

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2005



Glen Gowland, VP, Scotiabank; Kathy Kennedy, Co-Chair, Bloor West Village BIA and Scotiabank Branch Manager; Bill Saundercook, Councillor Ward 13, Parkdale-High Park; Gillian Mason, Toronto Public Library Board Chair; Bruce Stratton, Architect; Mayor David Miller; Margaret Atwood, Author; Josephine Bryant, City Librarian; Janet McKelvey, Chair, Toronto Public Library Foundation, William Booth, Vice-Chair, Toronto Public Library Board.

Margaret Atwood and Mayor Miller open renovated Runnymede Branch

ALMOST 500 ENTHUSIASTIC residents attended the reopening of the Runnymede branch on June 8, 2005, after an extensive renovation and expansion (to 10,000 square feet). Attendees marvelled at the stunning copper accents, expanded collection (featuring materials in English, French, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian) and new gallery and display area. Nineteen computers provide the public with free, high speed Internet access and community groups are thrilled with the new meeting room, which can be booked in advance.

The new design maintains the historical significance of the 1929

beaux-arts architecture and its internal treatments while adding more modern enhancements, which allow the building to function as a modern library.

The inviting Library terrace just outside the front doors – complete with comfortable benches and spotlights – was made possible through a \$20,000 donation, courtesy of the Bloor West Village Scotiabank. “Community partners like Scotiabank make it possible to provide the extra enhancements that library users appreciate so much in their local branch; the Library is truly appreciative of their generosity,” said City Librarian Josephine Bryant.

Please see Runnymede Branch, page 3...

Library branches win Honourable Mentions at Architecture and Urban Design Awards

McGregor Park Branch and Wellesley Community Centre both honoured

THE BUILDINGS IN which two Toronto Public Library branches are housed recently won honourable mentions (Building in Context category) in the biennial City of Toronto Architecture and Urban Design Awards. Mayor David Miller announced May 17 that the McGregor Park Branch and Wellesley Community Centre (which houses the St. James Town Branch) both won Honourable Mention in these prestigious awards.

The awards acknowledge and promote the contribution that architects, landscape architects, urban designers, artists and builders make in enhancing the public realm. Their achievements help to shape urban character and identity through their visions, plans and buildings.

The Sharp Centre for Design at the Ontario College of Art and Design received an award of excellence, as well as the designation “best in show.” Other awards of excellence went to the vegetarian restaurant “fresh” for the design of its corner; a master plan for the West Don Lands; and a guide map to 50 years of Toronto architecture.

“We celebrate these works in their own right for the way they have improved Toronto,” said Mayor Miller. “They also serve to inspire and motivate us to raise the bar for future urban design and architecture projects in our city.” ✱

Library helps new Canadian children learn English

Summer program gets kids ready for school in September

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT of newcomers to Canada under the age of 14 need help learning English, according to a 2002 Citizenship and Immigration Canada report.

Toronto Public Library's annual summer program, *English Can Be Fun*, gives kids a chance to interact under the direction of certified teachers who guide the children through games and activities that help them learn English.

"It's a great way to get children started learning English and at the same time help them make friends in their new home," according to multicultural services specialist Kelly Yuen. "This program can help children who don't speak English get ready for the 2005/2006 school year."

The program, available at 25 library locations across the city, will run from July 11 to August 19. Interested parents are invited to call Answerline (416-393-7131); visit the Library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; or visit any of Toronto Public Library's 99 branches to get more information and to register. ✱

Parents: blast your kids into space at the library

Space books, posters, stickers, activities, programs... with TD Summer Reading Club

CALLING ALL PARENTS: bring your children to the Library starting July 2 for a reading adventure to rival any we've had in past years – and we've had some doozies. Aliens, rockets, planets, asteroids, black holes – everything to do with space will be the theme of this year's *TD Summer Reading Club* at Toronto Public Library branches all over the city. With stickers to stick, posters to post and a booklet full of fun space-related

activities, kids will be busy having lots of fun reading, exploring and reporting their findings to Library staff.

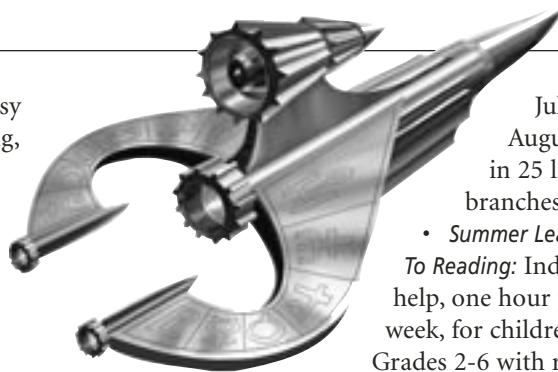
Esteemed artist and illustrator, noted author and internationally known theatre designer Ange Zhang has created some great artwork for the *Club*. Ange will also be visiting Library branches around the city to read from and show off his recent book, *Red Land, Yellow River: A Story from the Cultural Revolution*, which was nominated for a 2004 Governor General's Award for Children's Literature.

According to a recent study sponsored by Toronto Public Library in cooperation with Regina Public Library and the University of Toronto, 65 percent of children registered in library summer reading programs read more because of their regular trips to the library.

"Toronto Public Library is committed to cultivating the library habit and a love of reading in all children in every neighbourhood of the city," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "What better way to help accomplish this than to get every child to visit his or her Library this summer!" Every child who joins the *Club* will receive a poster, stickers and an activity booklet. All they need to do to join is drop by their local branch.

To find out about children's book authors and illustrators who will be visiting Toronto Public Library this summer as part of the *TD Summer Reading Club*, watch the Library website for up-to-date information. Other great summer highlights at the Library include:

- *Dial-a-Story 416-395-5400*: Stories in English, French, Cantonese, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Mandarin. Check out our newest storytellers: Toronto Mayor David Miller reading the ancient Greek story, *Castor and Pollux*, in English; and Toronto Blue Jay Miguel Batista reading the same story in Spanish.
- *English Can Be Fun*: Supports English language skills for newcomer children, ages 7-10, and introduces them and their families to library services. Registration required. Twice a week,



July 11-
August 19,
in 25 library
branches.

• *Summer Leading To Reading*: Individual help, one hour per week, for children in Grades 2-6 with reading difficulties. Offered June

25-August 13 in 24 branches.

- *Beastly Boys and Ghastly Girls*: May 27-September 23: An exhibit at Lillian H. Smith Branch (see Calendar for details).
- *Settlement and Education Partnerships in Toronto (SEPT)*: Provides free, in-person assistance in many languages to help newcomers find information on job searches, English classes, legal advice, citizenship and immigration as well as school information for children. A cooperative effort of Toronto immigrant settlement agencies and the Toronto District School Board, SEPT operates out of 28 Toronto Public Library branches during the summer. ✱

Child and Youth Advocate to receive Jubilee award

Settrington "thrilled" that reading advocacy work recognized

EVERY SPRING, the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies' Alumni Association Executive chooses a recipient for its Alumni Jubilee Award. This year, the Executive chose Toronto Public Library's Child and Youth Advocate Ken Settrington.

"I am very pleased to be chosen for this award," Settrington said. "It is encouraging to see that there is attention being paid to advocating reading among young people and I am thrilled that the work done has been recognized in this way."

Previous recipients of the award have included Alan Suddon (former Fine Arts Librarian, Toronto Reference Library), Nancy Hall (former CEO, Etobicoke Public Library) and in 2002, City Librarian Josephine Bryant. ✱

Runnymede Branch reopens

continued from page 1...

Working so close to the subway was just one of the challenges faced by Bruce Stratton, the architect responsible for the beautiful renovation. Its proximity required an innovative design solution and a portion of the building is in fact cantilevered over the subway.

The branch opening attracted a good cross-section of the community who see the branch as a cornerstone of learning and leisure. "We are thrilled to be back in business providing Library service to the Runnymede community," said Bryant. "It is a special pleasure to welcome the community back to the newly renovated and expanded facility with two of the greatest Library supporters: Mayor David Miller and author Margaret Atwood."

Mayor Miller took the opportunity to talk about Toronto's cultural renaissance, and the preparations currently underway for the Year of Creativity, a 16-month celebration that will position Toronto as a creative city and an international cultural destination. "What you may not know, and what I'm delighted to have the privilege to announce, is that the

"Keep Toronto Reading month will be dedicated to Toronto Public Library and its commitment to reading and literary culture," said Mayor Miller, beaming.

month of February 2006 will be *Keep Toronto Reading* month and will be dedicated to Toronto Public Library and its commitment to reading and literary culture," said Mayor Miller, beaming.

The Mayor continued, with another surprise announcement: that Atwood is this year's recipient of the *Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award*. "This award will be presented to Ms. Atwood during the Library Foundation's *Book Lovers' Ball* (a feature event of *Keep Toronto Reading*) on February 16, 2006. Ms. Atwood is deserving and is without a doubt one of our most celebrated Canadian authors," said Mayor Miller. The Library's *Celebrates Reading Award* honours individuals,

organizations or corporations that have made an outstanding contribution to the enjoyment of reading. Its purpose is to promote reading and raise the profile of Canadian writing.

"Ms. Atwood is very deserving and is without a doubt one of our most celebrated Canadian authors."

More information about *Keep Toronto Reading* and the *Book Lovers' Ball* will be available in future issues of *Shelf Life*. In the meantime, check out the newly renovated Runnymede Branch, a Heritage property and a modern gem. ✱



New circle of friends for the Library

Literary Circle membership comes with special benefits

THE LITERARY CIRCLE is Toronto Public Library Foundation's new \$1,000+ donor program. It consists of four membership levels, each with associated recognition benefits:

- The Readers' Circle: for donations of \$1,000-\$4,999
- The Collectors' Circle: for donations of \$5,000-\$9,999
- The Conservators' Circle: for donations of \$10,000-\$24,999
- The Reserve List Circle: for donations of \$25,000 and up

"Literary Circle donors are eligible for a number of benefits, including recognition opportunities and invitations to special events," explains Foundation Manager Helen Kontoulakos. "And Literary Circle members at all four levels will each receive an elegantly designed borrower card identifying them as special friends."

If you would like to find out more

about joining the Literary Circle, or would like information on other ways to support Toronto Public Library, call the Library Foundation at 416-393-7123 or visit the Library website, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca. ✱



Library staff eager participants in Toronto Challenge

Monies raised by Library staff dedicated to Home Library Services

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY Foundation is one of many community partners in the 14th annual Toronto Challenge, presented this year by CARP – Canada's Association for the Fifty-Plus. The walk is a celebration of diversity that makes seniors special. The event, to be held on Sunday, June 12, will feature an amazing array of costumes, colours and customs that only Toronto can offer.

Last year, 80 Library staff, friends and family walked or ran the 1k or 5k course to fundraise for the Library's Home Library Service. The funds are used to purchase Large Print books and Talking Books for the Toronto Public Library's collection.

The seniors who live in our community are a diverse group, as are the participants who rise to the challenge on race day. Runners and casual walkers of all ages are welcome to join the party. The Challenge features a 5k walk, a 1k fun walk, the Monster Mortgage.ca 5K run and an aerobics warm-up to help start the day. In 2004, over 2,000 people took the Challenge and helped raise over \$500,000. For more information, please call the Challenge Hotline at 416-392-8911 or visit the website at www.city.toronto.on.ca/challenge. ✱

Library Board Highlights

June 2005

Public Consultation Policy

The Board approved a Public Consultation Policy, which formalized Toronto Public Library Board's commitment to public consultation in order to develop appropriate practices with respect to civic engagement.

Calendar

June 2005

Beastly Boys and Ghastly Girls May 27 - September 23

A summer exhibit featuring the misbehaving child – come meet these bad examples and decide for yourself whether they are naughty, or nice!
The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books
Lillian H. Smith Branch,
239 College St., 4th floor,
416-393-7753
Open Mon.-Fri. 10 to 6, Sat. 9 to 5.
Closed Sun. and holidays.
Admission is free.

Group of Seven Design and Style Exhibit June 18 – August 6

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street
As part of the Group of Seven Project, an Ontario-wide festival celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the Group's first exhibition in 1920, the Library presents a wide-ranging collection of original paintings, photographs, illustrated books, exhibition catalogues and printed graphic designs.
Curator's tour:
June 18 at 2:00 p.m.

National Aboriginal Day – Lee Maracle Tuesday, June 21, 2-3 p.m.

Lee Maracle, renowned Canadian author and writer-in-residence at First Nations House, University of Toronto discusses her writing and reads from her works.
Room 2, North York Central Library,
5120 Yonge Street.

West Region – Adjustment of Branch Open Hours

The Board approved adjustments to branch open hours in the West Region in conjunction with the reopening of Long Branch (fall of 2005). The Library is seeking to harmonize branch open hours across the system, as part of its service harmonization objectives following amalgamation.



Morningside Branch Closure for Relocation and Reconstruction Saturday, June 25, 5 p.m.

A brand new branch will open in the spring of 2006. The new branch, designed by WGA (Wong Pregonson Architects Inc.) will be located at Lawrence Avenue East and Manse Road next to the Heron Park Community Recreation Centre. The 7,000 square foot building will feature additional space for computers and collections, more space for quiet study and a community room for library programs and community use.

Russian Literature, Writers, and Readers Festival Monday, June 27, 6-9 p.m.

North York Central Library
Auditorium, 2nd level
In celebration of Canadian Multiculturalism Day – readings by local Russian authors, a Russian theatre performance, an exhibition of Russian books, periodicals, and art and awards from the Russian Library and Information Centre. Sponsored by Toronto Public Library and the Russian Library and Information Centre.

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

Toronto Public Library key facts, 2004

*Another successful year,
teen library use particularly
encouraging*

IN AN EFFORT to keep Toronto Public Library relevant and responsive to the city's needs, the Library's Planning Department regularly evaluates a variety of performance measures and recently revealed the following Library factoids. Most gratifying were increases in the use of the Library by teens, the user group representing the biggest increase in circulation, up almost 19 percent. This increase is particularly heartwarming given our Strategic Plan emphasis on this demographic. The number of teens who hold Library cards increased dramatically – by over 28 percent! Teen program attendance increased by 11 percent.

Other gains were more modest but headed in the right direction. For example, in 2004:

- The number of items added to our ever-growing collections increased almost 20 percent.
- Circulations (check-outs and renewals) grew by almost 460 thousand.
- The number of holds filled increased by almost 10 percent.
- Library staff dealt with 464,959 more requests for information than in 2003 (for a whopping total of 7,797,706 information requests last year).
- Virtual visits to our website increased by 17 percent and use of our databases increased a staggering 64 percent (to 16,409,121 searches just last year).



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, July 11, 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