

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2005



Audubon's Double-crested Cormorant (detail shown) made an appearance at City Hall as part of "Welcome Back Home Cormorant Day," as proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

"Welcome Back Home Cormorants Day"

Library lends 1835 Audubon print to local naturalists

ONE OF THESE fine spring days, take a trip on the wild side. Visit Toronto's own little piece of paradise, the Leslie Street Spit, tucked into east-end Tommy Thompson Park, and acquaint yourself with a thriving colony of Double-crested Cormorants. The bird is one of hundreds depicted in John James Audubon's Birds of America; Toronto Public Library's Special Collections owns the full set – one of only five complete sets in Canada. The Double-crested Cormorant print recently made a public appearance at City Hall as part of "Welcome Back Home Cormorant Day," as proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

After years of DDT poisoning, the Double-crested Cormorant is now making a remarkable comeback. The colony, along with dozens of other species, live only steps from downtown in a wild space internationally designated as an "Important Bird Area" in this well-loved reclaimed urban park.

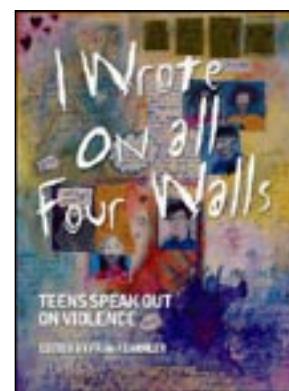
April 12 was deemed an appropriate day to honour the Double-crested Cormorant and the bird's rightful place in our environment as they return from their winter homes to nest here. "Toronto Residents for Cormorants and Nature" – an ad hoc collection of local birding, animal protection and

Please see Welcome back home, page 3...

I Wrote On All Four Walls recognized by publishing industry

Book by youth grew out of Library's Young Voices creative writing program

I WROTE ON ALL FOUR WALLS, a book developed by the Library in cooperation with Annick Press, is tied for fifth place on the children's non-fiction bestseller list according to the April issue of *Quill & Quire*. The book is about Toronto youth and their experiences with violence — told in the voices of the youth themselves. Published in 2004, *I Wrote On All Four Walls* came as a result of the Library's annual Young Voices creative writing program. This fall, the Library will be publishing another book for youth, also with Annick Press. *Research Ate My Brain* will be a practical and fun guide to completing research projects.



I Wrote On All Four Walls, published by Annick Press with assistance from the Toronto Public Library.

Focus on Pape/Danforth district

Part of an occasional ongoing series of branch profiles

ONE OF THE most interesting library districts in the city of Toronto, the Pape/Danforth district, is an excellent example of the 'library as community cornerstone' concept because of the broad range of communities the district ably serves. The Pape/Danforth district includes the areas known as The Danforth, Riverdale, Little India, Leslieville, Chinatown East and the Beach. Each branch in the district is unique, and working hard to meet its community's needs.

Pape/Danforth Branch

Located in the heart of Toronto's "Greentown," Pape/Danforth was built as a "shopping center branch" with an English shop front appearance. The branch celebrated its 75th anniversary on November 20, 2004 and remains a popular stop for neighbourhood residents. A major renovation will begin this month.



Pape/Danforth planned renovation

Queen/Saulter Branch

Queen/Saulter is housed in a beautiful, stately building, the former Postal Station G, designed by architect E.J. Lennox in 1913. The library shares the building with Ralph Thornton Centre, a multi-purpose community facility serving Riverdale. A favourite of movie location agents, the building has been featured in *In the Mouth of Madness*, a horror movie by John Carpenter; *Cinderella*

Man, a period movie blockbuster by Ron Howard (to be released in early 2005); and two Canadian television shows: *Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye* and *Puppets Who Kill*.

Gerrard/Ashdale Branch

Opened in 1924, Gerrard/Ashdale Branch was built on the site of St. Monica's Church in what is now Little India. The high arching wooden

roof beams were designed, not to mirror the former church, but to mimic the style of the collegiate grammar school of 17th-century England. Despite several renovations over the years, the wooden beams have endured. The Branch boasts large collections in Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, Urdu and Panjabi.

Riverdale Branch

Historic and beautiful Riverdale Branch, on the banks of the Don River, is one of the Toronto's Carnegie libraries. Designed in the Georgian Revival style, when it opened on October 19, 1910, it featured an area for children and modern radial shelving (both unusual in those days). Now, having survived a fire and the Depression, the Branch is the centre of the East Toronto Chinese community.



Queen/Saulter Branch

Jones Branch

Originally built as a children's branch in 1962, Jones became a full-service branch in 1976. The Branch caters to a large Chinese-speaking population (both Mandarin and Cantonese). A solid core of people come to Jones branch every day and stay for hours. Many school age children frequent the library to socialize, do homework and play on the Internet.

Main Street Branch

Main Street opened on December 15, 1914 as Eastern Branch, located on the north east corner of Main and Gerrard Streets. In 1921, a new building, designed by architect James P. Hynes, opened coincidentally on the same date and was renamed Main Street in 1977. In December 1986, the community showed its appreciation for the

Branch by presenting it with the Ward 9 Sesquicentennial Quilt (in perpetuity). Ninety Ward 9 citizens were involved in its creation, each square representing buildings and landmarks in the Ward.

Danforth/Coxwell Branch

The newest branch in the district, Danforth/Coxwell, opened in 1989. Traditionally an Italian neighbourhood, the area is now a mix of older Italians, new immigrants

predominately of Chinese origin, and growing numbers of young families. The neighbourhood mix is reflected in the popularity of three local programs – Babytime, English Conversation Circle and Tea and Books.

Beaches Branch

The Beaches Branch of the Toronto Public Library opened on December 13, 1916 in a corner of Kew Gardens. One of three identical structures constructed with a \$50,000 Carnegie grant, the Tudor Gothic interior featured an open timbered ceiling, stone fireplaces, leaded glass casement windows and a minstrel's gallery. Beaches was one of the first libraries to allow readers to browse open shelving instead of requesting material from staff.

A pioneer in promoting its community's cultural life, the Beaches Branch began hosting art exhibits, booklovers evenings, a drama league and a music hour in the 1920s. Recently renovated by Phillip H. Carter Architects & Kingsland + Inc., the original architectural beauty was maintained. A lake-view reading lounge, community and program room, dedicated local history space, a teen zone and a Story Book House for the children's department were also added.



Clockwise from front left, Jesse "SpareMe" Littleorg-Meilleur; Jamie "Kingpin" Farley; Deryck "Gutterball" Cumberbatch; Margaret "Rental Shoes" Mikulinski; Christine "Ten Pin" Sanchez and Sharon "Lucky Strike" Moynes.

Library staff bowl for dollars to help youth

JVS Toronto Bowl-A-Thon supports expansion of youth programs

TORONTO PUBLIC Library staff recently took part in the JVS Toronto Bowl-A-Thon at Thorncliffe Bowlerama to support the expansion of community youth programs into communities in need, namely the development of Youth Services' Willowdale Youth Drop-in Centre. Fairview Branch staff was particularly supportive of this event because the new Youth Centre will be built very close to that branch and staff hope to build a strong relationship with the Centre.

The Library team raised close to \$1,000 and the total raised by all involved was over \$40,000. JVS programs support youth at risk, newcomer youth and vocational training for youth; the group is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that partners with government and business sectors to help individuals to achieve their educational and employment potential.

Library makes tax time less taxing!

Service assists low income residents from all over the city

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED by Canada Revenue Agency offer a free community Income Tax clinic at North York Central Library, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. until April 29. The program is available to single persons whose income is under \$20,000 or to families with incomes under \$25,000. Volunteers help individuals fill out their 2004 Income Tax return. Sessions are 45 minutes long and are provided on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please call 416-395-5614.

Welcome back home Cormorants

continued from page 1...

environmental groups and individuals – initiated the designation of this official day to celebrate the importance of this native species. Knowing that the Library owned this magnificent print, the group arranged to show it at a media conference, delighting bird lovers and art lovers alike.

The Library is thrilled to highlight this collection, as John James Audubon (1785-1851) was the creator of one of the world's most outstanding scientific and artistic publications. In the 1820s, while bankrupt and living in what would become Ohio, he was determined to paint all the birds in North America, in natural, life-sized poses, in their normal habitat. He arranged that the hand-coloured engravings of these paintings would be bound in enormous volumes contrary to the more modest style of ornithological books of his day. This mammoth project was financed solely by Audubon, his family and individual subscriptions sales. Working before the camera was invented, driven by his passion and guided by his years of observing birds in the wild, Audubon spent some 20 years of his life realizing his dream of publishing *Birds of America*.

Hans Christian Andersen birthday celebrated

Exhibit features variety of some of the world's best-loved children's stories

A VERY SPECIAL toy theatre production of *The Sleeping Beauty* was performed for an enthusiastic March Break audience at The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books. The production, co-written by Osborne librarian Martha Scott and Deer Park librarian Mariella Bertelli, was produced to highlight the current exhibit, *In the Children's Room*, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth. The toy theatre, planned by the storytellers and constructed by Osborne staff member



Librarians Martha Scott and Mariella Bertelli wrote and performed a toy theatre production of *The Sleeping Beauty* for an enthusiastic March Break audience.

Masako Yanagimoto, is a larger version of the kind of toy theatre Andersen played with as a boy.

The exhibit, which is open to the public, features the amazing stories of Hans Christian Andersen, offering a variety of illustrated versions and collections of some of the best-loved children's stories of all time.

Feb. 1-May. 21

Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books
Lillian H. Smith Branch
239 College Street, 4th floor
Admission free.
Call 416-393-7753

Library Board Highlights

April 2005

Circulation and Collection Use (including Fees and Fines) Policy

The Board approved a decrease in teen fines; previously teens (aged 13-17) paid adult fines on late materials. In implementing this reduced rate, the Board hopes to encourage more youth to become regular users of the Library by recognizing the transitional period

between childhood and adulthood. The new policy would fine teens 15¢ a day for late materials to a maximum of \$6 per item/per loan period.

Recognition for Friends of Toronto Public Library – North Chapter

The Board recognized the contribution of Friends of the Toronto Public Library – North Chapter in their recent milestone of having raised half a million dollars for Library programs.

Planning Framework for Capital Program for Library Branches

The Board received the Planning Framework for Toronto Public Library's Capital Program for Library Branches, which outlines the existing framework for developing the five-year capital program. The Board also approved the recommended process for assessing new capital requests outside the program.

Calendar

April/May 2005

Canadians On Guard: the Home Front 1939-1945

May 8, 2005 is the 60th anniversary of VE Day, the end of World War II in Europe. This exhibition of colour posters, unique ephemera, manuscripts, books, periodicals and photographs is dedicated to those who served their country at home and abroad. In September 1939, Canadians prepared for war with memories of the Great War still fresh in their minds. It was determined that Canada's war effort would be concentrated in financial and industrial support, and the first priority would be to secure the nation's borders. By the spring of 1940, the progress of the war in Europe had changed dramatically. With the German invasion of Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Holland, and the fall of France, Canadians reassessed their own vulnerability. People feared that there might not always be an England, and disturbing reports confirmed the presence of German U-boats

in the St. Lawrence River. For the next five years, the war effort permeated Canadian society. All actions at home, at work and at play were focused on victory. Indeed, the Second World War was fought on the home front as well as in Europe and in the Pacific theatre.

April 9 – May 29

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street

Northern Elms Branch Reopens in New Location

The Northern Elms Branch is reopening after almost two years. The public is invited to visit the new branch and attend the opening ceremony.

Branch Location: 123 B Rexdale Blvd., Unit 5 (Kipling at Rexdale)

Opening: Saturday, April 16

Time: 9 a.m.

Ceremony: 11 a.m. (with official ceremony and refreshments)

Pape/Danforth Branch closes for renovation

On Saturday, April 16 at 5 p.m., the Pape/Danforth Branch (701 Pape Avenue), will close for up to one year for renovation. The renovated Pape/Danforth Branch will feature completely redesigned, more accessible space, quiet study space and reading areas, a program and community

use room and increased hours in the Children's Department.

In the Children's Room

(see Andersen article on page 3 for information on exhibit)

February 1 – May 21

Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books

Lillian H. Smith branch
239 College Street, 4th floor

Admission free

416-393-7753

From West to East

Miriam Toews, Winnipeg-based author and the winner of the 2004 Governor General's Literary Award, reads from *A Complicated Kindness*. Elisabeth Harvor, Ottawa-based author, reads from *All Times Have Been Modern*. A question and answer period follows the readings.

Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library,
Beeton Auditorium
789 Yonge Street

For a complete listing of activities, check What's On, available in all branches; visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; or call Answerline 416-393-7131.

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.

Next Board Meeting:
Monday, May 9, 2005.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June, in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

Toronto Public Library Board
Gillian Mason, Chair
William Booth, Vice-Chair
Louise Aspin
Matthew Church
Councillor Gay Cowbourne
Councillor Janet Davis

Kathy Gallagher Ross
Murthy Ghandikota
Okeima Lawrence
Councillor Kyle Rae
Councillor Karen Stintz
Councillor Sylvia Watson
Kate Wilson