

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Saturday Night at the Movies senior producer Risa Shuman regaled an enthusiastic audience with tales of her travels with Elwy Yost and other stories from her more than 30 years with the program.

Bathrooms of the rich and famous

Friday night at the library celebrates Saturday Night at the Movies

IN THE LIVELY and free-ranging question and answer session following a talk by Risa Shuman, senior producer for TVO's Saturday Night at the Movies, Risa confided that she always made a point of checking out the washrooms of celebrities she and Elwy Yost were visiting. For example, while visiting Janet Leigh, famous for her *Psycho* shower scene, Risa discovered that not one of Janet's four bathrooms had a shower in it. She had a nice big tub in her main bathroom – but no shower.

Robert Mitchum, who lived with his wife in a modest 1950s home, had what appeared to be the original pink and black tile in his bathroom and a knitted

toilet paper poodle on the back of the toilet tank.

Speaking at Toronto Reference Library on March 19, Risa took her listeners through the history of SNAM as it approaches its 30th anniversary. She spoke eloquently of SNAM's vital position in Ontario's film culture. She also pointed out that her experience with SNAM has come full circle: she joined the program more than 30 years ago, fresh from York University's film school; now York offers a fully-credited film course, Film 1701 Hollywood: Old and New, based on SNAM.

Audience satisfaction with the evening was high – one happy patron rated the talk 5 on a scale of 1-4!

What's cool about *ramp*?

Everything. Online chat. School stuff. And fun stuff when you're really, really bored.

TEENS ACROSS THE CITY are discovering that *ramp* is a website created by teens, for teens. Made in Toronto, for Toronto. "A way to make ourselves heard," according to Peter Yung, 15. "*ramp* makes you feel you are more than a number."

Sixteen-year-old Ana Glazirin says she feels, "like an influential teen, rather than an ordinary teen, by contributing to *ramp*."

Yung and Glazirin are part of a larger group that worked on the development of Toronto Public Library's (TPL) new teen website from day one. The library's Teen Website Advisory Group included

*Please see *ramp*, page 2...*

What's on *ramp*

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

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



Dead elms, lost roads and Eaton eggs

WHAT DO RICHVIEW, Eatonville and Elmbrook Park library branches have in common? They are all named after places or things long gone:

- Richview got its name from Richview Sideroad – now known as Eglinton Avenue
- Elmbrook Park has nary an elm in sight – all victims of Dutch elm disease
- Eatonville is named after a schoolhouse built on the old Eaton family farm, purveyor of fresh eggs, milk and meat to the downtown Eaton's store.

They are also all very busy branches; in 2003, patrons borrowed 1,325,552 items from the three branches combined. Eatonville loaned out 482,906 items, making it the busiest of Toronto's neighbourhood branches (the smaller ones). Richview, which is a district branch (the bigger ones), houses the Etobicoke local history collection where you can read about the Eaton farm and the horse farms that used to border Richview Sideroad.

Library board members gave generously

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY board members, the late Marjorie Stephenson and the late Marie Labatte, were both generous in their support of library service in Toronto. Both donated money to help with programs, collections and services, but more important, both gave time as members of the library board.

Ms. Stephenson, who passed away March 1, had a lifelong interest in books, reading and learning, leading her to join the library board in 2001. Her valuable service to the Board will be remembered by those who knew and worked with her.

Ms. Labatte, who passed away in January, became a member of the North York Public Library Board in December 1985, while serving as a North York City Councillor, and stayed until November

1988. In September 1990, as a Metro Toronto City Councillor, she took a position on the board for the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library. She was Vice-Chair during 1994 and retired from the board in November of that year.

ramp

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some 70 teens from across the city who participated in focus groups, suggested and vetted content, helped pick a name and worked with library staff and Web developers on the site's graphic appearance.

"Teens told us that online messaging is an important part of their lives – a key way they connect, share information and build a sense of community," says *ramp* development team leader Rosa Pinto. "They told us discussion groups would be a popular draw – almost a necessary feature, in fact – for any teen website."

With *ramp* now up and running, input from teens "remains critical to its success," says TPL Child and Youth Advocate Ken Setterington. "Their feedback is all-important in keeping *ramp* on track in meeting teen needs. As well, teens will lead *ramp*'s online discussion groups.

"*ramp* is a very exciting, new venture for the library," continues Setterington, "and we look forward to engaging Toronto teens in this way. We fully expect it to adapt and change according to what young people themselves tell us."

ramp was funded in part by a grant from the Ontario Works Incentive Fund administered through the City of Toronto. It was developed in partnership with the City of Toronto, City departments involved in delivering services to youth, the Boards of Education and, most important, Toronto youth.



(Clockwise from left) Ana Glazirin, Mapleine Quizon, Peter Yung, Linda Sun and Anna Ceban helped develop *ramp*.



Two-year-old Andreas Bolton was one of 16 Design-a-Bookmark contest winners.

Two-year-old wins library award

AT TWO YEARS OLD, Andreas Bolton was the youngest Toronto Public Library (TPL) Design-a-Bookmark Contest winner in many years. Andreas and his family, along with the other winners, celebrated their success and were presented with their prizes on February 19 at North York Central Library.

Thanks to Laurentian for providing great prizes for the winners.

Check out the winning bookmarks on the library's website: www.tpl.toronto.on.ca, click on Kids' Space.

March Break fun

MORE THAN 18,500 excited children and their families attended March Break programs at Toronto Public Library (TPL) branches this year. All across the City, library branches hosted a variety of free special programs, featuring performers such as magician Owen Anderson, troubadour Martha Johnson and clown-on-stilts Madame Buskerfly.

"Almost all of our 98 branches have a special entertainment program during March Break," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant, "and our libraries are full of parents and kids reading or studying together. Best of all, our library services and programs are all free."

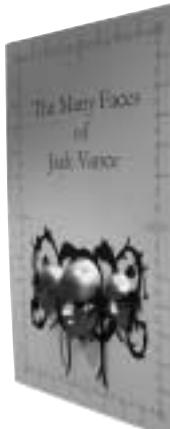
TPL March Break programs continue to grow in popularity, with a 12 percent increase in attendance since 2001.

New to Special Collections

The Vance Integral Edition

THE VANCE INTEGRAL EDITION (VIE) will contain the complete works of noted American science fiction author Jack Vance. There will be 44 volumes in the complete set – more than 150 texts including several unpublished works. Beginning in 1999, an all-volunteer group worked together in an Internet-based project in order to make Jack Vance's works available as the author intended. These volumes are edited from the original manuscripts in consultation with the author.

The Paul Allen Foundation has donated a copy of the VIE to the Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy. The first half of the VIE was showcased in a display at the Merril Collection, *The Many Faces of Jack Vance*, earlier this year.



The Grade 8 class from Quest Alternative Senior Public School cut the ribbon to launch the new Ontario History Quest website. The Quest students contributed to the development of the site.

Quest kids launch History Quest

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY celebrated Heritage Day with the launch of Ontario History Quest, a new e-learning resource for teachers and students of Ontario history.

"OHQ is an innovative e-learning resource developed for youth, by youth," noted Josephine Bryant, City Librarian for the Toronto Public Library. "It clearly demonstrates what can be achieved when bridges are built between the community, government and educational groups."

The site was developed by a partnership of the Toronto Public Library, the Archives of Ontario and the City of Toronto Archives. The project was made possible in part through the Ontario Ministry of Culture Library Strategic Development Fund: Digital Alliances Programme.

The complementary Ontario History Quest gallery exhibit will be in the TD Gallery at Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street until April 18.



Learning online

THE NEW COMPUTER LEARNING Centre at Toronto Reference Library offers programs on everything from the Internet to job hunting to genealogy to tutorials on using the library's online catalogue. Customized training for school classes helps students learn about the library resources while simultaneously researching a particular topic.

"If a class is studying Louis Riel that semester," explains user education coordinator Fiona Smith, "we can show them how to find information about Riel from both online resources and print collections."

Officially opened February 12 with a simple ceremony held during one of the

regular Internet drop-in sessions for older adults, the new learning centre has two classrooms and a total of 40 computers for hands-on training.

"The new space will allow us to accommodate more users," says Smith. "Moriyama & Teshima Architects did a wonderful job of designing the space, making it quite elegant, but at the same time very user-friendly."

Last year the Learning Centre offered 215 programs to almost 1,300 users. In addition, almost 3,000 students visited the centre for customized computer training in History, Literature and Family Studies subjects.

For information on programs being offered in the new Learning Centre, check the latest issue of *What's On*, log onto www.tpl.toronto.on.ca, or phone the Learning Centre, 416-393-7209.



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Congratulations Dennis Lee on winning the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award!

Library Board Highlights

March 2004

TPL finalist for Urban Leadership Award
Toronto Public Library is among the six finalists in the Canadian Urban Institute's 2004 Urban Leadership Awards in the City Livability category. The winner will be announced at an Awards Luncheon on May 26.

Beaches Branch renovation awarded to Struct-Con Construction

Renovation of the Beaches Branch of Toronto Public Library will be undertaken by Struct-Con Construction Ltd. at a cost of \$1,289,548. The branch is scheduled to close for approximately one year, beginning April 19. Beaches customers will be encouraged to use nearby Main Street, Gerrard/Ashdale and Queen/Saulter branches.

Recognizing TPL's volunteers

The library's volunteer recognition practice was recently revised to increase opportunities to acknowledge the work of volunteers at both the local and system level. The library uses volunteers to offer programs that would not otherwise be offered.

"Have Your Say" library advocacy program

The library recently undertook initiatives to support advocacy among community supporters. More than 250 Torontonians (and counting) have had their say about library service. Many respondents indicated they would be

contacting their local councillors asking that they safeguard the library's budget. Check out people's comments on the library website, www.tpl.toronto.on.ca; click on the Budget Crunch link.

Next Board meeting:
Monday, April 19, 2004

Calendar of Events

March 29-June 19

Gathering of Tales: an exhibition
An international sampling of favourite collections, from Aesop, Bidpai, Arthurian and Romantic legends to Hans Andersen and the Brothers Grimm.
Osborne Collection, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 2004: New Beginnings
Judy Fong Bates reads from *Midnight at the Dragon Café*; Paul Dutton reads from *Several Women Dancing*; Keith Garebian reads from *Samson's Hair*. Q&A follows.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Fridays, April 16-May 14

On Stage 2004:
Five Passionate Viewpoints on Ethics
Clayton Ruby – Ethics and the Law, Friday, April 16, 6 p.m.
Stevie Cameron – Ethics and Journalism, Friday, April 23, 6 p.m.
Norman Inkster – Ethics and Business, Friday, April 30, 6 p.m.
Zanana Akande – Ethics and Equality, Friday, May 7, 6 p.m.
Warren Kinsella – Ethics and Politics, Friday, May 14, 6 p.m.
All programs in the Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Author Series 2004: Multicultural Poetry
Dr. Afua Cooper reads/performers from *Worlds of Fire (In Motion)*; Merle Nudelman reads from *Borrowed Light*. Q&A follows.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m.

Uptown Author Series: Diane Schoemperlen
G-G Award winner Diane Schoemperlen reads from her latest collection of short stories, *Red Plaid Shirt*. Room 2, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

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

Author Series 2004: The Medium is the Message
Stephanie McLuhan reads from *Understanding Me: Lectures and Interviews*, written by her late father, Marshall McLuhan.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

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

Author Series 2004: First Time Novelists
Dr. Ramabai Espinet reads from *The Swinging Bridge*; Rachael Preston reads from *Tent of Blue*. Q&A follows.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

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.