

Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives

Toronto Mini Maker Faire (November 22-23), a local celebration of makers and the things they make, will be held at Toronto Reference Library. Now in its third year, but for the first time at the Library, the festival gathers makers together to show off their creations to the public, with an emphasis on hands-on experiences. Show-and-tell, talks and workshops offer lots of opportunities to get involved in everything from science to crafting to homesteading. In light of recent innovation initiatives at the Library, the organizers of the Maker Faire felt that Toronto Reference Library would be an ideal location for this year's event. Last year's Maker Faire, at Wychwood Barns, drew 4,000 guests and this year's event is expected to have double the turnout, significantly expanding the Library's audience of innovators, creators and entrepreneurs.

Cedarbrae Branch and **Repair Café Toronto**, a group that values reuse, upcycling and changing attitudes about waste, hosted an event in October that drew about 175 customers. Repair Café volunteers staffed several areas of repair: household appliances, clothing/jewelry, book binding and paper crafting, and computers/electronics. Representatives from the City of Toronto's waste management department were also on site to talk about new programs and easy recycling ideas for Scarborough homes. Librarians spoke with customers about similar programs, such as the Maker Club for Kids. Repair Café has hosted events at other library branches, including North York Central and Toronto Reference libraries.

Over 1,000 people visited The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon on October 21 for a **City of Toronto Career Information event** that gave Torontonians a chance to attend information sessions and meet City staff to learn about opportunities to work for the City.

Write On! is an anthology of writing by about 20 seniors who participated this past summer in the second session of **Scarborough Seniors Write**, a program cosponsored by Scarborough Arts and Toronto Public Library. Launched on October 16 with a celebration at Bendale Branch, the anthology was printed on the Library's own Asquith Press at Toronto Reference Library.

Order of Canada member Charlotte Gray is the winner of the **2014 Toronto Book Award**, presented by the City of Toronto in partnership with Toronto Public Library, for her non-fiction book, *The Massey Murder: A Maid, Her Master and the Trial that Shocked a Country*. The announcement was made at the awards ceremony at Toronto Reference Library's Bram & Bluma Appel Salon on October 16.

Innovation

The **Innovator in Residence program** continues this fall, as two branches offer a fun, hands-on way to learn about the technology at the Library's Digital Innovation Hubs.

From October 20 to November 30, aspiring and practicing filmmakers are invited to join award-winning filmmaker Sarah Goodman at Toronto Reference Library for lectures, workshops, and one-on-one appointments. And aspiring or established singers, musicians, audio engineers and record producers can meet with and learn from the multi-talented Robert DiVito at Fort York Branch.

tpl.ca/iir

The Library's first innovator in residence, Derek Quenneville, who offered 3D printing workshops and advice last spring at Toronto Reference Library, is back and will be offering workshops this fall as part of the Library's new **Innovators in Communities** program which, as the name suggests, takes the innovator in residence program out into the community. The program, sponsored by the Metcalf Foundation through the Toronto Public Library Foundation, includes workshops on 3D printing, filmmaking, and coding and programming. In addition to Quenneville, there are two other innovators: award-winning Toronto-based documentary director and producer Chanda Chevannes, and artist, technologist and programmer Lindy Wilkins. By offering the workshops at community agencies throughout Toronto, people across the city are given more access to the advanced technology, programs and expertise available in the Library's Digital Innovation Hubs; and awareness is raised among community agencies about the Library's many resources for enhancing employability and tech-readiness among Toronto residents.

Toronto Public Library, through its Digital Innovation Hub at the Toronto Reference Library, partnered with Ryerson University's Transmedia Zone and Penguin Random House to host a **one-day design challenge** on November 6. Participants, including architects, filmmakers, graphic designers, journalists, fabricators and more, were tasked with imagining and designing the library of the future. As part of the day's activities, participants and members of the general public were invited to write love letters – personal messages – to the library of the future. The letters will be stored in a time capsule that will be kept in the Baillie Special Collections Centre at Toronto Reference Library until the year 2040 when it is expected it will be reopened.

Programs and exhibits

Four Families, One War, the latest exhibit in the TD Gallery at Toronto Reference Library, examines the experience of the Great War through the voices of four Toronto families. On until January 11, the exhibit vividly brings to life a dual narrative of the war – at home and on the Front – through original letters, photographs and posters. Generously supported by the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman through the Toronto Public Library Foundation, **Four Families, One War** is part of a broader series of programs, lectures, exhibits, art and cinema at the Library commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/greatwar

In concert with the **Four Families** exhibition, Toronto Public Library participated in **The World Remembers**, a global commemoration of the more than nine million who lost their lives in WWI, displaying their names around the world – in schools, on the Internet and on public buildings. Toronto Public Library was one of many locations in Toronto

that projected names of those killed in 1914 – from dusk until dawn, 292,000 names were projected on the screen inside the entrance Cube of the Toronto Reference Library over the course of about 20 days.

theworldremembers.ca

Young Voices 2014 is now in library branches, after 150 contributors and their friends and families celebrated the launch of the teen magazine at North York Central Library on October 22. Three days later, on October 25, the Young Voices Writers Conference drew over 100 enthusiastic teen writers to the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library to workshop with professional writers and to network with their peers.

Toronto Public Library participated on a number of fronts at **INSPIRE! Toronto International Book Fair** (November 13-16), which celebrates reading in all forms. At the Library's 800 square foot booth, through demos and fun, hands-on learning activities, visitors learned about the Library's digital collections, programs and services. The eh List Author Series presented two of its top fall programs at the book fair, with library staff member and author Martha Baillie presenting her Oprah-approved novel *The Search for Heinrich Schlogel* on November 15, and indigenous author/print maker Roy Henry Vickers and co-author Lucky Budd (*Cloudwalker*) appearing on November 16. And, finally, Toronto Public Library partnered with the Ontario Library Association to present a lively interactive discussion on the value and importance of reading programs such as the TD Summer Reading Club, Word Out teen summer reading, and the Forest of Reading book awards program.

Visitors

Two public library directors from Sweden, Karin Hane and Maria Tornfeldt, made a research visit to Toronto Public Library in early October. Hosted by managers Sulekha Sathi and Phyllis Jacklin, Karin and Maria toured ten library branches of various sizes and attended a variety of staff meetings. They met with the Library's directors as well as with several staff in the planning and collections departments. They also made a brief presentation about their own library systems, Falun Public Library and the Regional Library System of Dalarna. Karin and Maria were very enthusiastic and interested to learn about many of Toronto Public Library's services, including multicultural services, the new Digital Innovation Hubs, the community focus of the neighbourhood branches, and the Library's creative residency programs for writers, artists, entrepreneurs and innovators. They will be sharing their report once it's complete.

Branches

Rogers Wireless recently did a **film shoot at Jones Branch** starring Canadian hockey legend Mark Messier, promoting their "hockey anywhere" campaign. The commercial is now airing regularly on TV during hockey games. By showing library customers watching hockey in the library on their personal devices, the commercial nicely promotes the Library's wifi services.

Staff training, enrichment and other enhancement opportunities

Toronto Public Library's Pride Alliance spearheaded an effort to have library staff across the city wear purple on October 16 to commemorate Spirit Day, a global event that inspires people to take a stand against bullying. As part of the growing online Spirit Day movement the Library's logo on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube and Pinterest also turned purple. And the Book Buzz blog featured a wonderful Spirit Day-related booklist.

Collections

Toronto Public Library has announced the titles that top its distinguished annual **First & Best List**, a selection of the very best in Canadian books for children from birth to five that are fun to read and also help build early literacy skills. The list is carefully chosen by expert children's librarians from dozens of submissions and includes some of the country's top Canadian children's authors. All the books are available on the library website and at library branches across the city. First & Best, now in its eighth year, is part of the Library's Ready for Reading set of free, high-quality early literacy programs and services, which are founded on extensive research, and which foster reading readiness.

Toronto Public Library Foundation

The **second annual Hush Hush fund-raising party** in the stacks was held on October 25 at Bloor/Gladstone Branch. Highlights of the Prohibition-themed evening included actors in costume, a secret bar accessible via password only, a typist, a DJ, a jazz band and delicious canapés from Rock Lobster and Paulette's Donuts. The almost 400 attendees raised \$75,000 in support of library programs and services.

The tenth annual **Book Lover's Ball** will be held at the Toronto Reference Library for the first time ever. Over 900 guests will explore the library after-hours. It will be an unprecedented opportunity for supporters to dine in the stacks, connect with celebrity authors and discover new spaces within the branch. This will also be the first year the Foundation will host an official after party, with a separate ticket price.

Friends of the Library North Chapter member Linda Diener was recently awarded a **North York Mirror Urban Heroes Award** for her dedication to Book Ends (North), one of the Library's two used bookstores. The bookstore itself also won an Urban Heroes Award. This annual award recognizes efforts that make a significant contribution to local community.

For the holiday season, the Toronto Public Library Foundation is **asking people to make a donation in someone's name**. With a minimum \$10 donation, a card can be emailed or mailed. This is a great way to support the Library and do something special for family, friends, colleagues and clients.

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff