

# Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

October 2006

## VOTE!

November 13



Toronto Public Library joined the AGO, ROM, OCAD and other cultural destinations for Nuit Blanche, an international showcase of contemporary art. The Library's all-night multi-media celebration of Toronto's grassroots culture ran from 7 p.m. Saturday night to 7 a.m. Sunday morning.

### STREET PARTY

## Nuit Blanche thrills sleepless crowd

Over 1,800 people join Library in all-night celebration of grassroots culture

DESPITE A LITTLE rain, over 1,800 visitors attended the Library's Culture from the Ground Up program, an all-night celebration of Toronto's grassroots culture, featuring a rock band, graphic novel creators, graffiti artists, street performers, spoken word artists, all-night exhibits, movie screenings and more.

Part of the first city-wide Scotiabank Nuit Blanche celebrations, which attracted 450,000 people across the city, visitors came to the

Toronto Reference Library throughout the night to check out a wide variety of programming including:

- Culture from the Ground Up at the TD Gallery, which traced the evolution of Toronto's alternative

culture from the sixties to the nineties

- A Virtual Art Tour that used computers in the Reference Library's Information Commons to highlight selected

SEE NUIT BLANCHE PAGE 2...



Graffiti artist skam ([www.skam.net](http://www.skam.net)) was commissioned to depict the Library logo in graffiti, prior to the evening's festivities. His funky work will now be housed in the teen Hub at North York Central Library.

### ENGAGING YOUTH

## 102 volunteers recognized for their contribution

Youth Summit underscores the value of libraries to teens

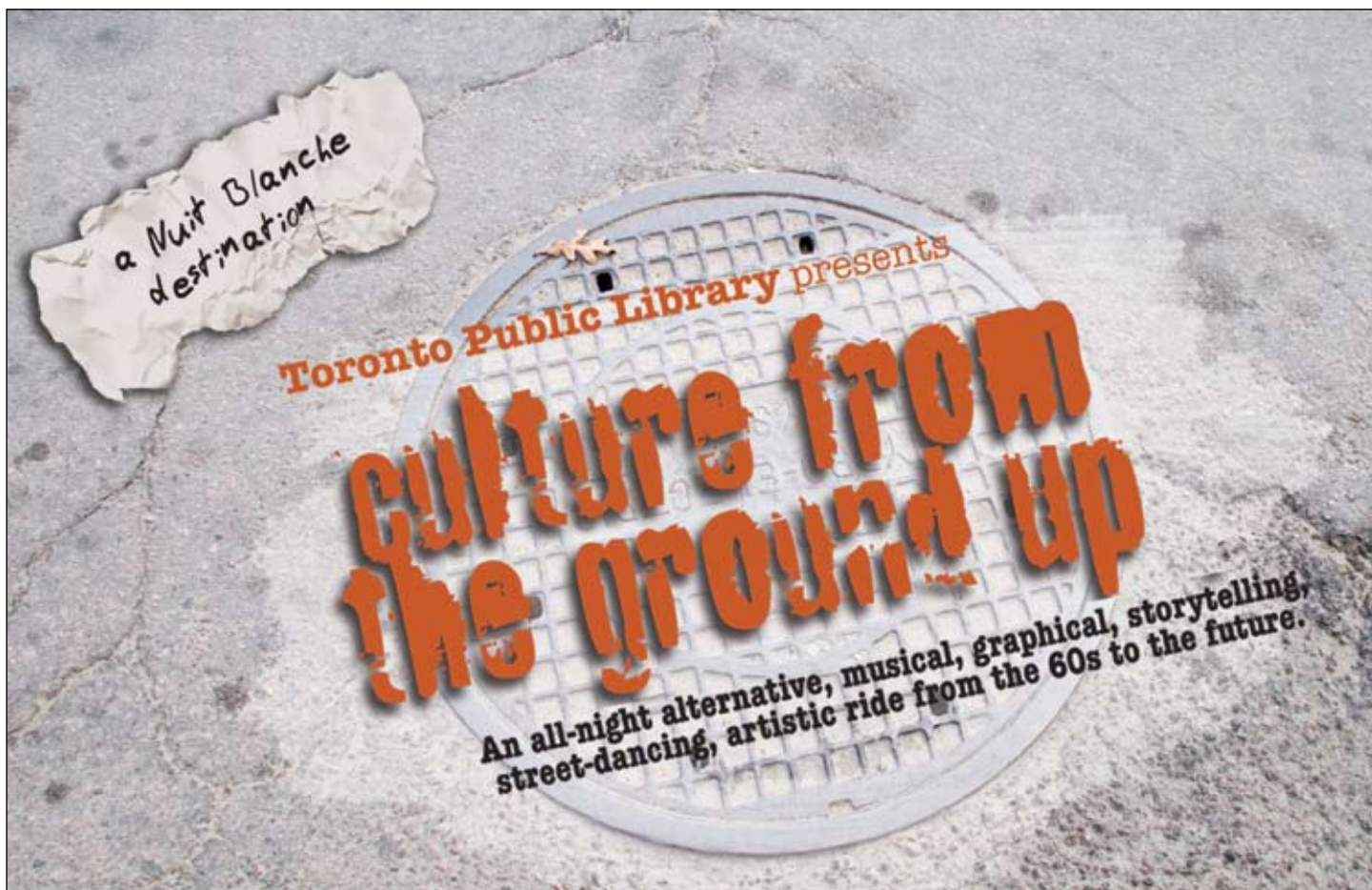
THE LIBRARY'S FIRST Youth Summit, a youth engagement event combined with volunteer recognition, took place Saturday, September 30. The day left everyone involved filled with energy and enthusiasm and as well, all left with the message that youth are a priority for the Library.

The brainchild of Library Board Member Okeima Lawrence, the Youth Summit featured speakers from Free the Children, fun icebreakers, door prize draws and interactivity throughout the day. Youth are a priority for the Library. A lively and light-hearted Open Mic session, led by DJ Subliminal, gave participants a chance to enjoy each others' talents and to learn how an Open Mic might be run at their own library branch.

As part of the day's activities, participants wrote up postcard slogans which were later shared with the whole group expressing how they felt about the library – why they like it and why they volunteer (see 'What the Library means to me,' inside). The important role that the Library plays in the lives of these youth resonated throughout.

SEE YOUTH SUMMIT, PAGE 3...





The talk show set-up of the Graphic Novel Cabaret – hosted by The Beguiling – provided for a lively and educational discussion.



Mike McKenna & Slidewinder rock the crowd with their catchy blend of soft rock and blues.



Graffiti artist Equinox199 entertained the audience with a talk on graffiti followed by an interactive how-to demonstration.

## Nuit Blanche

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

- innovative and contemporary websites
- Mike McKenna & Slidewinder rocked the house with their popular blend of soft rock and blues
- A Graphic Novel Cabaret featuring an active discussion with Toronto-based comic book creators and co-hosted by The Beguiling, Toronto's premiere comic book store
- An Open Mic Face-Off, hosted by

Motion, and highlighting writers, poets and musicians

- A six-hour Midnight Movie Marathon, which featured screenings of timeless cult films including *Reefer Madness* for the rowdy and insomniac. At 6 a.m., the Library provided free breakfast to the 40 diehard film addicts still present (and awake)
- Outside the Reference Library, performers from SwizzleStick Theatre greeted the crowd in phantom-like costumes on stilts, accompanied by drumming; break

dancers and poppers from VyBE Dance Co. who strutted their moves, as 150 people cheered and clapped.

Outside Yorkville Branch, the other Library Nuit Blanche venue, the evening's programming was more geared to families. The festivities included our Storyteller-in-Residence Dan Yashinsky who enchanted the young and the restless. Madame Buskerfly and magician Stephen Elvay also charmed the crowds with juggling and magic tricks that made everyone forget the rain. ☾

**"It rocked  
my socks.  
I had a lot of fun.  
Awesome.  
Open Mic F-U-N.  
Prizes cool."**

— Youth Summit Participant

## What the Library means to me

### Thoughts from the Youth Summit

*The library for me is a quiet sanctuary, full of wondrous books waiting to be read. It is somewhere for me to go, sheltered from the rest of the world.*

*The library provides very exciting and vivid volunteering experiences. I tend to think that the library is a place where people can learn and explore. I usually borrow plenty of books and practice my piano skills in the piano room!*

*The library gives me access to people, volunteer hours and education.*

*The library means reading, writing, laughter.*

*A place to chill with friends.*

*TPL takes you further, a book at a time...*

*To me the library means freedom of expression and the pursuit of knowledge.*

*A warm and inviting environment.*

*It is a place where you can grow your brain extremely without any cost. To me Library is like a heaven where you can get anything knowledgeable without any limits.*

*The library means being able to read books for free.*

*TPL, better than asking your mom...*

## Youth Summit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Of the 1,300 youth who volunteer at the Library, 102 were formally recognized for two years of service – a real commitment of time and dedication. Spider Jones, a three-time Golden Glove champion, was the celebrity host on hand to give out the awards. As one volunteer at the event quipped: "It rocked my socks. I had a lot of fun. Awesome. Open Mic F-U-N. Prizes cool." ✱



DJ Subliminal beat boxes with AB YAG member Usman Khawaja.



Youth volunteers give a standing ovation during the Free the Children presentation.



Kids@Computers staff and volunteers with radio personality Spider Jones, second from right.

## PAPE/DANFORTH BRANCH RENEWAL

### Community enthusiastically welcomes branch reopening Collections, services enhanced

AFTER A YEAR of renovations, the Pape/Danforth Branch (701 Pape Ave., south of Danforth Ave.) reopened at the end of August to an enthusiastic crowd – in fact the public lined up around the block to attend the opening ceremonies and it took a full 20 minutes for everyone to make their way into the branch. All the local papers and the Greek

media who covered the reopening were all enthusiastic and complimentary.

The newly renovated building features:

- Fully accessible, completely redesigned space, and a new street level entrance
- Increased open hours
- 10,000 brand new items (including books, magazines, paperbacks, CDs and DVDs)
- Library materials in Chinese, French and Greek
- Sixteen computers featuring both high-speed Internet access and word processing
- A brand new Teen Zone
- A bookable community room. ✱

Exterior of Pape Branch ©Ben Rahn/A-Frame Inc.



Fully accessible, completely redesigned space and new street level entrance.



Opening day crowds took 20 minutes to file in.





# TORONTO Renaissance City



**FRIDAYS 6 P.M. OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 24**  
**TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY 789 YONGE STREET**

*This series explores how new and renewed creative space is transforming Toronto. Join us for these Friday evening talks with the city's most creative minds. Engage them on how the change to our physical space changes the creative space of the city and what this mean to Toronto as a creative city.*

## **Toronto Transforming** Friday, November 3

What impact will the physical transformations of our major cultural institutions have on the services they provide? How will the ideas of those who defined the space partner with the expectations of those who work within the space? Panellists: Tom

Payne, architect; Kelly McKinley, Director of Education and Programs, AGO; Christopher Hume, urban issues and art critic, *Toronto Star*. Moderator: Matthew Blackett, *Spacing Magazine*.

## **Toronto Enlightened** Friday, November 10

When Soulpepper moved into the Distillery District, what changed? Has the expanded creative space for classical drama changed the district? Has the move into the Distillery District transformed Soulpepper? Kate Taylor, Cultural reporter for the *Globe and Mail* interviews Albert Schultz, Director, Soulpepper Theatre Company.

## **Toronto Transcending** Friday, November 17

When a beloved traditional institution undergoes a radical transformation, what are the implications to the institution? How will Toronto react to – and interact with – the ROM's rebirth?

Guest speakers: William Thorsell, CEO, Royal Ontario Museum and Dan Rahimi, Director of Gallery Development.

## **Toronto and the Library – Rebirth** Friday, November 24

When it opened its doors in 1977, the Toronto Reference Library at Yonge & Bloor was intended to serve the city as both an intellectual and cultural destination. Today, a revitalization of the building is underway to expand and enhance its creative spaces. City Librarian Josephine Bryant joins in conversation with its original architect, Raymond Moriyama, and his partner and son, Ajon, who are tasked with the revitalization of Toronto Reference Library. How will a transformation of the Library's space alter how you think about, and how you interact with, the Library?



**TD Gallery Exhibit**  
**A Case of Considerable Interest: Treasures from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection**

**Oct. 18, 2006 – Jan. 7, 2007**

Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) is best known for his detective stories about Sherlock Holmes, but he was also the author of many other works and one of the best known public figures of the late Victorian age. Enter this world through this exhibition of rare and unusual books, film posters, manuscripts and memorabilia.

**Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.**

Meet Toronto's Sherlock Holmes society, The Bootmakers of Toronto, as they present the classic radio play *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. For further information, call 416-393-7158

## **Library Board Highlights** **October 2006**

### **2007 Operating Base Budget Request**

The Board approved the 2007 Operating Base Budget submission to the City of \$151.058 million net (\$165.243 million gross) representing an increase of \$6.580 million

net or 4.6 percent over the 2006 approved budget. The increase is mostly the result of cost of living increases in salaries and materials.

### **Site for Waterfront Branch in the Railway Lands Area**

The Board approved the location of the new Waterfront Branch, our

100th branch, in the Railway Lands area. This multi-year capital project is projected to start in 2008 at the corner of Bathurst St. and Fort York Blvd., subject to the successful completion of a satisfactory partnership agreement with Toronto Community Housing Corporation.