

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2003



Stratford Festival Director Richard Monette (right) drew a capacity crowd of fans to the Toronto Reference library for his January 17 Performing Arts Lecture Series engagement. Read more about the popular Performing Arts Series on page 3.

## Using library gets easier

*A suite of new library services makes finding information a snap*

Throughout 2003, using Toronto's libraries will grow progressively easier, as Toronto Public Library (TPL) introduces a number of innovations to improve access to resources, both in the library and remotely via the Internet.

"Over the past few years, we've pulled together Toronto's seven pre-amalgamation library systems into a powerful resource," says TPL Director of Information Technology Ron Dyck. "This year we are focussing our energies on making the library's resources increasingly more accessible."

Reserve a Computer, a new Web-based system for reserving free computer time at any of the 98 branches across the city, will allow patrons to book computer workstation sessions from home, work, or anywhere they have access to the Internet.

"Users will be able to make sure a workstation is available before going to the library, find out which branches have available workstations, book a session and know that their time is guaranteed when they arrive at the library," says Dyck. "They will also be able to reserve sessions in advance from any library branch."

All in One Search will be available this spring, enabling library patrons to search for information simultaneously in the library's catalogue, databases, commercial Web services and library-selected websites. The service, available both in the library and remotely via the library's website, will also eliminate the need to

See Using library easier, page 3...

## One hundred years and still building

*Toronto's most populous community looks forward to new facility*

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Andrew Carnegie donated \$350,000 to build libraries in Toronto. The money bought four branches: Yorkville; the Central Reference Library at College and St. George (now owned by U of T); Western (later renamed Annette Street); and Queen/Lisgar (relocated and renamed Parkdale in the 1960s).

Since then, Toronto Public Library has developed into the busiest library system in North America, with 98 branches and over 30 million books, DVDs, CDs, videos, magazines and other material checked out in 2002.

Nowadays, Toronto libraries thrive

on a combination of public and private funding, as well as innovative partnerships. Toronto's 99th public library, currently in development in St. James Town, will be part of a new multi-use facility at Sherbourne and Wellesley Streets that will deliver recreational, library and daycare services to the most densely populated neighbourhood in Canada.

The result of a collaboration between St. James Town community members; the City of Toronto's Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Community and

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The new St. James Town facility, which is expected to open in 2004, will be the result of a collaboration between St. James Town community members; the City of Toronto's Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Community and Neighbourhood Services; and the Toronto Public Library.

## Still building

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Neighbourhood Services; and the Toronto Public Library, the new facility will serve a diverse, multicultural community that includes many newcomers to Canada and many families with young children.

"This is an exciting time for St. James Town and for the Toronto Public Library," says Library Board Chair Gillian Mason. "The library's three-year strategic plan promised to make each of our branches a cornerstone of its community and to seek

innovative partnerships with other city departments. The St. James Town project has given us the opportunity to make our plans and visions a reality."

The vision for the St. James Town Branch grew from extensive community consultation, including meetings with youth, seniors and parents. The community asked for lots of study space, extra job search materials and a large, comfortable children's area.

### The 7,500 square foot library will include:

- A large children's area with a parenting collection
- A separate teen zone
- Multicultural collections of books, periodicals and newspapers
- A French collection for children
- Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language materials
- 12 computers with free Internet access and four Kids' Space computers
- Materials reflecting the community's needs for employment and career information.



Library Board Chair Gillian Mason and Councillors Pam McConnell and Kyle Rae help kick off construction of the new library and community centre in St. James Town at a groundbreaking ceremony on January 15.

### Get involved

Opportunities for input into the project will continue as plans for the new facility progress. As well as further public consultations, members of the public can contribute in writing or online at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

To find out about opportunities to support Toronto Public Library, contact the Development Office at 416-393-7123 or log onto: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

## New Bayview branch now open

THE BAYVIEW BRANCH of Toronto Public Library reopened January 21 after a six-month closure for renovation and relocation. With a larger area devoted to collections and circulation activities, the addition of a larger reading lounge and storytelling area and an entrance off Sheppard Avenue, the newly renovated and relocated branch will better meet the needs of an expanding community.

"Conveniently located along the new Sheppard subway line, this already busy library is bound to see a substantial increase in use," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "To meet this demand, the new library will now provide evening service until 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays."

Located at 2901 Bayview Avenue, Bayview Branch is open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Design-A-Bookmark Contest winner, Meagan, aged 6.

## Congratulations bookmark contest winners

THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN and 'twens' entered the 2002 Toronto Public Library Design-A-Bookmark Contest, generously supported by Laurentien. Twelve winners in three age groups will get their bookmarks printed and distributed in Toronto's 98 libraries. To see the winning bookmarks, check your local branch at the

end of February, or visit the library website: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) click on Kids' Space.

Thanks to Bookmark Contest sponsor, Laurentien.



## In brief



### Best Canadian books for kids

Selected by the Toronto Public Library children's staff, *100 Best Canadian Books for Children and Teens* is a gateway through which to enter the diverse and exciting world of

Canadian children's literature. "The titles in the booklet are just a sampling of the rich resources available through your local library branch," says Library Children's and Youth Advocate Sulekha Sathi. "Once you've had a chance to check out some of the books on the list, drop into your local branch; our children's service specialists would love to meet with you and your children to help you continue your literary journey." The booklet is available in all 98 library branches and online:

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
click on Kids' Space.

### Coming soon: Much Reading

— a special booklist just for teens. Watch Shelf Life for more information, or check the website:  
[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

### Library to promote City Welcome Policy

The City of Toronto's Welcome Policy, designed to ensure that everyone in Toronto has access to city recreation programs, is being promoted by staff at libraries across the city. The policy allows people who are having financial difficulties or are on financial assistance to participate in city programs without paying fees. Besides promoting the program, Toronto Public Library will assist eligible library customers by filing letters confirming their financial need. Application forms are available through local community or civic centres. Find out more at the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation website:  
[www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks).



Actor/Director Albert Schultz visited Starbucks, generous sponsors of the Performing Arts Lecture Series, at their Britnell's location, before his appearance at Toronto Reference Library on December 4, 2002. Pictured (l-r) Library Director Linda Mackenzie, Schultz, Starbucks Marketing Specialist Toni Mattucci and Starbucks Director of Marketing Karin Koonings.



## Popular Performing Arts Series continues in 2003

VISITS BY THEATRE SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER Astrid Jansen and Stratford Festival Director Richard Monette, on January 17 and February 5 respectively, drew hundreds of eager participants, as the Performing Arts Lecture Series continues at Toronto Reference Library in 2003. Check the Calendar of Events on page 4 for information on upcoming Series events featuring classical pianist Anton Kuerti and arts writer and broadcaster Paula Citron. The Series is generously supported by Starbucks.

## Using library easier

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re-type a library card number each time a new database is accessed. Library users with no card will still be able to access many library resources by logging on as guests.

The Virtual Reference Desk, available since the fall of 2002, allows patrons to chat with library staff online to get help navigating the library's many and diverse sources of information.

A new multipurpose library card, available on a no-waste basis beginning this February, will enable patrons to check out

materials, purchase photocopies and pay fines and fees, all using the same card.

Finally, a new Web application will provide enhanced access to the library's Web catalogue to anyone visiting the website from outside the library, regardless of the type of browser they are using.

"Each of these new services is designed to make using Toronto Public Library a more enjoyable, more effective experience," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "We continue to look for ways to improve access to library resources for all our users in Toronto and beyond."

To find out more about TPL collections, services and programs, visit the library's website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).



Design-A-Bookmark Contest winner, Nan, aged 13. See story page 2.

## Library Board Highlights

January 28, 2003

### Operating budget update

The Board reviewed the updated 2003 Operating Budget, presented to the City's Budget Advisory Committee on January 24, 2003, which included information on how to meet the City proposed budget of \$121.5 million. Final decisions on the Library budget are expected to be made at the end of February.

### Barrier-Free Access

An information report to the Board on Barrier-Free Access to library facilities indicates that 95 of the library's 101 buildings are in compliance with the

*Ontario Building Code* barrier-free design requirements.

### Communications policy

The Board approved a communications policy, which standardizes approaches to communications, marketing and public relations across the Library.

### Custodial services

A report on the custodial services in the West Region Branches of the Library was received by the Board. The report identified several key improvements in contract management to enhance compliance with the cleaning contract, including: conducting a staff survey, monthly inspections by the service provider's supervisory staff, and informing staff on the expected duties of the cleaning contractor.

### Library Board

The Toronto Public Library Board reviewed administrative reports about its own composition, remuneration and meeting location. The Board recommended a 13 member Library Board consisting of eight citizen and five council representatives in 2004. It also recommended a remuneration plan that will continue to see citizen appointees of the Library Board reimbursed for expenses. The Board approved a motion to continue meeting at City Hall for the duration of 2003.

### Board Chair acclaimed

Gillian Mason was acclaimed Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board for a third one-year term; Bill Booth was acclaimed Vice Chair for a one-year term.

*Next Library Board meeting:  
Monday, February 17, 2003*

## Calendar of Events

February/March 2003

### Monday, February 17, 6 p.m.

Performing Arts Lecture Series  
Pianist Anton Kuerti  
Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

### Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 2003  
Marnie Woodrow reads from  
*Spelling Mississippi*  
Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

### Thursday, February 27, 7 p.m.

February is Black History Month  
Anansi Tales with Donald Carr  
Richview Branch,  
1806 Islington Avenue

### Friday, February 28, 7 p.m.

Freedom to Read Week,  
February 23-March 1  
Coming to Canada:  
Freedom to Write and Remember  
Join the authors of *Passages:*  
*Welcome Home to Canada* in readings  
on freedom, home and identity:  
Michelle Berry, Nino Ricci,  
Dany Laferrière, Shyma Selvadurai.  
With stories of exile by Reza Baraheni  
and Metin Ciyayi. Admission: \$10;  
Students and Seniors: \$7.  
Tickets at the door. All proceeds  
support PEN Canada.  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

### Monday, March 3, 6 p.m.

Performing Arts Lecture Series  
Arts writer and broadcaster  
Paula Citron  
Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

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

Author Series 2003  
Robert J. Sawyer reads from *Humans*  
Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

### Friday, March 21, 6 p.m.

Performing Arts Lecture Series  
Flutist, composer and conductor  
Robert Aitken  
Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

**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, 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