

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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The Anderson Ruffin Abbott papers at Toronto Reference Library include photographs, drafts of articles, speeches and letters.

## Black heritage at the library

*Special Collections rich source for historical materials*

AS PART OF a week-long CITY-TV Black heritage series, reporter Jojo Chinto interviewed authors Adrienne Shadd, Afua Cooper and Karolyn Smardz Frost about their recent book,

*The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!*

Appropriately, the interviews took place in the Baldwin Room of the Toronto Reference Library, where the authors did much of their research.

The Baldwin Room houses an extensive collection of primary source material on the history of Canada, including historical pictures, newspapers, books, manuscripts and more. Shadd and her co-authors used first-hand accounts written by Blacks who came to Canada via the Underground Railroad, as well as several manuscript collections, most notably the Anderson Ruffin Abbott papers.

Anderson Abbott graduated from the Toronto School of Medicine in 1861 and, after serving a stint in the U.S. Army as a surgeon, set up practice in Chatham, Ontario. Throughout his life, Dr. Abbott contributed articles and letters, many of them concerning Blacks in

Canada and the United States, to Canadian and American newspapers.

The Anderson Ruffin Abbott papers at Toronto Reference Library include, among other items, photographs, drafts of articles, speeches, letters, scrapbooks and newspaper clippings.

Black heritage collections are also available at Cedarbrae, Parkdale, Yorkville, Barbara Frum, Black Creek, Downsview, Fairview and Flemingdon Park branches.

## Librarians set to lay siege to city

*Canadian and American Library Associations unite for conference*

WITH 25,000 DELEGATES expected to attend, the upcoming joint Canadian Library Association (CLA)/American Library Association (ALA) Conference, June 19 to 25, in Toronto, will be the biggest conference in the city this year. It will feature over 2,000 events, meetings and programs, with keynote speakers including Gloria Steinem and Canada's National Librarian Roch Carrier.

"We're expecting participants from all over North America," says Toronto Public Library conference liaison, Maggie Gosselin. "We'll have librarians, of course, but we are also expecting educators, writers, publishers and other special guests."

The oldest and largest library association in the world, founded in 1876 and currently

boasting 64,000 members, the ALA has held their annual conference in Canada six times in the past. The first time was in 1900, when the conference was held in Montreal; the most recent over 40 years ago, again in Montreal. It was held in Toronto only once, in 1927, when Canadian librarian George Locke was President of the ALA. Members of ALA

See ALA conference page 2...

*With upwards of \$70 million in economic activity expected, this will be Toronto's largest conference of 2003.*

# Meeting Toronto's cultural and linguistic needs

## *Use of multilingual materials up 10 percent*

RECENT STATISTICS reflecting the unparalleled ethnic diversity of Toronto's population reinforce the need for a culturally inclusive library service in the city. Toronto Public Library's strategic vision calls for a library that serves everyone in the city.

"In 2002, we saw an increase of almost 10 percent in borrowing of multilingual materials," comments City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "Through our collections, programs and services, we continue to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Toronto's growing immigrant population."

### **Collections in over 100 languages**

The library carries a wide range of other language materials for adults and children. These include magazines, newspapers, books, sound recordings, video recordings and electronic information. Over 100 languages are represented, with substantial collections in 40 languages.

### **The world on the Web**

Access to international newspapers, many in non-western fonts, is available at 1,300 Internet workstations located at 98 library branches across the city. Electronic resources, including NewsConnect, Multicultural Connections and Career Bookmarks, to name just a few, are also available from home, work, or any place with Internet access.

### **At home away from home**

Co-sponsored library programs, such as citizenship preparation classes and English conversation programs, help



newcomers to Canada assimilate to their new home. Partnerships with local school boards and other community institutions have made English as a Second Language classes available in Toronto library branches across the city.

Children benefit from a number of multicultural library programs, including English Can Be Fun, a program for newcomers, offered at 21 library locations during the summer. Dial-a-Story (416-395-5400) offers children the opportunity to listen to stories over the telephone 24 hours a day in English, French, Cantonese, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Multicultural storytime programs are offered in a variety of languages including Cantonese, Italian, Mandarin, Persian, Polish and Tamil.

To find out more about how the library is serving the multicultural community, check out *What's On*, the library's guide to programs, services and collections. Or visit our website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

# ALA conference

*continued from page 1...*

come from state, public, school, academic and special libraries all over North America.

"In addition to meetings, workshops, poster sessions and the other business of a conference," says Gosselin, "we're preparing to help delegates get to know and enjoy Toronto the city, and in particular, our world-class library system."

Besides sessions dealing with homework help for children, digital reference, library services for the homeless, collections and services for emerging immigrant populations and many other relevant and timely topics, delegates will be treated to a mix of tours, awards banquets and even a "fun run."

Canadian conference organizers are hoping to send delegates home with a heightened understanding of Toronto and of Canada.

"We want to show off the City's cultural diversity," says Gosselin, "and how Toronto Public Library responds to this diversity. We also want to give visitors a chance to learn about the rich and varied Canadian literary scene."

## In brief

### **Library donation good news for environment**

The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has pledged \$25,000 toward the purchase of environmental books and other materials for Toronto Public Library collections – books like David Suzuki's *Good News for Change* and Andrew Goudie's *The Nature of the Environment*. Last year, TD Friends donated \$20,000 to support collections.

The TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has raised over \$27 million, since 1990, to help Canadians improve their local environment. TD Bank Financial Group matches Friends-raised funds up to \$1 million annually.

### **You can help**

In 2002, the Toronto Public Library Foundation benefited from \$1.5 million in donations from supporters. A direct mail appeal to the community raised over

\$187,000. This year, you can help meet the goal of \$190,000 to support children's literacy, to deliver library goods to the homebound and to help fund many other library programs, services and collections. Call the Toronto Public Library Foundation at 416-393-7123 or visit the library website:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
click on Support Your Library.

#### **Library seeks feedback**

In the latest of a series of measures being taken to involve the Toronto community in the evolution of its library, Toronto Public Library (TPL) has unveiled a new customer feedback plan. The centrepiece of the plan is a new Customer Feedback Form, designed to make it easy to comment about library service in the city. The new form, available in all 98 branches of TPL and on the library's website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca), will make it easier for library patrons to make comments about library service – compliments or suggestions for improvement – and for library staff to track these comments.

The Customer Feedback Form follows a number of other measures designed to get input from members of the community, the most recent being a series of public consultations regarding the design of renovated and reconstructed library branches.

Ask for the Customer Feedback Form in your local branch, or get it on the website:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
click on Contact Us  
click on Customer Feedback.

#### **Malvern Branch to expand**

Space for larger collections, additional meeting rooms, areas for adult and children's literacy programs, a teen area, a larger children's area, more study space, additional computers and a computer learning centre are all part of the plan for a renovated and expanded Malvern Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

"The vision for the new branch grew out of extensive community consultation," comments Regional Director Vickery Bowles. "Early on in the process, we held two public meetings and eight focus groups involving approximately 180 people altogether. Community consultation will continue throughout the project."



**Dora Award winner Astrid Janson at Toronto Reference Library**  
Costume and set designer Astrid Janson drew more than 100 people to her Performing Arts Lecture Series (PALS) appearance, February 5 at Toronto Reference Library. Janson regaled her audience with the stories behind the creation of her wonderful set and costume designs that have garnered no less than nine Doras, among other awards and honours. For upcoming PALS events, see the Calendar, page 4.

Malvern will close for approximately one year for renovations and the addition of 10,000 square feet of public space. In order to meet the library needs of the community during the closure, Burrows Hall Branch will increase its hours of service and a bookmobile will visit the Malvern parking lot three days a week.

#### **George Reid uncovered**

The Regal Heights Residents' Association, in cooperation with the Toronto Public Library Foundation, has raised more than \$7,000 toward the cost of restoring historic murals at the Dufferin/St. Clair Branch. They need \$12,000 for the first phase of the project, which will bring to light murals created by renowned artists George Reid and Doris McCarthy. The murals, commissioned in the 1920s and 30s, were painted over in the 1960s when the branch was renovated. If you'd like to find out how you can help, contact the Toronto Public Library Foundation at 416-393-7123, or visit the library website:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
click on Support Your Library.

#### **Library wins prestigious public relations award**

A Toronto Public Library (TPL) Series that provides the public with the unique opportunity to hear presentations by outstanding Canadian performers in music, theatre, film and dance, has won a prestigious John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award, given by the American Library Association.

TPL won the award for work done on a multi-faceted public relations campaign surrounding its Performing Arts Lecture Series. The campaign included cross-promotional initiatives with the Canadian Opera Company and other arts organizations; media relations; advertising; direct marketing; and the consistent use of a Performing Arts image.

The Performing Arts Lecture Series continues to attract new partnerships and patrons; it enhances the library's contribution to the literary and cultural life of the city; and it raises the library's profile.



Toronto Public Library celebrates

freedom  
to read week

semaine de la Liberté  
d'expression

### Talking about Terror:

Rules of Civil Discourse

Moderator: Andy Barrie, Brenda Cossman,  
Andrew Coyne, Joel Ruimy, Margaret Wentz

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Beeton Auditorium

### Coming to Canada:

Freedom to Write and Remember

Intro: Haroon Siddiqui Host: June Callwood  
Michelle Berry, Nino Ricci, Dany Laferrière, Ken Wiwa,  
Shyam Selvadurai, Reza Baraheni, Metin Ciyayi

Friday, February 28, 7 p.m.

In the Atrium

Admission: \$10; \$7 Students, Seniors  
All proceeds support PEN Canada

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

416-393-7131

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

PEN CANADA  
FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly

from September through June, in Committee

Room 2 at Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street

West. Meetings are open to the public.

The Library Board includes eight citizen members

and seven City Councillors.

#### Board Members

Gillian Mason, Chair

William Booth, Vice-Chair

Councillor Maria Augimeri

Meyer Brownstone

Councillor Olivia Chow

Councillor Mike Feldman

Rick Goldsmith

Mizan Ibrahim

Councillor Joe Mihevc

Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong

Mark Nightingale

Councillor Jane Pitfield

Councillor Kyle Rae

Marjorie Stephenson

Mitchell Weisberg

## Library Board Highlights

February 17, 2003

### Succession Planning

The Board received a report outlining Toronto Public Library's strategies and initiatives to recruit and retain qualified employees. This report is in response to indicators showing that 26 percent of Toronto Public Library employees are eligible for retirement and a further 15 percent will soon be eligible.

### American Library Association/Canadian Library Association 2003 Conference

Maggie Gosselin, Deputy Chair, ALA/CLA Conference Local Arrangements Committee, gave a presentation on this upcoming conference. For details, see page 1 in this issue of *Shelf Life*.

### Lease Extension Agreement – Bayview Neighbourhood Branch Library

The Board approved this library's lease extension with Select Properties Limited for a period of five years, from February 1, 2007 to January 31, 2012.

Next Library Board meeting:  
Monday, March 24, 2003

## Calendar of Events

March 2003



February 22 to April 27

### Audubon Images on Stamps

An exhibit from the Library's Special Collections, features prints from the rare first edition of Audubon's *The Birds of America* and Audubon stamps from around the world. The exhibit includes a display on the design process used to transform a print into a stamp and commemorates Canada's first Audubon stamp series. TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.



Monday, March 10 to  
Saturday, March 15  
March Break  
is for kids

Magicians, musicians  
and mimes (and a  
whole lot more). Ask

at your local branch, check the library's program guide, *What's On*, or visit us online: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

Monday, March 3, 6 p.m.

### Performing Arts Lecture Series

Arts writer and broadcaster Paula Citron. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Tuesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

### Author Series 2003

Science fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer reads from *Humans*. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Friday, March 21, 6 p.m.

### Performing Arts Lecture Series

Flutist, composer and conductor Robert Aitken. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.

### Protecting Your Money, Privacy and Identity in Today's Information Age

Information security experts Paul Wing and Jim Gaston. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.