

**Chair's Report**  
**March 24, 2014**

**Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives**

A collaboration with the **annual Toronto Storytelling Festival**, which has been running since 1979, has led to Toronto Public Library participating in Storyfire, the kickoff event for this year's festival. The events, taking place at six library branches, with about 15 library staff telling stories, are part of a much larger initiative happening across the city. The Library will also host two events, with East End Storytellers at Morningside Branch and a group of Regent Park storytellers at Parliament Street Branch.

Toronto Public Library participated in a collaborative event and panel of **City Services to Newcomers** on February 24 at Metro Hall to increase awareness and promotion of the Library's newcomer services, programs, collections and resources. Among those present were 40 staff from the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants and others in the settlement sector, including York University, and faith and cultural group leaders who are working to achieve the successful integration of newcomers in Toronto. Keen interest was shown in the Library's resources and services, including ebooks, the Mango language learning online resource, Dial-A-Story, Library Settlement Partnerships, the Library's broad range of multilingual collections, and the Sun Life Museum+Arts Pass (MAP) program.

A number of Toronto Public Library branches will benefit from an initiative involving **the Toronto maple tree that is believed to have inspired Alexander Muir's famous poem and song "The Maple Leaf Forever,"** which was felled in a storm last July. The City of Toronto will preserve the wood from the tree and use it to make a variety of memorabilia arts and crafts projects that will be displayed and used in locations throughout Toronto. Branches located closest to the site of the tree will receive items. The Toronto Reference Library will also receive several items, including an art easel, a book stand and a thin slice of the tree (a "cookie" that will be carved with the tree's provenance).

**Programs and exhibits**

Toronto Public Library welcomes 3D printing expert and fabrication artist Derek Quenneville as its **first Innovator in Residence** at the Toronto Reference Library's Digital Innovation Hub. During Derek's six-week residency from March 24 to May 2, library customers will have the opportunity to meet and ask Quenneville questions at weekly drop-in sessions; take an introductory class on 3D design; learn how to use Microsoft Kinect to create 3D selfies; see a variety of 3D printing technology on display at the monthly Toronto 3D Printer Meetup to be hosted at TRL on March 31 and April 28; create 3D remixes and mashups using MeshMixer; and read Derek's postings on the Library's Digital Design and Technology blog. Quenneville manages production at 3DPhacktory, runs Toronto 3D Printer Meetups and is a former director at Site 3 coLaboratory. Since 2009, he has demonstrated 3D printing to thousands of people at local events. For more information, visit [torontopubliclibrary.ca/iir](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca/iir)

A brand new exhibit, **Coffee, Beer and Mosh Pits** opened February 8 in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Reference Library to rave reviews from the public as well as from art and music critics in the city. The exhibit gives customers a chance to relive Toronto's vibrant music scene via an exhibition of posters, photographs and film footage from 1960 to the present, from the Library's special collections as well as from the Toronto Star Archive. The exhibit was the focus of a lengthy article in the *Toronto Sun* at the end of February by music critic and contributor Errol Nazareth. Related programming includes two Star Talks, the first featuring singer-songwriters Murray McLauchlan and Lorraine Segato, along with Broken Social Scene's Brendan Canning; the second featuring Canadian legend Randy Bachman.

February 2014 marked Toronto Public Library's **second annual personal finance campaign**. The Library offered a wide range of related programming such as Tax Tips for 2013 and 2014, How to Avoid Investment Fraud, Estate Planning and How to Teach Your Kids About Money. Emphasis was placed on quality information delivered by authoritative sources such as Pat Foran and Ellen Roseman, as well as finance and accounting experts through partnerships with Chartered Accountants Canada and the Rotman School of Management. With focused promotion of the Library's personal finance resources during the month of February, people at all stages of their financial planning can get expert help and support, from managing student debt to retirement planning, and all points in between.

The 16 grand award winners in this year's **Design a Bookmark Contest** were chosen on March 12 by children's services staff and TD Summer Reading Club artist John Martz. All the winners and their families will be invited to get a first look at their art as bookmarks on May 7, the night of the Design a Bookmark Contest awards celebration at North York Central Library. Shortly after the celebration, the bookmarks will be available at all branches of Toronto Public Library.

Toronto Public Library celebrated **Freedom to Read Week** (Feb. 23 to Mar. 1) with events and displays highlighting topical subjects, including recent federal cutbacks to science research funding, book banning, and global surveillance issues, at a number of branches around the city. A surveillance-themed online recommended reading list includes classics such as *1984* and *Fahrenheit 451*, as well as children's books and recent non-fiction.

As always at Toronto Public Library, **March Break** was a busy time, with branches all across the city presenting a diverse array of programs for children and teens. A **Young Voices March Break Writing and Arts Festival** offered teens 12 - 19 the opportunity to workshop with professional writers and artists on their creative endeavours at seven branches all around the city.

**The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon spring season line up** was announced in early March. Home improvement guru Mike Holmes, Outlander series creator Diana Gabaldon, Canadian literary superstar Terry Fallis, American writer Barbara Ehrenreich, Toronto Symphony Orchestra director Peter Oundjian and American soprano Sondra Radvanovsky are among those scheduled to visit the Appel Salon this spring. The complete program can be found at: [torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon)

The **Keep Toronto Reading Festival** starts next week and runs throughout April, bringing more than 80 programs to 50 branches of Toronto Public Library. This year's festival centres on the Library's 2014 One Book, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway. The complete program can be found at: [keptorontoreading.ca](http://keptorontoreading.ca)

## **Spaces**

Effective April 22, 2014, **open hours will increase** at the Toronto Reference Library and seven district libraries (Albert Campbell, Albion, Barbara Frum, Brentwood, Don Mills, Maria A. Shchuka and York Woods). Each of these library branches will be open from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 5.p.m. Saturday; and 1:30 to 5.p.m. Sunday. The Library has developed a communications plan to notify customers, City Councillors and the general public of the expanded open hours.

The **Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre is now open** to the public. The stunning rotunda on the fifth floor of the Toronto Reference Library represents the jewel in the crown of the revitalization of the Toronto Reference Library, with its shelf- lined mezzanine and custom designed furniture. As part of this ambitious renovation project, the Arthur Conan Doyle Room was also refurbished. The project was completed with the generous support, through the Toronto Public Library Foundation, of Marilyn & Charles Baillie, the Metcalf Family in honour of Justice Robert F. Reid, Cliff & Doris Goldfarb, and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

## **Branch Renovations**

**Don Mills Branch reopened on February 18 after a one week closure** to complete a retrofit, sorter installation and a small renovation that includes express checkout and express check-in stations and a refreshed and brightened entrance. Some additional upgrades are still underway on the lower level, and upgrades to the auditorium and landscaping details will also follow in the coming months. **Albion Branch** is now in the design phase of a project that will revitalize the space, improve customer service and ensure efficient operation of the building. An open house at the branch on March 27 has been scheduled to meet with library staff and architects from the firm of Perkins + Will, as they present the preliminary design concept.

**Fairview Branch and Theatre continue to be closed** due to flooding caused by a broken water main outside the building earlier in the year. A February 18 report from the consulting engineers indicated that portions of the slab on the first floor need to be removed and replaced and further testing below these areas is required. The building assessment has been completed and the building is now safe for occupancy. The Library is working with the insurance company's construction firm to complete necessary repairs so that a portion of the entry level, and the second, third and fourth floors will be ready to re-open to the public in April. Water has now been restored to the building and in-depth cleaning of affected areas and remediation work is in process. The week of March 24, staff will begin the set-up work required to re-open the branch. The date for branch re-opening will be announced as soon as

it can be confirmed. The timing for the reopening of the theatre and the remaining portion of the entry level will be provided as soon as it is available.

Extended service at nearby branches will continue throughout the closure: Hillcrest and Pleasant View branches are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bayview branch is open on Sundays from 1:30 to 5 pm. Meeting and theatre rentals are on hold until more information about the resumption of library service becomes available. Holds are available at Agincourt branch. Ongoing programs such as Leading to Reading, Homework Help for Teens and Adult Literacy have been relocated to nearby branches.

## **Foundation**

Irshad Manji, the bestselling Canadian author and professor of moral courage at New York University, and winner of Oprah's first-ever Chutzpah Award for "audacity, nerve, boldness and conviction," was the featured guest at the **2014 Bluma Lecture** on March 6 in the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library. Manji was joined by TVO's Steve Paikin in a sold out interview that was live webcast and is also available for viewing on the library website. The annual Bluma Lecture is dedicated to the discussion of important issues by some of the world's most thoughtful opinion-leaders. Named in honour of Toronto philanthropist Bluma Appel, The Bluma Lecture has been made possible by an extraordinary gift from the Bluma Appel Community Trust. The lecture is co-presented by the Toronto Public Library Foundation and Toronto Public Library.

## **Awards**

Toronto Public Library received an **Excellence in Community Service award** from the Intercultural Dialogue Institute, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to advance social cohesion through personal interaction by promoting respect and mutual understanding among people of all cultures and faiths through dialogue and partnership. The award was presented at a luncheon on March 6 to City Librarian Jane Pyper. The Library received the award for encouraging literacy and for its contributions to fostering the joy of reading for all Torontonians.

## **Media**

City Librarian Jane Pyper was featured in the **Toronto Star's Big Idea series**, presented in partnership with the Martin Prosperity Institute. Pyper's idea was to create a city-wide network that allowed Torontonians to share and borrow ideas as easily as they share and borrow books in the Library's collection, thereby taking advantage of this city's greatest and most creative asset — its residents. According to Pyper, "Through this network, the sharing of small sparks of inspiration could create big ideas that make Toronto and its residents more knowledgeable, more connected, more resilient and more successful."

## **Collections**

Toronto Public Library cardholders will soon have access to hundreds of digital music albums, movies and TV shows, through **hoopla digital library service**. With the popularity of e-content increasing, this new online streaming service will be a welcome addition to the Library's e-collections, bringing a large selection of music, audiobooks and videos. All materials can be borrowed via a browser, smart phone or tablet and instantly streamed or downloaded.

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff