

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 4 • MAY 2003



## Library gets HIP

*New web catalogue accessible to everyone, easier to use*

TORONTONIANS who want to go to the library without leaving home just got good news, as Toronto Public Library launches its new upgraded version of the online catalogue, accessible from any computer with Internet access. Books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers and other materials are now just a couple of clicks away.

Persistent problems accessing the old catalogue from certain web browsers evaporated overnight, as Horizon Information Portal (HIP), the newest web-based public access catalogue from the library's software vendor, Dynix, went live May 1. No longer blocked by corporate firewalls, HIP runs on just about any Internet browser currently available and requires no additional software or plug-ins.

Find out what library patrons are saying about HIP. See page 2.

## Performing Arts Lecture Series winds up with a bang

*Watch for more great talks coming this fall*

IN A SURPRISE, FINAL bonus program, the 2002/2003 Toronto Public Library Performing Arts Lecture Series wrapped up with an appearance by comedian Sandra Shamas at Toronto Reference Library on April 25. A capacity crowd of more than 350 people came to hear Shamas rap about her career and read from her new book, *Wit's End*.

Thanks to Starbucks for their

continuing support of the series.

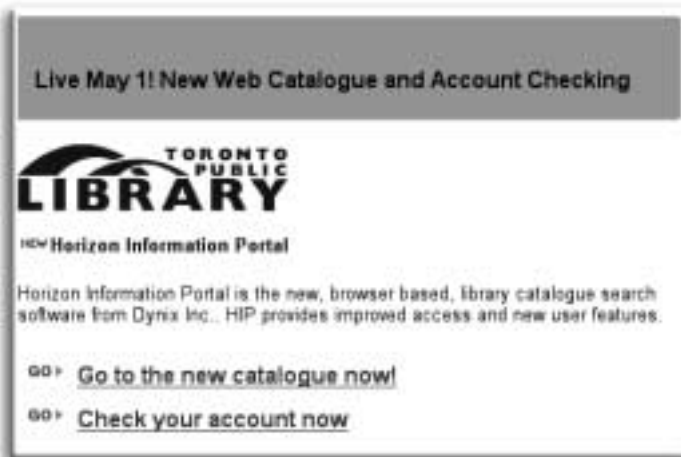
Watch for more great library programs coming this fall to Toronto Reference Library, featuring, among others, film and stage actor Hume Cronyn, Toronto International Film Festival Director Piers Handling, Shaw Festival Artistic Director Jackie Maxwell and Esprit Orchestra founder and conductor Alex Pauk.



American Library Association Conference coming to Toronto this June. See page 3.

## Talk about your library!

*Users love new online catalogue of library materials*



"I REALLY LIKE YOUR 'New Look.' I reserve lots of items and often forget which are tapes and which are books. Now all the info is there. I also like having 'My Branch' at the top – no more scanning through all the branches."

"FANTASTIC. THANK YOU for making this work. THANK YOU for being able to sort by field values. THANK YOU for not making me wait four minutes for each screen. THANK YOU for not freezing my processor. I now love the site as much as my branch!"

"I am a frequent online library user. I reserve books online, check my outstanding books, etc., and I must tell you how thoroughly impressed I am with your new page. The search option is terrific. Thanks for improving an already fabulous service!"

"I am loving the new account system. Not having to constantly enter my card number, every time I put a book on hold, is such a convenience. I often put over a dozen books on hold at once. Thank you."

"Hi – thanks SO much for telling me about the new catalogue – I had stopped checking it – I just went on it and it is FANTASTIC! You've done a wonderful job – it's very user friendly and quite a pleasure. I can't thank you enough! Great job!"

"As a rather heavy library user (for myself and my four-year-old), I am thrilled with the streamlining of this service. It is truly fantastic. Thanks for whatever it took to make it happen!"

"The new online catalogue system is FABULOUS!!!!"

*Check out the new Toronto Public Library online catalogue of library materials. Reserve books. Check your account. Renew items: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and click on Find Books & Materials.*

## Multiculturalism thrives at the library

CHILDREN AND ADULTS alike can learn more about the customs of Toronto's many ethnic cultures by visiting Toronto Public Library (TPL), or by logging onto the library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca). Along with books about cultural customs, in English and in many other languages, TPL actively promotes ethnic diversity by hosting story time programs, ethnic New Year celebrations, lectures and author readings, all with a multicultural flavour, and many in other languages.

Find out more about how the library reflects the city's many flavours:

Log onto: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) or pick up a copy of the library's program guide, *What's On*, available at your local branch.



The Humberwood Branch recently held a Vaisakhi Day Family Night to celebrate the Sikh New Year. Guest speaker high school teacher Kulbir Kaur Singh, from Toronto District School Board, told stories in both English and Punjabi and the children made a craft.



Besides making puppets and doing shows for children, Fairview Branch librarian and puppeteer extraordinaire Mee Shan Lau does workshops for library staff to help them develop ideas for making puppets on a limited budget using readily available materials.

## Top languages 2002

### TPL items circulated

Chinese	2,213,830
Hindi	362,898
Tamil	273,831
French	216,544
Polish	156,605
Spanish	150,464
Russian	120,765
Italian	120,569
Urdu	100,097
Gujarati	65,686
Persian	60,374
Vietnamese	59,456
Korean	45,803

## In brief



### Bathroom reading

And you thought your bathroom had a good selection of reading material. This bathroom readers' heaven materialized briefly at Bridlewood Branch while it was being recarpeted recently. Bridlewood's bathroom is now back intact and Bridlewood staff are inviting everyone to come and see their new look.

### Town mayors on display at Annette Branch

Paintings of West Toronto's first five mayors (1889-1898) are now on display at the Annette Street Branch. Members of the West Toronto Historical Society joined library staff and local residents on April 3 to unveil portraits of the mayors. The portraits, owned by the City of Toronto Archives, have been recently restored to their former glory by conservator Andrzej Ornoch and now hang majestically on the wall overlooking the adult Internet computers at Annette.

### An historic partnership

In a unique partnership between Toronto Public Library and the Toronto District School Board, OAC students are helping Grade 6 students learn about local history by themselves learning what it takes to become a tour guide. The collaboration, called Partners in History and pioneered by North Toronto Collegiate history teacher Carole Whelan, brings Whelan's OAC students to the library to learn about local history and then sets them loose in the neighbourhood as tour guides for Grade 6 students from Bedford Park School.

Students are introduced to the library's local history resources, both in the branch and online. A popular feature of recent workshops is *Historicity: Toronto Then and Now*, the library's online gateway to information about Toronto and its neighborhoods.

Each year, Partners in History has a waiting list of OAC students eager to participate in the exciting program. This year, for the first time, a former Bedford Park student who took the tour seven years ago returned as an OAC tour guide!

### Library Friends hit half million mark

The Friends of Toronto Public Library (TPL) hit a milestone recently when they reached a half million dollars raised for library programs such as children's literacy and mobile outreach.

Friends of the Library are part of the more than 1,100 TPL volunteers who provided a total of 1,300 hours a week of support to 12 library programs, including Adult Literacy, Homework Clubs, Leading to Reading, Mobile Library Services, Rap N' Read, Youth Advisory Groups and the Foundation.

Visit the Friends at one of their bookstores for withdrawn library materials and help support the library:

Book Ends, North York Central Library,  
5120 Yonge Street

Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Book Ends South, Toronto Reference Library,  
789 Yonge Street

Thursday, 12 noon-8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 12 noon-5 p.m.

Find out how to become a library Friend:

log onto [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and click on Support Your Library or call 416-393-7123.



### ALA confirmed for Toronto

After careful consideration and detailed briefings from Toronto City Health officials, City Councillors and Library Board member Kyle Rae, the American Library Association has decided to hold their annual conference in Toronto as planned, June 19-25. Held in conjunction with the Canadian Library Association's annual conference, the conference is

expected to be the biggest in Toronto this year. An estimated 20,000 participants from across North America will boost Toronto's economy by about \$60 million.

Watch for more details in the June issue of *Shelf Life*.

### Great Reads at the library

An annotated list of over 150 fiction and non-fiction titles, *Great Reads*, is now available at library branches across the city.

"This is a perfect list for library patrons who need a great read while waiting for books they have on hold," says Toronto Public Library Communications Director Suzanna Birchwood. "We're hoping to publish a new list every two years or so."

For more great reads, check out the library website:

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

click on Recommended Reading.

## At the branches

### Northern Elms Branch to close – new location sought

Toronto Public Library is actively seeking a new location for the Northern Elms Branch, which has been forced to close at the end of business, Saturday, May 31, due to the demolition of the Rexdale Mall, where the library is located.

After the closure, patrons are asked to return library materials to any Toronto Public Library branch. Previously placed holds on library materials can be picked up at the nearby Rexdale Branch, 2243 Kipling Avenue. Hours at Rexdale will be extended and the library bookmobile will stop at the old Rexdale Mall location on Mondays and Fridays.

### Malvern to close for renovation

Malvern Branch will close Monday, June 9 for approximately one year for a major renovation. The Malvern community can look forward to a new branch in the summer of 2004. Designed by Architect Phillip H. Carter in a joint venture with Kingsland + Architects Inc., the new branch will provide new space for adult and children's literacy programs, an area for teens and quiet study space.

Hours at the Burrows Hall Branch will be extended for the duration of the Malvern closure and the bookmobile will visit Malvern Community Centre Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

For further details about Northern Elms and Malvern, watch the library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

## Library Board Highlights

May 12, 2003

### Toronto Public Library's Next Strategic Plan 2004-2006 – Planning and Process

The proposed structure, process, timeline and budget for the Toronto Public Library's next strategic plan, 2004-2006, was approved. This plan will provide a framework for developing and enhancing services and facilities over the next three years. Leadership by the board and ongoing consultation with library staff, stakeholders and the public will ensure that the new plan reflects the changing needs of the people of Toronto. Consultation is slated to take place in Fall-Winter 2003-04.

### Translation Policy

The board adopted a policy to guide translation of important information about collections, services and programs. The purpose of the policy is to provide residents with access to print and electronic information in languages other than English. Translation of information into French has been specifically identified.



During March Break, more than 18,000 kids and their families enjoyed 255 library programs featuring authors, musicians, magicians and more. Next up: the 2003 TD Summer Reading Club. Watch for details in the June issue of *Shelf Life*.

*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.

**Temporary Closure – Northern Elms Branch**  
The Northern Elms Branch will close May 31, 2003, as the Rexdale Mall in which the Library leased space is slated for demolition. Services will be offered through the Rexdale Branch and the bookmobile until the library can secure a suitable site in the immediate vicinity. Details at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

### Financial Information Update

The board approved the Audited Financial Statements, Audit Results and Trust Funds of the Toronto Public Library Board for the year 2002:

- On the Audited Financial Statements, the municipal grant and expenses associated with debt charges have been added to both budget and actual amounts.
- Contained within the Audited Financial Statements is an accrual of \$180,000 for a rebate resulting from the freeze in hydro rates. At this time it is not clear whether TPL will be eligible for the rebate.
- Under discussion is the possible transfer of trust funds from TPL to the Foundation for more effective and efficient administration.

**Malvern District Branch – Award of Contract**  
The board awarded the contract to complete the renovation and expansion of the Malvern District Branch at a cost of \$3,689,024.30 to the lowest bidder, Struct-Con Construction Ltd.

### Joint Facilities and Joint-Use Facilities Policy

This new policy adopted by the board allows the Toronto Public Library to pursue opportunities to build future libraries in joint facilities and to establish service agreements with some of its current partners in existing joint facilities.

### Consumer Health Information Service Hours to Change

Operating hours for the Consumer Health Information Service, located at Toronto Reference Library, will change, due to a shortfall in provincial funding, effective June 2:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 12-4 p.m.

Wednesday: 4-8 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: closed

Saturday: 1-5 p.m.

Toll-free telephone service will be available Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 noon and 2-4 p.m. for patrons outside the city.

## Calendar of Events

### May/June 2003

#### May 17-August 2, ongoing

TD Gallery Exhibit:

Toronto: A Place of Meeting

Back by popular demand, a revised version of last summer's popular exhibit.

**TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street**

#### May 1-July 26, ongoing

My Book and My Heart/Shall Never Part

A Shared Tradition of Children's Books

An exhibit celebrating cross-border

Canadian and American favourites.

**Osborne Collection, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street**

#### Tuesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 2003: Money Mayhem

Stephen Jenkinson, psychotherapist and Governor General's award-winner, reads

from *Money and the Soul's Desires: A Meditation*.

**Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street**

#### Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.

West Nile Virus: protecting yourself and your family

A Public Health speaker discusses West Nile Virus, how to protect yourself and your family and what Public Health is doing to combat the virus. Presented in cooperation with Toronto Scarborough Hospital.

**Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive**

#### Tuesday June 10, 1-3 p.m.

Editing Yourself

Presented by Toronto Public Library Writer-in-Residence Robert Sawyer.

**Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street**