

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Toronto Public Library librarians (l-r) Mee-Shan Lau and Therese Leung show off a diverse array of Chinese library resources at a recent fair highlighting government community resources.

Out and about

Chinese library services showcased at community fair

DESPITE RAINY WEATHER, 500 people visited Earl Haig Secondary School on Saturday, November 20 to meet with librarians Mee-Shan Lau and Therese Leung and find out about Toronto Public Library (TPL) Chinese collections and services, along with other government community resources.

“The wide variety of Toronto Public Library Chinese materials and publicity made for a very rich and colourful display,” according to TPL Multicultural Services Specialist Kelly Yuen. “And our enthusiastic and knowledgeable librarians really enriched our representation at the fair.” Besides showcasing the range

of formats – books, magazines, CDs – in TPL’s Chinese collection, staff demonstrated how easy it is to reserve materials using the online catalogue. “Some people wanted to borrow materials right then and there and take them home,” says Yuen. “Others took down information about books, CDs and other material they wanted and rushed home to place holds on their home computers.”

Among the children’s programs and resources represented at the fair, Dial-A-Story drew a lot of attention. With stories told over the phone in eight languages, including Cantonese and Mandarin, Dial-A-Story is a real favourite with children.

New library branch beckons

Reconstructed Malvern Branch to open early in the new year

MALVERN COMMUNITY library patrons are in for a treat in January as the newly reconstructed Malvern Branch of Toronto Public Library (TPL) opens to the public. Featuring a teen lounge, 43 computer workstations, a user education centre, an express self checkout system, a spacious children’s area with a bright picture book section and plenty of seating beneath panoramic windows, the new 25,000-square-foot branch stands out like nothing else in the neighbourhood, according to TPL Director Vickery Bowles.

“At night, the branch shines like a beacon, beckoning to the public to come in and browse and borrow,” says Bowles.

Architects Phillip Carter and Colin Kingsland have seamlessly melded the old library branch with the new one. A wooden cathedral ceiling and clerestorey windows run the full length of the building, ending at a huge bay window. Young children can sit and read picture books on benches specially built for them. Teens can study at the more than 40 carrels or meet in groups at study tables. Adults can browse and borrow books, CDs, magazines, DVDs and more. And anyone can surf the Internet or check out the many online library resources on high-speed computer workstations.

“It has taken a while to complete this beautiful building,” says Malvern Branch Head Russell Hanley, “but once the branch opens early in January, the community should feel that it’s been worth the wait.”

In Brief



(l-r) Youth Services Specialist Lisa Heggum, teen volunteers, Adam Wheeler, Jessica Croke, Brad Rego, Manager Dawna Rowison and teen volunteer Ricardo Reeves.

TPL thanks volunteers

Fifteen hundred volunteers will give more than 69,600 hours to Toronto Public Library (TPL) programs and services in 2004. On November 30, TPL's volunteers were treated to an exclusive author reading and reception in appreciation for their work and dedication. Guest speaker Katherine Barber, editor of *The Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, also known as the Word Lady on CBC, entertained the crowd with stories of regional word differences, details about how lexicographers build dictionaries and conveyed her genuine enthusiasm for the written word. In addition, a new biannual TPL volunteer newsletter was launched to help with ongoing recognition of volunteer accomplishments.

Working Women meet immigrant needs

Working Women, a group representing immigrant women in Toronto, assists newcomers to Canada as they work toward integration within their new home. Four members of Working Women, some of them cancer survivors, recently visited the Fairview Branch of Toronto Public Library to present a play, *Tomorrow's Time*, to members of LINC and ESL classes that meet regularly at Fairview. The play, about breast screening and breast cancer for newcomers, got a very positive reception from the 120 people in the audience.

The group also learned about multilingual library collections and other resources from Fairview Librarian Stella Moody.

Welcome new Board members

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY is pleased to welcome new citizen Library Board (2004-2006) members Louise Aspin, Matthew Church, Murthy Ghandikota, Okeima Lawrence, Kathy Gallagher-Ross and Kate Wilson. Returning citizen board members are current chair Gillian Mason and current vice chair Bill Booth. City Councillors currently on the Board (2004-2006) include Councillor Gay Cowbourne, Councillor Janet Davis, Councillor Kyle Rae (Mayor's designate), Councillor Karen Stintz and Councillor Sylvia Watson.



Little sugar plums visit the library

Nearly 100 children and their caregivers showed up at North York Central Library on December 4 to get a head start on the holidays, as The National Ballet of Canada partnered with Toronto Public Library to present an afternoon of stories, ballet crafts and dancing. Adults also got in on the action as Dance Historian Kate Cornell presented a talk on *The Nutcracker* and exhibited costumes and photos from The National Ballet archives.

Both the young and the young at heart still have an opportunity to enjoy the fun, as TPL's telephone story service, Dial-A-Story, 416-395-5400, presents *The Nutcracker* in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Polish.

Library Board Highlights

December 2004

Library literacy changes lives

A presentation about reading support services at the library highlighted the fact that helping people learn to read – whatever their age – increases their self-confidence and changes their lives.

2005 Operating Budget

The Board reviewed the Executive Management Team's recommendations to reduce the budget request and approved an amended request of a 2.3 percent increase over last year's budget.

2005-2009 Capital Budget

The Board approved the Executive Management Team's recommendation to reduce the budget request to \$9,910,000. They also approved the addition of Thorncliffe Branch to the list of capital projects for 2005 – 2007, subject to additional City funding so as to avoid displacing another priority project.

The Board received a request from Councillor Shiner asking them to consider the addition of a library in the new joint-use facility being planned at Sheppard Avenue East and Bessarion Road. Staff were directed to report on the feasibility of this at the January meeting.

Library plans and successes

The Board heard about plans for 2005 and successes in 2004. Check the website for details: www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Policies approved this month

The following policies were approved by the Toronto Public Library Board at the December 13 meeting:

- Programming Policy
- Employment of Relatives Policy

Long Branch to close for renovations

The Board approved a tender for renovation of Long Branch, which will close at the end of January for approximately one year.

*Next Board meeting:
Monday, January 17, 2005*