

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Dan Yashinsky will put his awesome storytelling powers to work to help promote literacy, libraries and reading when he appears at North York Central Library on February 12 as part of the city-wide Keep Toronto Reading program that is the library's contribution to Toronto's Live with Culture initiative. Yashinsky is currently the Library's Storyteller-in-Residence.

## Toronto Public Library Keeps Toronto Reading!

*Free events featuring more than 100 authors, notable Torontonians across the city*

MORE THAN 100 authors, illustrators, storytellers and notable Torontonians are headlining a range of interesting programs, as part of Keep Toronto Reading month in February. Keep Toronto Reading is a celebration of the joy and importance of reading as well as our city's thriving literary culture.

Presented by the Toronto Public Library and the Library Foundation, the month-long, free event-fest will include: Thursday lunchtime readings; family storytellings; Canada Reads and

PEN Canada events; and much more.

Mayor Miller will declare February as Keep Toronto Reading month at a press launch on Friday, January 27. On hand to help the mayor promote reading, literacy and libraries will be author Margaret Atwood. The program launch, Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m. at Toronto Reference Library, will feature special guests including Toronto culinary queen Bonnie Stern, CBC *Talking Books* host Ian Brown and

*Please see Keep Toronto Reading, page 2...*

## The Book Lover's Ball

*Thursday, February 16  
gala event a highlight of  
Keep Toronto Reading*

TORONTO PUBLIC Library Foundation's February 16 gala fundraiser, The Book Lover's Ball, is set to help Keep Toronto Reading by raising money in support of library collections and services that promote reading and literacy.

Taking place at the historic Liberty Grand, Exhibition Place, this magical



evening, inspired by the written word, will provide the priceless opportunity to rub shoulders with your favourite celebrity authors – Margaret Atwood, Camilla Gibb, Helen Humphreys, Kenneth Oppel, Andrew Pyper, Russell Smith, and many others.

Enjoy an intimate cocktail reception followed by a divine meal. Celebrity chef/author Michael Stadlander will inspire unique menu items. A novel-

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Toronto Public Library staff members Jennifer Sweeney (left) and Arlene Chan (right) receive the City's prestigious Director's Award from City CAO Shirley Hoy for their roles as co-chairs of the Toronto Public Library 2005 United Way Campaign.

## Library raises \$175,000 for the United Way

*City total exceeds \$1 million*

2005 WAS another stellar year for the Toronto Public Library United Way campaign. Breaking all previous records, TPL raised over \$175,000. The Library's campaign was also publicly recognized with the City of Toronto Director's Award for the best campaign among City departments and agencies with over 1,000 employees. A special thanks and congratulations to TPL's UW co-chairs, Arlene Chan and Jennifer Sweeney, as well as to the committee and canvassers. All told, the City of Toronto raised \$1.15 million to fund UW social programs and services.

## Keep Toronto Reading

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City Councillor Kyle Rae.

Keep Toronto Reading partners include: *Toronto Star*; Starbucks; International Readings at Harbourfront; PEN Canada; Toronto Community News; and CBC Canada Reads. Watch for a January 28 *Toronto Star* ad supplement outlining all festivities. Extra copies of the supplement will be available at all library branches and at select Starbucks.

The Keep Toronto

Reading website, [www.keeptorontoreading.ca](http://www.keeptorontoreading.ca), will feature program information, author Q&As and video clips of Mayor Miller and authors Sidney Sheldon, Margaret Drabble, Alistair MacLeod, Robert Munsch, Gordon Korman, Margaret Atwood and others talking about books and libraries.

See the Calendar of Events on page 4 for program highlights; for a comprehensive list of events, visit the Keep Toronto Reading website [www.keeptorontoreading.ca](http://www.keeptorontoreading.ca).

## Kiwanis Outreach Storytime

*During its second full year of operation, the Kiwanis Outreach Storytime touched the lives of more than 1,500 children and their parents*

ONE LITTLE boy, who initially didn't want to join the circle of children listening to stories and singing, was finally persuaded to sit beside program volunteer George Davis. Seeing that the little boy had pulled a book off the display behind him, Davis looked at pictures with the boy, read to him and asked some questions.

After that, the little boy stayed with George, listening to stories and singing along with the songs. According to one of the program coordinators, "This little boy found a friend in a big man who read to him."

The Outreach Storytime program, sponsored by Kiwanis Clubs of West Toronto, sees Toronto Public Library staff and Kiwanis volunteers visit community service facilities

to promote libraries and reading among young children and their parents. In 2005, staff conducted 54 community storytime sessions at seven locations.

In addition to telling stories, singing songs and performing

action rhymes with the kids, library staff distribute library cards and loan out library books.

*"This little boy found a friend in a big man who read to him."*

Over 90 percent of the parents and more than 80 percent of the kids said they liked the program a lot. One seven-year-old boy cried at the end of a session, telling program staff he could come to only one session, but he wanted to come back every week.

When asked how the program could be improved, the answers generally focus on offering more sessions or making the program longer.

## Book Lover's Ball

*Continued from page 1...*

inspired designer fashion show where book pages come to life in a spectacle of fashion, music and entertainment will be narrated by Gord Martineau.

Dress is black tie or in costume, inspired by your favourite book title or character. A silent and live auction will round out the festivities. Proceeds from the Ball will go towards Toronto Public Library collections and services that promote reading and literacy.

To book your Book Lover's Ball ticket or table, please call Debi Tate at (416) 393-7119 or visit [www.bookloversball.ca](http://www.bookloversball.ca)

Keep Toronto Reading

## PROFILE

# Gillian Mason – promoting the “hidden” library

*Toronto Public Library Board Chair an exceptional leader helping advance this extraordinary resource*

OUTGOING TORONTO Public Library Board Chair Gillian Mason joined the Board in 1998 and has been chair since 2001. She will continue as a member of the Board for the upcoming year.

“Serving on and ultimately chairing the Toronto Public Library Board has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” says Mason. “I marvel at the richness of what the library provides and at the esteem with which Torontonians view this extraordinary resource in their midst. I have also come to understand that

for the people of Toronto.”

Since joining the Board, Mason has made great advances in ensuring that city leaders are aware of the often hidden role of the library as a catalyst in building a strong, dynamic city through social and economic contributions to community. Under Mason’s leadership, the library won the Canadian Urban Institute’s Leadership Award for City Living.

Says Mason: “I’m proud to have been a part of a library board that managed to protect their budget over the first years of the new

millennium; and I’m proud to have helped allocate that budget to enhance library services and to provide beautiful branches that speak to, and are embraced by, their communities.”

The capital budget program that was developed while Mason was Chair established the footprint for branch development that has resulted in: the opening of

the new and much-needed St. James Town Branch; the rebuilding of McGregor Park, Maria A. Shchuka, Eatonville and Leaside branches; the relocation and recreation of Black Creek and Bayview branches; and significant renovations to Runnymede, Malvern, Long Branch

and Beaches branches.

While Mason was Chair, she helped oversee the completion of one strategic plan and the development of a new one, *Urban Stories: The Next Chapter*, that emphasized:

- Books and Culture
- Low-IncomeNeighbourhoods
- Newcomers
- Youth

“As Chair,” explains Mason, “I felt my most important role was to give as much exposure as I could to this extraordinarily successful and fundamentally important organisation that lies at the heart of every community in the city.”

“Toronto Public Library is the most successful public library in the world,” concludes Mason, “thanks in large part to the support and patronage of the good people of Toronto.”

An urban planner who has completed graduate work in public administration, Mason recently became the Executive Director and CEO of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), an international association dedicated to professional exchange among senior public sector officials in the 53 countries of the Commonwealth.



South Chapter Library Friends (l-r) Kristine Hoo, Jean Harris and Nancy Kellett were pleased to present the Library with a cheque for \$44,000 to support library programs and services.

## South Friends donations hit \$200,000

WITH A December donation of \$44,000, the Friends of Toronto Public Library, South Chapter have given the Library over \$200,000 since their inception in 1997. South Friends funds have helped to purchase a Home Library Service Van, bolster HLS collections, enhance literacy and literary programs at the Toronto Reference Library and, for the last few years, to fully fund the English Can Be Fun summer program for newcomer children aged 7-10.

### Friends donate over \$100,000 in 2005

In addition to the \$44,000 South Chapter donation, the Library benefited from a \$60,000 donation by the North Chapter of the Friends in 2005, bringing the total donated by Friends last year to more than \$100,000. The North Chapter donation goes to Leading to Reading, a children’s literacy program.



Gillian Mason

library staff are among the most committed, intelligent, creative public servants I have ever come across. Public servants in the finest sense of the word – people who dedicate themselves in their daily work lives to providing the best possible access to good information



## Library Board Highlights January 2006

### New Board Chair and Vice-Chair elected

William Booth is the new Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board. Booth has been a Board member since 2001, acting as Vice-Chair since 2003. A dedicated library patron since he was six, Booth has been in the book business since 1981, as a bookseller, editor and sales and publishing manager.

New Board Vice-Chair Kathy Gallagher Ross is a long-time library member, avid reader and supporter of the Toronto Public Library. A mother of three, she hopes to put her experience as an early childhood educator, nurse and early intervention and prevention specialist toward supporting the Library as a key ingredient of a healthy community. She is the author of *A Parent's Guide to Choosing Day Care: Finding the Best Alternative for your Child* and co-author/

editor of *Good Day Care: Fighting for It, Getting It, Keeping It*. Kathy is the new Director of Public Policy for the United Way (GTA) starting in February 2006.

Outgoing Chair, Gillian Mason will continue on as a member of the Board for the upcoming year. (see article, page 3)

### 2006 Capital Budget

The Board adopted the 2006-2010, Toronto City Council-approved, Capital Budget of \$10.509 million debt.

### TD/TPL partnership renewed

TD Bank Financial Group's \$1.22 million commitment, over the next three years, to Toronto Public Library speaks of their long-standing and increasingly supportive commitment to public library services and to literacy. The Board approved a renewal of the sponsorship agreement with TD for 2006 to 2008, including the continuation of their nine-year title sponsorship of the TD Summer Reading Club, now available to libraries across Canada.

## Calendar of Events February 2006

### KEEP TORONTO READING

#### For the Love of Reading

Ian Brown *Globe and Mail*; Garvia Bailey *Metro Morning*; Douglas Pepper, McClelland & Stewart; chef Bonnie Stern; comedian Maggie Cassella; Councillor Kyle Rae; event host Tina Srebotnjak *Imprint*. Wed., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

#### The Skin She's In

Sharon G. Flake, author of teen novels *The Skin I'm In* and *Bang!* Mon. Feb. 6, 2-3 p.m., York Woods Theatre Mon. Feb. 6, 7-8 p.m., Maria A. Shchuka Branch

#### Graphically Speaking

Seth *Wimbledon Green*; Chester Brown *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography*; Matthew Blackett *m@b*; moderator Peter Birkemoe, from The Beguiling bookstore. Tues. Feb. 7, 7-8 p.m., Auditorium, North York Central Library

### Toronto Dialogues

TPL and Diaspora Dialogues present Wayson Choy; Olive Senior; Pamela Mordecai; and many others. Hosted by comedians Robin Duke, Colin Mochrie, Debra McGrath and Joe Flaherty. Wednesdays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 7-8 p.m., Palmerston Theatre

### City of Writers

Warren Dunford *The Scene Stealer*; Camilla Gibb *Sweetness in the Belly*; Shyam Selvadurai *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*; Michael Winter *The Big Why*; Linwood Barclay *Toronto Star*; host Tina Srebotnjak *Imprint*. Fri. Feb. 10, 7-8 p.m. Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

### Story City

Fifteen storytellers, including TPL Storyteller-in-Residence Dan Yashinsky. Sundays, Feb. 12, 19, 26, 2-3 p.m.: Barbara Frum, Cedarbrae, Eatonville, Riverdale and North York Central Library branches

### Lit Lunches

TPL, International Readings at Harbourfront and Starbucks present Stephen Clarke; Joy Fielding; Leah McLaren; others. Bring your lunch or buy it for \$5 from Starbucks – proceeds

to the TPL Foundation.

Thurs. Feb. 9, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Deer Park and Toronto Reference Library (Asquith Room)

Thurs. Feb. 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Toronto Reference Library (Asquith Room) and Northern District

Thurs. Feb. 23, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Toronto Reference Library (Asquith Room) and North York Central Library

### Toronto Celebrates Canada Reads

Author Joseph Boyden; actor Gordon Pinsent; actor Cara Pifko; sex show host Sue Johanson; host Matt Galloway *Here and Now* Fri. Feb. 17, 7-8 p.m., Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

### Beyond Exile

TPL and PEN Canada launch Freedom to Read Week. Exiled writers read and share their stories. Introductions by journalists: Jian Ghomeshi; Christopher Waddell; Haroon Siddiqui; host John Ralston Saul. Fri. Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m., Atrium, Toronto Reference Library

### Kids' Space

Fifteen children's authors and illustrators. Hosts Milton Barnes, Jackie English, Julie Patterson *TVO Kids*.

Saturdays, Feb. 11, 18, 25, 11 a.m.-noon: Agincourt, Fairview\*, Parkdale, Richview, and North York Central Library branches

\* Special Time: Sat. Feb. 25, 10-11 a.m. at Fairview

### Beaches Owl Naming and Writing Contest

Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin announces the winning name and winning story from the Beaches Branch Owl Contest. Visit the Beaches Branch to enter the contest. Contest closes February 18. Sat., Feb. 25, 2 p.m., Beaches Branch (2161 Queen St. E., east of Woodbine)

### S. Walter Stewart Community Consultation

Wed., Feb. 8, 7 p.m., S. Walter Stewart Branch

For a complete listing of activities, check *What's On*, available in all branches; visit [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca); or call Answerline 416-393-7131.

*Shelf Life* is published 10 times a year by the Toronto Public Library Board, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 2G8. Marketing & Communications Office: 416-393-7117. Next Board Meeting: Monday, February 20, 2006.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June, in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

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