

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Volunteer opportunities for teens: Youth Advisory Groups give teens an opportunity to work with librarians to improve library service. Full story on page 3.

\$620,000 to help youth at risk

Ambitious programs expected to be positive influence in teens' lives

A \$620,000 boost, in the form of Ontario Works Incentive funds allocated by the City of Toronto, will open new doors for teens at the library. With \$50,000 set aside for two youth writing symposiums that will connect new young writers with established authors and \$339,000 earmarked for teen homework programs at six branches around

the city, this funding will allow Toronto Public Library (TPL) to help at-risk youth over the next two years.

Youth Homework Clubs provide teens with a workspace, information resources and trained volunteers to help. They will also provide youth employment opportunities.

Please see Programs for at-risk youth on page 2...

We want to know what you think

Public consultations on the future of the library to begin this fall

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY (TPL) is setting up public consultations to be held fall 2003 to get citizen input on priorities for library service during the next three years. The TPL website www.tpl.toronto.on.ca will have details about all public consultation themes, times and locations. City Librarian Josephine Bryant is encouraging members of the public to take part, noting that the library, like other city departments, faces some tough decisions in the coming years.

As part of ongoing public consultation efforts, *Shelf Life* will publish letters from members of the public. Tell us what you love about the library. Tell us what drives you nuts:

Shelf Life

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HOT READS

Find out what's hot at the library these days... see page 2

Programs for at-risk youth

Continued from page one...

The writing symposiums are an extension of an existing TPL initiative, *Young Voices*, an annual publication of teen writing.

Young Voices received a new lease on life recently with a \$10,000 donation from Kiehl's (www.kiehls.com), a cosmetic company recently opened on Queen Street whose corporate philosophy includes a commitment to improving the quality of life in communities where it has taken up residence.

The remaining \$231,000 of Ontario Works Incentive money will fund study centres in three branches in high need communities and an outreach program to encourage teen parents to read to their children and to use library resources to enhance their parenting skills.

BY THE NUMBERS...

Summer trends



WHAT WERE PEOPLE BORROWING from the library in Toronto this summer? At a time when the public library generally sees increased circulation of lighter fiction, there was a growing interest in serious non-fiction titles. As of mid-July:

An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy by Robert Dallek had 191 holds
On the Natural History of Destruction by W. G. Sebald had 94 holds
Rogue Nation: The America the Rest of the World Knows
by Peter Scowen had 68 holds
The Future of Freedom by Fareed Zakaria had 53 holds

Other popular non-fiction dealt with the Middle East, especially Iraq.

As of mid-July:

The Crisis of Islam by Bernard Lewis had 172 holds
Ignorant Armies: Sliding into War with Iraq by Gwynne Dyer had 94 holds

Extensive media coverage around *Living History* by Hilary Clinton led to a dramatic spike in holds action:

40 holds before media coverage
200 holds added over two days after media coverage
1220 holds by mid-July

Movie adaptations increased interest in books, including serious ones.

A good example is *The Pianist* by Wladyslaw Szpilman: borrowed 165 times over two years after it was published in 2000, in the first half of 2003 the book was borrowed 413 times. Music from and inspired by



The Pianist (CD) had 185 holds in mid-July.

The big winner, in terms of holds placed, however, was a work of fiction: by mid-summer, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* had set a new Toronto Public Library record for holds with over 5,000 patrons on the waiting list.

In brief



Learners from the York Woods Summer Leading to Reading celebrate at their graduation party, August 23.

Park Branch reconstruction, scheduled for completion summer 2004.



Images of Canada online

Toronto Public Library is one of the five founding partners of the recently launched Images Canada website, www.imagescanada.ca. About 125,000 images held on the websites of 12 participating Canadian cultural institutions make it easy to access images of the Canadian events, people, places and things that make up our collective heritage.



This model of the Pape Library was created by a local Grade 4 student as part of a school project on the community. Pape staff were delighted to have it on display over the summer.

CHECK IT OUT...

Hot links to hot books

Check out TPL's online recommended reading lists; then, with a single click of the mouse, go to the catalogue and reserve the books you want for pickup at your local branch:

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca click on Recommended Reading.

Mandarin stories over the phone

Toronto Public Library's popular Dial-a-Story service, offering children of all ages a new story every day, is now available in Mandarin 416-395-5400.



Cedarbrae YAGs have a bit of fun at their final meeting of the 2002/2003 school year. Reading Buddies, Leading to Reading, Homework Clubs and Youth Advisory Groups are always seeking volunteers. Check the Web for more information.

Teen volunteers honoured

Literacy programs huge success due to teen participation

FRONTIER COLLEGE, a Canada-wide, volunteer-based literacy organization, honoured Toronto Public Library's (TPL) reading and homework help initiatives, and also North York Central Library's Reading Buddies program, this fall for their commitment

BY THE NUMBERS...

Reading and Homework Help graduation parties

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY (TPL) Reading and Homework Help programs year-end graduation parties were attended by hundreds of children and parents to celebrate their achievements in the program. In honour of their achievements, *Shelf Life* offers a few statistics:

Number of people attending TPL Reading and Homework Help graduation parties:	1,769
Number of volunteers attending:	918
Number of City Councillors attending:	9
Number of pieces of cake consumed:	1,850
Number of pounds of watermelon consumed:	35
Number of diplomas given to graduates:	1,026
Number of feet of ribbon used to tie the diplomas by the Site Monitors:	1,250

to children's literacy. Reading and homework help programs, aimed at helping children improve their literacy skills, are offered at 39 TPL branches and utilized about 450 teen volunteers last school year, logging about 10,000 hours altogether.

Another TPL program, Youth Advisory Groups (YAG), gives teens an opportunity to influence library programs and services. YAGs bring youth 12-18 years old together with TPL staff to discuss ways of improving teen library service.

"YAGs help select books, CDs and movies for the collection," says TPL YAG coordinator Sharon Moynes. "But they also help us meet the challenges of serving youth. They give library staff a unique and invaluable perspective, helping us devise and implement creative solutions in our efforts to best serve Toronto teens."

This past spring, Cedarbrae YAGs produced their second annual *Teen Talk*, a compilation of original book and website reviews, poetry, short stories and artwork. And S. Walter Stewart YAGs came out with their own literary and art journal, *The Teen Zone: For Teens by Teens*. S. Walter Stewart YAGs also hosted a talent show in May.

Cedarbrae YAG member Huma Humaira explains:

"Being a YAG encourages me to express myself. We get to see the new and huzza (cool) books!" About 100 YAGs logged over 2,000 volunteer hours in 2002. Teens interested in volunteering on a Youth Advisory Group should call Answerline, 416-393-7131 for the closest branch with a YAG.

For the nearest Reading Buddies location, check the website: www.tpl.toronto.on.ca follow the path: Support Your Library; Volunteering; Homework Clubs. Or call Answerline: 416-393-7131.



Maria A. Shchuka Branch, 1745 Eglinton Ave. West, re-opened September 16.

Maria A. Shchuka re-opens

OFFICIALLY OPENED on September 16, the new Maria A. Shchuka Branch will offer improved accessibility, program and community meeting space, adult literacy programs, an electronic Le@rning Centre, youth space and services, reading and homework help programs for children and quiet study space. Maria A. Shchuka's strong commitment to serving teens is reflected in a funky teen area with Internet computers, cool couches, teen fiction, graphic novels, comics and magazines. Maria A. Shchuka staff includes an experienced youth services librarian.



Kids across Toronto had a whale of a time with Toronto Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club, celebrated at all Toronto libraries. Staff dressed up, created awesome displays and made reading a fun part of the summer for tens of thousands of Toronto children.

Library Board Highlights

September 15, 2003

Teens to benefit from Ontario Works funding

A one-time \$621,200 City of Toronto Ontario Works Incentive Fund grant will support teen homework help and writing programs at the library and also fund an outreach initiative to encourage teen parents to read to their children and to use library resources to enhance their parenting skills. (See story, front page, for details.)

CHECK IT OUT...

Now open Sundays

All 19 of Toronto Public Library's research and district branches and a number of neighbourhood branches are open Sundays to better serve you. Log onto www.tpl.toronto.on.ca to find a location near you. Or pick up a copy of the library's program guide *What's On*.

Budget submission approved

The Board gave the go-ahead for a budget request submission to the City of Toronto for capital funding of \$11.5 million and a \$10.5 million increase in the library's operating budget in 2004 to meet legal and statutory requirements and public demand.

Ontario Public Library Week

October 20-26

To promote general interest and awareness of Toronto Public Library during Ontario Public Library Week (October 20-26), pro bono advertising, valued at \$40,000, will feature the library's website address and the tagline, *because your mind is always open*, on 250 OMG city recycling bins.

Calendar of Events

October 2003



October 11, 2003 – January 4, 2004
Peter Rabbit's Corner

In conjunction with the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit, *Peter Rabbit's Garden* (October 11, 2003-January 4, 2004), Toronto Public Library's Osborne Collection will display some of its rare and original Beatrix Potter materials, including: manuscript letters by Beatrix Potter to Ivy and June Steel, containing many drawings of Peter Rabbit and other favourite characters; an original water-colour illustration of Jeremy Fisher; first editions and important imitations, including Canadian imitations.

Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

October is Teen Month

The Library is the best place to discover the finest writing for teens. Meet Paul Kropp, Rosemary Sadlier, Janet McNaughton, Julie Johnston, Eric Wilson and other authors of teen books.

October is Small Business Month

Join speakers at Toronto Reference and North York Central libraries as they discuss a wide variety of topics of interest to small business.

For details, check the website www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series: Travel Memoirs
David McFadden reads from his latest book, *An Innocent in Newfoundland*. Q&A follows.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, October 8, 6-8 p.m.

Performing Arts Series: Ivars Taurins Founder and director of the Tafelmusik Choir. Q&A follows.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series: Short Fiction
Michael Redhill reads from his new short stories collection, *Fidelity*. Q&A follows.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Friday, October 24, 6-8 p.m.

Performing Arts Series: Piers Handling Festival director of the Toronto International Film Festival. Q&A follows.
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

For more programs, check our website, www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or *What's On*, the Library's newsletter.

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
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