

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

June 2006

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Rational
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TD SUMMER READING CLUB

Quest for Heroes keeps the fun going all summer

Program instils a lifelong love of reading

THE TD SUMMER Reading Club is one of Toronto Public Library's cornerstone programs for children, providing materials and incentives that encourage boys and girls to keep reading and enjoying books during the long lazy days of summer.

The club starts as soon as school is over with the distribution of children's reading-related materials, including bilingual French/English activity books, beautifully designed colour posters and stickers that kids can pick up from any library branch in the city.

As children read their way through the summer, they can drop in to their local branch, share with staff the story that they've just read and receive a special sticker to put on their poster. By the end of the summer, club members have a great poster and a great souvenir of a summer well read. For kids who want to join the club online, the Library's website has all kinds of activities, reading lists and other fun programs.

Although club activities vary from branch to branch, special guest authors and illustrators will make appearances



throughout the city all summer long. A wide variety of other special activities will also be presented to highlight this year's Quest for Heroes theme.

This year's original artwork was designed by Martha Newbigging, a well-known Canadian illustrator and animator, and celebrates

heroes, both local and famous, as well as encouraging kids to find the hero in themselves.

To find out more about the TD Summer Reading Club and how kids can join, drop in to your local branch, or go to the KidsSpace page of the Library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

GREEN OPPORTUNITIES

Conserving energy at the Library

Almost fourteen hundred tonnes of CO₂ diverted from the environment

IT'S BEEN OVER 25 years since Toronto Public Library began investigating and implementing energy conservation measures for its branches. Motivated by advances in technology and cost savings opportunities, the

Library was keen to ensure that routine upgrades in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems also resulted in a reduction of the Library's energy consumption.

The City of Toronto's Energy and Waste Management Office annually audits the Library's Energy Management Program. Their recent survey reported that "results of the retrofit are showing a ...cost avoidance of \$422,000 in 2005." This energy reduction means that 1,390 less tonnes of CO₂ are discharged

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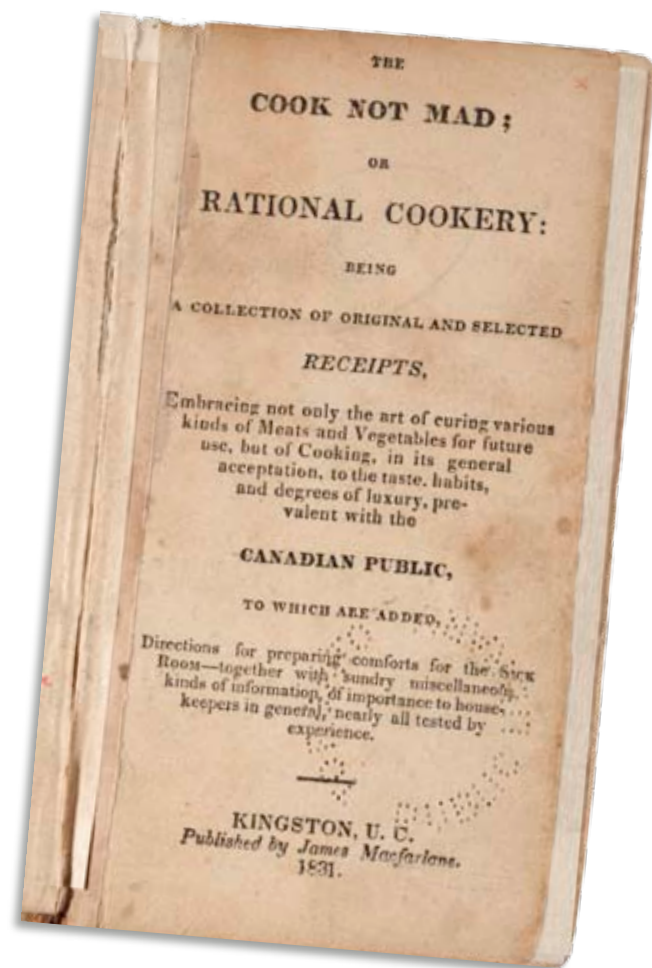
CORPORATE SUPPORT

\$1.2 million gift from TD Bank largest ever for Library

Model for effective sponsorship

TD Bank Financial Group recently announced a \$1.2 million renewal of its commitment to the Toronto Public Library for the TD Summer Reading Club. This gift will support the joy of reading and discovery for thousands of children in libraries in Toronto and across Canada.

"The TD Bank Financial Group's \$1.2 Million commitment to the 2006-2008 TD Summer Reading Club is the largest cash sponsorship in the history of the Toronto Public Library," says Toronto Public Library Foundation President Heather Rumball. "This significant contribution demonstrates the difference a corporation can make through its community support and serves as a model for effective corporate sponsorship with the Library."



WORTH SAVING

Preserving *Rational Cookery*

Four historical cookbooks benefit from Culinary Trust grant

THE TORONTO REFERENCE Library received a library grant from the Culinary Trust to restore and preserve four historical cookbooks in our Baldwin Room Book Collection. The four titles are:

1. *The Cook Not Mad, or Rational Cookery* (1831)
2. *The Frugal Housewife's Manual* (1840)
3. *Nouvelle Cuisinière Canadienne* (Ed. Rev. circa 1850-55)
4. *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, or Canadian Cookbook* (1881)

These four charming titles were identified as significant volumes in the history of cookery in Canada. The Culinary Trust supports

a cookbook preservation program, to help libraries restore valuable cookbooks that might otherwise be lost to deterioration. This program recognizes that cookbooks – long overlooked as resources for research – are now being seen as important documents for social historians and other writers interested in the everyday life of people.

The Culinary Trust is an organization based in Louisville, Kentucky. The Trust celebrates the culinary past and funds the future through scholarship, grant and preservation programs that encourage and enable professionals in the pursuit of the culinary arts.

HOSPITAL OUTREACH

Meeting the needs of sick children

Literacy recognized as health determinant

THE HOSPITAL FOR Sick Children treats hundreds of thousands of children and teens every year from Toronto, from across Canada and from around the world. Like other health professionals, pediatricians at Sick Kids recognize literacy as a health determinant and believe that promoting literacy is a component of long-term health care. Toronto Public Library concurs and has offered service at Sick Kids for almost 50 years.

For the past ten years, the Library has partnered with the

Toronto District School Board and hospital volunteers to run the Reading Room, a combined school/public library which serves inpatients, outpatients, siblings and staff. Patients at the hospital range from newborns to 18-year-olds.

Ward visits are conducted two afternoons a week by Library staff and a hospital volunteer. Individualized storytimes are offered to children and teens in the cancer ward on Thursday mornings in their own rooms. An origami workshop is run by a hospital volunteer every Thursday afternoon. Celebrity guests often come to the Reading Room to do readings or performances. Storytimes from the Reading Room are also scheduled twice a day on the hospital's television channel.

2006 ONTARIO VOLUNTEER AWARD CEREMONY

Library Board Chair and other volunteers recognized

Volunteering represents "citizenship in action"

THE MINISTRY OF Citizenship and Immigration hosted an evening at the Arcadian Court on June 12 to celebrate and to thank volunteers in Ontario for their dedication and demonstration of the true meaning of "citizenship in action." Hundreds of Ontario volunteers were recognized including a few Toronto Public Library volunteers. Those honoured included William Booth (Chair of the Library Board); Ricardo

Reeves (Maria Shchuka Youth Advisory Group member); Miguel Cardoso (Homework Club for Kids at St. Clair/Silverthorn); Lisbeth Lodge (Adult Literacy), Linda Tran (Homework Club for Kids at Dufferin/St. Clair); and Ed McCabe (Book Ends).

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle thanked all Ontario volunteers, and Bridget

Arsenal, a youth representative from Free the Children, spoke about how volunteers make important differences in our communities. Both

congratulated volunteers as they received their lapel pins and certificates.

Seventeen individuals received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Awards for Voluntarism in Ontario.



William Booth



OPEN HOUSE CHEER

Morningside Branch reopens

Welcoming crowd undeterred by City Heat Alert

THE BEACHES BRANCH had a severe blizzard during its reopening after renovation and Morningside had an extreme heat alert, but both branches had one thing in common — nothing could stop hundreds of delighted library users from visiting their reopened branches.

The official reopening of the newly relocated Morningside Branch was held Tuesday May 30. At 1:30 p.m., branch staff opened the front doors and welcomed Mr. Winston Parks, the first person in line to visit the new branch.

City Librarian Josephine Bryant and local councillor and Library Board member Gay Cowbourne were on hand to cut the ribbon and declare the branch officially open; Jaime's Jazz Trio and magician Owen Anderson kept the branch hopping all afternoon.



OPEN AT LAST! (Top right) Flanked by Heron Park Junior Public School students, Thomas and Stephanie, officials cut the ribbon: (L to R) Branch Head Sheila Yates, City Librarian Josephine Bryant, Architect Henry Wong, Councillor Gay Cowbourne, District Manager Maggie Gosselin and Architect Richard Dabrus. (Bottom left) Magician Owen Anderson is on hand to entertain the kids, young and old alike.

BOOK TALK

Cantonese, Mandarin book clubs firsts at the Library

Now 66 book clubs and discussion groups

"BUILD IT AND they will come," has been the motivator behind many great ideas. Now the phrase has the Library's first Cantonese Book Club off to a great start. Thirty people showed up for the inaugural meeting at Goldhawk Park Branch on May 5.

"Motherly Love" was the theme for the first meeting. Several members of the Toronto Chinese Writers Association gave a short talk and provided a handout. The Cantonese Book Club meets once a month, usually on the first Friday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at

Goldhawk Park Branch.

Albert Campbell District Branch recently organized a Mandarin Book Club. Book club members meet once a month on the second Monday from 6-8 p.m. to discuss a pre-selected title. Attendees at the first meeting on June 12 discussed *Huo Zhuo* by Hua Yu, a renowned contemporary Chinese writer.

Library-supported book clubs are also available in English and French. A total of 66 book clubs and book discussion groups use the Library for their meetings or are sponsored by the Library. For those unable to attend traditional book clubs, the Library also offers Book Buzz, a virtual book club, available from the Library website (under the Recommended Reading button). For more information, check the website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca or phone Answerline at 416-393-7131.

FOCUS ON

Answers from Answerline

Telephone service answers your quick reference questions

SHELF LIFE IS happy to announce a new feature starting in this issue — a selection of questions received by Answerline, the Library's quick reference telephone service, and their answers. The range of questions received in the department is vast and includes the following:

- Q:** What does <g> mean?
- Q:** In what year did women become liberated?
- Q:** When was the first televised national election in Canada?

Curious? Check the back page and watch for further morsels of information in future issues of *Shelf Life*.

Answers from Answerline

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Q: What does <g> mean?

A: This is an "emoticon" used in Internet chat that means grin.

SOURCE: www.jegsworks.com/project/refemail/emoticon.htm

Q: In what year did women become liberated?

A: This question requires further research beyond a quick reference service. Answerline would suggest that the customer come into the Library or try our research databases for this level of detail. It is open to question, of course, as to whether one would consider 'liberation' to have occurred even now. As a quick reference service, we cannot pass judgment!



Q: When was the first televised national election in Canada?

A: 1957 during the Diefenbaker campaign.

SOURCE: Canadian Encyclopedia or the Newsworld website for the CBC www.newsworld.cbc.ca/election97/past/votebackground.html

Conserving energy at the Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

into our environment annually. The savings were the result of the retrofit of many

Library buildings in two main areas — lighting and automated functions.

Since 2001, the Library's Facilities department has:

- replaced and updated lighting fixtures in 49 Library locations.
- installed hardware and software to accommodate the remote monitoring and control of HVAC systems in 60 Library buildings.

Like many homes and businesses, the Library still has work to do. Maintaining the ideal ambient temperature is not easy in a public space, fraught with differing opinions as to ideal levels, and a constant flow of traffic bringing cold or hot air in from the outside. But the City must take the lead on energy conservation measures in order to inspire its citizens to do the same, thereby safeguarding our collective future.

Calendar of Events Summer 2006



Coming Together: A history of community, pride and resistance

In partnership with the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. Guest curated by Nicholas Matte, a PhD candidate at U of T, the exhibition features protest posters, slogan buttons, artifacts, portraits and ephemera that document the rich history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirited and queer (LGBTQ) communities in Toronto and beyond.

To July 22

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Performance:

Sky Gilbert in person
July 5, 6:30 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library,
Beeton Auditorium,
789 Yonge St.

Breakfast, Dinner, Lunch and Tea

Summer Exhibit at the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books. Children's books abound in stories about food, from Oliver Twist's brave request, "Please Sir, I want some more," to the enthusiastic, non-stop munching of the Swallows and Amazons in Arthur Ransome's classic series. Come and see Mole and Toad at their picnic, the sinister Gingerbread House, that revolt of the unappreciated greens, The Vege-men's Revenge and Strega Nona's village inundated with pasta in an exhibit of children's literary meals.

While you are here, ask to take a look at the World's Smallest Book! Osborne collection exhibit materials are displayed behind glass, but books from the circulating collection will be available for handling and borrowing.

To Sept. 2, 2006

Lillian H. Smith branch,
239 College Street

(at Huron), 4th floor
Open 10-6 Mon-Fri, 9-5 Saturdays,
closed Sundays and holidays.
Groups welcome, but please call ahead. Admission is free.

Library Board Highlights

June 19, 2006

2007-2010 Capital Plan

The Board approved the 2007-2010 Capital Plan, which includes reductions to meet the annual City funding target of \$11 million.

Branch Open Hours Implementation Plan

The Board approved the implementation of the open hours vision, which seeks to improve access to library services by rationalizing and increasing branch open hours across the City. Priorities reflect improving library hours in at-risk neighbourhoods and for youth and newcomers and improving geographic access across the City.

Closing for Renovation: Jane/Dundas Branch, S. Walter Stewart Branch

The Board approved the closures for approximately one year, tentatively starting in fall 2006.

Naming Policy

The Board approved a protocol and preferred names policy for Library branches, rooms, programs and collections, both with a gift involved and when no gift is involved.

Auditor General's Review of Fines and Income

The Board adopted the recommendations of the Auditor General's Report — Fines and Income Review — Toronto Public Library Response.

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:
September 18, 2006.

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

Toronto Public Library Board
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TORONTO PRIDE PARADE, AUGUST 26, 1972. PHOTO: JAEERD MOULDENHAUER