

Chair's Report
December 15, 2008

The north and south chapters of the **Friends of the Library** held their AGM on December 4 at Toronto Reference Library, with special guest Jane Pyper on hand to thank them for their support. In the 15 years since the North York Friends started Book Ends bookstore, the two groups have raised one million dollars. There are more than 100 library Friends in the north and south chapters who provide over 11,500 hours of volunteer service a year.

The **fall Canada Council Heritage Series, Hindsight: Historical Fiction in Canada**, wrapped up on December 4 with a visit to Northern District Branch by Steven Galloway. The series featured a group of fascinating and diverse authors, including Sharon Butala, Alan Cumyn, Edeet Ravel, Helen Humphreys and 13 others, and was well-attended and very much enjoyed by Library customers.

As part of **Canadian Children's Book Week celebrations**, 13 Toronto Public Library branches hosted visits by well-known and well-loved children's book authors and illustrators, including Loris Lesynski, Ruth Ohi, Laura Fernandez and Edo Van Belkom.

TPL was a participant in the recent **City of Toronto first-ever Web 2.0 summit**. Manager of Planning, Elizabeth Glass did a presentation focussing on the TPL policy related to staff use of Web 2.0 online tools and social networking sites. Jane Pyper and Linda Hazzan each participated in separate panels, and talked about the Library's challenges and successes with incorporating Web 2.0 tools and initiatives into library services. A Toronto Public Library booth provided information about the Library's Web 2.0 initiatives. Many city staffers told Library staff at the booth that the Library is a "guiding light" in the move to use Web 2.0 sites like Facebook and YouTube. Toronto Fire Services actually set up a Facebook page at the TPL booth with the help of our staff.

As a first step in providing **non-traditional outreach for our *Ready for Reading* program**, Leesa Tossios, Department Head, Children and Youth Advocate, Summer Reading Club, and Paula Smith-Nadin, Services Specialist, Ready for Reading, visited the Peek Frean's factory in East York and spent the day meeting with three shifts of workers in the factory's cafeteria. They brought a variety of promotional material, registered staff and their children for Library cards, and even had some books available for loan on the spot. The factory staff seemed quite pleased to see the Library make this visit and some even asked if we would be back next year.