

Chair's Report September 13, 2011

Partnerships

The **Big Day Out Summer Camp at York Woods** is a partnership between the Library and World Literacy Canada, as well as several other agencies. This is the last year of a three-year Trillium grant to fund the program, but it is hoped that funding can be secured to continue this worthwhile program. Camp Counsellors are hired from the Jane-Finch community and given a week-long training session by staff from the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre. The training takes place in the library and includes an orientation to the library and its services. The camp is run in three, two-week sessions with participating children, all from the Jane-Finch community, doing activities at York Woods on Mondays and Fridays, including some sessions in the Learning Centre, as well as a guided tour of the library. On the other three days of the week, the children visit local attractions around the city, such as the National Ballet School, the water park at Ontario Place, and the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre. Literacy is a big focus of this program, so the location of the camp at a library is an important factor. In 2011, 350 campers attended Big Day Out and 35 youth from the community received training, mentoring and employment as counsellors.

Collections

TPL has added over 1,000 **e-book and e-audiobook titles** so far this year, bringing the collection to over 16,000 titles. Circulation is up 146 percent over 2010, signifying the growing interest in this new format. Canadian fiction and more children's content are increasingly available.

Branches

Following last year's success, **Pape/Danforth Branch participated in Taste of the Danforth** again this year, on August 6. The day included an outreach booth on Danforth Avenue where nearly 350 people stopped to talk to library staff; a special storytelling program, featuring Tabby Johnson from Comfy Couch and Dr. Althea Prince from Ryerson University, that attracted 45 listeners; a book display devoted to Greek gods and mythology; and the branch's annual sidewalk book sale, which raised nearly \$140. With 1,100 people visiting the branch to borrow over 1,200 items, this event is a wonderful community engagement experience.

Programs

Fall programming is underway with **The eh List** kicking off in the Toronto Reference Library atrium on September 8 with Randy Boyagoda, author of *Beggar's Feast*, being interviewed by *Book of Negroes* novelist Lawrence Hill. Eh List readings continue throughout the fall and early winter with 25 authors appearing at seven branches in all corners of the city. **The Bram and Bluma Appel Salon** has an impressive list of guests coming this fall, starting off with Artemis Fowl author Eoin Colfer on September 21, and continuing with visits by Brian Dennehy, Randy Bachman, Karen Kain, Jeffrey

Eugenides, and many others. **Make Some Noise** kicks off the fall season with a matinee concert, ideal for young families, at Sanderson Branch, featuring pop band Hooded Fang on October 1. **Young Voices** 2011, the Library's magazine of teen creative writing and visual art, launches on October 13 with a celebration for the over 80 contributors to this year's magazine at North York Central Library. Two days later, on Saturday, October 15, the Young Voices Writer's Conference will feature eight Toronto authors working with about 150 Toronto teens on their creative endeavours, also at North York Central Library.

This fall, **Sophie's Studio**, now in its second year, will again be offering hands-on creative workshops made possible by a bequest from long-time library lover Sophia Lucyk. Sophie's Studio promotes creativity and writing for children, enabling them to learn creative writing skills, make a book, or even work with a published author. Workshops range from film writing, to non-fiction writing, to an inside look at the publishing world and are being held at select branches around the city.

Capital projects

The Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall will be closing on Thursday, September 15 and the staff and collections will be relocating to the Toronto Reference Library the following week. Arrangements are being made to have the Toronto Public Library Bookmobile stop near Metro Hall every Thursday from 11:30 to 1 p.m. (start date to be confirmed). Customers can designate holds to be picked up at Bookmobile Two.

Foundation

The Toronto Public Library Foundation was privileged to be a part of this year's Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival (formerly known as Caribana), as The Rita Cox Endowment Fund at the Toronto Public Library Foundation was chosen as the charity of choice for this year's Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Gala. Over \$5,000 was raised through the Gala, with another gift of \$5,000 from Scotiabank in matching funds, thus adding over \$10,000 to the Endowment Fund. The Rita Cox Endowment Fund enables the enrichment and enhancement of the Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection at the Toronto Public Library.