

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Budget approval will help meet increased library usage

During City Council meetings the week of March 4-8, the Toronto Public Library's 2002 operating and capital budgets were approved. The 2002 operating budget, which included a late addition of \$90,000 to expand the

Leading to Reading program, was approved at \$114,436,000. The 3.8 per cent increase over last year will help meet increased library usage in Toronto – in 2001 circulation was up 7.5 per cent over 2000, while visits to the website shot up

by more than 60 per cent. The 2002 capital budget gross funding was approved at \$11,876,000 and included new building projects for the renovation of the Runnymede Branch and the reconstruction of the McGregor Park Branch.



Book and Periodical Council Chair Kim McArthur presents a list of challenged books to Toronto City Councillor Michael Feldman during a panel discussion, *The Impact of Terrorism on Freedom of Expression*, on February 27 at Toronto Reference Library.

## Free to Read at Toronto Public Library

Toronto Public Library celebrated Freedom to Read Week (February 24-March 2) with events ranging from author readings at branches around the city, to the annual PEN Canada event on March 1, to a panel discussion that drew more than 120 people to Toronto Reference Library on February 27. Moderated by CBC Radio host and author Erika Ritter, the panel discussion on the impact of terrorism on freedom of expression featured investigative journalist Stevie Cameron, Canadian Civil Liberties Association Counsel Stephen McCammon, author Ron Brown, Justice Canada lawyer Stéphane Perrault and Ontario Film Review Board Chair Robert Warren.

## Rotary Club donates \$12,500 to help kids read

With its largest donation ever to a single organization, Scarborough Rotary Club has pledged to fund the Cedarbrae Branch Leading to Reading program, designed to help primary school children with low literacy skills improve their reading and performance at school.

With the Rotary Club of Scarborough as an important partner, children in the Cedarbrae area will receive the help they need to become the readers and the leaders of tomorrow.

"The Leading to Reading program not only improves our children's reading ability, but also builds their self-esteem and confidence," says Toronto Public Library Foundation Chair Rick Goldsmith. "Leading to Reading offers a safe and secure environment in which to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning."

Leading to Reading, which has successfully helped many children across the city, is offered at 23 library branches.

### Did you know...

Since its inception in 1997, the Toronto Public Library Foundation has built strong public and private funding partnerships valued at over \$8 million. Reach the Foundation at 416-393-7123 or click on **Support Your Library** at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)



## Youth sew anti-war message at North York Central

Teen library volunteers from North York Central's Youth Advisory Group spearheaded a library program that saw kids age 3 to 19 send their message of peace for the world via a Peace Quilt. Children came with parents, caregivers, friends and on their own to transcribe images of peace onto canvas squares.

The February 8 program kicked off the two-week War Is Not A Game campaign hosted by the Toronto chapter of Kids Can Free the Children, an international youth-run organization dedicated to empowering young people through representation, leadership and action.



Related Clicks

[www.freethechildren.org](http://www.freethechildren.org)



# FREE THE CHILDREN

A YOUNG MAN FIGHTS AGAINST CHILD LABOR AND PROVES THAT CHILDREN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

CRAIG KIELBURGER  
WINNER OF THE CHRISTOPHER AWARD  
WITH KEVIN MAJOR

Did you know...

Kids Can Free the Children, with chapters in 35 countries, was founded by Canadian Craig Kielburger when he was 12 years old. Reserve Craig Kielburger's book, *Free the Children* and have it delivered to your local library branch. [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)



## New to Special Collections...

A printed program describing the procession marking the arrival of the Prince of Wales in Montreal, in August 1860.

A program for the 1860 visit of the Prince of Wales (who would soon become King Edward VII) tells how the prince will be met, upon his arrival in Montreal, by "the children of the various Sunday and Day schools". The children would "be placed on the Haymarket Square and in front of the Court-House, and sing the National Anthem."

During the summer of 1860, the future King Edward VII crossed Canada from St. John's, Newfoundland to Windsor, Ontario. This first-ever official royal visit to Canada was met with much fanfare and celebration in every community along the way.

In Montreal, in addition to hearing children sing on the Haymarket Square, the prince was greeted by uniformed officers, clergy, dignitaries, music and flag-waving.

This first royal visit is viewed by historians as a time when the Canadian identity coalesced, a significant factor in the gradual progress toward confederation.

Did you know...

The Baldwin Room at Toronto Reference Library has a large collection of posters, pamphlets and other material, particularly strong in pre-Confederation imprints, as well as documents relating to the Royal Family in Canada.

# Meet old friends and make new ones at Toronto Public Library

***In a library we are surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends imprisoned by an enchanter in paper and leathern boxes.***

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

In her book about the famous – and infamous – author, *Henry Miller: Full of Life*, Kathryn Winslow says that when Miller was a child, “he spent hours at the public library in search of new authors to read. There he discovered Knut Hamson, Rider Haggard, Oscar Wilde, and more of Walt Whitman than was in his class assignments. He tried to borrow Rabelais’ *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, but the librarian would not let him have it.”

Miller’s first book, *Tropic of Cancer*, was first published in Europe in 1934, but it wasn’t made available in North America until the early 1960s and the ensuing censorship



trials hounded it for nearly half a decade. In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the book was a work of art and could not be banned. After reading his rambling pastiche of sex, book quotations, dreams, sex, newspaper clippings, menus, descriptions of paintings, sex, random musings, etc., one editor commented, “Miller is so alive nothing else can exist. It is like being close to the sun.”

At Toronto Public Library, we won’t tell you what you can and can’t read, but we will help you find what you’re looking for.

***I don’t use heroes, and I don’t write novels. I am the hero, and the book is myself...***

—Henry Miller

## Did you know...

On February 15, 1986, the original manuscript of Henry Miller’s *Tropic of Cancer* was auctioned for \$165,000. Want more literary history? Check out **Today in Literature** on the Toronto Public Library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) (Recommended Reading).

While visiting the library website, click on **Find Books** on the homepage and search the catalogue for books by and about Henry Miller or his early influences, Knut Hamson, Rider Haggard and Oscar Wilde.

## Maria A. Shchuka Branch reconstruction promises revitalized community resource

The Maria A. Shchuka Branch reconstruction commenced Saturday, March 2. The branch will be closed for approximately one year. During the closure, library customers can return materials to any TPL branch and pick up previously placed holds at the Oakwood Village Library and Arts Centre, 341 Oakwood Ave.

“After nearly 50 years of service, the branch is in urgent need of revitalization,” says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. “This project gives us the opportunity to provide improved services to the people of this community.”

The reconstruction project will replace outdated equipment and improve accessibility to all parts of the building. It will produce program and meeting room space, space for adult and children’s literacy programs, an electronic learning centre and spaces for individual quiet study.

## Fast Facts

### American Library Association Most Frequently Challenged Classics

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Information was compiled from challenges reported to the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom.



Related Clicks

[www.ala.org/books](http://www.ala.org/books)

Illustration for the TD Summer Reading Club poster by Ruth Ohi.



## TD Summer Reading Club coming soon

The TD Summer Reading Club artist this year is beloved children’s book illustrator Ruth Ohi. If you’re looking for fun activities to keep your kids busy this summer, sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club beginning in July.

## Library Board Highlights

March 4, 2002

The Board welcomed new member Ms. Mizan Ibrahim.

**2002 Operating and Capital Budgets – Update**  
Staff provided the Board with an update on the 2002 Operating and Capital Budget. The Budget is before City Council this week.

### Volunteer Recognition Event

This was a banner year for the Library's Volunteer program with more than 1,000 volunteers donating their time. Councillor Jane Pitfield encouraged all Board members to attend a thank-you ceremony on April 23 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the Second Floor of the North York Central Library.

**American Library Association/Canadian Library Association Joint Conference 2003 – Toronto**  
City Librarian Josephine Bryant updated the Board on the Toronto-based ALA/CLA Conference for 2003. More than 25,000 attendees are expected to arrive at the conference June 19 to 25 next year bringing approximately \$41 million in revenue. The library is working with Tourism Toronto to plan and promote events during this conference.

### TPL Board Members' Remuneration

The Board received information on the Library's submission to the City concerning Board members' remuneration and expenses for 2001.

### Foundation Update

Richard Goldsmith, Chair of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, presented an outline of the Foundation's upcoming fundraising plans.

*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.

### Janitorial Services – Award of Request for Proposal

The Board approved Toronto Public Library staff to enter into negotiations with National Cleaning Contractors to supply janitorial services. Staff will also consider a cleaning proposal from TCEU, Local 416 CUPE over the next year. TCEU, Local 416 CUPE made a deputation on this item.

### Lease Renewal Agreement – Woodside Square Neighbourhood Branch

A lease renewal was approved for this branch effective for five years.

### Employment Equity Policy

Beginning in 2003 the Toronto Public Library will adopt the Employment Equity Policy for Employees as part of the Library's ongoing efforts to harmonize the different policies of the former Toronto area libraries. This policy will be carried out in accordance with the City's approval of staff policies. Details of the policy will be posted on the Library's website.

*Next Library Board meeting:*  
**Monday, April 8, 2002**

## Calendar of Events

March/April 2002

### Performing Arts Lecture Series

Dancer Frank Augustyn  
Friday, March 22, 6-8 p.m.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books

**This Magical Book:**  
Over 200 years of children's pop-up and other moveable books  
Canada Trust Gallery  
Toronto Reference Library  
April 13-June 9

**The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**  
First Annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture: *The Berg Collection: A Tale of Literary Taste and Scholarship* presented by Isaac Gewirtz of the New York Public Library  
Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m.  
Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Author Series 2002

Author Series 2002  
*Greed and Lust in the Library*  
Linda McQuaig reads from *All You Can Eat*  
Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

### Four Poets Mix it Up

Kimmy Beach reads from *Nice Day for a Murder*; George Elliott Clarke reads from *Blue*; Billie Livingston reads from *Chick at*

*the Back of the Church*; Daniel Sloate reads from *Of Dissonance and Shadows*  
Monday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

Beeton Auditorium  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street



Mike Filey

**The Friends of Toronto Public Library, North Chapter presents:**

*Sunday Sun* columnist and Toronto historian Mike Filey  
Sunday, April 21, 2-4 p.m.  
Barbara Frum Library Auditorium  
20 Covington Road  
Tickets: \$5 – includes afternoon tea  
Available at the door or by phoning 416-395-5678.

### Free Income Tax Clinic

**at North York Central Library**  
Free income tax help for low income persons is offered by the Business & Urban Affairs Department of North York Central Library in cooperation with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Volunteers trained to do income taxes are available by booking an appointment, 416-395-5613, or on a first come/first served basis for walk-in patrons.  
Tuesdays through Fridays  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
March 5 through to April 30

**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)**