

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 8 • SEPTEMBER 2002

## Toronto Reference Library 25<sup>th</sup>

### Knowing is better

Toronto Reference Library  
celebrates 25 years

TORONTO REFERENCE Library (TRL), the flagship of Toronto Public Library's 98-branch system, holds a special place in the lives of Toronto's many residents. It houses the largest publicly accessible collection of books, images and music in the city, not to mention more free Internet workstations than any other place in Toronto.

It provides unequalled study opportunities for Toronto students, as well as comprehensive consumer information. It also supports professionals, from business people and health care workers to authors, performers and historians.

"This is a public gathering space where people have been exchanging ideas for a quarter-century," City Librarian Josephine Bryant points out. "We want to let everyone know that we are proud of this vibrant and important meeting place."

This fall, join Toronto Public Library in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Toronto Reference Library. The *Knowing is Better* celebration features literary readings, cultural evenings and savvy talks on



current affairs.

The celebration comes just as renovations to the main floor of the building promise to "regain the original excitement that had people lining up even on Sundays to enjoy the library's extensive collections," according to renovation architects Moriyama & Teshima.

*See Knowing is better on page 2...*

### Renovations to Runnymede Branch eagerly anticipated

SIXTY COMMUNITY-MINDED citizens were on hand September 19 for a public consultation meeting about the upcoming renovations to Runnymede Branch.

"Public consultation meetings are a way for the community to participate in the renovation process," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "The renovation will allow us to revitalize and improve access, provide new space for community meetings and programs, improve the areas for computer use and add a unique space for teens."

The Runnymede Branch has been a part of the local community since it opened over 70 years ago. It was last renovated in 1978. It is currently listed as a Heritage Property and was featured on a postage stamp in May 1989 as part of Canada Post's Canadian architecture series.

At the meeting, local councillor David Miller encouraged people to visit Alderwood, New Toronto, Deer Park and Leaside branches to see the potential of new library additions, renovations and construction.

The upcoming renovation, headed by G. Bruce Stratton Architects, will begin in the spring of 2003. Reopening is planned for the spring of 2004. Stratton has been responsible for a number of other library renovation projects, including the construction of the multi-use Alderwood Centre that houses a school, a daycare and recreation facilities,

*See Runnymede renovation on page 3...*



## The Rock

THE SMOOTH, odd-shaped rock that graces the front lawn of the recently reconstructed Leaside Branch was uncovered during gas-line installation near the intersection of Crofton and Rumsey, about a block north of the library. Local resident Gary Browne spied the rock and contacted the library.

The rock is an erratic (meaning it was transported by glacial movement) from the Precambrian age. It was formed more than a billion years ago as part of the bedrock a few hundred kilometers north of Leaside. This rock was torn from the originating bedrock and transported by slow glacial movement to the Leaside area at least 10,000 years ago. Transportation by massive ice flows smoothed the rock surface by dragging against underlying rock and rubbing against other debris entrapped in the ice.

For a branch that houses a local history room, the rock is a natural addition. The library rock is one of Leaside's original residents!

# Knowing is better

## Toronto Reference Library celebrates 25 years

*continued from page 1...*

Toronto Reference Library has existed, in one form or another, for nearly 100 years. Initially located at St. George and College streets, it opened in its current incarnation on Yonge Street north of Bloor on November 2, 1977, realizing architect Raymond Moriyama's dream of a space open to all, both literally and figuratively. Winner of the 1982 Governor General's Medal for Architecture, the building features five public floors looking out over an open atrium.

The *Knowing is Better* celebration will help establish the important place of the library in society. As Toronto Star Editorial Page Editor Emeritus Haroon Siddiqui commented upon launching the newly refurbished Newspaper Centre: "Any public library system that can satisfy so many varied customers is a very civilized system, in a very civil society, in the middle of a unique cultural renaissance."

Toronto Reference Library hours are Mon-Thur 10-8, Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 1:30-5.

The Toronto Reference Library is located one block north of Bloor on Yonge.

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

### Did you know...

- The original Toronto Reference Library at 214 College near St. George, first opened in 1909 and was one of three libraries built with a \$350,000 Carnegie donation.
- Telephone reference started in 1910; patrons were invited to call 'College 5620' – these days you can call Answerline at 416-393-7131.
- There are 82 kilometres of shelving in TRL.
- More than 34 million visitors have passed through the doors of TRL since it opened at Yonge and Bloor.



### Related Clicks

<http://www.mtarch.com>  
(Moriyama & Teshima Architects)

# Best bets

## On shelves now



IF YOU THINK your chances of finding current, popular books on the shelves at the library are slim, it's time to think again. *Best Bets*, a new collection of bestsellers and award-winners, is now available at several Toronto Public Library branches.

"*Best Bets* can be borrowed for one week only and cannot be renewed," says library spokesperson Suzanna Birchwood. "This gives more people a chance to read them. And they have to be returned to the branch they were borrowed from."

To help increase the odds of finding exciting new titles, once a *Best Bet* is returned, it goes straight onto the special *Best Bets* display shelf.

"Anyone who has waited on the reserve lists for bestselling books at the library will immediately understand the benefits of this service," explains Birchwood.

Along with current bestsellers, award-winners and titles that have been made into movies or highlighted in the media, the collections will include some popular classics, a large mystery collection and interesting first novels.

Toronto Public Library invites comments about all our services. Members of the public are invited to speak to their local librarian, or email from the library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

# In Brief

## TPL gets LibraryNet award

Industry Minister Allan Rock has named Toronto Public Library the recipient of a 2002 LibraryNet Award. The award recognizes the important role of Canada's public libraries in encouraging innovative use of information and communication technology in their communities.

## Novelist Govier thanks library

In the acknowledgements for her latest novel, *Creation*, a fictional account of bird artist John James Audubon, Katherine Govier thanks Toronto Public Library Special Collections, "...for showing me the library's copy of *The Birds of America*. The power of the images, now 170 years old, set me on this journey. The Toronto Public Library, through its friendly and helpful staff, made available to me its extensive collection of Audubon [books], and I passed many pleasurable hours reading in the Baldwin Room."

*The Birds of America* consists of 435 hand-coloured plates of life-sized birds in their natural habitat and was published between 1827 and 1838.

The Toronto Public Library's copy of *The Birds of America* is housed at the Toronto Reference Library and is one of the only publicly accessible sets in Canada.



**Ken Dryden**  
supports  
children's  
literacy

On Sunday, November 3, in support of library literacy initiatives, the Toronto Public Library Foundation is hosting *A Novel Afternoon*, a celebration of excellence in children's literature and literacy.

# Runnymede renovation

*continued from page 1...*

in addition to the public library.

Members of the public are invited to share their comments about the building project by filling in a comment form available at the branch or at the Runnymede Hours and Locations link on the library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).



A 70-year-old heritage property featured in the 1989 Canada Post architectural series of stamps, Runnymede Branch will be revitalized in 2003.

Featuring popular children's author Kenneth Oppel, who will be accepting the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award, the annual gala will include interactive entertainment, a silent auction and lots of fun. The event, which will be held in the Grand Ballroom at Toronto's Granite Club, will also feature Toronto Maple Leaf President Ken Dryden. For information on supporting your library, call 416-393-7123 or click on Support your Library on the library's home page, [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

## Hudak slams Web scams

In response to increases in Internet fraud, Ontario Minister of Commerce and Business Services Tim Hudak has announced new consumer protection legislation he plans to introduce this fall. At a news conference at Toronto Reference Library in September, Hudak said, "We all know that on-line shopping has done much to revolutionize the way we buy things, but unfortunately, at the same time...there are scam artists that do lurk on the Internet."

The legislation calls for a "clear contract" for Internet transactions

and increased fines for both individuals and corporations.

By holding the press conference at the library, Hudak acknowledged its important role in the provision of Internet in the city. With 1,300 free high-speed Internet workstations across the city – more than 100 at TRL alone – the library continues to educate the public about both the benefits and the dangers of the World Wide Web.

## UNESCO librarians visit Alderwood

As part of a daylong round of activities in Toronto, librarians from Portugal, Estonia, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Spain, Malaysia and Chile visited Alderwood Branch on September 20.

Alderwood is unique in Toronto as the only public library that doubles as an elementary school library. The branch is part of a multi-use community facility that also includes a pool and a daycare centre.

The librarians, representatives of the UNESCO Model Library Network, also visited Toronto Reference Library.

 **Sign Language Interpretation service**  
Toronto Public Library provides a sign language

interpreter for any library program or event, upon advance request by a patron. If you need a sign language interpreter at a library program, or know of someone who does, call Answerline, 416-393-7131, to ask about the service.

## Canadian Theatre Record debuts

The first phase of a new library Web service, now available on the library's website ([www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)), the Canadian Theatre Record (CTR) is a searchable, bilingual database containing information about professional theatre in Canada, past and present. A work-in-progress that will continue to grow over the next few years, the gateway offers production history information about several well-known Canadian theatre companies and digital access to related artifacts including photographs, designs, posters and theatre programs.

The Canadian Theatre Record has been created in partnership with Associated Designers of Canada, National Theatre School of Canada, ecentricarts and the University of Guelph.

# Library Board Highlights

September 23, 2002

## Circulation and Collection Use

### (including Fees and Fines) Policy

The Board approved changes to the Circulation and Collection Use Policy, to be implemented November 2002. There will be increases in fine rates to encourage prompt return of library materials and the more efficient use of existing collections, and small increases for copy cards and for the replacement of library cards. The Board approved the use of a collection agency to collect unpaid fines and to recover materials from adult borrowers for amounts of \$50 or more.

## Operating Budget

### Monitoring Report

– August 31, 2002

This report, which gives a summary of the gross and net expenditures for the eight month period ending August 31, 2002, was received by the Board for information with all indications that spending will be within the budget as approved by Council.

## Update on the Allocations of Ontario Works Targets Incentive Funds received by Toronto Public Library – Kids@Computers and TeenZone

The Board received information on two project. Kids@Computers, a highly successful partnership between Toronto Public Library and Toronto Social Services, will provide computer skills and equipment to over 1,400 children from low-income families. Toronto Public Library also received funding to develop a TeenZone on the Virtual Reference Library. TeenZone will be produced in

**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.

consultation with young people and will provide information and resources targeted to at-risk youth.

## Swansea Memorial Branch

### – Report on Service Changes

A report on service changes to the Swansea Memorial Branch was received by the Board for information.

## Policy Governing Land Transactions among City Agencies, Board, Commissions and Departments and Proceeds from Sale of Surplus City-Owned Real Property

The Board moved to provide endorsements of the City of Toronto's policy on the handling of proceeds from the sale of surplus property and will forward the report to the City.

## General Agreements on Trade in Services (GATS) and Public Libraries

The Board endorsed the Canadian Library Association's (CLA) resolutions concerning the potential impact of GATS on public libraries and is communicating their endorsement to Toronto federal MPs and to the CLA.

## Internet Services at Toronto Public Library

The Board approved changes to the Internet Use Policy and received for information details on new initiatives in public training, staff training and automated computer booking. A copy of this report is being forwarded to Toronto City Council for information.

## S. Walter Stewart District Branch

### – Possible Relocation

The Board approved the submission of a business case to the City's Property Management Committee for the relocation of the S. Walter Stewart Branch to the East York Civic Centre, contingent on no rent being paid at the East York Civic Centre. The public will be consulted about the possible relocation.

*Next Library Board meeting:  
Monday, October 28, 2002*

## Calendar of Events

### October/November 2002

#### Saturday, October 5

TD Gallery Exhibit opens

*The Toronto Reference Library*

– The First 25 Years

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

#### Wednesday, October 9, 12-2 p.m.

Write Word Workshop

*Novel Research*

presented by Catherine Bush

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

#### Friday, October 18, 6 p.m.

Perspectives on the Canadian Health Care System

With speakers Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Dr. Lawrence Erlick, Dr. Michael Rachlis  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

#### Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series

Elizabeth Hay reads from

*A Student of Weather*

Michael Redhill reads from

*Martin Sloane*

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

#### Thursday, October 24, 8 p.m.

Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture

Christopher Paul Curtis

Osborne Collection of Early

Children's Books

Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

#### Friday, November 1, 6 p.m.

Design for Urban Space

Architects Phillip Carter, Jack Diamond, Michael Kirkland, Eberhard Zeidler, *Globe & Mail* Critic Lisa Rochon  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

#### Saturday, November 2

Children's Design-a-Bookmark contest begins  
In connection with Canadian Children's Book Week, November 2-9. Check at your local branch for information and entry forms.

#### Sunday, November 3, 12:30 p.m.

A Novel Afternoon

In support of Toronto Public Library children's literacy. For information and to buy tickets, call 416-393-7123.  
Grand Ballroom, Granite Club, 2350 Bayview Avenue

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