

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Black History Month, Freedom to Read Week events well-attended

HUNDREDS ACROSS the city were treated to special programs to celebrate Black History Month and Freedom to Read Week in February. York Woods Branch hosted radio personality Norman Otis Richmond (right) and colleague SPIN (left) for a lively discussion about rap and rap lyrics, as part of Freedom to Read Week celebrations.

Home Library Service enriched

Generous donation to buy more talking books

THE CATHERINE and Maxwell Meighen Foundation has generously granted Toronto Public Library funds to purchase new talking books for the Home Library Service. The funds will go a long way in purchasing high demand materials such as bestsellers and new titles that have long waiting lists.

The Home Library Service will also replace classic reading materials which have worn out or been damaged. The talking books will give great pleasure to homebound users who may only be able to “read” and enjoy these unique materials.

Since 1997, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation has given continued and much appreciated support to the Home Library Service.

James Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, visits Reference Library

Stigma of mental illness and literacy among his key interests

RECOUNTING STORIES, from his modest upbringing in small-town Port Carling to all-night chats with Fidel Castro, from his experiences as a member of Canada’s Mjnikaning First Nation to numerous adventures during more than 35 years in the Canadian foreign service, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James K. Bartleman kept his audience captivated when he spoke in the Beeton Auditorium on Saturday, March 5.

“You may wonder why a lieutenant governor is writing and selling books,” he said as he began his talk, explaining, with the quiet humour that delighted listeners throughout his presentation, that it was simply beyond his control. “My hand just picked up the pen and started writing.” Proceeds from all three of his books, he said, go to support charitable causes.

Bartleman said that, during his tenure, he has chosen to focus on helping remove the stigma associated with mental illness, fighting racism and discrimination, and encouraging aboriginal youth, especially with

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Lieutenant Governor
James Bartleman.

Introducing Book Club Sets

Resource for book clubs being piloted at five branches

IN RESPONSE to the increasing popularity of book clubs, Toronto Public Library is introducing Book Club Sets as a pilot project. A Book Club Set consists of multiple copies of a book (usually 15), for use by book clubs and book discussion groups. Currently Book Club Sets are available at: Albert Campbell, Barbara Frum, North York Central – Languages, Literature & Fine Arts, Northern District, and Richview. Each of these branches has a unique group of Book Club Sets.

The list of titles available as a book club set is posted on the Toronto Public Library website at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca, select Recommended Reading. Branch staff and Answerline 416-393-7131, can also help.

Three book clubs have already taken advantage of this new service — introduced only a few weeks ago — the Mad Mommies, Cliffcrest Book Club and West Rouge Book Club. As word spreads, more are expected to borrow our “book clubs to go.” •

Announcing new Writer-in-Residence at Reference Library

Ken McGoogan, author and journalist, to offer constructive advice on manuscripts

EFFECTIVE APRIL 18 – June 17, 2005, Toronto Public Library is pleased to announce our new Writer-in-Residence, Ken McGoogan. McGoogan is a fiction and non-fiction author, journalist, critic and teacher of writing at University of Toronto. His non-fiction titles include *Ancient Mariner* and *Fatal Passage*, the latter of which won four awards and was on the Canadian bestseller list for 14 weeks. Ken McGoogan is completing *Lady Franklin's Revenge*, another work of literary non-fiction, which will be

Friends' Bookstore, Book Ends, clears half-million dollar mark in sales

Revenues support Leading to Reading program

ON FEBRUARY 25, the Friends of Toronto Public Library, North Chapter surpassed their half million mark in sales at their bookstore, Book Ends, located at the North York Central Library. The Friends have been selling donated and discarded books at Book Ends since 1993. All revenues raised through this volunteer-run bookstore go to support the Leading to Reading program of the Toronto Public Library. •



Pictured left to right, Marg Stott, Lois Robinson, Georgina Alfoldi, Judy McCabe and Ed McCabe celebrate a new record at Book Ends.



Writer-in-Residence, Ken McGoogan.

published in Canada and U.K. this fall.

Aspiring writers are invited to submit their literary non-fiction work for McGoogan's input until May 30. McGoogan will meet individually with each participant to discuss his or her work. Submit a maximum of 15 consecutive typed, double-spaced pages and include a return address, telephone number and email address (if available) on your manuscript. The library reserves the right to limit the number of manuscripts.

Deliver manuscripts to:
Writer-in-Residence
Main Reference Centre,
Information Desk, 2nd Floor
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street, Toronto,
Ontario M4W 2G8 •

Poet Laureate Pier Giorgio Di Cicco

Kicks off three-year tenure with reading at Toronto Reference Library

RECENTLY APPOINTED as the City's new poet laureate, Pier Giorgio Di Cicco is serving his three-year term in the post. He will have an office at the Toronto Reference Library for the duration of his tenure. As Toronto's literary ambassador, Di Cicco will advocate for poetry, language and the arts.

Born in Arezzo, Italy and raised in Montreal, Baltimore and Toronto, Di Cicco was selected by a committee drawn from Toronto's literary community. Toronto Public Library is a member of the selection committee.



He has earned numerous awards, including five Canada Council Awards, six Ontario Arts Council Awards and the City of Toronto's Arts Award. Di Cicco will be doing a reading at the Toronto Reference Library on Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Rap song penned for Library Board

STAFF FROM Youth/Teen Services at Toronto Public Library, with the help of Albion Youth Advisory Group, found a novel way of getting their message across — in rap! They presented this song to the Board to much appreciation:

Library, a new world for kids

a world full of sources for trainin wits
a world that can easily save many lives
lives that are on the verge of survivin a knife

friendly staff will always help if needed
some of them even like Horton's donut;
extra sweetened

the libraries scattered all over t dot
the influence can be seen in every spot
of our daily lives,
cause our lives are built on education
TPL is helpin with every aspect across the nation

i remember the days when teens joined
gangs and streets because there was
nowhere else for them to be

now tpl offers teens some programs as YAGs
because of that i see less kids wearin rags

even some of my homies visited YAG and joined
after a while they realised it wasnt worth rolling
on the streets,
they thought they had nothing to do
now they opened a new life,
life full of school

now lemme switch the topic and tell u my story
at one time life for me was dark and blurry
until i met a librarian, she gave me an advice
about how to cope with problems,
how to live a betta life

it helped me a lot,
and im sure i aint the only one
now my heart lights up
when i see the familiar sign of

TPL



Lieutenant Governor John Bartleman signs a copy of his book for an admirer.

Bartleman visit

continued from page 1...

literacy initiatives. In 2004, he launched The Lieutenant Governor's Book Program, and collected over 1.2 million used books, donated by generous Ontarians to stock school libraries in remote First Nations communities.

Bartleman's talk was augmented by

readings from three of his published works: *Out of Muskoka*, *On Six Continents* and *Rollercoaster* (just published). An enthusiastic group of over a hundred people applauded the program, which was followed by a brief question and answer period and book signing. The Lieutenant Governor also toured the Toronto Reference Library, including a visit to the Arthur Conan Doyle Room, Baldwin Room and the Consumer Health Information Services area.

Ease the pain of hockey blues

Hockey fans can borrow hockey books, games, videos and DVDs

CLOBBERED BY the cancellation of the NHL hockey season? Fans need not despair! The Library has a net-full on hockey.

What better way to pass those lonely Saturday nights than to read or reread Canada's quintessential hockey book, *The Hockey Sweater*, written by Canada's former National Librarian, Roch Carrier. We also have hockey games on CD-ROM, hockey videos and DVDs, including the best of Don Cherry's *Rock 'em Sock 'em Hockey*, and more.

Toronto Public Library is not the only library trying to fill the void left by crabby hockey players. Library and Archives Canada has an exciting website (www.collectionscanada.ca/hockey/index-e.html) that offers information

on the players, the teams and the games which shaped the history of our national sport, as well as on the 1919 Stanley Cup championship cancellation (because of the Spanish flu epidemic, the only other time the season was abandoned).

Backcheck: A Hockey Retrospective uses English and French language newspaper articles, rare photos and manuscripts from Library and Archives Canada's collections. There is also a parallel site *Backcheck: Hockey for Kids*, (www.collectionscanada.ca/hockey/kids/index-e.html), which features curriculum tie-ins and activities with a hockey theme.

Did you know...

That virtual visits now rival in-person visits to the Library? There were almost 20 million visits to our website in 2004, a 17 percent increase over 2003 and seventeen times greater than the number of visits in 1999.

Library Board Highlights

March 2005

Library Foundation fund transfer

The Toronto Public Library Board received for information a letter from the Toronto Public Library Foundation announcing the available funds for allocation to the Library. A total of \$1,019,241.79 will be transferred to the Library to be used for collections, branches, programs and services, and special collections.

Operating budget approved

The Toronto Public Library Board adopted the 2005 operating budget as approved by City Council on February 28, 2005. The budget reflects gross expenditures of \$152.013 million and revenues of \$14.431 million, resulting in a net budget of \$137.582 million.

Capital Budget approved

The Toronto Public Library Board adopted the 2005 – 2009 Capital Budget as approved by City Council for 2005 capital projects and associated future cash-flow commitments. The budget represents \$15.594 million gross (\$10.0 million net) in 2005 and \$33.944 million gross (\$24.273 million net) for 2005-2009, including one-year carry-forwards of \$1.878 million.



*Sneak-peek of the 2005 TD Summer Reading Club Poster.
Artwork by Toronto artist Ange Zhang.*

Calendar of Events

March 2005

In the Children's Room

An exhibit featuring the amazing stories of Hans Christian Andersen. Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Andersen's birth by viewing a collection of some of the best-loved children's stories of all time. February 1-March 21

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

John Parks the Clown

How a Book Changed My Life
Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m.
Palmerston Branch
560 Palmerston Avenue
416-393-7680

Interactive Theatre with CNG Production

Wednesday, March 16, 2 p.m.
Bloor/Gladstone Branch
1101 Bloor Street West
416-393-7674

SmallbizXpress: New small business gateway for Ontario

A hands-on introduction to SmallbizXpress, funded by Industry

Canada, Toronto Public Library's small business Internet gateway for Ontario entrepreneurs.

Friday, March 18, 2-3:30 p.m.
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Meadowsweet Puppetree presents Froggyboots

Saturday, March 19, 10:30 a.m.
Humber Summit Branch
2990 Islington Road
416-395-5840

Dragon Scales and Alligator Tales with Andrew Queen

Thursday, March 24, 2 p.m.
Dawes Road Branch
416 Dawes Road
416-396-3820

Lucy Waverman and James Chatto

Waverman and Chatto will talk about their recent book, *A Matter of Taste*, and discuss food, wine and writing. Question and answer period follows.
Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.
Beeton Auditorium
Toronto Reference Library,
789 Yonge Street

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



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Next Board Meeting: Monday, April 12, 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.

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