

Chair's Report May 25, 2015

Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives

On May 26 at 12:30 p.m., 100 Toronto Public Library ambassadors (#TPL100) will march from the Toronto Reference Library to our City Hall Branch at Nathan Phillips Square, kicking off a campaign to encourage Torontonians to increase their use of the Library. During the march, the ambassadors will mingle with the public, hand out bookmarks and encourage people to sign up for and use their own library card. The group will be greeted by Mayor John Tory in Nathan Phillips Square. (The mayor will also be representing Reason #32: One Card. Unlimited Access on the tpl100.ca website.) The TPL100 Walk follows on the opening of Toronto Public Library's 100th branch at Scarborough Civic Centre on May 20. Ambassadors (librarians, staff and friends of the Library) will 'walk, talk or tweet' in support of **100 Reasons to Check Out TPL**.

Campaign messages will be delivered on videos, on the backs of t-shirts, on posters and bookmarks, and in an advertising campaign delivered in partnership with the *Toronto Star*. The campaign will continue through the month of June. A number of Toronto Public Library Board members are creating videos, tweeting and/or walking in the name of the campaign, including Vice Chair Lindsay Colley, Archana Shah and Paul Ainslie. tpl100.ca

Well over 20,000 comic and graphic novel lovers converged on Toronto Reference Library over the weekend of May 9 and 10 to check out one of the greatest assembly of comics authors from around the world, including Scott McCloud, Jillian Tamaki, and celebrated Japanese duo Gurihiru. The Friday, May 8 **TCAF (Toronto Comic Arts Festival)** kickoff, which was held in the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon and celebrated the 25th anniversary of acclaimed Canadian comics publisher Drawn & Quarterly, sold out of free tickets weeks before the event. This is the seventh year of this very successful partnership that sees the Library present TCAF in May each year. At the Toronto Public Library table at the festival, staff from the collections department showed off the Library's growing selection of electronic resources, with hands-on demonstrations of ebooks, emagazines, downloadable music and more. Staff in the Digital Innovation Hub at the Reference Library designed a number of 3D printer characters based on this year's TCAF poster art and offered customers the opportunity to try out the 3D printers by printing out these characters to take home as souvenirs of the festival.

On April 18, the Digital Innovation Hub at Toronto Reference Library held another in its very successful series of **Repair Café** events, with 114 people attending and a nearly 75% success rate in getting things to work again. The event came about as a result of a partnership with Repair Café Toronto, an organization that aims to show how much fun – and often how easy – it can be to contribute to a sustainable society by repairing things instead of just throwing them out. Repair Café fixers not only fix (with a high success rate), they also take items apart and educate the owners on how to do the fixing themselves. An outstanding community-building exercise, environmental movement and educational opportunity, the Repair Café program dovetails perfectly with the "maker"

ethos that is central to the Library's Digital Innovation Hubs. Each Repair Café features a display of fix-it books available for borrowing from the Library's collection.

The Tool Library at Downsview Branch opened its doors to the public on April 30, welcoming a group of curious community members, including local councillor Maria Augimeri. The councillor praised the new tool lending service, the result of a partnership between Toronto Public Library and the Institute for a Resource-Based Economy. The partnership is believed to be the first of its type in Canada. Downsview branch head Luidmila Cibic noted in her opening remarks that over the course of less than a week, the Tool Library and its volunteers had transformed a little-used staff workroom at Downsview Branch into a colourful haven for wannabe do-it-yourselfers. The 500 square foot space features power tools, large and small, on newly-constructed display shelves and hand tools neatly hanging from pegboards. Books and other resources from Downsview's collection to support tool lending are available for borrowing right around the corner. The Tool Library will also be providing workshops of interest to the public. The Tool Library at Toronto Public Library will run as a year-long pilot project.

Toronto Public Library partnered with a number of groups in the Esplanade neighbourhood to produce the book **Forty One Neighbours**. The book is a celebration of the Pan Am Games and the diversity of the neighbourhood. It is based on the idea that someone in the community has a connection with each of the 41 countries participating in the games. Individuals living in each of those countries were contacted and their stories, written by local children and accompanied by photographs, are told in the book.

This June, **the Library celebrates Canada's First Nations heritage**, bringing Aboriginal culture and history to life at library branches across the city. In partnership with Historica Canada, the Museum of Inuit Art, and the National Film Board of Canada, the Toronto Public Library will present a diverse and well-rounded set of programs for all ages. Highlights include author visits from Drew Haydon Taylor, Lee Maracle and Marilyn Dumont; Q&A sessions with filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin; poetry with celebrated spoken word artist Taqralik Partridge; native music with journalist and radio host Brian Wright-McLeod; indigenous life through the indigenous lens at the Spotlight from Turtle Island film festival; and, on National Aboriginal Day, an introspective panel discussion on the national movement No More Silence, hosted by CBC's Michael Enright.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/aboriginal

In the spirit of the TORONTO 2015 Games, Canada's most talented young poets from across the city will take their skills to the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon stage at Toronto Reference Library on May 22. Included in this **Pan Am Poetry Slam** will be the winning youth poets from the Poetry Saved Our Lives showcase that took place at North York Central Library in April.

Programs and exhibits

The ninth annual **June Callwood Lecture** at the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon on May 27 will feature internationally revered Canadian academic, science broadcaster and environmental activist David Suzuki. In a lecture inspired by letters to his own

grandchildren, Suzuki will talk about why feminism is important, why it is dangerous to deny our biological nature and why First Nations must lead a revolution. A book signing will follow the lecture. Dr. David Suzuki appears courtesy of Greystone Books.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/junecallwood

The current **TD Gallery exhibition** at Toronto Reference Library, *Exposed*, features highlights from the Toronto Star Photograph Archive: people, places and events that defined the 20th century. A snapshot of the Toronto Star Photograph Archive, *Exposed* presents some of the memorable images that graced the pages of Canada's largest daily newspaper. Powerful and provocative, these photographs were the lens through which *Toronto Star* readers witnessed the defining moments of the 20th century. Generously sponsored by TD Bank Group, *Exposed* runs until Sunday, June 14 and is the first exhibition at the TD Gallery that showcases some of the over one million photographs that make up the Toronto Star Photograph Archive. The entire archive was donated to the Toronto Public Library in 2014 and is available to all in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre on the 5th floor of the Toronto Reference Library.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/tdgallery

Throughout the month of May, the East York Foundation has been hosting **an exhibit at the S. Walter Stewart Branch** consisting of a diverse collection of oil paintings and watercolours that the foundation has collected over the years. The art was created by local Canadian painters and artists, many of whom are Don Valley Art Club members and/or current or former East York residents.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/exhibits

Branches

Scarborough Civic Centre Branch, Toronto Public Library's 100th library branch, opens its doors to the public on Wednesday, May 20. The official opening ceremony festivities include an official ribbon cutting, Tamil dancers, steel pan music and a congratulatory Chinese lion dance. A community open house will take place on Saturday, May 23 and a special video has been created to capture community reaction to the new branch and is available on the Library's YouTube channel.

youtube.com/torontopubliclibrary

Community consultation is currently underway, with a public open house scheduled for May 26 at 6:30 pm to present a design concept to the community for a 2016 **building project at the St.Clair/Silverthorn Branch** that will see the space increase by 850 square feet. The project will revitalize all public service areas, add barrier-free access to the second floor, provide for increased programming and community meeting space, and create zoned areas for adults, teens and children. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

Collections

On March 18, Toronto Public Library launched a new **French eBook service** provided by Quebec vendor Archambault. MaBiblioNumérique offers French language eBooks for adults, teens and children. Titles are available from Canadian publishers in Quebec, Ottawa, Sudbury, Moncton and other French language communities across Canada. Titles from European publishers are also available, with more due to become available from important publisher groups later in 2015. New titles are being added each month. The platform is available in English and French.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/french

Volunteers

Two annual spring events were held in April and May to honour **Toronto Public Library volunteers** and to celebrate their achievements. The Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 7 drew more than 80 volunteers from Adult Literacy, Friends of the Library, Youth Advisory Groups, Leading to Reading and the Youth Hubs. Special guest speaker Catherine Gildiner did an amazing job of winning over the crowd, keeping people laughing and making the volunteers feel appreciated as she congratulated them for their great service. On May 2, about 130 youth volunteers from Leading to Reading, Youth Advisory Groups and the Youth Hubs were honoured at a celebration themed around food. The guest speakers were both chefs and the workshops resulted in the creation of healthy parfaits and a delectable looking selection of cupcakes decorated around a Pan Am theme. A large group of the volunteers attended a demonstration of the Library's 3D printers and walked away certified to use them. In 2014, more than 3,000 volunteers participated in Toronto Public Library programs, contributing over 63,000 hours. Of these volunteers, 75% were youth age 24 or younger. In 2015, 211 volunteers received certificates and gifts thanking them for two, five, 15, 20, and even 25 years of service!

Awards

Toronto Public Library received an honourable mention for the Fort York Branch at the Ontario Association of Architects annual **Design Excellence awards** held on May 8 at the OAA conference in Hamilton.

Foundation

June 2 is **100 Reasons to Give Day** across all Toronto Public Library branches. This one-day fundraising blitz is part of the Library's 100 Reasons campaign. The objective is to raise money for the Library and to increase awareness of the role of donors in providing funding for programs, services, collections and spaces that wouldn't be possible with government funding alone. The day will be promoted through social media, in-branch brochures, in-branch posters, in-branch messaging on computer screens and stickers worn by the branch staff and through sponsored advertising in the Toronto Star.

Donors will be invited to write their names on “I’m a TPL supporter” post-it notes which will be displayed in-branch.

To celebrate the Library’s 100th branch milestone, Toronto Public Library Foundation has established the **Council of 100**. Donors who pledge \$10,000 or more this year will be recognized as patrons of this prestigious group. Patrons will receive an invitation to an exclusive Council of 100 event and be recognized in one of Toronto’s major newspapers.

New Collection, a Toronto Public Library Foundation members program, is happy to say that 21 new members have joined so far this year bringing total membership to 93. The goal is to have 150 New Collection members by the end of 2015. These young patrons have enjoyed some interesting events including: an exclusive exploration of the Library’s vinyl collection; an evening with Matt Basile, author of *Street Food Diaries*; and cocktails with Sara Guren, author of *At the Water’s Edge*. On May 27, members are invited to a meet-and-greet with David Suzuki prior to his June Callwood Lecture talk at the Appel Salon.

tplfoundation.ca

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff