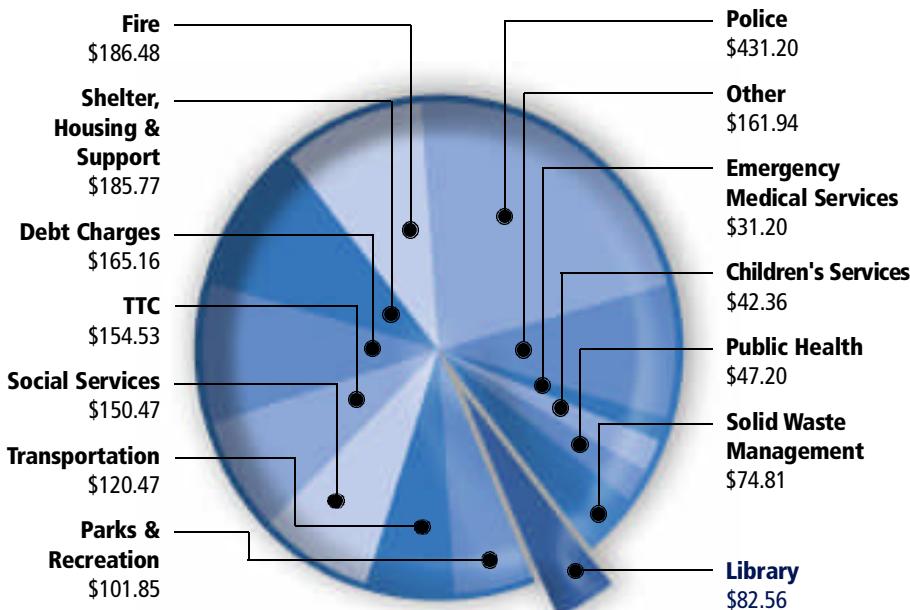


Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2004

City of Toronto Budget 2003



Of the \$1,936 in property taxes (exclusive of school taxes) that the average Toronto household pays, \$82 goes to the library.

Library provides big bang for your buck

Budget pressures present serious challenge to service levels

\$82 PER YEAR gets you books, movies, speakers' series, Internet access and more. According to City Librarian Josephine Bryant, 2004 is a critical year

for Toronto Public Library (TPL). At the library's January 19 budget information session, Bryant pointed out that, "after six years of budget restraint and ever increasing public demand, an investment in the library is crucial if we are to maintain our current service levels."

Bryant set the context for the library's budget request, citing increased demand on resources coupled with a decrease in both spending power and financial and human resources.

"We handled this growth thanks
Please see Budget pressures page 2...

Toronto Public Library snapshot

- Circulation up 17%
- Visits up 7%
- Virtual visits up over 1,000%
- Use of book reserve system up by 144%
- Total library activity up 38% over the last six years.

What's the big idea

Public consultations to inform strategic planning process

THE LIBRARY IS releasing a *Big Idea Workbook* outlining Toronto Public Library's (TPL) progress so far in developing a new Strategic Plan for 2004 - 2006.

Help us decide what priorities will make the biggest difference to the citizens of this city.

- from The Big Idea Workbook

The booklet outlines TPL's current efforts to provide people of the city with information, culture and public space. It goes on to talk about recent achievements resulting from its previous strategic plan and to imagine some goals for upcoming years. Most important, the book calls on citizens of Toronto to participate in the process.

"We want to hear from as many people in Toronto as possible," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "As with all public services in Toronto, the library is facing budget constraints. The more feedback we get from the people of Toronto, the better off we'll be when it comes time to decide how best to spend our resources."

While members of the public are invited to submit their comments and ideas any time, opportunities to join in open public forums continue. On

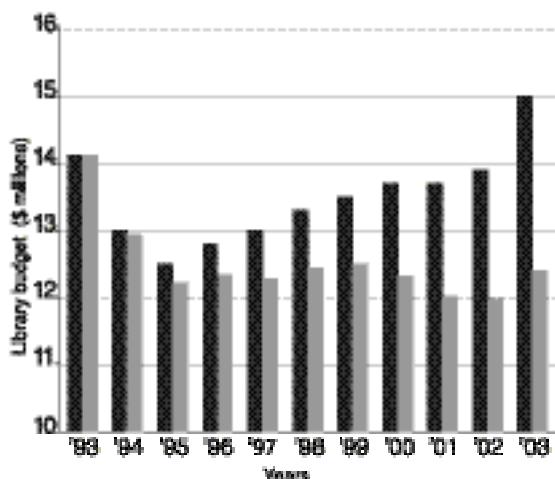
Please see Big idea page 3...

Budget pressures

Continued from page one...

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"If we receive the \$10.2 million increase we are seeking," Bryant asserted, "there will be no cuts in library service hours, our collections will start to catch up with inflation, we will be able to keep our technology current and a new branch will open in St. James Town."

Library heritage property to be restored and renovated

A LONG-AWAITED restoration and renovation will begin at Runnymede Branch after the library closes on Saturday, January 31. When the branch reopens in the Winter of 2005, patrons of this west end library will enjoy improved building access, new space for adult and children's programs, a special area for teens and space for community meetings.

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G. Bruce Stratton Architects, who have been responsible for a number of other library renovations, will coordinate the project.

For further details visit the library website at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

In brief

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Legacy of High Park

Travelling exhibit celebrates a favourite Toronto neighbourhood

INSPIRED BY THE words of their elders about visits to High Park and Colborne Lodge, Parkdale Collegiate Institute students crafted works of art, music, poetry and wrote essays to recount how the park had touched peoples' lives over the years. The Legacy of High Park Traveling Exhibit presents these works, along with photographs from the 1910s to the 1960s and original reflections and letters that highlight what High Park has meant to generations of Torontonians. The exhibit has been on display at Colborne Lodge in High Park throughout 2003. Presented by the City of Toronto Culture Department, the exhibit is coming to Toronto Public Library branches across the city in 2004.



Exhibit locations and dates:

High Park Branch
January 14-February 24

Annette Street Branch
February 25-April 6

Toronto Reference Library
April 7-May 18

Parkdale Branch
May 19-June 29

North York Central Library
June 30-August 10

Much of the work is based on 'The High Park Oral History Collection', which was donated to the Toronto Reference Library by the Spadina House/Colborne Lodge Museums in 2003. Housed in the Special Collections Centre, the collection consists of 30 interviews on 33 cassette tapes as well as interview summaries for each interview, interview indexes for 28 interviews and full transcriptions for two interviews.



Serving one of the most multicultural populations in the world, Toronto Public Library provides a wide range of services for the city's many cultures.

Newsconnect big news at library

Website offering news in dozens of languages finds an eager audience

NEWSCONNECT, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S online news source bringing local, national and international news to the people of Toronto in their native languages, saw a 222 percent increase in visits over the course of a single year. Library patrons looking for information in Chinese, Greek, Serbo-Croatian, Tamil, Urdu and dozens of other languages will find information organized by library experts to allow easy access to both current and past news events for everyone from the casual news reader to the serious researcher.

Serving one of the most multicultural populations in the world, Toronto Public Library provides many services for the city's many cultures. Books, CDs and videos in many languages, English language learning materials, programs, services and information to help newcomers settle, adapt and grow in Canadian society are just some of the many ways the library fulfills its mandate to develop multicultural services that enable and encourage participation in Canadian society and help bridge the gap between cultures in the city.

See what the library has to offer:

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca click on Multicultural Connections

Big idea

Continued from page one...

February 2 at 7 p.m. at the Cedarbrae Branch of the library, 545 Markham Road, south of Lawrence, everyone is invited to join special guests Senator Vivienne Poy, David Booth, Huma Nauman and moderator Marci Ien to discuss the future of library service in

Toronto. Brief presentations by the panelists will lead off discussions that are aimed at including every member of the audience.

Check out the *Big Idea Workbook* available on our website at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or have your say via the online comment form; phone us at 416-393-7131; or drop into your local branch and tell staff what you want to see from your library.



Morningside Branch to get new home

Morningside Branch patrons are being invited to share their ideas about the relocation and reconstruction of their library at an information meeting on February 12 at 7 p.m. at the Heron Park Community Recreation Centre, 292 Manse Road (off Lawrence Avenue East, east of Morningside Avenue).

Morningside Mall, where the library has been located since 1979, is slated for demolition and redevelopment, allowing the library the opportunity to relocate and build a new 7,000 square foot library on city-owned land, adjacent to the Heron Park Community Recreation Centre.

The Morningside Branch will continue to operate at its current location in the Morningside Mall until 2005, with a planned 2006 opening at the new location.

For further information, contact Morningside Branch at 416-396-8881.

Members of the public who cannot attend the information session are invited to share comments by filling in a comment form, available at the branch or on the library website www.tpl.toronto.on.ca, click on Hours and Locations.

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.

Library Board Highlights

January 19, 2004

Big Idea Workbook

The draft of the library's Strategic Plan workbook was approved (see "What's the big idea" page 1). This workbook will be available both online and in all of the library's branches. It outlines the major themes that the public has identified as priorities and invites

everyone to have their say in building the library's future.

Community support for TPL's 2004 budget

The Library Board has approved a plan to develop a stakeholder strategy to promote awareness of the Toronto Public Library.

*Next Board meeting:
Monday, February 23, 2004*

Calendar of Events

February 2004

January 28 to April 18

Ontario History Quest

Toronto Reference Library, The Archives of Ontario and the City of Toronto Archives bring Ontario's history to life through the eyes of a new settler to Upper Canada, a working child at the turn of the century, and a 1950s family.

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

January to May, ongoing, by appointment

Writer-in-Residence Dennis Bock

Dennis Bock will critique manuscripts and meet with aspiring authors to discuss their work.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Friday, January 30, 6-8 p.m.

Performing Arts Series: Michael Levine

Internationally acclaimed opera and theatre costume and set designer. Q&A to follow.

Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Monday, February 2, 6:30-8 p.m.

Libraries and Learning: Opening Doors to Education and Employment

How can the library better meet your needs? Join us for an evening of brainstorming, food and prizes! Your ideas will help build the future of the library. Cedarae Branch, 545 Markham Road

Tuesday, February 3, 7 p.m.

Black History Month

Storyteller Emerita Emerencia: *Stories My Grandmother Told Me*. Albion Branch, 1515 Albion Road www.tpl.toronto.on.ca for other Heritage Month Programs

Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series: The Dark Side

Steve Paikin, host of *Diplomatic Immunity* and co-host of *Studio 2*, reads from *Dark Side: The Personal Price of a Political Life*, the hard-hitting sequel to his bestseller, *The Life*.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Friday, February 6, 6 p.m.

13th Annual Wilde About Sappho

Readings by Will Aitken (*Glass Rain*), Karen X. Tulchinsky (*Five Books of Moses Lapinsky*), George K. Ilesley (*Random Acts of Hatred*), Suki Lee (*Sapphic Traffic*) and Felice Picano (*Joy of Gay Sex*). Novelist Darren Greer moderates. Light refreshments. After the readings, meet the authors at a nearby wine and cheese reception. \$15. RSVP: 416-961-4161, marcin@gladdaybookshop.com Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Thursday, February 12, 7 p.m.

Morningside Public Consultation

Members of the public are invited to share their ideas about the relocation and reconstruction of Morningside Branch. Heron Park Community Recreation Centre, 292 Manse Road

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series: Mysterious Toronto

Hear Toronto-based mysteries. Rick Blechta reads from *Shooting Straight in the Dark*; John Worsley Simpson reads from *Shadowmen*. Q&A follows. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, February 25, 6-8 p.m.

Performing Arts Series: Debbie Wilson

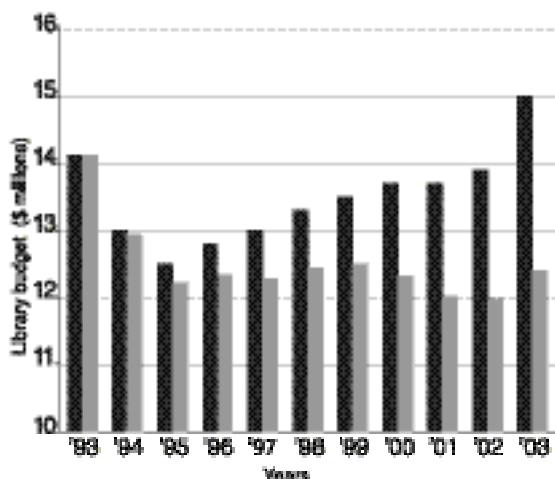
Choreographer, teacher and artistic director of OMD Dance. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Budget pressures

Continued from page one...

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