

Partnerships, Outreach and other community initiatives

On September 26, Toronto Public Library partnered with 14 community organizations, including Toronto Police Services, Toronto Public Health, Catholic Cross Cultural Services and the Birchmount Bluff Neighbourhood Centre, to present a very successful **Seniors' Discovery Fair**. The Fair offered Scarborough area seniors the chance to learn more about what services are offered specifically for older adults in their community by talking to representatives from the various organizations present. The 115 attendees were pleased with the opportunity to access information about all these services in one place. At the Toronto Public Library table, seniors were introduced to the many library services tailored to older adults, as well as information on our latest digital and technology services, including e-magazines from Zinio and lifelong learning opportunities.

For three Thursday evenings this past October, the Library and Metroland Media partnered to deliver a new program series called **Community Connections: The Eglinton Crosstown**. Kennedy/Eglinton, Northern District and Mount Dennis branches hosted three panel discussions that looked at how the Eglinton Crosstown LRT -- which will run from Black Creek Drive in the west to Kennedy Station in the east -- could improve life for the communities along its path, and how the "big dig" on Eglinton can become a catalyst for community life. The programs featured an expert panel, followed by discussion with audience members, and the publishing of participant input in subsequent editions of Metroland publications.

Kennedy/Eglinton Branch Head Marie Belanger was on hand at the Scarborough Arts Annual General Meeting on October 21 to receive, from city councillor Gary Crawford, a **certificate to "Toronto Public Library – Kennedy/Eglinton Branch in appreciation..."** for the Library's support of the Scarborough Seniors Write program. The program includes storytelling workshops, audio recordings, public events and a final publication. Kennedy/Eglinton and the Tropicana ProTech Media Centre are providing space for the various workshops and events, including the soft launch, which happened in early September. At the same meeting, Councillor Crawford presented certificates to the members of the Kennedy/Eglinton Youth Advisory Group, thanking them for their volunteer work at the Bridging Festival, an annual summer celebration of culture and arts in the Kingston-Galloway/Orton Park neighbourhood of Toronto.

Programs

The Young Voices Writers Conference was held in the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library on October 26. It was the first time the 10-year-old annual conference was held in a venue other than North York Central Library. The larger space enabled the Library to offer more teens the opportunity to work with professional writers on their craft at the daylong conference. Attendance in the new venue was more than 200, up about 40 percent over recent past years. There was lots of positive feedback from conference

participants and workshop facilitators, and some good suggestions for improvements for next year. Through the efforts of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, the conference is sponsored by Deloitte, and the Young Voices program, including the conference, magazine, workshops and the new electronic writer in residence program, are supported through the generosity of the Daniels brothers in honour of their mother, Norine Rose.

Exhibits

A **new exhibit in the TD Gallery** at Toronto Reference Library, *The Gilded Age of Fashion: 1890 - 1914*, on until January 5, is showcasing art deco fashion illustration, Canadian costume designs and fashion plates from the Library's special collections. Featuring rare and unique items from the Library's collections, the exhibit explores a period when the famous Parisian fashion houses firmly established tailors and dressmakers as couturiers. Programs supporting the exhibit, including a period fashion show in the atrium of Toronto Reference Library, will take place at the end of November.

In addition to being showcased through the exhibition program in the TD Gallery, materials from the Library's special collections are frequently included in **exhibitions at other public museums and galleries**. Toronto Public Library items are currently on display at the Canadian War Museum, the University of Toronto Fisher Rare Book Room, the National Gallery of Canada, the Market Gallery and the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics.

Collections

Financial support by the Friends of the Library's various special collections is often key to acquiring items for the collection that exceed the reach of the annual library materials budget. In 2013, the **Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection** presented the collection with the signed manuscript for Arthur Conan Doyle's short story *The Marriage of the Brigadier*. The purchase was in large part made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection chair Glen Miranker, who donated the funds for half the purchase value. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection already contains numerous manuscript items, including letters, notebooks and two of Conan Doyle's plays. Many of these were also acquired with the help of the Friends. This latest donation is an especially significant one because it is our first manuscript for a short story, the literary form for which Conan Doyle is best known.

Foundation

The Toronto Public Library Foundation is launching its **annual year-end holiday tribute giving campaign** in branches and to the public on November 18. The 2013 campaign, which runs to the end of the year, features 18 new Toronto Public Library collections-inspired greeting cards – including a number with holiday themes – that were launched this past February.

Spaces

The Bloor/Gladstone Branch celebrated 100 years of service on October 23 with an all-day birthday party/open house for the community. Library Board Chair Councillor Paul Ainslie welcomed the full house and brought greetings from the Library Board and City Council. Board member Benjie Wulffhart also attended the event. A commemorative certificate was presented to the Library by MPP Jonah Schein. To mark the occasion, artist Derek Wong donated a new work to be the centrepiece of the east reading room in the branch. As part of the celebrations, the Toronto Public Library Foundation announced a Bloor/Gladstone Branch Centenary Project to raise \$15,000 to complete the installation of a new KidsStop early literacy centre in the branch, as part of the Library's ongoing efforts to develop pre-literacy principles in preschool children.

Awards

Historical Walking Tour of North York Centre, mentioned in the October Chair's Report as having received a nomination for the Heritage Toronto Awards, received honourable mention at the awards ceremony at Koerner Hall on October 15.

Toronto Public Library has been shortlisted for the **Minister's Award for Innovation**, which recognizes successful new approaches that demonstrate a positive impact on the community. The Library submitted an award application for the *Let's Get Ready for Reading* guide, a unique publication developed by Toronto Public Library to provide Ontario parents, caregivers and educators with a broad understanding of important pre-literacy skills that help develop reading readiness in preschool children. The award will be announced at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, held from January 29 to February 1, 2014.