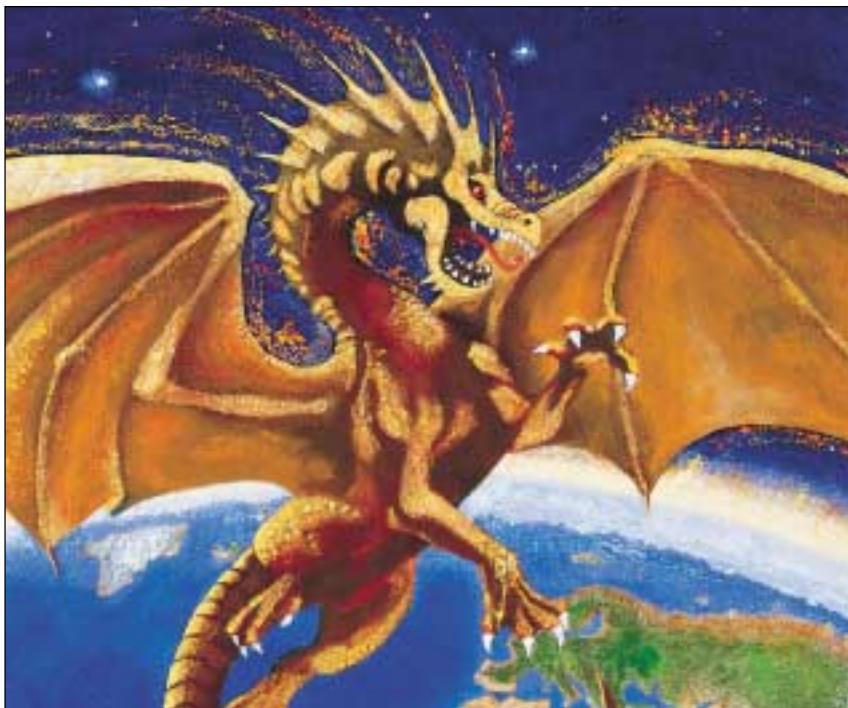


Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Fire up your imagination: dragons, books and quests. The Library is partnering with TD Bank Financial Group again this year to provide children across the country with the opportunity to have fun and develop their reading skills throughout the summer. With nearly a hundred library branches across Toronto and bookmobiles serving areas with no nearby branch, every kid in Toronto will have the opportunity to join the Club. For details, see "TD Summer Reading Club goes Canada-wide" on page 2; for "Riding the Dragon," an exhibit, see Calendar of Events, page 4.

ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL MORIN FOR THE TD SUMMER READING CLUB.

Enhancing the quality of life in Toronto

Toronto's libraries recognized for their outstanding contribution to city building

"A successful city fulfills itself... through... an awareness of its possibilities. It achieves heightened identity by giving form to memory and providing new space for life."

—Robert Fulford in
The Accidental City

(Urban Affairs Library call number
307.1609 F78)

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY (TPL) Board Chair Gillian Mason joined Mayor David Miller, Jane Jacobs, Ed Mirvish, David Crombie and many other luminaries active in the promotion and betterment of Toronto when the Canadian Urban Institute hosted its first annual Urban Leadership Awards

Please see Enhancing, page 2...

Library's new strategic plan to keep T.O. reading

BOOKS AND CULTURE top the list of priorities for library service in Toronto, according to the results of extensive public consultations with city residents and library stakeholders undertaken during the development of Toronto Public Library's (TPL) new strategic plan. Other top priorities include: the need to increase the Library's contribution to serving the needs of low income neighbourhoods; the need to enhance services that contribute to the successful adaptation of newcomers to Toronto; and the importance of developing services that address the needs of youth.

"We continue to build our collections and improve access," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "But we also plan to champion and promote reading, through programs such as book clubs, author readings and other contributions to Toronto's literary culture."

Provisions for library services that meet the needs of low income neighbourhoods across the city is a priority. "The Toronto Public Library Board will look for new ways to work with City departments and community service providers to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of the residents of these neighbourhoods," according to Bryant.

The number of newcomers to Toronto has increased dramatically in recent years, resulting in numerous challenges including the need to address barriers to finding employment for newcomers.

Please see Strategic, page 2...



Library Board Chair Gillian Mason accepts the Canadian Urban Institute Urban Leadership Award for Livability, presented to the Library by Mayor David Miller.

Enhancing the quality of life

Continued from page 1...

Luncheon, Wednesday, May 26. Intended to honour and pay tribute to the people, groups and organizations that have made a significant impact upon our public realm, the awards were presented at a gala

gathering for over 500 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. TPL was awarded the inaugural Urban Leadership Award for City Livability.

"The Library is deeply honoured, and simply delighted, to receive this award," says TPL Board Chair Gillian Mason, "especially from an organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in urban areas."

As the largest and busiest public



Urban Stories, the Library's new strategic plan, will be available online and in library branches this summer.

library in North America, TPL makes an enormous contribution to the social development, cultural landscape and economic growth of Toronto, according to Mason.

"And we do this one individual at a time, on a daily basis, in all our 98 branches and over the Internet."

The Library was nominated for the award by TD Bank Financial Group, a longtime TPL supporter. TD sponsors the Library's annual citywide summer reading club, the TD Gallery in the Toronto Reference Library and the new Start Smart Kindergarten Outreach library card sign-up program.

TD Summer Reading Club goes Canada-wide

THIS SUMMER, thousands of Québec children will join the TD Summer Reading Club for the first time and explore their imaginations through the wonders of reading. A joint initiative between TD Bank Financial Group, Library and Archives Canada and Toronto Public Library, the program gives families fun, free activities to encourage children to read and develop their literacy skills. With the program moving into Québec for the first time this year, it is now available in five provinces as well as the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

With Library and Archives Canada coming on board this year, the stage is set to extend the program across the entire country over the next few years.

This year's theme, *Fire Up Your Imagination: Dragons, Books and Quests*, is expected to attract more than 200,000 children across the country. Meanwhile, in Toronto, where the TD Summer Reading Club got its start in 1994, children will be able to sign up at nearly 100 library locations across the city.

"We've got amazing books, fantastic programs, a terrific poster and other club materials that feature artwork from one of Canada's leading children's book illustrators, Paul Morin," says TPL Children and Youth Advocate Ken Setterington. "Kids are going to love Paul's dragons."

In addition to the colourful poster, the

Strategic Plan keeps TO reading

Continued from page 1...

The Library will also seek new ways to support youth in gaining literacy skills, in succeeding at school and in finding employment. Youth alienation and violence is also of considerable concern.

"The goal of the strategic planning process," according to Bryant, "was to ensure a dynamic response to current city issues, and to enhance related services over the next three years."

Read about a few of the many initiatives currently underway to serve the diverse needs of Toronto's citizens. See "Focus on Albion District," next page.

club offers stickers, an activity book with content in both English and French, activities on the Library's website, reading lists and a tremendous array of programs, including many children's author and illustrator visits throughout the summer.

"There's no better way for parents to help children maintain reading skills during the summer," according to Setterington, "than to make sure they visit their local library on a regular basis. No matter what a child's interests, there are plenty of reading materials to enjoy."

To join the TD Summer Reading Club, kids can register in their local branch.



Kids@Computers consists of training, provided by the library, on computers provided by City to families in financial need.

Another program, running in the south-west areas of the city and sponsored by a group of city Kiwanis Clubs, sees librarians going out into the community to bring the joy of reading to kids at community preschool programs.

"We got a phone call from the Rexdale Health Clinic," Skovronek relates, "where we have been running the Kiwanis program at a drop-in, and the clinic staff begged us to continue the program through the summer." According to Skovronek, the program

has helped the children tremendously with their speech and with their self-confidence.

Other programs hosted by the branches in the Albion District include:

- A dynamic Youth Advisory Group made up of young people who help library staff keep teen service relevant.
- Leading to Reading for kids in Grades 2-6 who are having trouble reading at their grade level.
- English Can Be Fun for newcomer children.
- Kids@Computers – a Toronto Social Services program that delivers free computers to high-need, low-income families with children 8-14 years of age – involves the Library in training the children to use the computers and to access library resources effectively; the program is an incredible example of city partners collaborating, as it brings the Library and Toronto Social Services together with Parks and Recreation, Toronto Fire Services and the Toronto Kiwanis Gerrard 'K' Boys and Girls Club.

FOCUS on Albion District

Part of an occasional ongoing series of library branch profiles

IN THE NORTH-WEST CORNER of the city, at a group of three Toronto Public Library branches – Albion, Rexdale and Humberwood – staff are diligently working to serve one of the most vibrant, multi-ethnic, multi-language communities in Toronto through a wide range of creative community-focused programs and services.

A good example is a new program at the Albion Branch that brings together teens from many ethnic backgrounds to share in a new cultural phenomenon, Anime, which is a form of Japanese animation. The Anime Club for teens 13 to 18 years old, meets once a week to view and discuss Anime films.

"These aren't just the teens who would be in the library anyway," says District Manager Cheryl Skovronek. "We're getting kids in here who have never been in the library before. It's remarkable. These are the types of programs that truly do break down barriers."

The Anime Club is an example of a library program that provides teens with a venue to get them off the street, involve them in a positive environment and tap into their creativity.

"Last week, the father of a 16-year-old boy called Albion to thank us profusely for running this program," says Skovronek. "He said it is making a huge difference to his son."

New to our collections

Hush

January 2, 1930 to June 27, 1936, complete, bound

THE BALDWIN ROOM, part of Toronto Reference Library's (TRL) Special Collections Department, has added a run of a Toronto tabloid, *Hush*, which reported the seamier side of life – the liquor offences, wife beatings, juvenile delinquency and sexual conduct and misconduct – generally avoided by mainline papers. Published from 1927 to 1973, *Hush* also exposed social ills such as poor hospital conditions and dangerous work places, covered the nightclub and bar scene and carried advertising for such things as birth control manuals and nudist societies. This recent acquisition is an invaluable source for

historical researchers studying city life and changing social attitudes.

TRL now has every issue of this newspaper currently known to exist.



Donation makes books accessible city-wide

A RECENT DONATION by the General Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany will put classic works by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Theodor Fontane, Thomas Mann, Alfred Döblin, Bertolt Brecht and others, in the original German, on the shelves of North York Central Library.

"The books offer a great variety of information and entertainment and will appeal to a large segment of our German language users," according to

Library Board Highlights

June 2004

Board approves new strategic plan
The Board approved Toronto Public Library's new strategic plan for 2004-2007, *Urban Stories: The Next Chapter*. For details, see "Library's new strategic plan to keep T.O. reading," page 1.

Library branch development strategy endorsed

The Board endorsed a development strategy that will maintain existing branches by enhancing services and facilities and will also plan for additional branches in the Scarborough City Centre and Toronto Waterfront areas only. Also endorsed was a plan to maintain existing hours at local branches, while over time enhancing open hours in suburban and high priority neighbourhoods consistent with the Library's strategic plan directions.

Library reading prize enhanced
The Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award will now carry a \$2,500 prize. The prize money was part of a revised process and rationale for the award, which is given to a person or organization based on an outstanding contribution to the enjoyment of reading.

Linda Mackenzie, Director of the Research and Reference branches of Toronto Public Library. "We are particularly grateful that more than half the material is for children and youth. German material for this age group has not always been easy to acquire."

In a formal presentation on June 16, Mackenzie accepted a donation of 140 books from Consul General Dr. Karl Rupprecht, who said that he was pleased to make the books accessible to all Toronto library patrons and noted that the Consulate would be promoting the collection to the German-speaking community.

Book Ends has two locations: the original store is at North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street and is open Thursday-Saturday, 10-4. Book Ends South is located at Toronto Reference Library and is open Thursday, 12-8 and Friday and Saturday, 12-5. Money raised by the Friends through book-store sales is donated back to the Library and goes toward Library programs and services.

New McGregor Park Branch opens

THE NEW 7,500-square-foot McGregor Park library branch opened June 21 providing the community with meeting space, high-speed Internet access, quiet study space, space for parents and children to read together and an adult reading lounge. The original McGregor Park Branch opened in 1960 and was never renovated.

For more on Toronto Public Library's capital building projects, see the Hours and Locations link on the website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Calendar of Events

June 29-September 30
Riding the Dragon
An exhibit of early and modern children's books.
Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street, 4th floor

July 17-September 12
Kabuki Part 2: The Performance
Japanese theatrical art.
TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

More summer programs and events at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

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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 five City Councillors.