

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

February 2007

**March
Break
Fun**
Pg.4...



Mayor David Miller and City Librarian Josephine Bryant proclaim February 2007 as Keep Toronto Reading month at Toronto Reference Library, as the Library hosts a month of events at locations across the city, featuring prominent literary talent and well-known personalities.

CITY-WIDE LITERARY EVENT

Library to help Keep Toronto Reading

February initiative celebrates the joy of reading

A STELLAR LINE-UP of writers, illustrators, performers and media celebrities are helping Toronto Public Library celebrate Keep Toronto Reading throughout February.

"Building on last year's successful formula," City Librarian Josephine Bryant commented at the January

27 launch of KTR, "we have added some fun twists."

Lit lunches in libraries along the subway line, book sales in subway stations and PEN Canada's annual Freedom to Read Week launch are just some of the events planned.

According to Toronto Mayor David Miller, who

was on-hand at the launch to proclaim February as Keep Toronto Reading Month, "Our libraries, all 99 of them, strengthen Toronto's social, cultural and economic foundations. They deliver some of the best programs in our city, appealing to all ages, backgrounds and interests."

Thanks to sponsors whose generous support is helping make Keep Toronto Reading

possible: Diaspora Dialogues, TTC, LCBO, Ontario College of Art and Design, Tundra Books, Starbucks Coffee, PEN Canada, The Beguiling, Art Gallery of Ontario and the International Readings at Harbourfront.

And a very special thank you to our media sponsors, CBC and *The Toronto Star*.

For more information, visit keep.torontoreading.ca and torontopubliclibrary.ca.

NEW TREASURE

Altered Books

Art students
lend new life to
withdrawn books

PART OF THE excitement at the January 27 Keep Toronto Reading launch was the unveiling of the Altered Books Project, a joint initiative with the Ontario College of Art & Design. Jill Patrick, OCAD Board of Governors member and Director of Library Services at OCAD, thanked the library for, "making OCAD students feel so welcome and for providing them with such a wealth of materials – withdrawn library books that have brought pleasure and inspiration to countless Toronto citizens."

OCAD students were challenged to reconstruct, deconstruct and manipulate withdrawn books as

SEE ALTERED BOOKS, PAGE 2...



www.torontopubliclibrary.ca



Altered Books

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raw material and to contemplate the role of the book as information vehicle in the digital age.

The results produced a final exhibition that, in Patrick's words, "presents an exciting renaissance and repurposing of forms at the hands of brilliant new thinkers."

Most of the resulting works of art will be added to the TPL collection, as unique information vehicles. ✱



These unique pieces, created by Ontario College of Art & Design students from withdrawn library books, are on display at the Toronto Reference Library throughout February and online at keepertorontoreading.ca.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Literacy partnership produces pride

Adult literacy learners discover everybody's story is worth telling

DAN YASHINSKY, Toronto Public Library's 2006 Storyteller-in-Residence, recently met with 14 TPL Adult Literacy learners and 49 Toronto District School Board Literacy and Basic Skills learners at the York Woods Library Theatre to tell stories and encourage participants to go forth and tell their own stories.

"This program is a good example of the kind of successful partnership the Library engages in regularly

to maximize resources and benefit as many Torontonians as possible," explains Library literacy worker Tina Natale. "Both the Library and the school board help adult students develop their reading, writing and numeracy skills. Class visits, library visits and participation in the Golden Oak Book Club keep the two programs linked throughout the year."

Yashinsky immediately engaged the crowd with his interesting and challenging

riddles. All of the students remained attentive as he told his many wonderful and humorous stories derived from a variety of cultures and places. One brave student stood up and met Dan's challenge when she told two riddles and one unique story from Ghana, her birthplace. At the end of the program, Yashinsky gave each participant a copy of his book, *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps: Storytelling for the Twenty-First Century*.

"Participants came away from this program with a book," says Natale, "but they also came away with so much more. They were introduced to the art of storytelling

and its ability to engage individuals and to entertain them with tales about different places, people, values and traditions. Now they can look at their own lives and see that they can truly feel proud of their own personal stories."

Many students said that they would like to write their stories and then share them orally with other students.

"Yashinsky's storytelling program was a great success because, not only did he illustrate that everybody has a story," concludes Natale, "but he also made it clear that everybody's story is worth telling." ✱

Urban Affairs Branch offers new holds pickup service

Library patrons can now have the books they reserve delivered to the Urban Affairs branch of Toronto Public Library, located in Metro Hall (55 John St.). "The impetus for this change came as a result of increasing public demand from the growing population of nearby condominium residents," explains Urban Affairs Branch Head Judy Curry. "Also, there are a large number of people working in both Metro Hall and adjacent office buildings, such as the CBC headquarters across the street, who will welcome the opportunity to pick up their holds on their lunch hour or after work."

New Library Board members appointed

City of Toronto Councillors Anthony Perruzza, Maria Augimeri, Chin Lee and Paul Ainslie join Councillor Janet Davis as members of the Toronto Public Library Board. For more about City of Toronto Councillors, visit www.toronto.ca. For more about Toronto Public Library and its Board, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Library helps City raise \$1.25 million for United Way

Parkdale Branch staff member Jennifer Schmitt was honoured as Toronto Public Library's United Way Canvasser of the Year at the City's United Way canvasser recognition event December 14 at St. Lawrence Hall. Jennifer and her Parkdale pals raised an amazing \$1,457 in special events, which included a Karaoke night at the Gladstone Hotel. Congratulations to Toronto Public Library United Way participants for helping the city raise \$1.25 million for Toronto's people in need.

Flemingdon Park's Graphix Groupies

The League of Graphix Groupies met once a week last year at Flemingdon Park branch to discuss Manga, Anime, Graphic Novels and to have a good laugh. *East York Observer* Neil Springer visited with the group and wrote an article for the November 24 issue. Manga, Anime and Graphic novels are becoming more and more popular at the Library. "We're working hard to keep up with the demand for graphic novels," says youth collections librarian Lisa Heggum. Manga and Anime clubs are springing up at a number of Library branches. For more on the clubs and other teen programs, check out *ramp*, the Library's website for teens torontopubliclibrary.ca; click on *ramp*.

Parliament Branch art show sparks ROM series

A *Toronto Star* article about Parliament Branch Library art show featuring the work of library page Aayshah Alam and her sister led to a four-week series, *Exploring Islamic Arts and Culture*, now on at the Royal Ontario Museum.

IN BRIEF CONTINUES ON PAGE 4...

KUDOS

Library wins awards

Publishing efforts and architecture bring accolades

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY was recognized with two 2006 Public Library Service Awards at the Ontario Library Association's annual Super Conference gala dinner on



Singer, Faith Nolan.



Board member, Okeima Lawrence.



Poet, Afua Cooper.



Host, Royson James.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The flowering of African-Canadian literature

Contemporary voices heard at library

WHETHER EXPRESSED IN the form of fiction, poetry or memoir, contemporary African-Canadian voices have blossomed on the literary scene. These voices are being heard at Toronto Public Library throughout

Black History Month as prominent African-Canadian literary lights visit library branches throughout the city.

The inspiring, moving and illuminating visits began February 1, as literary critic Donna Baily Nurse, poet Afua Cooper, author Lawrence Hill and singer Faith Nolan discussed how Canada, as both a country and a culture, has influenced the development of their craft. For a list of Black History Month events at the library, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca.

February 1.

The Minister's Award for Innovation was presented to the Library for the development of two research guides, created with Annick Press, *Research Ate My Brain* and *The Research Virtuoso*. The guides, available in libraries across the city, help students use the library, the Internet and other resources to write successful research papers. The Library was also

honoured, along with ZAS Architects, in the Library Building Category, for the development of the St. James Town Branch. The new branch opened as part of a multi-use community complex in a previously underserved area of Toronto. "The judges spoke highly of our capital projects work and how the Library continues to contribute beautiful and functional spaces to Toronto," noted City Librarian Josephine Bryant. ✱

In Brief

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The Le@rning Centre at North York Central Library

North York Central Library's Learning Centre, located in the Gateway Services Department, opened in 1996 to teach people how to use the Internet.

Today the Library has 13 Learning Centres across the city. "We've taught a lot of

people to use the Internet over the past decade," says Gateway Services Librarian Ellen Lewkowicz. "But we've also learned a lot." What they have learned has been incorporated into a newly redesigned Learning Centre in Gateway Services. The upgraded Centre includes PCs with flat-screen monitors



set up classroom style to make it easier for learners to follow along with the instructor.

Volunteer opportunities available for youth

The Library's nearly 1,500 youth volunteers are involved in everything from advising staff on teen collections and services, to helping their peers with homework. Know a teen looking for something to do? Find out more about youth volunteer opportunities at the Library torontopubliclibrary.ca; click on Support Your Library.

KEEP TORONTO READING FEBRUARY 1-28, 2007

Experience the unexpected.

keeptorontoreading.ca

Calendar of Events February/March 2007

Toronto Celebrates Canada Reads 2007

Monday, February 19,
7-9 p.m.
Toronto Public Library
and CBC Radio 99.1
invite you to celebrate
this year's edition of the
Canada Reads battle of the
books, spotlighting this

year's five nominated books
with two hours of energized
debate and performance.
Featuring David Bezmozgis,
Anosh Irani and more. Hosted
by CBC Radio *Here and
Now* host Matt Galloway.
Toronto Reference Library,
789 Yonge Street

**Inventory: Writers Tracking
War and Conflict**
Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Freedom to Read
Week and Keep Toronto
Reading with Toronto
Public Library and PEN
Canada. Featuring David
Bezmozgis, Dionne Brand,
Bernice Eisenstein, Rawi
Hage, Camilla Gibb,
Ann-Marie MacDonald,
Senthil Ratnasabapathy,
Bruce Cockburn and
Shad. Hosted by Carol Off.
Tickets \$10-\$20 (sliding
scale). All proceeds to PEN
Canada. Advance tickets
at Toronto Women's Store,
call 416-703-8448, x10.
Toronto Reference Library,
789 Yonge Street
For more Keep Toronto
Reading events, visit
keeptorontoreading.ca.

March Break Fun

March Break for kids & teens

Make sure you check out
the new March Break
programs at the library
for kids and teens.
From writing and drawing
workshops, to author visits,
to musicians, storytellers
and other performers, at
many of our 99 branches.

For March Break
programs, visit
torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Library Board Highlights January 29, 2007

93 percent of residents satisfied with library service

A 2006 survey of Toronto
residents indicates that three-
quarters of Torontonians
used the Library in the past
year either in person or over
the phone. Ninety-seven
percent of residents believe
that public libraries are an

important resource for the
community and 93 percent
are satisfied with the overall
quality of Library service
in Toronto. The survey is
part of the Library's Public
Consultation Policy that
encourages and facilitates
civic engagement and public
participation in policy
development. The survey
will be an important part of
the community consultation

process getting underway
in preparation for
Toronto Public Library's
new strategic plan, to
take effect in 2008.

Toronto writer June Callwood to be honoured

An annual Library lecture
focussing on social justice
issues will be named after
Toronto writer and social
activist June Callwood.

Callwood has long been a
supporter of Toronto Public
Library and has spent much
of her life speaking out on
important issues affecting
the lives of individuals and
the community. The Toronto
Public Library Foundation
is currently exploring ways
in which to establish an
endowment in Callwood's
name that will offer stable
funding for the annual lecture.