

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Deep in thought about how to make a better library in Toronto, (l-r) Toronto Star Urban Spaces columnist Christopher Hume, McMaster University professor Imre Szeman and cultural critic Hal Niedzviecki.

Ideas for a new library

Where can we possibly go from here?

THE QUESTION, 'Where can we possibly go from here?' was debated at length at the first public consultation for the upcoming Toronto Public Library (TPL) Strategic Plan (2004-2006).

Drawing a diverse crowd of students from across the city, local residents and entrepreneurs and other library users, attendees at the Toronto Reference Library (TRL) event held October 22 enjoyed food, prizes and the chance to have their say about the future of our library. The price of admission? One good idea for making the library better.

Public consultation is paramount, as TPL embarks on the journey to develop priorities to guide the library in providing relevant, effective library service for the people of Toronto over the next few years.

Augmented by staff consultation, the

public consultations will help establish system-wide priorities within the context of practical experience and the current staff and budgetary resource base.

Upcoming consultations will involve not just staff and members of the public, but also cultural, educational and city service organizations that have an interest in assuring relevant library service in Toronto.

The TRL debate was lively and explored a huge range of issues from library hours of operation, to programs for children and youth, to the value of esthetically attractive buildings.

Missed your chance to throw your good idea in the hat? Two more public consultation events are in the works; watch the library website for details: www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

Partnering for Toronto's kids

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS are benefiting from Toronto Public Library (TPL) partnerships with other community organizations and city departments.

This summer, 120 youngsters attended the CanStage TD Dream in High Park youth workshop, offered for the first time at TPL branches, thanks to a partnership involving TPL's TD Summer Reading Club. Professional artists and cast members from the CanStage Dream in High Park production of *Twelfth Night* worked with TD Summer Reading Club participants in various library branches across the city.

Please see Partnering page 3...

Talk about your library

"JUST LOVE THE LIBRARY, both for research and for pleasure reading. The ability to request material from other library branches is high on my list of 'good thinking folks.' Have always been impressed with the knowledge, and will - ingness of library staff to assist. A negative is the occasional disappointment on discovering a book listed as 'available' is not on the shelf. One more thought: I wonder if stocking videos, instead of books, is somehow against why we have a library."

Ian Downie

Tell us what you love about the library.
Tell us what drives you nuts:
Shelf Life, Marketing & Communications
Toronto Public Library
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8
ksparling@tpl.toronto.on.ca



New chair for Library Foundation

JANET MCKELVEY was recently appointed chair of the Toronto Public Library Foundation. A founding director, Janet has served as the Foundation vice chair for five years.

"I am very excited about working with library staff and the Foundation," says Janet, "to attract the important partners the library needs while continuing to build on existing relationships to support one of the finest library systems in the world."

Janet is a graduate of Queen's University. While working as Executive Director for the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families, she developed and implemented a new philanthropic strategy for the Corporation and its 450 associate dealers. Prior to that, Janet enjoyed a 16-year career with Xerox Canada Inc. in sales and marketing, holding the position of Vice President Marketing Integration at the time she left the company in 2000.

In addition to her volunteer activities with the Foundation, Janet has been active with the Bishop Strachan School, CDI Education Corporation and Craighleith Ski Club. Janet and

her husband Bruce have two grown children. When not pursuing her volunteer activities, Janet enjoys reading, skiing, sailing, the family cottage, running and fitness.

In brief



TRL Business Librarian Krystyna Manowiek chatting with visitors at the TPL booth at Enterprise Toronto's Small Business Forum 2003.

Toronto Public Library shines at Small Business Forum

For the second year in a row, the business departments at Toronto Reference and North York Central libraries joined forces to promote the library's resources for small business owners and entrepreneurs at Enterprise Toronto's Small Business Forum 2003 at the Toronto Convention Centre, September 30. The library booth attracted approximately 600 visitors, many of whom were both surprised and pleased to learn about the library's extensive business information resources. Of special interest to many visitors was the SmallBizXpress gateway on the VRL and the new All-In-One Search feature that allows users to access current magazine articles and other electronic information. The two library business departments also team up annually to offer the Small Business Series of seminars during Small Business Month in October.

TPL honours TVO

Toronto Public Library (TPL) honoured TVOntario for their commitment to children's literacy by awarding them the TPL Celebrates Reading Award at the library's annual fundraising gala, A Novel Afternoon, Sunday November 2 at the Granite Club. Many individuals and organizations

purchased tickets and then donated them back so that disadvantaged children could attend the event. The afternoon was a lot of fun for the kids, with TVO's Reading Rangers entertaining and dozens of popular children's authors and illustrators in attendance.

By the numbers...

TD Summer Reading Club

With 50,000 TD Summer Reading Club (SRC) packages distributed across the city this summer, Toronto Public Library helped tens of thousands of children maintain their reading skills over the summer.

Number of children registered for Summer Reading Club programs at highest-use branches:

Cedarbrae:	1,311
Albion:	1,232
Fairview:	1,186
Richview:	1,116
Weston:	1,060
Eatonville:	1,023
Parliament:	601

Plans are already underway for the 2004 TD Summer Reading Club, which will feature dragons as a theme.

From the International Adult Literacy Survey, Statistics Canada, 1994:

- 80% of Canadians over 65 have low literacy skills.
- 40% of Canadians aged 16-65 have low literacy skills and 15% are in the lowest literacy category.
- 20% of recent high-school graduates have literacy skills too low for entry-level jobs.

With the opening of an adult literacy office in the newly

reconstructed Maria A. Shchuka Branch in the west end of the city, Toronto Public Library (TPL) brings to nine the number of library branches offering an adult literacy program.

Since the beginning of 2000, TPL has:

- Expanded to 52 the number of branches with circulating collections of adult literacy materials.
- Enabled more community-based adult literacy programs to have access to library collections in their programs.
- Developed an enhanced web presence at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.
- Partnered with the Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy to present sessions on how to use library and other resource materials for training new volunteers in community-based literacy programs.
- Partnered with Toronto District School Board to develop a curriculum guide on accessing information and using the library for school board Adult Literacy instructors.



Miniature Book Society 2003 Exhibition winner, Old London Bridge, Jan Kellett, De Walden Press; photo by Ray M. Williamson.

Mini books make big bang

ONGOING TO December 2003, in the front lobby of Toronto Reference Library, an exhibit of miniature books, *Miniature Books Today*, presented by the Miniature Book Society.

Partnering for Toronto's kids

Continued from page 1...

to explore Shakespearean language using various theatre games and acting methodologies. Workshop participants each received a voucher to attend a performance of *Twelfth Night* with their friends and family.

Based in Toronto, CanStage develops, produces and exports the best in international contemporary theatre and is Canada's largest contemporary theatre company.

Close to 550 children graduated from the Kids@Computers program this summer. The program teams TPL with Neighbourhood and Community Services to put computers into the homes of families on social assistance and train them to use the computers. Children 8 to 14 years old and their families learned basic keyboard and mouse skills, research strategies and how to stay safe on the Internet, among other lessons given at 13 library locations. Other partners involved in the Kids@Computers program are Microsoft Canada, with a multi-year \$3.5 million software donation, and Toronto Fire Services. Kids@Computers staff have begun their fall session at Lillian H. Smith Branch and hope to have another hundred graduates by Christmas. Over 5,000 children and their caregivers have been trained since the program began in the summer of 2001.

Children's literacy initiatives at the library will benefit from a recent cooperative venture involving TPL, the *National Post* and *Canada.com*. Raise-a-Reader saw senior library staff out on Toronto streets hawking a special literacy edition of the *Post* in return for donations to the cause. A CanWest Global Foundation endeavour, Raise-a-Reader aims to raise awareness of children's literacy programs in Canada, as well as money to run them.

Other partnerships include:

- a Toronto West Kiwanis three-year commitment that will see library staff, along with Kiwanis volunteers, visiting Toronto social service centres (see Kiwanis Outreach Storytime, above).
- a Four Schools Dance Committee \$625 donation to buy books for the High Park children's collection.

Kiwanis Outreach Storytime

Literacy a gift all children should receive

TPL STAFF WILL BE HEADING OUT into high-needs areas of the city over the next three years to deliver the library's message about the importance of early literacy. A \$120,000 Toronto West Kiwanis commitment will allow staff to travel to eight social service locations in the south-west end to run a program much like children's storytime programs currently offered in library branches across Toronto.

"The emphasis, really, is on encouraging parents to read to children from a very young age," says TPL Manager Virginia Van Vliet, "showing them that 20 minutes a day can make a reader."

The program is intended to reach caregivers with preschool children who might not be aware of the library and its services, particularly people who might feel uncomfortable coming into the library because of limited English language or literacy skills.

By promoting parental involvement in the early years, the program increases reading readiness, fosters a love of reading and libraries and, ultimately, helps increase children's self-esteem.

Kiwanis is not only providing the money to make the program happen, they are also providing volunteers to come out and help with the program, talking to the parents about their own experiences reading aloud and encouraging them to participate in the finger plays and songs.

Children will get the chance each week during the eight-week sessions to check out and take home books from a travelling mini-library collection.



offered at 39 branches. Reading and Homework Help utilized 450 teen volunteers, logging about 10,000 hours altogether last school year.

The young adults in the photo that accompanied the article were misidentified; they are

Cedarbrae Youth Advisory Group members celebrating at their last meeting of the 2002/2003 school season.

To see a corrected version of the article, please check our website:

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

click on News and Publications
click on Shelf Life

choose the September 2003 issue

Correction

THE ARTICLE "Teen volunteers honoured" in the September 2003 Shelf Life should have stated that Frontier College honoured two Toronto Public Library programs: Reading Buddies, which is offered only at North York Central Library and Reading and Homework Help,

Library Board Highlights

October 20, 2003

Foundation Board Appointments

The chair reported on updates of the Foundation board including the appointment of Janet McKelvey as board chair (details, page 2) and the naming of a new Foundation board president, Heather Rumball, who will join the Development Office in January 2004. Rick Goldsmith was appointed vice chair.

Circulation and Collection Use (including Fees and Fines) Policy

The Board agreed to adopt a fine increase. Effective January 2004, adult overdue fines will increase to 30¢ per day up to a maximum of \$12.

Word on the Street 2003

Toronto Public Library promoted the library's upcoming cultural events and raised over \$1,000 at this year's Word on the Street festival.

2004 Operating Budget

The Board adopted the 2004 Operating budget submission and forwarded it to the City for review.

Toronto Public Library – TD Summer Reading Club Sponsorship

The Board approved of a sponsorship agreement with the Toronto-Dominion Bank and the naming of the popular children's program as the "TD Summer Reading Club" (see how the 2003 TD Summer Reading Club fared, page 2).

Morningside Branch Relocation

The Board approved the relocation and construction of the Morningside Branch on city-owned land. The public will be kept informed of plans for the library through local media and the library website. A community consultation plan will be developed.

Union Deputation

The Union made a deputation regarding their concern over wage harmonization issues and high levels of gapping.

*Next Board meeting:
Monday, November 17, 2003*

Calendar of Events

November 2003

October 29-November 8

Canadian Children's Book Week

Children's book authors and illustrators at branches across the city. Check the library's program guide, *What's On*, page 44, or the website www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

Ongoing to November 22

Architects of the Moon

An exhibit of science fiction and fantasy books for children. Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

Tuesday, November 4, 7:30-9 p.m.

On Stage: David Frum

Political commentator, journalist and speechwriter David Frum reads from *The Right Man: The Surprise Presidency of George W. Bush*. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, November 5, 6:30-8 p.m.

Growing Your Business With Your Website

Inventor Mark Ellwood explores website potential as a tool to help grow a business. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Thursday, November 6, 6:30-8 p.m.

You've Got An Idea? Great!

Industry Canada trainer Tom Boyd explains to inventors about patents and patent databases. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Thursday, November 6, 8 p.m.

Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture

American children's literature legend and Newbery Medal winner Susan Cooper will deliver the 16th Annual Stubbs Lecture. Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

Opening November 8, ongoing Toronto Through the Lens

An exhibit of photos from Toronto Reference Library's Baldwin Room, ranging from the 1850s to recent times. TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Uptown Author Series: Katherine Govier

Reading from *Creation*.

Call 416-395-5639. Room 1, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

Friday, November 14, 6-8 p.m.

On Stage: Jackie Maxwell

Artistic director Jackie Maxwell talks about her first season with the Shaw Festival and her career as a busy freelance theatre director. Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Friday, November 21, 6-8 p.m.

On Stage: Alex Pauk

Composer, conductor and founder of the Esprit Orchestra, Alex Pauk will talk about his career and give a brief performance. Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Saturday, November 22, 7 p.m.

GreekTown's Second Live Auction

The GreekTown on the Danforth Business Improvement Area hosts a live auction featuring a diversity of products and services available on the Danforth 365 days a year. Proceeds to go to Pape/Danforth Branch and community school libraries. Door prizes, complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Questions? Check www.greektown-toronto.com or call 416-469-5634. Fox & Fiddle, 535 Danforth, west of Carlaw

Friday, November 28, 6-8 p.m.

On Stage: Martha Burns

Actor and founding member of Souleppper Theatre Company Martha Burns discusses her career. Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

See a complete listing of Toronto Public Library's programs on the website at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or check the library's program guide, *What's On*.

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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.