

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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TD Summer Reading Club success

Five-year-old Kelly drew this "review" of *Sam and Jack: Three Stories*, one of the books she read as part of her TD Summer Reading Club fun at the Fairview Branch of Toronto Public Library. Almost 1,400 kids drew picture reviews and more than 800 did written reviews and submitted them to staff at Fairview. Thanks to the generous support of TD Bank Financial Group, 50,000 TD Summer Reading Club packages were distributed through 98 Toronto Public Library branches across the city.

Toronto writers get expert advice

Library Writer-in-Residence Eliza Clark to meet individually with authors this fall

ELIZA CLARK, whose novels have been shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, the Trillium Award and the Giller Prize, will meet individually with aspiring authors to discuss their work. Authors, 18 years or older, are

invited to submit up to 20 consecutive pages of an unpublished novel or short story. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced copies with name, address, phone number and page number on each page. See inside for details.

New library branch to open

SET IN ONE of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Canada – ten times the City of Toronto average – the new St. James Town Branch of Toronto Public Library (495 Sherbourne Street - at Wellesley) will open this fall, bringing the number of library branches in the city to 99.

Part of North America's largest and busiest public library system, the new 7,800 square foot branch will feature:

- A children's area with a parenting collection
- A teen space
- Multicultural collections of books, periodicals and newspapers in nine languages
- Adult literacy and English as a Second Language materials
- 14 computers with high-speed Internet access and four kid-friendly computers
- Materials for employment and career information
- Two quiet study/seminar rooms.

St. James Town neighbourhood is home to a diverse, multicultural community including newcomers to Canada and families with young children. The project is the result of a collaborative community partnership among: the City of Toronto Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; City of Toronto Community and Neighbourhood Services; and Toronto Public Library. The design is a joint venture of MacLennan, Jaunkalns Miller Architects Limited and ZAS (Zawadzki Armin Stevens) Architects Inc.

In brief

City Legal Services supports kids' reading program

Staff at the City's Legal Services (CLS) department recently raised \$1,300 to support Toronto Public Library's Leading to Reading program. Led by Heather Crisp, CLS staff held a fundraising book sale on July 7 and 8 selling books donated by City employees for a dollar or two. The money will help the Library provide the children of Toronto with the opportunity and self-confidence to achieve their dreams.



Fairies at TPL

Cinderella's fairy godmother; Tinkerbell; Pinocchio's beloved Blue Fairy; the wicked fairy who enchanted Sleeping Beauty – fairies are always

Manuscripts for the Writer-in-Residence program can be dropped off or mailed to:

Writer-in-Residence
North York Central
Library
Language, Literature
and Fine Arts
Department
5120 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M2N 5N9

For more information: pick up a copy of the Library's program guide, *What's On*, available in any Toronto Public Library branch; call 416-395-5639; or visit the Library website, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

with us, for good or evil. See the fairies as they are portrayed in early picture books and visit childhood favourites from the 20th century. Chosen from Toronto Public Library's (TPL) Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, The Fairies' Repertory is on from October 12 to January 22, 2005 at Lillian H. Smith Branch (239 College Street).

The Osborne Collection was established in the first half of the 20th century when English librarian Edgar Osborne donated his collection of children's books to TPL in 1949 as a tribute to the quality and range of children's services flourishing at TPL under librarian Lillian H. Smith. The collection, featuring an extensive array of English children's literature from its earliest beginnings, includes among its many treasures Florence

Nightingale's childhood library and Queen Mary's children's books.

For more information about TPL's exciting special collections, visit the library website

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.

Frozen Ocean: Search for the North-West Passage

Exploration of the Canadian Arctic, from Sir Martin Frobisher's discovery of Baffin Island in 1576 to the first navigation of the North West Passage by Amundsen in 1903-5, is documented in this exhibition of original material from the Toronto Public Library's Special Collections, on until the end of the year at the TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library. Books, maps, and prints dating from 1578-1907



illustrate the voyages of discovery – the adventure, hardship and heroism that mapped the Arctic and inspired the Canadian imagination.

First ever library sleepover

Toronto Public Library (TPL) had its first-ever library sleepover at the end of the summer, as Youth Advisory Group (YAG) members from Maria A. Shchuka (MAS) branch stayed after hours on August 25. Also appearing in their pyjamas were youth services librarian Lisa Heggum and MAS branch head Dawna Rowlson. Seven teens were armed with a few simple rules as night fell and from there it was nothing but fun and

games – and maybe a little bit of sleep.

Clocks were taken off the walls and watches were confiscated, taking the focus off time and encouraging everyone to participate in the moment. Activities included a murder mystery potluck, movies, make-your-own sundaes, knitting and t-shirt and pillowcase painting. The event ended with a pancake breakfast for all branch staff.

As one of the teen "sleepers" put it, "That was the best sleepover I've had. It was kinda weird eating and sleeping in the library, but it was really fun. My friends are really jealous because I got to do it and not them."



Best-selling authors preview new works at library

Ask us what's hot this season!

WHEN AWARD-WINNING Canadian author Ann Marie Macdonald previewed *As the Crow Flies* for Toronto Public Library (TPL) staff last fall shortly before the book's public release, she probably didn't realize she was starting a trend.

This year, Richard B. Wright arrived with reps from his publisher, HarperCollins, and renowned editor Phyllis Bruce on September 15 to do a private reading of *Adultery*, which went on sale to the public on September 25. Wright's first public reading of the novel will take place on October 28 as part of the 25th International Festival of Authors at Harbourfront.

Wright was clearly excited about the enthusiastic reception he received from TPL staff, calling it "a good omen" for his upcoming book tour.

The afternoon also included presentations by publishers who previewed a fascinating array of fall books as a means of helping TPL staff make well-informed suggestions to library patrons looking for good books.

Librarians to spread the word

Teens introduced to a multitude of available electronic resources

TWO TORONTO LIBRARIANS will spend much of this fall visiting schools across the city, spreading the word about the vast selection of Toronto Public Library (TPL) electronic resources available to students through the Internet. Outreach Librarians Flaka Hersom and Peggy Perdue will meet with high school students in Toronto to demonstrate:

- the TPL homepage
- the Virtual Reference Library, Ontario's most comprehensive guide to the Internet, including a wide variety of resources

especially prepared by the library

- ramp, TPL's new website for teens.

"We're aiming to visit every public and Catholic high school in the city," explains Hersom, who has been involved in the program since its inception in 2000. "We'll also be encouraging students to sign up for library cards. Having a library card gives students access, not just to materials on the shelves in all 99 of our branches, but also to private commercial websites that the library subscribes to, including magazine and newspaper databases that feature the entire text of their articles."

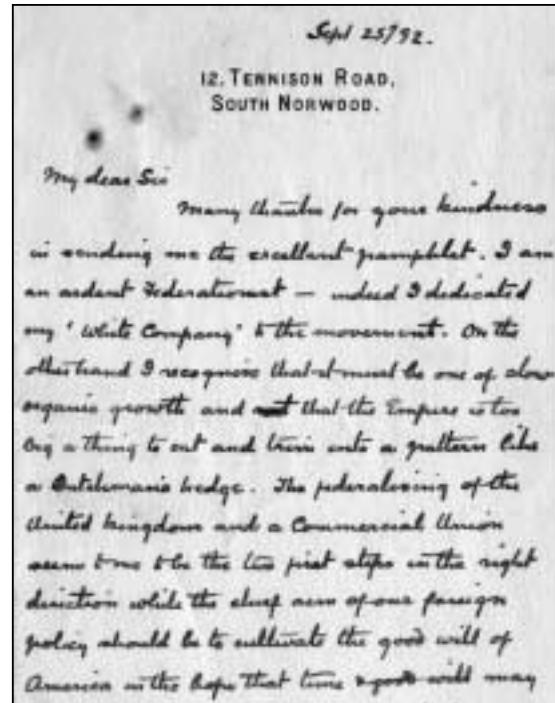
One of the most powerful tools in TPL's electronic arsenal, the Virtual Reference Library, is currently being revamped to make it even more useful and user-friendly. Watch future issues of *Shelf Life* for details.

Christie's gives it up for TPL

Friends group instrumental in landing important addition to collection

THE LARGEST publicly accessible collection in the world devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle (ACD) was recently made larger with the successful acquisition of new material sold at a spring auction at Christie's. Toronto Public Library's (TPL) successful bid on lot 57 'Canada and the Empire' at the highly publicized auction of ACD material at the famous auction house in London, England, adds a group of letters, manuscripts and printed documents to TPL's already extensive collection of Arthur Conan Doyle material at Toronto Reference Library.

"This was an extraordinary opportunity to expand the largest publicly accessible collection of Arthur Conan Doyle material, as material of this quality rarely comes up at auction," noted City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "We are delighted with the addition."



A letter from the recently acquired Arthur Conan Doyle 'Canada and the Empire' collection.

The £3,200 (about \$7,400 Canadian) collection was purchased jointly by the Library and The Friends of the ACD Collection. The material is considered important because of its references to the future of the British Empire and Canada in particular.

While much of the ACD collection is devoted to Doyle's more famous character, Sherlock Holmes, the Library also collects different editions of Doyle's works, from the first to the most recent, along with simplified versions, translations, and adaptations to stage and screen. The Collection is housed in an old-fashioned-looking room at Toronto Reference Library where people can browse along open shelves in a manner unusual in a special collection.

October is Teen Month

Visiting authors, writer's workshops and a teen writing contest.

Get details: in *What's On*, the Library's program guide; on the Library website, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; or by calling Answerline, 416-393-7131.

Library Board Highlights

September 2004

Ontario Public Library Week - October 18-24

In honour of the annual week-long celebration of Ontario public libraries, Toronto Public Library has planned a number of initiatives to highlight programs and services available to youth. Besides teen author visits and youth writing workshops, the Library will hold its *Young Voices* magazine celebration, an event recognizing the young authors whose work is published in the annual anthology. In addition, in cooperation with Annick Press, the library will launch *I Wrote On All Four Walls*, a publication in which teens share their views on violence.

Proposed Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Toronto Public Library continues to research the benefits of becoming a founding member of the proposed Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and will report findings to the Board at upcoming meetings.

Capital budget pre-approval

The Board approved a submission for pre-approval to the City for seven capital projects, as part of the City's capital projects process.

Children's services presentation

The Board heard a lively presentation about library programs, services and collections for children. Besides a welcoming environment with Kids' Space computers and special library websites designed for kids, the library offers a diverse array of resources for children, including: Dial-a-Story (416-395-5400); reading and

homework help programs to improve children's literacy skills and introduce them to the joy of books; and millions of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs to borrow.

In 2003, over 50,000 children registered for new library cards. Over the past two years, 50 percent of Toronto children have used the library. More than 400,000 children attended library programs in 2003 and close to 3,000 kids got help with

homework and reading.

The children's services presentation was the first in a planned series of presentations to the Board to provide more information on the library's programs, services and collections.

*Next Board meeting:
Monday, October 18, 2004*

Calendar of Events

October 2004

October is Teen Month

Visiting authors, writer's workshops and a teen writing contest. Get details: in *What's On*, the Library's program guide; on the Library website, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; or by calling Answerline, 416-393-7131.

To November 5

Library Writer-in-Residence Eliza Clark Clark critiques manuscripts and meets individually with aspiring authors to discuss their work. See "Toronto writers get expert advice," page 1.

October 2-December 31

Frozen Ocean: Search for the North-West Passage

An exhibition illustrating the adventures that mapped the Arctic. See "Frozen Ocean," page 2.

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library,

789 Yonge Street

Saturday, October 2, 11 a.m.

Official Opening

McGregor Park Branch

Tuesday, October 5, 7 p.m.

Author Series: Intrigue and Satire

Natalee Caple reads from *Mackerel Sky*; Russell Smith reads from *Muriella Pent*. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

October 12-January 22

The Fairies' Repertory

See fairies as they are portrayed in early picture books and children's 20th century favourites.

Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

Thursday, October 14, 8 p.m.

Writing Faerie into One's Life

The 17th Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture featuring Jane Yolen. See "Faires at TPL," page 2.

Community Room, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street

October 18-24

Ontario Public Library Week

Toronto Public Library focus on teen services. Watch the Library website for details www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Wednesday, October 27

Learn Toronto through fiction

Maureen Jennings reads from *Let Loose the Dogs*; Kim Moritsugu reads from *The Glenwood Treasure*.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Wednesday, October 27, 7 p.m.

Uptown Author Series

Tony Burgess reads from *Fiction for Lovers: Freshly Cut Tales of Flesh, Fear, Larvae and Love*.

Room 1, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

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The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly from September through June, in Committee Room 2 at Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West. Meetings are open to the public. The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.

Board Members
Gillian Mason, Chair
William Booth, Vice-Chair
Meyer Brownstone
Councillor Gay Cowbourne
Councillor Janet Davis
Rick Goldsmith

Mizan Ibrahim
Mark Nightingale
Councillor Kyle Rae
Councillor Karen Stintz
Mitchell Weisberg