

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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(l-r) City Councillor Joe Mihevc, Library Board Vice-Chair Rick Goldsmith, City Librarian Josephine Bryant and City Councillor Howard Moscoe officially kick off construction on the new Maria A. Shchuka Branch at groundbreaking ceremonies on April 23.

Shchuka reconstruction a go

Construction of the new Maria A. Shchuka branch of Toronto Public Library kicked off with groundbreaking ceremonies on April 23. The year-long branch closure and reconstruction will produce a facility with updated equipment, an electronic learning centre, program and meeting room space and more.

According to Councillor Howard Moscoe, in whose ward the new library is situated, the project marks the beginning of the revitalization of the stretch of Eglinton Avenue west of the Allen Expressway.

Councillor Joe Mihevc, who has supported the project since its inception, says, "The new Maria Shchuka Branch will be of great benefit to the community. But it is also a project dear to my heart. I grew up four blocks from this library. Like many immigrant families, the Mihevcs didn't have money to buy books. I grew up reading and learning at Maria Shchuka."

Library partnerships help meet community needs

Two Toronto Public Library partnerships are helping connect Torontonians to important community resources. *English Conversation Circle* (ECC) helps newcomers to Canada get settled. *Community Talks* bring doctors and other experts together with people looking for reliable health information.

"One of the most difficult things about settling in a new country is meeting people and making contacts," says multicultural service specialist Chryss Mylopoulos. "Toronto Public Library has partnered with CultureLink, a Toronto-based non-profit organization, to help."

With the assistance of experienced facilitators, ECC participants make new friends and develop conversational skills during their weekly, two-hour informal discussions.

Participants also learn how to obtain a library card, how to use the library catalogue and how to find and use important library resources such as the website, User Education programs and materials in 100 different languages.

ECC is offered at Agincourt and Cedarbrae branches. At Agincourt, in addition to CultureLink, program partners include the Family Wellness Centre of Scarborough Hospital and Catholic Cross-Cultural Services.

We're meeting a real need

Community Talks, another program provided in cooperation with The Scarborough Hospital, is a series of free lectures for Torontonians about health and wellness issues, such as teen parenting, coping with asthma, and Parkinson's disease.

"More than 1,100 people showed up to hear Barbara Colorosa talk about teen parenting," explains library manager Mary Budd. "The topics of *Community Talks* are chosen according to community demand. Response to the *Talks* has been overwhelming, a testament to the fact that we're meeting a real need."

To find out about upcoming *Community Talks*, pick up a copy of *What's On* in your local branch, or check our website: www.tpl.toronto.on.ca click on **Programs and Events**



Related Clicks
www.culturelink.net

Catholic Cross-Cultural Services
www.sern.net/CCS.htm

The Scarborough Hospital
www.tsh.to

In brief

Eatonville wins architectural award



The recently rebuilt Eatonville Branch, which saw 65,000 visitors pass through its doors during the final three months of 2001, has won honourable mention in the 2002 awards for Architectural Excellence, Ideas & Presentations, presented by the Ontario Association of Architects. Winning projects are recognized for their impact on social, environmental and community development.

 **Related Clicks**
Toronto Public Library
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Hours and Locations

Ontario Association of Architects
www.oaa.on.ca

Get books about architecture:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Find Books...
subject search architecture

Older adults at the library

June is Seniors' Month and Toronto Public Library offers a variety of programs specifically tailored for mature patrons:

- **Orchardviewers**, weekly slide shows, films, music and author readings. Thursdays in June Northern District 416-393-7610

• **Tea and Entertainment**, films, food and fun.

Fridays in June
North York Central
416-395-5639

• **Arts and Crafts** made by older adults.

on exhibit throughout June
Bridlewood, 416-396-8960

• **Questions about Long Term Care**, a seminar about moving into retirement or nursing homes.

Thursday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Bridlewood, 416-396-8960

• **Internet Workshops** teach the fundamentals of surfing the Internet with emphasis on websites of interest to older adults.

See **What's On** for locations and times.

For more information about programs for older adults, pick up a copy of *What's On*, the library's program guide, at any of our 98 branches.

Or log onto:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Programs and Events
scroll down to choose your area of Toronto



Library walk named for mystery man

The lane behind the Toronto Reference Library, connecting Asquith Avenue and Church Street, was officially named "Sherlock Holmes Walk" after the famous fictional detective, and in honour of the library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. The Arthur Conan Doyle Room

in the Toronto Reference Library is a re-creation of Holmes' study at 221B Baker Street, and holds one of the largest collections of Sherlockiana in North America, drawing visitors and enthusiasts from around the world. The room is open from 2-4 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, or by appointment, but its contents can be used any time the library is open.

Find out more about the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Unique Collections
scroll down to Arthur Conan Doyle Collection

Library repeats popular high school outreach

Librarians from Toronto Public Library will visit Toronto District and Catholic secondary schools this spring to show students, teachers and school librarians how to use the library's one-stop Internet subject site, the Virtual Reference Library (VRL). Back by popular demand, this program helps students with their studies by introducing them to the VRL and to the library's electronic magazine, newspaper and other databases. In 2001, library staff met with more than 10,000 students and educators, resulting in a 40 percent increase in teen library card registration. Funding in 2002 came from interest generated by the Gates Grant.

Want to know more about the VRL? Check it out:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Virtual Reference Library

Free – as in speech and beer

New business department book tackles digital intellectual property debate.

Free as in Speech and Beer: Open Source, peer-to-peer and the Economics of the Online Revolution. Darren Wershler-Henry. Prentice-Hall, 2001.

The uncontrollable exchange over the Internet of films, video games, software and other digital information, and the ensuing intellectual property debate provide the fodder for poet, editor and cultural critic Darren Wershler-Henry's brilliant re-evaluation of the history, philosophy and present reality of data-sharing technology.

For more on the intellectual property debate, check out the business departments at North York Central and Toronto Reference libraries. Or search the online catalogue:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
click on Find Books...
subject search intellectual property

Book your kids at the library this summer!

Illustration: Ruth Ohi



Library kicks off spring fundraising campaign

Toronto Public Library is appealing to all Toronto residents to support their library, as the 2002 spring fundraising campaign kicks off at all 98 branches. The Toronto Public Library Foundation aims to raise \$60,000 to support and enhance the library.

"I wish my income would permit me to do more," says donor Randall Grant. "For low-income people like myself the library is a real blessing. I am very proud to support a fine institution like the Toronto Public Library."

Donors are welcome to specify a particular program they would like to support.

Last year, community donations accounted for \$180,000 and helped:

- put a new bookmobile on the road
- children and adults improve their reading, writing, math and homework skills
- add much-desired books to the collection.

Find out how to help.

Call 416-393-7123

Log onto:

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

click on Support Your Library

Or drop into your local branch and ask for a Toronto Public Library Foundation brochure.



Al Waxman lives at the library



More than 100 friends and family of the late Al Waxman showed up at Toronto Reference Library (TRL) on May 6 to celebrate the life of the well-known actor and to hear about the Al Waxman Collection in the Performing Arts Centre at TRL. Al's son, Adam Waxman, paid tribute to his father and showed a short movie about his career. The film was subsequently donated to the library by the Waxman family and is now part of the Al Waxman Collection.

The Toronto Public Library tribute to Al Waxman on May 6 included a screening in which clips from the CBC programs *The King of Kensington* and *Cynthia!* were used. The library would like to thank the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Writers Guild of Canada for permission to show their work at the May 6 screening of excerpts from Al Waxman's 50-year acting career.

Sara and Adam Waxman, wife and son of the late Al Waxman.

SuperPages donates \$10,000 for Leading to Reading

SuperPages online directory services hosted a life-sized Scrabble game at Mel Lastman Square during Toronto Winterfest this past February, raising \$10,000 for Leading to Reading, Toronto Public Library's program to introduce the joy of reading to primary school children who are reading below their grade level.



Related Clicks

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

click on Support Your Library

www.superpages.ca



(l-r) SuperPages Marketing Manager David Stanyon presents a \$10,000 cheque for Toronto Public Library literacy initiatives to Director of Development Jennifer Blunt, Library Board Chair Gillian Mason and Library Director Nancy Chavner.

Library Board Highlights

May 13, 2002

Operating Budget Monitoring Report – March 31, 2002

This report, which gives a summary of the gross and net expenditures for a three-month period ending March 31, 2002, was received by the Board for information.

2002 Bookmobile Schedule

The Board received a report on the 2002 Bookmobile Schedule for information. The bookmobile schedule was changed significantly in 2001 to harmonize the service across the City. In 2002, there will be no changes to the schedule.

2002/2003 Fundraising Priorities

The Board adopted a list of 2002/2003 Fundraising Priorities including the Leading to Reading and English Can Be Fun programs, the Summer Reading Club, and the Pre-School Initiatives program, which is designed to help improve reading skills for children in high-needs communities.

Other projects include School Outreach programs, which will encourage the use of library resources among Kindergarten, grade four and high school students, the Bookmark Design Contest and the Toronto Reference Library Information Commons.

Renaming the Canada Trust Exhibitions Gallery and the Canada Trust Audubon Collection

The Board approved the renaming of this gallery and collection to reflect the new name of the former CT Financial Services Inc. (Canada Trust) to the TD Financial Group (TD Bank). The new names will be the TD Gallery and the TD Audubon Collection.

Internet Service at Toronto Public Library

A report was provided to the Board on the Toronto Public Library's Internet Service in response to a motion at Toronto City Council's meeting on April 16, 17 & 18, 2002. The following recommendations were adopted:

- That the Board request that library staff review current policies and practices to determine if further improvements can be made
- That the Board request that library staff report to the Board at a later date on the outcome of the review.

Toronto Public Library – Review of Year-End Spending, Fleet Maintenance, Use of Consultants and Budgets for Maintenance and Repairs

The Board passed a motion to receive the City Auditor's report Toronto Public Library – Review of Year-End Spending, Fleet Maintenance, Use of Consultants and Budgets for Maintenance and Repairs and to adopt recommendations included in this report.

Malvern Branch – Closure for Construction

The Board approved the closure of Malvern Branch early in 2003 for approximately one year to allow for the construction and renovation of the branch.

Maria A. Shchuka Branch Site

The Board approved the ratification of earlier surplus land declaration and other matters to facilitate construction of affordable housing on the south side of the Maria A. Shchuka site.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2002

Calendar of Events

May/June 2002

Thursday, May 30, 12 noon

The Write Word Writers' Workshop

Poetic Travel Writing

Beeton Auditorium

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

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

Author Series

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

Monday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series

Intimate Portraits

Marian Botsford Fraser reads from *Solitaire: The Intimate Lives of Single Women*

Beeton Auditorium

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

To June 9

This Magical Book exhibit

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

TD Gallery

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

Thursday, June 6, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday, June 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Book Clearance Sale

Beeton Auditorium

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m.

Bookmobile Launch

See Toronto Public Library's new bookmobile.

Nathan Phillips Square

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen St. West

Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

Leaside Branch Official Reopening

Check out the newly rebuilt

Leaside Branch.

Doors open at 9 a.m.

Special Opening Ceremony at 7 p.m.

Leaside Branch

165 McRae Drive

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series

Done In, Mystery Night

Lyn Hamilton reads from *The Etruscan*

Peter Robinson reads from *Aftermath*

Nora Kelly reads from *Hot Pursuit*

Rick Mofina reads from *Blood of Others*

Beeton Auditorium

Toronto Reference Library

789 Yonge Street

Friday, June 14, 7 p.m.

Meet Camilla Gibb

Author of *Mouthing Words*

Yorkville Branch

22 Yorkville Avenue

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.

Malvern Branch Reconstruction Project

Second Public Consultation Meeting

See the proposed designs; give us your feedback; learn about alternative service plans for the closure. Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Malvern Branch Auditorium

30 Sewells Road

June 29

Toronto: A Place of Meeting

An exhibit of Toronto's past in images. Opens June 29, runs through the summer.

TD Gallery

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

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.