

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Speak up, speak out, be heard

### *Youth forum informs strategic plan*

A YOUTH FORUM held November 19 at the newly reconstructed Maria A. Shchuka Branch (MAS) of the library resulted in some honest, enthusiastic feedback from teens who are eager to make a place for themselves in their community and in their public library.

A panel of guest speakers kicked off the evening. Toronto Youth Cabinet member Okeima Lawrence, slam poet Motion and MAS Youth Advisory Group members Ricardo Reeves and Jessica Croke each summarized what the library meant to them and then the forum facilitator, Arts Starts Program Director Starr Jacobs, led the room in discussion.

Youth asked for everything from

more CDs, to brighter coloured walls, to an after-hours space in the library devoted to youth, to open mike nights and access to counselling services.

The suggestions will go toward developing Toronto Public Library's new strategic plan, scheduled for release this coming spring.

The youth forum was part of an extensive round of public and staff consultations that along with research into social and economic trends in Toronto, will inform the plan. The next public consultation is scheduled to take place early in the new year at Cedarbrae Branch in the east end of the city. Watch the Toronto Public Library website for details:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)

## Congratulations to...

...**Toronto Public Library Mobile Library Services staff member Jane Reid** who was recognized by the City of Toronto CityWatch committee for her efforts on October 28 in helping one of her Home Library Service customers who was immobilized in her armchair. An older adult who lives alone, the woman had fallen the day before and found herself unable to move. Jane suggested that she call 911; however, the woman preferred to have the family doctor visit. With the assistance of Linda Falconer, several phone calls were made to arrange for alternative assistance. Eventually the family doctor was able to visit her in her home. The home library customer was grateful for the library's help.



Linda Karlinsky, Toronto Public Library's representative on the City of Toronto CityWatch committee, presents Jane Reid with a letter of thanks from the committee, a key chain and poster.

...**Toronto Public Library Board member Rick Goldsmith**, who received the 2004 James Bain Medallion for Trustee of the Year. The James Bain Medallion is presented by the Ontario Public Library Association to a public library trustee who has demonstrated

*Continues on back...*



**Heather Rumball**

**New Foundation President**  
The appointment of Heather Rumball as Toronto Public Library (TPL) Foundation President brings

friend- and fund-raising into a new and exciting era at the library.

"I'm thrilled about this opportunity to help Toronto Public Library secure the strong community support it needs in order to give the people of Toronto a viable, responsive library service," says Rumball. "The Foundation has done an incredible job so far, but it is still in its early years and there is much to be done. I love a good challenge and look forward to working with the entire TPL and Foundation team to realize our goals."

Rumball brings considerable experience to her new position. She joins us from the Edmonton Space and Science Foundation where she was Vice President, Marketing and Fund Development. Prior to that, she worked with the Stratford Festival as Annual Fund Director.

## **Library Board Highlights**

Monday, December 15, 2003

### **New City Councillors join Library Board**

With the election of a new Toronto City Council, the Toronto Public Library got four new councillor members, including: Sylvia Watson, Ward 14, Parkdale-High Park; Janet Davis, Ward 31, Beaches-East York; Gay Cowbourne, Ward 44, Scarborough East; and Karen Stintz, Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence. Councillor Kyle Rae, Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, who was on the board previously, remains for another term.

### **Planning to attend a Library Board meeting?**

Beginning in 2004, the Library Board will hold its meetings at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street at 6 p.m., one Monday per month. Everyone is welcome. For full details about date and time, check the website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca), or contact Nancy Marshall, 416-393-7215.

### **We want to hear from you**

In January, the Library Board plans to take advantage of its regular meeting on January 19 at 6 p.m. to share the details of the library's proposed 2004 budget with interested residents of Toronto. "January will be a month when Torontonians will be out in full force across the city, letting the Mayor know what their priorities for the city's budget are," commented City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "Our meeting will offer the same chance for us to hear the public's ideas and share with them the details of our budget plans."

### **Good news for the Morningside Branch**

Morningside Branch, scheduled for renovation in 2004, got good news when the lease for the current location was extended for one year. The lease extension allows the Morningside Branch to remain in its current location, and provides continuity of service until construction begins on the new building.

## **Congratulations to...**

Continued from front...

outstanding leadership in the advancement of public libraries in Ontario.

**...Toronto Public Library Board members Gillian Mason, Rick Goldsmith and Mitchell Weisberg,** each of whom won a 2003 Ontario Volunteer Service Award for serving more than five years on the Board. The awards were presented at a ceremony on December 10.

"It's nice to be recognized this way," commented Board Chair Gillian Mason, "but the real reward is working together with the board and staff at Toronto Public Library to create a library service that strives to, and succeeds in meeting the needs of the people of Toronto."

## **Calendar of Events**

December 2003/January 2004

### **Ongoing to January 11**

#### **Toronto Through the Lens**

An exhibition of the work of professional photographic studios, talented amateurs and unknown photographers working in Toronto in the latter half of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century.

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

### **Ongoing to March 24**

#### **Transforming Performers**

An exhibit of clowns and humour in early and modern children's books. Osborne Collection, Floor 4, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

### **Ongoing to April 17**

#### **Young Voices 2003 Contest**

Teens 12-19 are invited to submit original stories, poetry or non-fiction

for a chance to be published in the library's annual magazine, *Young Voices*.

### **Saturday, December 27, 2-4 p.m.**

#### **Guess What**

"Tiny World" photographer David Allen presents a special interactive slide show, *Guess What* for children 3-7. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

### **Tuesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.**

#### **Author Series: People Poetry**

Goran Simic reads from *Immigrant Blues*. Adam Getty reads from *Reconciliation*. Q&A follows.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

### **Monday, January 26, 6-8 p.m.**

#### **Performing Arts Lecture Series:**

#### **Michael Levine**

Internationally acclaimed opera and theatre costume and set designer.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

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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.