

# Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

March  
Break  
Fun  
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February 2007



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 [keeptorontoreading.ca](http://keeptorontoreading.ca) and [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://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withdrawn books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thanked the library for, “making OCAD students feel so welcome and for providing them with such a wealth of materials – withdrawn library books that have brought pleasure and inspiration to countless Toronto citizens.”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](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)



## Altered Books

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

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 [keetorontoreading.ca](http://keetorontoreading.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](http://www.toronto.ca). For more about Toronto Public Library and its Board, visit [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://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.

#### **Flemington Park's Graphix Groupies**

The League of Graphix Groupies met once a week last year at Flemington 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](http://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](http://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](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca); click on Support Your Library.

## KEEP TORONTO READING FEBRUARY 1-28, 2007

Experience the unexpected.

[keptronreading.ca](http://keptronreading.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  
[keptronreading.ca](http://keptronreading.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](http://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.