

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2004



Toyohara Kunichika (1835-1900) *The Greenroom*. Wood block print. Toronto Public Library

## Kabuki!

*KABUKI* IS A TWO-PART exhibition of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century woodblock prints from the Toronto Public Library's Performing Arts Collection that will be on display in the TD Gallery at Toronto Reference Library (789 Yonge, north of Bloor) from May to September. The exhibits feature wood block prints of Kabuki actors and performances by such notable artists as Kunisada, Kunichika, Toyokuni I, Hirohada and Kuniyoshi.

A traditional form of Japanese theatre, Kabuki originated early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when a shrine maiden named Okuni brought her unique and lively dance style to the dry river beds of the ancient capital of Kyoto. Over the next 300 years, Kabuki developed into a sophisticated, highly stylized form of theatre. Though Kabuki was created by a woman, since early on all roles have been performed by men.

**Kabuki Part 1: The Actors**  
May 8-July 3

Glimpses of the actors in full make-up and costume as they perform on stage, in rehearsal and in preparation with their troupes backstage.

**Kabuki Part 2: The Performance**  
July 17-September 12

Scenes from Kabuki plays: *47 Ronin*, *Revenge of the Soga Brothers*, *Love Letters from the Licensed Quarter* and more.

# 120 years at the Library

TORONTONIANS HAVE BEEN coming to the city's public libraries for 120 years now. To celebrate this anniversary, Toronto Public Library (TPL) has been hosting some exciting events.

## Trillium Awards

In partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Trillium Award shortlist authors appeared at Toronto Reference Library on April 21. You can check out the books each author has been shortlisted for by reserving them online. Go to the Recommended Reading link of the TPL website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca):

*The Dark Time of Angels* by Pier

Giorgio Di Cicco

*The Truth About Stories* by Thomas

King

*The Adventures of a Black Girl in*

*Search of God* by Djanet Sears

*Reconciliation* by Adam Getty

*The Vicinity* by David O'Meara

*Crowd of Sounds* by Adam Sol

The Trillium Book Award/Prix Trillium was established by the Ontario government to "recognize excellence, support marketing and to foster increased awareness of the quality and diversity of Ontario writers."

## TPL Celebrates Reading Award

The fourth annual Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award went to Toronto Poet Laureate Dennis Lee.

"Dennis Lee's remarkable writing has contributed enormously to Toronto's literary scene," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "In addition to becoming Toronto's first Poet Laureate, he has spellbound millions of readers, children and adults alike, with his poems and stories."

The Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award honours individuals, organizations or corporations who have made an outstanding contribution to the enjoyment of reading. Previous winners include *Franklin* creators Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark, children's author Ken Oppel, and TV Ontario.



Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award winner Dennis Lee

Named Toronto's first Poet Laureate in 2001, Dennis Lee is the critically acclaimed author of numerous award-winning books of poetry for adults and children. Co-founder of the House of Anansi and former poetry editor for McClelland and Stewart, Lee received the Governor General's Award for poetry in 1972 and the Vicky Metcalf Award for a body of work for children in 1986. Some of his well-loved titles include *Alligator Pie*, *Jelly Belly*, *Garbage Delight* and *Bubblegum Delicious*.



Minister of Culture The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur announces the nominees for the Trillium Awards at the Toronto Reference Library

# Library cards and literacy: a winning combination



THIS FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILD, shown here with his mother, is one of thousands of Toronto junior and senior kindergarten children across the city who received a special invitation to sign up for their very own library card –presented in a special library-card hold-er – in a year-long campaign currently underway at Toronto Public Library.

"There are few things a parent can do that will help their child more in learning to read than ensuring he or she makes regular visits to the library," says Library Child and Youth Advocate Ken Settingington.

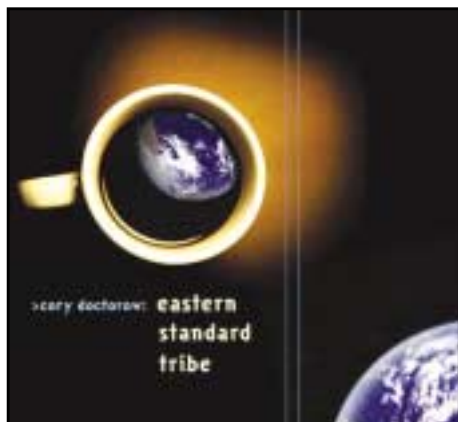
Lifelong literacy, starting from the earliest years, is a powerful asset for success in school, work and life, according to Settingington. "We want every young family in Toronto to bring their children into their local library branch, get a library card and visit regularly to enjoy all the programs and services the library has to offer."

More than 2,000 kindergarten children have registered this year as a result of the campaign, says Settingington. The effort got underway in September 2003 and has been supported by a generous donation from TD Bank Financial Group.



## in brief

### Cory Doctorow at Merrill



Award-winning author Cory Doctorow entertained an audience of about 60 enthusiastic fans on March 18 at the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy. Doctorow read from his new novel, *Eastern Standard Tribe*. "If there's one place in the universe for me to come and launch my novel," Doctorow explained, "this is it. This library, where I started coming at the age

of 9 or 10, made me the writer I am today."

The Merrill Collection is located on Floor 3, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street. To find out more about the collection, check the library website, [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca). Click on Unique Collections.

### On STAGE Spring 04



Lawyer and human rights activist Clayton Ruby kicked off the *On STAGE* series at Toronto Reference Library on April 16 with a talk about Ethics and the Law. Stevie Cameron followed on

April 23 with a talk on Ethics and Journalism. Still to come:

Norman Inkster on Ethics and Business, Friday, April 30, 6 p.m.

Zanana Akande on Ethics and Equality, Friday May 7, 6 p.m.

Warren Kinsella on Ethics and Politics, Friday, May 14, 6 p.m.

All programs are held in the Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. Get more information about Toronto Public Library programs and events on the library website, [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca); click on Programs and Events.

### What do I read next?

Readers' advisory workshops are now being offered monthly at the North York Central Library Le@rning Centre at 5120 Yonge Street. *What do I read next?* aims to help book lovers use library resources to find a good book. Participants get an introduction to print and online sources that help them find book reviews and information about authors. They explore online databases through the Recommended Reading pages on the TPL website. For registration information, call 416-395-5674.

## Literacy programs allow kids to shine



Toronto Public Library Reading and Homework Help programs including Leading to Reading help kids gain confidence and catch up to their classmates at school. See the kids shine on the library website, [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and follow the path: Unique Services/Leading to Reading/scroll down to the *Active Minds* newsletter links.

## My Father's Days in Somalia

My father was born in Somalia. When he was older he grew and grew and he got a job in a restaurant. In Somalia, camels and mountain lions lived. My dad went to college in Somalia. The weather is sunny all year long. It does not snow at all. My father is getting used to the snow here in Toronto. There are a lot of different animals there that eat each other. The women wear long dresses and cover their head with a big scarf. The food is different. There is lots of rice and many different vegetables and fruits. One day I will visit Somalia with my father.

by Abdirahman H., York Woods  
*Leading to Reading*

## Library Board Highlights

April 2004

Board support for burned Montreal library  
In response to the recent anti-Semitic attacks in Toronto and Montreal, the Toronto Public Library Board voted unanimously to support the United Talmud Torah school library with the donation of \$1,000 for the purchase of a new *World Book*, or other collection items of their choice. The library also developed and posted on its website a Recommended Reading list on anti-Semitism. Go to [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and click on Recommended Reading.

### Service updates

Starting Sunday, September 12, 2004, the McGregor Park Branch of Toronto Public Library will open from 1:30-5 p.m. Sundays during the school year. Sunday service at Kennedy/Eglinton Branch will end after June 20, 2004. Twenty-seven TPL branches open Sundays, 1:30-5, from the first Sunday after Labour Day until the second Sunday in June.

During the current Beaches Branch closure for renovation, a bookmobile will be scheduled to visit the **Gardener's Cottage, 20 Lee Avenue, Kew Gardens every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon**. The stop will begin in May — date to be announced soon.

Audit Results and Financial Statements  
Audit Results reports from Ernst & Young, the external auditors, for the Library and the Trust Funds of the Library, were discussed. The reports included significant items discussed with Library management and the auditors' suggested recommendations.

The Audited Financial Statements for the Library and the Trust Funds of the Library were approved. Both statements have unqualified audit opinions.

---

*Next Board meeting:*  
**Monday, May 10, 2004**

## New library website for teens!

[www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ramp](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ramp)



- ⊙ Discussion Groups
- ⊙ Body & Soul
- ⊙ School Stuff
- ⊙ Bored in the T-dot?
- ⊙ Express Yourself
- ⊙ Opportunities
- ⊙ Emergency

### Calendar of Events

Friday, April 30, 7 p.m.

Celebrating Asian Heritage Month  
Senator Vivienne Poy kicks off a month of events.  
North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

Friday, April 30, 6 p.m.

On STAGE Spring 04  
Norman Inkster on Ethics and Business.  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

Tuesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 04: The Medium is the Message  
Stephanie McLuhan reads from *Understanding Me: Lectures and Interviews*, by her late father, media guru Marshall McLuhan.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library

Friday, May 7, 6 p.m.

On STAGE Spring 04  
Zanana Akande on Ethics and Equality  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 04: First Time Novelists  
Dr. Ramabai Espinet; Rachael Preston  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library

Friday May 14, 6 p.m.

On STAGE Spring 04  
Warren Kinsella on Ethics and Politics  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

May 12-19

Strategic Plan Public Meetings  
Come and hear a presentation on the Toronto Public Library Strategic Plan 2004-2006. All meetings take place from 7-8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 12, Agincourt, 155 Bonis Ave., 416-396-8943  
Thursday, May 13, Albion, 1515 Albion Rd., 416-394-5170  
Monday, May 17, Palmerston, 560 Palmerston Ave., 416-393-7680  
Tuesday, May 18, North York Central, 5120 Yonge St., 416-395-5535  
Wednesday, May 19, S. Walter Stewart, 170 Memorial Park Ave., 416-396-3975

Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 04: Short Stories  
Len Gasparini; Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library

The Toronto Reference Library is located at 789 Yonge Street, just north of Bloor Street.

For more library programs, check the library program guide, *What's On*; log onto [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca); or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

*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 five City Councillors.