

Chair's Report
December, 2011 Board Meeting

Programs and Partnerships

Family Literacy Day takes place on January 27, 2012, and Toronto Public Library celebrates all month long with storytimes, sing-a-longs, puppet shows and crafts designed to bring families together to enjoy activities to build their literacy skills.

The **Business Inc. Series**, featuring an eight-week program in three branches, is a partnership between the Library, the Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC) and the City of Toronto's Economic Development & Culture Division. During the series, participants are able to network with other entrepreneurs, learn how to prepare a business plan, and have access to a business advisor along with other valuable business resources. At the conclusion of the program, candidates obtain a Business Seminar Series Certificate of Completion from the TBDC and have an opportunity to apply for a small business loan. The program is an excellent way for the library to increase awareness of our business and finance services, including a wide variety of books, E-Books, online databases, programs and in-branch resources.

On November 20, Don Mills Branch librarian Ashley Sealy attended the **TEDx Youth Conference** at the Science Centre, along with a Youth Advisory Group volunteer Elizabeth Chan. They met with the 118 teen delegates at the conference and talked about Toronto Public Library programs and collections. Volunteer information and *Young Voices* magazines and applications were very popular.

Branches

Barbara Frum is the latest branch to have its efficiency increased by installation of **self-serve checkout technology**. The brief closure for the retrofit provided an opportunity to replace the large circulation desk with customer-friendly display shelving.

Two library branches recently held **anniversary open house celebrations**. On November 3, Bayview turned 45 years old, and Don Mills celebrated 50 years on November 12. Both branches have seen growth and change in their communities over the years. Comments from customers at the Bayview open house included: "Best family library in the city. It's like being at home," and, "I have been coming here since you first opened and brought both my children here for excellent programs. Now my daughter brings her baby! Three generations of enjoyment of books. Thank you for all your support..." A cross-section of the Don Mills community came out to celebrate its anniversary, with the day seeing just under 300 people enjoy storytelling, crafts and visual representations of the neighbourhood's history, as well as a presentation by a local author. Don Mills residents expressed their appreciation for library service with comments such as, "Thank you for serving the community for more than 50 years. I cannot imagine life without a library;" "Been a patron of Don Mills library for over 20 years. I went from taking out children's books to studying for the bar exam at the Don

Mills library;” and from a customer from India: “It’s my home away from home... It is a place to learn, to laugh and to live.”

Online

Toronto Public Library continues to improve access to its special collections by making them available online. The newest addition, **The Digital Archive**, offers access to historical images, maps, digitized books and posters from the Library’s special collections. The Library website offers many online resources such as downloadable ebooks, eaudiobooks and mobile apps; subscription databases like Naxos music database, where you can stream nearly 900,000 classical, jazz and world music tracks, and Consumer Reports; and research and academic materials for students such as Canadian Newsstand with full text articles from newspapers across Canada and The Oxford English Dictionary.

Capital projects

In early 2012, **the first phase of the completed Toronto Reference Library renovation** will be unveiled. The new and renewed features include the new Glass Cube Entrance and Yonge Street facade expansion, the expanded and updated TD Gallery, the expanded Browsery as well as new study pods and other modular and flexible furniture and study spaces. A Toronto Public Library Foundation campaign will roll out in the new year to invite the public to come see the changes we've made, discover our timeless treasures and see what lies ahead. We will also invite the public to share their favourite Reference Library stories on the re:discover website: **torontopubliclibrary.ca/rediscoverTRL**.

Other

Toronto Public Library will be issuing a **media release after each Toronto Public Library Board meeting** to provide highlights of the Board's decisions.