

Partnerships, Outreach and other community initiatives

Toronto Public Library was once again at this year's **Word on the Street Festival** in Queen's Park on September 22, the largest outdoor book and magazine festival in North American, running in four Canadian cities, all on the same day. At the Library's main booth situated in a prime spot at the festival's entrance, staff were on hand to demonstrate our new e-magazine service, Zinio, as well as to show off our growing selection of e-books and popular databases. The bookmobile on Kids Street was once again a big hit, with a great selection of books to browse and borrow; and outside the bookmobile, our children's staff did hourly storytimes for children young and old. At Literacy Lane, staff promoted the Library's adult literacy services. At both the bookmobile and at our main booth, mobile Library card registrations were promoted, and over xx festival-goers took advantage of the opportunity to get a new membership, or renew their old one.

A new program called **Scarborough Seniors Write**, launched on September 5 at Kennedy/Eglinton Branch. Presented by Scarborough Arts in partnership with the Toronto Public Library and Tropicana Community Services, the program invites local seniors to tell their stories through creative writing workshops, story sharing and recording activities. The program will ultimately lead to the production of a publication in both print and digital format. The launch of the program brought together participants, youth volunteers who will be helping with the program, members of the community and representatives from the media.

Toronto Public Library's ***Let's Get Ready for Reading Guide*** has been very well received by parents, caregivers, and early childhood educators since it was launched about six months ago. It has also been getting rave reviews by other library systems across Ontario, after a complimentary copy was sent to every public library in the province. Vaughan Public Library's message sums up nicely the feelings of all the notes we've received: "We would like to express our appreciation of the valuable leadership role taken by Toronto Public Library and the Toronto Public Library Foundation in producing such a wonderful resource! We are all important partners in promoting literacy and lifelong learning for our children and thank you for sharing this resource."

A series of programs launched at the end of August at Albion Branch help Toronto Public Library continue its efforts to support **digital innovation in the city**. Nineteen young participants between the ages of 10 and 19 enjoyed using branch iPads, and their own smart devices to utilize a basic web application to create and remix short videos. The event was part of the Remix the City series by FabSpaces in cooperation with Toronto Public Library. Future Remix the City programs are scheduled for Malvern and Mimico Centennial branches and for North York Central and Toronto Reference libraries.

Programs

The 2013 issue of *Young Voices*, Toronto Public Library's magazine of teen writing and visual art, will be launched on October 8. This year, for the first time, the event will take place in the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library. The event brings together contributors to the magazine and their friends and families to celebrate together, and includes readings by a number of the teens who had their work chosen for the magazine. The editorial board that selects what goes in *Young Voices* is made up of volunteer Toronto teen writers, artists mentored by professional writers and artists and TPL staff.

The Young Voices Writers Conference will also be held in the Appel Salon for the first time in 2013, on October 26. As well as the usual workshops with Toronto professionals, this year the annual conference will feature Toronto Public Library electronic writer in residence Gary Barwin, who will "meet" with Toronto teens online to provide advice and feedback on their creative efforts between October 26 and November 26. The Young Voices Writers Conference is sponsored by Deloitte through the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

The Young Voices program – including the magazine, the conference, the new electronic writer in residence, and the annual spring Young Voices Writing Workshops – is supported through the generosity of **the Daniels brothers in honour of their mother, Norine Rose**, through the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library has a great fall season lined up, with guests from the world of literature, the performing arts, politics and big ideas. On the roster are authors Jhumpa Lahiri, Jonathan Lethem, Jung Chang and Donna Tartt; politicians Joe Clark and Michael Ignatieff; storyteller Stuart McLean; actors Colin Mochrie and Mary Walsh; tenor Ben Heppner; nature photographer Freeman Patterson. As well, superstar astronaut and twitter virtuoso Chris Hadfield will make his only Toronto appearance at the Appel Salon in December when he discusses *An Astronaut's Guide to the Earth* with broadcaster Valerie Pringle. On October 9, the Appel Salon will be host to the Toronto Book Awards, where Matt Galloway will announce the winner of this prestigious literary award (and the only literary awards ceremony free and open to all). And, finally, in November, Torontonians will be invited to bring their best ideas for making the city better to the Library's Idea Jam, featuring city planner Jennifer Keesmat, writer in residence Shawn Micallef, and Regent Park creative hub director Seema Jethalal.

Toronto Public Library's **eh List Author Series** is also set for a big fall season with authors from coast to coast appearing at six branches across the city in September, October and November. Highlights include Roy McMurtry with his forthcoming memoir, interviewed by Barbara Turnbull, and Louise Penny at the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon. Also appearing this fall, Wayne Johnston, Donna Morrissey, Robert Rotenberg, Ted Barris and Shyam Selvadurai. Partners in this program include: Canada Council for the Arts, University of Toronto Bookstore and Friends of the Toronto Public Library, South.

During **Small Business Month in October**, Toronto Public Library will be spreading the message that it has everything an entrepreneur might need for starting or growing a small business. The Library offers free programs and seminars year round; books, online databases, and e-magazines; expert staff to help new and established business owners find and make sense of that wealth of information; and meeting and study spaces to help Torontonians work, meet and collaborate. Also, now in its second year, the Library is offering the assistance of an Entrepreneur in Residence. This year's Entrepreneur in Residence, serial entrepreneur Jean Chow, will be blogging, running programs and meeting one-on-one to advise and inspire Toronto's entrepreneurs.

Collections

E-magazines from Zinio are now available for free to anyone with a Toronto Public Library card, and offers the latest issues of over 300 popular magazine titles including *Maclean's*, *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, *House and Home*, and *Rolling Stone*, to name just a few. E-magazines are the latest addition to the Library's growing collection of e-content available to borrow, including current popular fiction and nonfiction e-books and e-audiobooks from Overdrive, the latest technology and business e-books from Safari, and more.

The most **recent development in the availability of e-books** for public library customers came in August, as Macmillan Publishers made more than 1,600 e-books available through Overdrive for Canadian public libraries. Macmillan joins the list of publishers including Random House Canada, HarperCollins Canada and many Canadian independent publishers making e-books available. This development means there are just two remaining publishers that are not making their content available – Simon & Schuster and Penguin. As a follow up to the Toronto Public Library Board's advocacy strategy, letters to these publishers and the other large publishers were sent at the end of July encouraging all of the publishers to make their content available to public libraries under reasonable terms.

Spaces

The **rainstorm and flooding during the July 8 storm** that caused a great deal of property damage and many disruptions to service in Toronto also affected the Toronto Public Library. Although a number of branches were forced to close briefly, facilities and public service staff worked very hard to minimize the impact of the storm, providing alternate services and temporary set ups where necessary.

Bloor/Gladstone Branch, a significant Toronto community cornerstone, will be celebrating a century of service on October 23 – a hundred years to the day from the date it opened – with an all-day birthday party and open house. While three other Toronto Public Library branches have celebrated their centenary in recent years – Yorkville (opened in 1907), Annette Street (1909) and Riverdale (1910) – Bloor/Gladstone has the distinction of being the first branch funded by the people of Toronto through Toronto Public Library (i.e. not through a Carnegie grant). Toronto Public Library Foundation will be supporting the celebration with a Centenary Project to raise funds, through

community support, to complete the new KidsStop at that location. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque at the branch. The development of the KidsStop has been made possible through a gift from the Estate of John Korhonen.

The **renovation of the branch and theatre entrances and first two floors of Fairview Branch** is nearing completion and staff will be in the branch and ready to welcome Library customers back later this fall . The Fairview Library Theatre re-opened on September 11, as the first resident theatre company using the facility, Civic Light Opera, opened their 2013/2014 season. Enhancements to the Fairview Branch include a redesign of the first and part of the second floor, and an expansion of the entrance areas to create separate theatre and library entrances. The reconfigured branch space includes: a new teen zone, new study space, with a new KidsStop interactive early literacy centre to be added in 2014. The branch also features express check-out and automated check-in to help the library provide more efficient and personalized customer service. Finally, improved programming and community space will allow more opportunity for collaboration at this very popular community meeting hub.

Library customers have had their first opportunity to help shape **the upcoming renovation plans for Albion Branch** at a community meeting on August 22. Library customers had an opportunity to meet the architects, hear a presentation about the other projects undertaken by the architects, indicate their priorities for the redesigned facility and have their questions answered. Designed by the firm of Perkins + Will, a fall 2014 construction start is planned.

The upcoming opening of the **Fort York Branch**, Toronto Public Library's 99th location, was the subject of an article in the Insight section of the *Toronto Star* on Sunday, August 25. The article calls the branch "an elegant glass pavilion that will glow like a welcoming lantern at night," and quotes Library Director of Branches, Anne Bailey, who explains that the design of Fort York Branch mirrors a new aesthetic for the modern library, one that is "reaching out to you," and says, "I'm available and open for business."

On September 11, at a ceremony at the Palais Royale, Toronto Public Library was honoured by the City of Toronto with the presentation of an **Urban Design Award for Mount Dennis Branch** in the category of Public Buildings in Context. Mount Dennis, which reopened near the beginning of 2013 after an extensive renovation by G. Bruce Stratton Architects, was chosen for one of 11 Awards of Excellence out of a total of 125 submissions in nine categories. In their statement about Mount Dennis, the jury, made up of design professionals, hailed the renovation as a "...simple yet elegant transformation of a much-needed public building in this area."