

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

September 2006

Authors

DOWNTOWN • MIDTOWN • UPTOWN

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for dates and times



Clockwise from top left – the Library pulled together a youth panel for this year's Word on the Street, Sunday, September 24. Staff engage the public during a busy afternoon at Queen's Park, informing passers-by about Library programs and services.

WORD ON THE STREET

Annual book fair a success

Winds, rain can't keep visitors away

ON THE LAST Sunday in September, the Library and Friends of the Special Collections drew hundreds of visitors to its booth at Word on the Street, Canada's largest, annual outdoor book and magazine festival. The day started with winds so strong, a box of plastic sheeting ended

up in another booth. Then came the rain – and a panicked search for the plastic sheeting. But booth staff and visitors kept busy talking about library programs and services. Visitors also picked up literature and bought T-shirts and books. A highlight was the recently released *100 Memorable Books*, a compilation of staff's most memorable reads. The public was invited to submit their most memorable reads for inclusion in a future booklist. Also watch *What's On*, the Library's quarterly guide to programs and services, for

their suggestions.

All staff and volunteers sported the official Word on the Street T-shirt, featuring art created by Albion Branch's Manga Club. This year was the first that Word on the Street made a concerted effort to attract youth and the Library built on this by giving a presentation in the youth-oriented Ideas tent, offering young people tips on getting published. A variety of youth-friendly books, booklists and other materials were also made available.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Announcing The Rita Cox Endowment Fund

Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection renamed in Dr. Cox's honour

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY and the friends and family of Dr. Rita Cox gathered at Parkdale Branch on July 26 to honour the former Library staff member, Parkdale

SEE MORE THAN \$23,000 RAISED, OVER...



Dr. Rita Cox's collection continues to be well-used today.

More than \$23,000 raised

CONTINUED...

Branch Head (1974-1995) and admired leader in the Black and Caribbean community. Her work in literacy, multiculturalism awareness and public service has transformed the lives of thousands of Torontonians.

At the event, City Librarian Josephine Bryant announced the newly renamed Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection. Founded in 1973 by Cox at Parkdale, this collection is now one of the most

comprehensive collections of its kind in Canada. Today it is housed in four branches (Cedarbrae, Maria A. Shchuka, Parkdale and York Woods) and it continues to be an invaluable resource. Following Bryant's announcement, the Toronto Public Library Foundation announced The Rita Cox Endowment Fund. This Fund will support the enhancement and growth of the newly renamed collection. At press time, approximately \$23,600 has been raised. To donate or for more information, call the Foundation at 416-397-5924.

Library Board Highlights September 2006

Ready for Reading – A Children's Early Literacy Initiative

The Board received for information the *Ready for Reading – A Children's Early Literacy Initiatives* report. The report summarizes the approach the Library is taking on early literacy programs. All of the Library's 0-5 programs will be enriched by the compelling scientific research linking children's

success in school with the acquisition of early literacy skills. The program will be ideal for reaching priority neighbourhoods and newcomers providing parents, caregivers and educators with the tools that they need to improve their children's potential success in school.

Purchase of Electricity

The Board authorized City of Toronto staff to enrol Toronto Public Library's electricity accounts with an energy retailer and hedge

the cost of power requirements for a three-year term, commencing January 1, 2007.

Awards of Contract

S. Walter Stewart Branch

Jane/Dundas Branch

The Board was advised that an award of contract to Ross Clair (R.O.M.) Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$3.6 million was approved over the summer for the renovation of S. Walter Stewart Branch.

An award of contract

to Struct-Con Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$2.4 million was approved by the Board for the renovation of Jane/Dundas Branch.

2007 – 2011 Capital Budget and Plan Submission

The Board approved the 2007 – 2011 Capital Budget and Plan which requested funding of \$10 million debt (\$15.1 million gross) in 2007 and \$38.9 million debt (\$59.0 million gross) over 2007 – 2011 for Previously Approved Projects, New Projects and Scope Changes.

Calendar of Events

Fall 2006

Renovation of S. Walter Stewart Branch

S. Walter Stewart District Branch is now closed for approximately one year for renovations. Holds will be available for pick-up at Dawes Road Branch (416 Dawes Road). Other branches nearby include: Pape/Danforth; Danforth/Coxwell; and Todmorden Room. Todmorden Room's hours have been extended.

Jane/Dundas Branch closed for renovations

The Jane/Dundas Branch is now closed for a year for renovations. Holds will be available for pick-up at Annette Street Branch (145 Annette Street). Other nearby branches include Brentwood; Mount Dennis; and Runnymede.

Uptown Author series

Wednesday, Oct. 11, Cecily Ross will read from her book, *Love in the Time of Cholesterol*, a heartfelt, funny memoir about life after heart disease.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, Meet Toronto mystery writer, Howard Engel, for a special presentation on the latest instalment of his popular Benny Cooperman detective series, *Memory Book*. North York Central Library, Room 1, 7 p.m. Q&A to follow all readings.

Golden Harvest: The Shared Heritage of Chinese and Canadian Children's Books and Art

Monday, Sept. 11 to Friday, Dec. 1 The Osborne Collection, Lillian H. Smith Branch, 4th floor, 239 College Street (at Huron).