

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Photo: Raly

## Nino Ricci at world's largest library conference

*Ralph Nader, Nino Ricci, Margaret Atwood, Gloria Steinem among featured speakers in Toronto, June 19-25*

NINO RICCI WILL BE ONE OF MANY AUTHORS in attendance when the American Library Association (ALA) and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) convene together in Canada for the world's largest and most comprehensive library conference and exhibition. Thousands of librarians, educators, writers, publishers and special guests will attend more than 2,000 meetings, discussion groups and programs on topics affecting libraries, June 19-25 in Toronto.

Featured speakers include Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), sponsor of the *Freedom to Read Protection Act*; Ralph Nader, consumer advocate and founder of the D.C. Library Renaissance Project; Naomi Klein, activist and author of *No Logo*; Karen Nussbaum, founder of 9-5 Women's Labor Movement; and architect Gunnar Birkerts, who designed the National Library of Latvia and the combined San Jose Public Library/San Jose State University Library.

Award-winning author and broadcaster Rex Murphy and Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management at the University of Toronto Janice Gross Stein will keynote Wendy Newman's CLA President's Program on Sunday morning.

Acclaimed author Margaret Atwood and her seminal book *The Handmaid's Tale* will take centerstage as part of the first-ever One Book, One Conference program. As an added bonus, Random House has donated more than 100 of Atwood's newest book *Oryx and Crake* to be raffled to conference participants.

*See ALA/CLA Conference on page 3*

## Summer reading fun for the whole family

*Stay cool, have fun —  
the library's the place to be!*

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to be cool and stay cool this summer, drop by one of Toronto Public Library's 98 branches; they're air-conditioned and offer terrific programs for the whole family. All library programs — for kids, teens, adults and older adults — are free and designed to help you learn in a fun way. You'll also find books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and free high-speed Internet access and email.



**TD Summer Reading Club**

For the kids, there's the 2003 TD Summer Reading Club. Free at local library branches across the city, this year's reading club offers a hidden treasure trove of underwater creatures, exotic fish, deep-sea dives and exciting adven-

*See Summer Reading Club on page 2*



## Malvern gets major reconstruction

MALVERN BRANCH of the Toronto Public Library closed June 8 for a one-year major renovation and expansion. Patrons of this northeast Scarborough library will enjoy an additional 10,000 square feet of space when it reopens in the summer of 2004.

"This busy library serves a community whose population has quadrupled since it opened in the early 1980s," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "This is an exciting project that gives us the opportunity to meet the needs of this growing community."

When Malvern reopens, it will be visible from the street and offer its patrons a computer training room, expanded meeting rooms, spaces for quiet study and adult and children's literacy programs.

The Malvern renovation project will be executed by Phillip H. Carter — Architect in joint venture with Kingsland + Architects Inc. Carter designed the Barbara Frum Branch and the award-winning Lillian H. Smith Branch. He has renovated numerous other branches including Centennial, Wychwood, Main Street and Fairview.

Hours of the nearby Burrows Hall Branch have been extended to provide library service to the surrounding community. As well, a bookmobile, parked near the construction site beside the main entrance to the Community Centre, serves the Malvern community:

Tuesday and Thursday, 3–5 p.m. and 6–8 p.m.  
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–12 noon and 1–4:30 p.m.

During the closure, library customers can return library materials to any Toronto Public Library Branch. Malvern holds on library materials can be picked up at the Burrows Hall Branch, 1081 Progress Avenue, 416-396-8740.

Other branches in the area are Highland Creek Branch, 3550 Ellesmere Road and Woodside Square Branch, Woodside Square Mall, 1571 Sandhurst Circle.

For more information:

- visit the library website at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)
- call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

## Summer Reading Club

*Continued from page 1*

tures. The theme, *20,000 Reads Under the Sea*, was developed into a striking poster by children's book author/illustrator Andrea Wayne von Konigslow.

Wayne von Konigslow will be sharing her love of drawing with Toronto children this summer as she makes appearances at a number of Toronto Public Library branches. Other children's authors and illustrators appearing at library branches in Toronto include Welwyn Katz, Janet Wilson, Wallace Edwards, Kim Fernandes, Loris Lesynski and Kathy Kacer, to name just a few.

The TD Summer Reading Club is expected to attract more than 50,000 children across Toronto; more than 700,000 youngsters are expected to participate at public libraries across Ontario.

Many thanks to the TD Financial Group for helping hundreds of thousands of youngsters by generously supporting the 2003 summer program. Also, thanks to the Canada Council for funding some of our author/illustrator visits.

For children new to Canada, English Can Be Fun helps children between the ages of nine and 12 improve their English skills while having fun and getting to know other children. As well as preparing for the coming school year, the children also learn how to use the library and enjoy books, games and other kid-friendly activities.

For more information on these services and registration details:

- check the summer issue of *What's On*, the library's guide to programs and services
- visit the library's website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)
- call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

## Summer Reading for teens

Teens will be the focus of a number of library initiatives this summer:

- Fairview Branch holds a Teen Photography Contest throughout July
- Teen Storytelling will be offered in July by storyteller Dan Yashinsky
- *TDOT Reads*, an online book club for teens, provides access to book lists and the opportunity to post and read peer reviews
- *Much Reading*, a recent booklist for teens, is a great place to start finding books. Pick up a copy at your local branch.
- Teen Journalism Boot Camp gives teens an inside look at the world of journalism as they work with *Toronto Star* columnist Michele Landsberg, *Saturday Night* editor-in-chief Matthew Church, zine queen Emily Pohl-Weary, *Toronto Star* boom! editor Jon Filson, *Urban Groove* TV host Dalton Higgins and others.

For more about summer happenings:

- watch the TD Summer Reading Club website
- drop into your local branch and speak to staff
- call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

## In Brief

### Leading to reading expands again

The library's popular Leading to Reading program, offering free, one-on-one help for elementary school children with reading difficulties, is being offered at two new locations this summer, Downsview and Annette Street Branches, thanks to additional funding from the City of Toronto. Downsview and Morningside Branches join our list of year-round Leading to Reading locations, bringing the total number of library branches delivering this important service to 32.

For information about a Leading to Reading location near you:

- check the website, [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca); click on Special Services
- call Answerline, 416-393-7131
- drop into your local branch and ask staff.

### TPL wins Web award

Toronto Public Library has won a 2003 Best of the Web Award for the *SmallbizXpress* Gateway, featured on the library website

[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) (click on Virtual Reference Library). The gateway, which features information for small businesses and entrepreneurs, was chosen for the award by librarians, educators, subject-area specialists and editors. Criterion for selection included usability, accessibility, design clarity, range of resources, ranges of services and community impact.

*SmallbizXpress* will be discussed in depth at an American Library Association pre-conference, *Breaking Free: Recreating Your Library Website from A-Z*. Read more on pages 1 & 4.



## GATS and the impact on public service

THE GENERAL AGREEMENT on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations now underway —“hot and heavy”— in Geneva, are more transparent and more inclusive than earlier rounds.

“And that’s a good thing,” said Ken Traynor, moderator of the panel discussion, WTO and GATS: The Challenge to Public Service, held at TRL, on May 22. “Because good public policy only develops when people who use public services and people who deliver public services are involved.”

Paul Whitney, Director of the Vancouver Public Library and Canadian Library Association rep at the discussion, couldn’t agree more, but he noted, “there is a real lack of awareness of what libraries in fact do. There is no case law regarding this. Many things are undefined, ambiguous and contentious.” Libraries need to stay involved, he said, to see “how the pressure will play out over many rounds.”

GATS is an international agreement, in effect since 1995, and administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO), that attempts to remove barriers to trade in commercial services. Canada is an original signatory. Negotiations to develop the agreement are ongoing.

More than 70 people attended the public discussion led by Traynor, a researcher with the Canadian Environmental Law Association. Panel members included: Steven Shrybman, Law Partner, Sack, Goldblatt and Mitchell; Paul Whitney; John Burrett, Manager, Economic and Social Policy Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and James Perttula, Senior Policy Advisor/Team Leader, Trade and International Policy Branch, Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation.



### \$120,000 for high-needs kids

Six Toronto Kiwanis Clubs have banded together to sponsor a library storytime outreach for children in high needs areas of the city. The \$120,000 commitment by Kiwanis will move Toronto Public Library’s popular storytime programs out of the libraries and into the community. The program is expected to get underway this fall.



l-r: Ken Hanson, Anne Bailey, Don Kibblewhite, Thelma Martin, Susan Strong, Katie Strong, Murray Lang, Bill Stuart, Barnaby Ross and Alberta Craft.

### ALA/CLA Conference

*Continued from page 1*

Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal will jumpstart the Auditorium Speaker Series Saturday morning; and dozens of authors will be on hand for signings and conversations on the exhibit floor.

For the most up-to-date conference information, please visit the ALA home page [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) and click on the Annual Conference icon on the right.



## Board Highlights

June 9, 2003

### Financial Control Policy

The board adopted this policy to provide the Toronto Public Library Board with delegation of authority to senior Library staff to conduct the financial affairs of the Library in a controlled, effective and efficient manner. This includes budget approval, procurement of goods and services, award of contracts, authorization for commitments, approval for payments, write-off of bad debts and control over further delegation authorities. The new policy combines and replaces the Interim Financial Control Policy and Purchasing Policy.

### Strategic Plan 2004 – 2006: Proposed Consultation Plan

The Toronto Public Library is beginning the development of new three-year strategic plan. Consultations are planned

at the city-wide, regional and local levels starting this fall. The Toronto Public Library wants public and staff input in order to continue delivering the best possible services.

### Toronto Public Library Foundation — 2002 in Review, 2003 Priorities

Rick Goldsmith, the Library Foundation Chair, provided a status report on the Toronto Public Library Foundation's progress and targets. The report identified a target of \$1.5 million annual campaign for 2003 to support library programs — including children's reading and literacy programs.

### Operating Budget Monitoring Report — April 30, 2003

This report, which gives a summary of the gross and net expenditures for the four month period ending April 30, 2003, was received by the Board for information.

### Lease Renewals and Reconstruction

Lease renewals were approved for Bridlewood and Guildwood branches. Morningside Branch was approved for relocation and lease renewal. McGregor Park Branch was approved for reconstruction and Runnymede Branch was approved for closure for reconstruction.

A public consultation for the upcoming Beaches Branch renovation was held June 16. Members of the public who wish to make comments or suggestions can do so anytime online at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

**Next Board Meeting:** Monday, July 14, 2003

*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.

## American Library Association/Canadian Library Association, June 19-25

### Highlights

#### Thursday, June 19, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Cities, Neighbourhoods, Libraries: Partnerships that Work

David Crombie, former mayor of Toronto, federal cabinet minister and current President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute; Toronto City Librarian Josephine Bryant; Los Angeles City Librarian Susan Kent; Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray; Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli; Ottawa City Librarian Barbara Clubb; Louise Guillemette-Labory, Directrice, Bibliothèque de Montréal.

The Old Town Hall, Innis College  
2 Sussex Avenue

#### Saturday, June 21, 9–10 a.m.

A Morning with Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal

Featuring feminist authors and activists Gloria Steinem (co-founder of *Ms. Magazine*), and Eleanor Smeal (President of the Feminist Majority Foundation).  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium

#### Sunday, June 22, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Sucking Cyberteens into the Library Matrix  
Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialist Lisa Heggum.

#### Sunday, June 22, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Emerging Immigrant Communities: The Public Library Responds  
Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialist Chryss Mylopoulos.

#### Sunday, June 22, 3–5 p.m.

ALA President's Program Featuring Ralph Nader  
Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader founded the DC Library Renaissance Project in December 2002 to generate community, political, private and foundation support to improve the DC library system to a world class standard.  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium

#### Monday, June 23, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon

Providing Effective Library Services to Homeless People  
Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialists Ilka Abbott, Pat Bull and Jenny Schnoll.

#### Monday, June 23, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon

Homework Help for Children and Youth: Strategies for Successful Library Involvement  
Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialists Elizabeth Glass and Katherine Palmer.

#### Monday, June 23, 4–5:30 p.m.

PLA President's Program featuring Margaret Atwood

The highlight of the "One Conference, One Book" initiative, featuring Margaret Atwood, author of *The Handmaid's Tale*.

#### Tuesday, June 24, 8–9 a.m.

Globalization, World Trade & You with Naomi Klein

Featuring Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist and the author of the international best-seller *No Logo* and authority on globalization, world trade and the impacts they have on developing and first world countries.  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium

#### Tuesday, June 24, 9–10 a.m.

Lynn Johnston on Being a Cartoonist  
Lynn Johnston's cartoon *For Better or For Worse* has been in print for more than 20 years and now appears in over 2000 papers in Canada, the United States and 20 other countries. It is translated into eight languages. There are more than 30 books currently in print.