

**Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives**

Toronto Public Library will be launching the **Reach Out and Read** program on January 27<sup>th</sup> (Family Literacy Day) in partnership with St. Michael's Hospital. The media event will take place at the St. Michael's Health Clinic on Bond St. (80 Bond St.). This innovative pilot project is based on a pediatric model developed in Boston to improve literacy rates in families and children where poverty rates are high. Through this pilot, families will be counseled by their doctors during their wellness check-ups about the importance of reading. Toronto Public Library will be providing doctors with information and promotional materials about Ready for Reading, local branches and library card registration, among other accessible, easy-to-use tools and supports. The project will start with five of the St. Michael's Hospital Clinics, and has the potential to expand more broadly, depending on pilot outcomes.

Toronto Public Library's **Let's Get Ready for Reading Guide**, filled with fun and easy everyday family activities to help kids become readers, is getting noticed. Toronto Public Library recently filled an order for 1,000 guides to be sent to Bruce County Public Library. These guides will be included in care packages that will go out to all newborns in Bruce County in 2015.

The **Aga Khan Museum** joined the Library's Sun Life Museum + Arts Pass (MAP) program this January, with passes to the city's newest museum now available in 50 of the Library's branches across the city.

**Programs and exhibits**

Four Families: One War, an exhibition in the TD Gallery on World War I, told through the experience of four Toronto families closed January 11<sup>th</sup>. During its run the exhibition was viewed by 2,629 guests, including a young man who was a member of one of the families featured in the exhibit. According to the young man, he grew up hearing stories about the Belgian Canal Boat Fund and the war efforts of his great grandparents, and was thrilled to see their records on display. He is planning to return to the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre to meet with the librarians who developed the display, and review the letters and diaries of his great grandparents.

**Spaces**

Toronto Public Library's **Writer's Room** is now open. As part of an extensive revitalization, the Library has created a space for Toronto writers, both professional and aspiring. Located on the third floor of the Toronto Reference Library, the Writer's Room is equipped with a welcoming lounge, office workstations, power outlets and access to wireless Internet. The room is intended to be a convenient place to work, and also a place

where writers can connect to the Reference Library's collections and research help from librarians. More information is available on the Library's website, including an application for admission, details about the room and guidelines for use.  
<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/services/the-writers-room.jsp>

### **Staff training, enrichment and other enhancement opportunities**

Librarian Stacey Nordlund (North York Central Library – Canadiana Department) has been selected by the American Library Association to participate in their **2015 Emerging Leaders program**. This library leadership program "enables library staff and information workers to participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers." Stacey has been sponsored by the New Members Round Table, an organization aimed at helping those who have been association members for less than ten years become actively involved in the association and the profession.

### **Collections**

An excellent collection of magazines from **publisher Condé Nast** was recently added to the Library's emagazine collection. The New Yorker, Vanity Fair and Wired are among the new magazines. The emagazines checked out from the Zinio collection do not have to be returned and there are never any fines.

Toronto Public Library's econtent circulation reached 3.5 million in 2014, representing 11% of overall circulation. Toronto Public Library's circulation on Overdrive was the highest in the world at over **2 million checkouts**.

[www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/downloads](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/downloads)

The Library was able to acquire the first part of the North American Pilot for Newfoundland and River St. Laurence. It includes a rare volume of maps, charts and plans, drawn from the original survey, using funds made available through the TPL Foundation. The Robert F. Reid Special Collections Acquisition Fund, established by Johanna Metcalf in memory of her husband, is used to purchase items of cultural and historical significance that complement and expand the Library's remarkable Special Collections.

This edition of the North American Pilot is complete, and contains a collection of 60 maps and charts of Atlantic Canada (primarily of Newfoundland and Labrador) attributed to Captain James Cook and his assistant, Michael Lane. There is only one other edition of this volume in Canada (held at the Library and Archives Canada). That volume is incomplete.

A subset of **Osborne Collection** is now exhibiting at the Grolier Club in New York, the latest in their "Grolier Hundred" series. Featured in the exhibit are 14 items on loan from the Osborne Collection of Early Childrens' Books, a loan made possible through the support of the Friends of the Osborne Collection. The exhibition "One Hundred Books

Famous in Children's Literature" features the great books of Childrens' literature from the last 400 years – from fairy tales, to Canada's own Anne of Green Gables.

The Grolier Club is a private club dedicated to the book arts, and antiquarian book collecting. "One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature" is open to the public, and runs through Feb. 7 at the Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, Manhattan. If you find yourself in New York in the next few weeks, be sure to drop by. It has received positive reviews in the New York Times.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/26/arts/design/one-hundred-books-famous-in-childrens-literature-at-grolier.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/26/arts/design/one-hundred-books-famous-in-childrens-literature-at-grolier.html?_r=0)

## **Foundation**

The Foundation is very excited about the upcoming tenth anniversary of **The Book Lover's Ball**, which will be held at the Toronto Reference Library on February 5. This year for the first time, there will be an after-party with tickets only \$100 for the general public. Library staff get a special reduced price of \$75. And we're excited to announce that the live band will be Jason Collette's Basement Revue.

There will be a particularly strong promotion of adopt-a-branch at the event to mark the opening of the 100<sup>th</sup> branch. The objective is to raise \$100,000 through adopt-a-branch donations.

The Foundation is happy to announce **The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation** renewed its support of the Library's Home Library Service and Bookmobiles with a donation of \$60,000.

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff