Award of Contract

The Board approved an award of contract to the lowest bidder, Urbancon Ltd., for a complete retrofit of the Dawes Road Branch at a net cost of \$377,795.76.

### Cliffcrest Neighbourhood Branch

#### – Lease Renewal

A five-year lease renewal was approved for this branch.

### Next Board Meeting:

*Monday, September 23, 2002*

## Calendar of Events

August/September 2002

### Illustrator Ian Wallace

August 1, 2 p.m.  
Parliament Branch

### TD Summer Reading Club

Illustrator Ruth Ohi  
August 7, 10:30 a.m.  
Centennial Branch

August 8, 10:30 a.m.  
Eatonville Branch

August 8, 2 p.m.  
North York Central

### Illustrator Sylvie Daigneault

August 9, 2 p.m.  
New Toronto Branch

### Author Marie Day

August 14, 2 p.m.  
Jane/Sheppard Branch

### Author Luis Garay

August 15, 2 p.m.  
Brentwood Branch

### Illustrator Michael Martchenko

August 15, 2 p.m.  
Northern District Branch

### Illustrator Loris Lesynski

August 16, 2 p.m.  
Humber Summit Branch

### Bayview Branch closing

July 29

Re-opening in late September at its new location in Bayview Village Mall.

### Alternative service during the closure:

Fairview Branch, 35 Fairview Mall Drive,  
416-395-5750

### Black Creek Branch closing

September 14

Closed briefly, the Branch re-opens in late September in the North York Sheridan Mall, 1700 Wilson Avenue.

### Alternative service during the closure at:

Downsview Branch, 2793 Keele Street,  
416-395-5720

Jane/Sheppard Branch, Jane Sheppard Mall,  
2721 Jane Street, 416-395-5966

### Runnymede renovation:

public consultation

September 19, 7 p.m.

Floor 2

Runnymede Branch

2178 Bloor Street West