

**Chair's Report**  
**Monday, May 28, 2012**

**Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives**

On April 20, 16 government officials from the **Multicultural Families Division of South Korea's Gyeonggi Province** visited Toronto Public Library as part of a tour across the United States and Canada to learn more about immigration issues. The delegation was hosted by manager Dawna Rowson and consisted of directors, researchers, and staff members of local divisions of departments related to migration, social welfare, women, and families. The Korean delegation met at North York Central Library with the library's Multicultural Services Committee, and staff shared information about the various programs Toronto Public Library offers. Library staff talked about the value of the Newcomer Afterschool Hub and the role that all staff play in welcoming newcomers to the library and helping them get integrated into Canadian life. The delegates asked for and were given an impromptu tour of North York Central Library.

**The TD Summer Reading Club Outreach to Shelters Project** was an initiative of the Toronto Public Library and the TD Summer Reading Club to bring storytime visits to shelters serving families across Toronto. An article about the initiative, written by Toronto Public Library staff member Jessica Rovito, was published in the most recent issue of the library industry magazine *Feliciter*. This project brought the Library to shelter residents, registering them for library cards on site, running storytime programs inside the shelters themselves, and bringing materials for residents to check out at the end of each program. The Shelter Outreach Project reached a total of eight shelters. Programs included storytime sessions, a chartered bookmobile visit, and general information sessions for both shelter staff and mothers, promoting the TD Summer Reading Program and services for children and youth at the Library. The project provides a good example of the outreach work the Library does, and also of the evolving roles and some of the changes in the work of a librarian in the 21st century.

As part of the **City-sponsored Clean Toronto Together program**, Toronto Public Library staff joined their colleagues in a 20-minute cleanup blitz around their workplace on Friday, April 20. Branch staff reported that their grounds were immaculate after the clean-up. The Library branch cleanups on Friday complemented Mayor Ford's Community Clean-Up scheduled for the following day, Saturday, April 21.

**The National Reading Strategy** is a grassroots movement of publishers, librarians, educators, writers and concerned citizens who are interested in creating a national reading strategy for Canada that will foster a reading culture in communities across the country. The ultimate goal is to promote reading among all Canadians, reflecting the value of reading as a tool for democracy and civic engagement, a means to equalize the playing field for all Canadians, a way for Canadians to learn about themselves, and a vehicle for joy. To date, three summits have been held, in Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver. These summits have offered an opportunity to identify key strategies and build coalitions to work towards policy development and implementation. The summits, held in both official languages, address the needs of Canadians in all regions, including First Nations,

immigrant communities, and youth. The most recent summit in Vancouver addressed the draft of the national reading plan that had been developed using the input of the previous summits. Toronto Public Library City Librarian Jane Pyper is a member of the steering committee for the National Reading Strategy initiative.

## **Collections**

The CBC Music Library has offered **the Clyde Gilmour Collection** to the Special Collections Department at Toronto Reference Library. The collection includes 63 boxes of manuscript material and annotated books on music history, including every script (handwritten) for Clyde Gilmour's CBC radio show, "Gilmour's Albums"; 10,000 albums, many with annotations on the album covers; and 4,000 CDs, again with Gilmour's annotations. "Gilmour's Albums" ran from 1956 until 1997. Clyde Gilmour (1912-1997) received the Order of Canada in 1975, and entered the Canadian News Hall of Fame in 1990. On "Gilmour's Albums", he played the records he himself enjoyed, all taken from his own collection. Toronto Public Library is very pleased to be the recipient of this collection of national cultural significance and will house the collection as part of the Performing Arts special collections, which includes the manuscripts of more than 125 Canadian and international performers, over 10,000 playbills and programs from concerts and theatrical productions, and more than 4,000 stage designs by Canadian designers for theatre, dance, opera, musical theatre, film and television. Users will be able to access the (in many cases rare and out of print) recordings, and will have open access to the observations and professional commentary of one of Canada's foremost musical critics.

In April Toronto Public Library acquired its first **ebooks in languages other than English** – about 100 titles each in French, Chinese, Spanish and Russian. Most are classic fiction with some current fiction and nonfiction in Spanish. To date, Spanish and Chinese are the most popular. The Library will continue to expand these collections and add other languages as they become available.

Toronto Public Library staff have been participating on a task group of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC), which has entered into discussions with publishers in Canada in **an effort to make ebooks more readily available for public library customers**. Since 2011, progress has been made on improving the availability of Canadian ebook content, but there remain serious limitations in public library access to ebooks from major US publishers, including their Canadian subsidiaries. Four of these six major publishers will not sell to public libraries at all, and the other two have imposed restrictions or have imposed significantly higher pricing for libraries. Public libraries throughout the world are working to resolve this issue, and the work that is going on through the CULC task group is a good example of the efforts already underway.

## **Programs**

Almost 500 people attended **the sixth annual June Callwood Lecture**, held May 10 in the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library. The keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Lewis received standing ovations, and the long line of people queuing at the microphone for the Q & A, and the general energy level were all good indications that the

audience was thrilled with the event. Lewis was introduced by his long-time colleague Olivia Chow, MP. The annual June Callwood lecture honours the legacy of the social activist by featuring speakers who are committed to issues of social justice. Lewis focussed on the power of advocacy, especially at the grassroots level. Lewis is the board chair of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which is dedicated to turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa, and he is co-founder and co-director of AIDS-Free World.

Toronto Public Library welcomed over 17,000 guests from across the city and around the world at the annual **Toronto Comic Arts Festival**, hosted for the fourth consecutive year at Toronto Reference Library on May 5 and 6. This year's international lineup featured guests from across Canada and the US, and from around the world, and included artists from Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy and Japan. Featured guests included Kate Beaton, Alison Bechdel, Bryan Lee O'Malley, and Pendleton Ward. Over the two days, attendees enjoyed programming, author and artist signings, and even a video game exhibit presented by the Toronto International Film Festival's new media division, TIFF Nexus. For the first time, TPL was also a TCAF exhibitor. Guests who visited the TPL table learned about relevant programs, collections and services – including the WORD OUT teen summer reading program. Feedback from exhibitors, attendees and the media – including busy chatter on Twitter – has been extremely positive.

The **third annual Book Bash**, part of Keep Toronto Reading, took place on April 21 at Northern District Branch, with children and their families enjoying this celebration of Canadian children's literature. The event drew families for a fun-filled afternoon of reading, storytelling, crafts, music, puppetry and book signings. Guests included authors Richard Scrimger, L.M. Falcone, Ted Staunton, Andrew Larsen, Erin Bow and Philippa Dowding; storytellers Aubrey Davis and Laurel Dee Gugler; and singer/songwriter Leah Salomaa. Members of the North York Central Library Youth Advisory Group were on hand to paint the faces of children participating in the event. The festival is supported by the Muller Scholastic Endowment Fund for Canadian Children's Literature, honouring Lawrence Muller, retired president of Scholastic Canada, and the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

The talented winners of the library's annual **Design-a-Bookmark Contest** gathered in the concourse of North York Central Library on May 9 for a celebration of their achievement and an awards ceremony. All of the artists, who ranged in age from two to 13 years old, were accompanied by their very proud, camera-toting families and friends. The evening was hosted by Toronto Public Library Children and Youth Advocate Lisa Heggum and Ken Stewart represented the Board at the event. TD Summer Reading Club artist Dušan Petričić offered inspiring words to the winners and some advice, too, "When you get angry, whether at your parents or your teacher," he said, "don't act up. Just draw." After the awards ceremony, the winners and their families enjoyed some treats provided by TD Bank.

Senator Vivienne Poy, the first Canadian of Asian descent to be appointed to the Senate of Canada, was the keynote speaker at **Asian Heritage Month celebrations** on May 10 at North York Central Library. Senator Poy spoke about the past, present, and future of our Asian Canadian communities, celebrating a decade of achievements, and looking

forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Fairchild Media and CBC were both at the event doing interviews and taking pictures. Attendance was over 200. Senator Poy also presented the Library with two documents that will make their way into the Library's special collections: the text of a speech by Senator Poy on December 6, 2001 in the Senate that includes the motion to declare May as Asian Heritage Month; and the official declaration of May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada, dated May 21, 2002.

### **Foundation**

This month, the Foundation launched its **Legacy for your Library** campaign designed to increase awareness of opportunities to leave a bequest to Toronto Public Library through the Foundation. Branches promoted the campaign through Leave A Legacy displays showcasing the Foundation's new Leave A Legacy brochure and poster, and highlighting Library collections pertaining to estate planning and wills. The Foundation also hosted several Estate Planning information sessions in select branches and partnered with the Canadian Association of Gift Planners to host a Legacy series at the Reference Library.

### **Other**

As reported to the Board earlier, Stephen Dulmage has resigned from the Board effective May 2, 2012. It is expected that Council will appoint a replacement for Mr. Dulmage in June.