

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Library Writer-in-Residence wins Giller

THE PRESTIGIOUS Giller Prize was awarded to Austin C. Clarke for his book, *The Polished Hoe*, on November 5. Clarke is currently working with emerging writers in his role as Toronto Public Library's Writer-in-Residence. Well-known for his support of new writers, Clarke won the 1999 W.O. Mitchell Prize, awarded each year to a Canadian writer who has produced an outstanding body of work and served as a caring mentor for other writers.



Writer-in-Residence,  
Austin C. Clarke

"I have been a writer-in-residence many times," Clarke points out. His first residencies were at U.S. universities in the early 1970s. In 1977 he was writer-in-residence at Concordia in Montreal and, following that, at the University of Western Ontario. "That was good," says Clarke, "because at Western I did what I always felt was the only thing a writer-in-residence can do, which is to help with the young writers to get their stuff published."

The current residency in Toronto is Clarke's first at a public library.

Clarke says his favourite library these days is his own, but that public libraries have played an important role in his life, particularly during his years in Barbados.

Clarke says of those days: "On Saturdays, we would go into the library and sit down and look through the books. There was a whole gang of us who had this interest in reading."

See Austin C. Clarke, page 3...

## Library's message in bus shelters

*Because your mind is always open, so are we: walk in, phone up, or log on*

IN CELEBRATION OF Ontario Public Library Week in October, Toronto Public Library (TPL) launched an awareness campaign that placed posters in 55 bus shelters and 250 recycling bins at key intersections across the city.

The poster campaign

takes advantage of free ad space, provided by the city, through Viacom and OMG, to attract new library users.

"As demand for library resources grows, we consider it good practice to tell people how much easier it now is to access the library's

online services," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant.

TPL's commitment to access includes recent branch renovations, expansion of new service points, new material acquisitions and the introduction of new online services.



The Honourable David Tsubouchi signs the cheque for Library Board Chair Gillian Mason.

## Minister of Culture at Reference Library for Public Library Week

AS PART OF Ontario Public Library Week celebrations, Minister of Culture and Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet, The Honourable David Tsubouchi visited Toronto Reference Library to meet with members of the library community in Ontario. He presented the government's annual cheque for \$1.4 million to Library Board Chair Gillian Mason in support of the Virtual Reference Library, Toronto Public Library's one-stop Internet resource.



## New to Special Collections...

IN A RARE POSTER issued shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in the War of 1812, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock urges "all His Majesty's Liege Subjects to forbear all communication with the Enemy,

or Persons residing within the Territory of the United States, and to manifest their Loyalty by a zealous co-operation with His Majesty's Armed Force in defence of the Province, and repulse the Enemy." Anyone who continued to trade with Americans would be considered a traitor. Less than a year after hostilities began, the Town of York was captured by the Americans and was occupied for a month.

The Baldwin Room in the Toronto Reference Library holds a number of rare and unique items relating to this forgotten period of Toronto's past.

## In brief

### St. Clair/Silverthorn staff and public say thank you

City Councillor Betty Disero and 12 Division Police Community Partnership Chair Cesar Palacio recently presented a \$10,000 cheque to the St. Clair/Silverthorn Branch to help install new shelving. Councillor Disero thanked the library for its valuable services and Mr. Palacio vowed to continue to work to keep the library a vibrant and welcoming community resource.



Bruce Bell tells amazing tales of St. Lawrence.



Original Bathurst Heights library head John Marshall with current Barbara Frum Branch manager Catherine Seimens.

St. Lawrence gets new look City Councillor Pam McConnell, speaking at a 20th anniversary celebration for St. Lawrence Branch, talked about the importance of the library in the unique and fast-growing St. Lawrence community. The open house provided an opportunity for the branch, which recently underwent a major internal refurbishment, to show off its new look. Guest speaker Bruce Bell, the popular history columnist for the *St. Lawrence Bulletin* and author of *Amazing Tales of St. Lawrence Neighbourhood*, thrilled the audience with tales and tidbits about 19th century life in the St. Lawrence area.

### Barbara Frum Branch turns 10

At a September celebration of library service in the Bathurst Heights area, staff at Barbara Frum Branch had two cakes for participants. One of the cakes commemorated 40 years of library service at Bathurst and Lawrence. The other commemorated the fact that the Barbara Frum Branch opened 10 years ago, just west of the location of the original branch. On hand to cut the cake was the first branch head of Bathurst Heights Library, John Marshall, who went on to teach at the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto.



### Adult Literacy learners win awards

Three Toronto Public Library Adult Literacy learners received awards for their writing in September. Their stories appear along with 15 others in

*Land That I Dream Of*, chosen from 55 stories entered in a contest sponsored by Word on the Street Toronto in partnership with Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy and the National Literacy Secretariat. The library's Adult Literacy Program has opened three new offices in the last two years. In the past three years, financial support from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has increased by almost 20 percent.



#### 25th Anniversary Performing Arts series thrives

Close to 150 people showed up to hear from violin soloist and conductor Jacques Israelievitch at the Toronto Reference Library. Israelievitch engaged his audience by sharing details of his experiences as

a chamber musician and as Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. After his talk, Israelievitch delighted audience members by performing a mini violin concert and answering questions.



**Historicity gateway wins award**  
Toronto Public Library's portal to information about Toronto's history, *Historicity: Toronto Then and Now*, has won a Heritage Toronto Award of Merit in the print and media category. The award was presented at the 28th annual Heritage Toronto Awards, which honour outstanding contributions to the preservation of the city's heritage. Presentation emcee Barbara Hall remarked: "*Historicity* is indeed a meritorious new website that will appeal to

many people for many reasons. It contains a remarkable amount of information about our city and it is well-conceived, well-organized and easily accessible."

**Check out *Historicity*.**  
[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
click on **Virtual Reference Library...**  
click on **Internet Resources**  
click on **Historicity**



**Library benefactor**  
Elizabeth Budd Bentley

#### Historic children's books added to special collections

Children's literature enthusiasts will be pleased to discover that Toronto Public Library is the beneficiary of a very generous donation of valuable historic children's material from the

library of Dr. Elizabeth Budd Bentley. The materials, which range from early movable books and 19th century moral works to a rare miniature library in a decorated wooden case, are now part of the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, housed at Lillian H. Smith Branch. Visit the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books in person at 239 College Street, or via the Internet: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)



#### Annual Report 2001

Toronto Public Library's 2001 Annual Report is now available. Reference copies are available at all branches. The report can also be viewed on the website:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
Click on **News and Publications**

## Austin C. Clarke

*Continued from page 1...*

"A friend of mine once challenged me to a reading race," continues Clarke. "If you can imagine that. We would attack a shelf and I would read from the top of the shelf and he would read from the bottom and we'd see where we met and how many books we each read. Meantime, we would discuss the books we were reading."

Clarke won't say who won the race, but he does say that he's come to value the public library as "a place where you have this priceless store of information that anyone can read."

In his university years, Clarke went to the library for different reasons. "You

came out of the library with the biggest books you could find," Clarke explains, "and you would walk around with these books so everybody could see, because the possession of books suggested the possession of brains. The bigger the books the better."

Of his Giller triumph, Clarke says, "the Giller is an honour because it recognizes the writing of Canadians."

Clarke will be Writer-in-Residence at Toronto Public Library until January 2003. Writers wishing to submit fiction or creative non-fiction to Toronto Public Library Writer-in-Residence Austin Clarke should submit a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages by December 20. For details, check the library's program guide, *What's On*, or log onto [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)

## So busy, so used

*"I walked into the [Toronto] Reference Library, Raymond Moriyama's magnificent building, for the first time in years and was floored, just amazed to see every single carrel busy, every single reference librarian helping someone out, every single computer among the dozens they've got busy. Just seeing this wonderful facility so busy and so used reminded me that this is what cities are. This is what they do. They collect money from their citizens to create resources that the citizens then go on to use and enjoy."*

— CBC radio host Andy Barrie speaking on his show, *Metro Morning*, Sept. 10, 2002



Popular children's author Kenneth Oppel is presented with the 2002 Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award by Library Board Chair Gillian Mason at the library's gala *A Novel Afternoon* fundraiser, held November 3 at the Granite Club.

## Library Board Highlights

October 28, 2002

### Ambassador Program

A presentation by Wayne Hussey, Chairman, DVA Navion, on the Toronto Public Library Foundation Ambassador Program, outlined how the Toronto Public Library Foundation and DVA Navion International Fundraising Consultants will inform, engage and cultivate key stakeholders about funding priorities in support of the Toronto Public Library. The program will also serve as a means to identify leadership prospects, cultivate current donors and prospects and educate them about the needs of the organization.

### Toronto Public Library Foundation

A new, high-level Membership Program to create additional funding and to sustain an annual major gifts program was introduced to the board for information. The Literary Circle Membership Program will provide the Toronto Public Library Foundation with funds to be used for the priorities of the Library Board.

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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.

### 2003 Operating Budget and 2003-2007 Capital Budget

The Board approved and forwarded the 2003 Operating Budget Submission to the City for discussion and consideration. The Library's submission is prepared in accordance with the instructions issued by the City to all Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions. Also approved was the 2003-2007 Capital Budget including a complete summary of all projects. The Toronto Public Library's 2003 portion of the capital budget is valued at \$15.2 million gross and \$12.4 million net. Projects over the 2003-2007 period total \$27.4 million gross and \$23.9 million net.

Security Guard Services – Award of Proposal Authority has been given to appropriate Library officials to commence negotiations and, if successfully concluded, enter into an agreement with The Inner-Tec Group for the supply of security guard services.

Snow Removal Services – Award of Contract Toronto Public Library will enter into agreements with lowest bidders on snow removal. These are Jimrick's Property Services in the east, north and south districts and L. & J. Landscaping in the west.

*Next Library Board meeting:*  
*Monday, November 25, 2002*

## Calendar of Events

### November 2002

**Monday, November 11, 12 noon**  
Library Writer-in-Residence Austin C. Clarke on literary journalism.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

**Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m.**  
Runnymede Branch Public Consultation  
An opportunity for the community to see initial designs for the upcoming Runnymede Branch renovation. Everyone welcome.  
Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor Street West.

**Friday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
Author and political and cultural theorist Mark Kingwell  
Meet the author of five books, including *A Civil Tongue* and *Dreams of the Millennium*.  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

**Tuesday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.**  
Austin C. Clarke hosts an evening of readings:  
Priscilla Uppal reads from *The Divine Economy of Salvation*.  
Dennis Bock reads from *The Ash Garden*.

Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

**Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.**  
McGregor Park Public Consultation  
An opportunity for community involvement

in planning the McGregor Park Branch reconstruction. Everyone welcome.  
McGregor Park Branch,  
2219 Lawrence Avenue East

**Friday, November 22, 6 p.m.**  
Performing Arts Lecture Series:  
Robert Lantos  
Film and TV producer, co-founder of Alliance Communications Corporation.  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

**Saturday, November 23, 2 p.m.**  
Artist Doris McCarthy presents slides and reads from her book-in-progress, *90 Years Wise*.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

**Friday, November 29, 6:30 p.m.**  
Authors Steven Heighton, Paul Savoie and Arash Mohtashami-Maali  
Moderator: Patricia Dumas of the Literary Translators Association of Canada.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

**Wednesday December 4, 6 p.m.**  
Performing Arts Lecture Series  
Actor and Soulepper artistic director Albert Schultz  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Visit [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) for more programming information.