

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

June 2007

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kids get
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WELCOME TO T.O.

Library settlement services help newcomers

Settlement services now provided year-round at seven Toronto Public Library branches

ABOUT A YEAR ago, 24-year-old Raymond moved to Canada from a small village in China and went to work almost immediately to help support his family. He hoped, however, that one day he would be able to go back to school and finish his education.

Today, with the help of a new year-round settlement service partnership being piloted at seven public libraries in Toronto, Raymond

is studying part-time to obtain his high school diploma so that he can go on to study at college.

Toronto welcomes thousands of newcomers every year from many countries. To help these newcomers settle as soon as possible and move forward to live productive, fulfilling lives, the federal government is looking to locate settlement resources in accessible

places in the community.

Public libraries are often among the first community services that newcomers take advantage of upon arriving in Canada. Since 2001, settlement services have been offered at libraries through a program called Settlement and Education Partnerships in Toronto (SEPT), which locates settlement workers in schools from September to June and in libraries in July and August. The summer program has quickly grown from 15 locations to 30 in 2006. This summer, 43 branches

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GREAT LIBRARIES... GREAT CITIES

Toronto conference to focus on changing urban landscape

Canadian Urban Library Council conference to explore options to help integrate newcomers to Canada

LIBRARIES PLAY A key role in city building, and healthy vibrant public libraries contribute to successful newcomer integration into Canadian society. Hosted by Toronto Public Library this fall, The Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) conference, *Increasing Diversity in Canadian Cities: The Public Library Response*, will feature a lineup of high profile experts and policy makers speaking about how the urban landscape is changing, driven by immigration, and how the changes are affecting all Canadian cities.

About 200 city builders, policy makers and urban library delegates will gather in Toronto to explore options for the delivery of programs and services that contribute to the adaptation of newcomers to Canada on their way to becoming successful, fulfilled community members.

The conference will also provide the opportunity for library delegates from across

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**TORONTO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Settlement Services

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will offer the program.

It is no wonder then that seven libraries, in areas in Toronto with high concentrations of newcomers, have been selected as pilot locations for a year-round settlement service program funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). A variety of local agencies are partnering with the library to provide these settlement services. (See chart, right.)

Raymond eventually moved out of the family home and worked a succession of odd jobs to support himself. Not long ago, Raymond visited his local library, Agincourt Branch, and talked to Wen Chen, a settlement worker placed at the library by a neighbourhood settlement agency, Catholic Cross-Cultural Community Services.

Raymond was not familiar with use of the Internet, but, with the help of Wen and library staff, he set out to find a job using one of the library's Internet workstations.

Raymond continues to visit the library several times a week, meeting with Wen, working on improving his English and searching the Internet for work. Wen discovered that Raymond was eligible for employment insurance benefits, which he

had no knowledge of, and Raymond was able to register for and eventually receive money to help him get by while he searched for work. Wen helped Raymond sign up for a job search workshop, ESL classes and English Conversation Circle, which brings newcomers together in a friendly, informal environment to meet new friends and to improve their English. Raymond also signed up for classes to help with his Internet search skills.

"Raymond is a very smart and hard-working young man," says Wen. "He wants to get an education and make a good life in Canada and I'm

sure, with his determination, that he'll succeed."

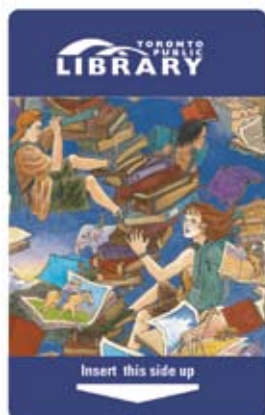
According to CIC Program Advisor Colette Snyder, the program has been a great success. "CIC is very pleased with the success of the library-based model of settlement service delivery. Our goal with this model was to provide settlement assistance to newcomers in locations where it would be easy to find and easy to access. In this regard, the model has exceeded our expectations. We've been told of newcomers who have approached the settlement worker for assistance who have been in the country for as little as one day. Getting the right

information to the newcomer as soon as possible really facilitates their settlement process in Canada. We hope to expand this model of settlement service delivery to other communities in Ontario."

Raymond, who now has a steady, full-time job to support himself while he works toward his goal of attending college, recently told Wen that he is really overwhelmed by all the services that the library has provided and is confident that he can have a very promising life in Canada. Says Raymond, "I am grateful for the settlement services provided at the library and the support of library staff."

Year-round settlement services library locations

	Location	Partner agencies	Languages spoken by settlement workers
1	Agincourt Branch	Catholic Cross-Cultural Community Services	Mandarin, Cantonese
2	Albion Branch	Rexdale Women's Centre	Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi
3	Flemingdon Branch	Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office	Mandarin, Cantonese
4	Parkdale Branch	Kababayan Community Centre	Tibetan, Tamil, Hindi
5	Thorncliffe Branch	Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office	Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Hindi, Katchi
6	Toronto Reference Library	YMCA	Farsi, Dari, Thai, Russian, French, Spanish
7	York Woods Branch	North York Community House	Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Spanish, Mandarin



TD BANK FINANCIAL GROUP

Kindergarten kids get carded

More than 27,000 children benefit from TD Bank Financial Group partnership

A LIBRARY CARD is a child's passport to success and a world of imagination and reading

fun. Thanks to the support of TD Bank Financial Group, more kindergarten kids than ever are coming to their local library to sign up for their own free library card and become regular library customers.

The Library's annual Kindergarten Outreach program, which seeks to benefit kindergarten children in Toronto, distributed 70,000 outreach packages in 2006/07,

encouraging parents to bring their children to the library to sign up for a library card. Since the project began in 2002, with the help of TD Bank Financial Group, more than 27,000 kindergarten children have received their very own library card and many more have visited their local branch to take out books and participate in library programs.

ENVIRONMENT

TD Friends give \$12,000

Collections enhanced by foundation dedicated to well-being of Canadian environment

SINCE IT BEGAN in 1990, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has proudly supported the efforts of Canadians who are dedicated to the well-being of our environment.

Over the years they have supported Toronto Public Library with funds to purchase materials in branches across the system. In 2006/2007 the following branches will receive new materials with the funds granted of \$12,000 for 2006/2007: Brentwood, Eatonville, Richview, Runnymede, Agincourt, Albert Campbell, Cedarbrae and Malvern branches.

We thank the TD Friends for their continued support.

From books about four billion year old rocks to hybrid car buying guides, well over 200 books were purchased with last year's donation. Here's a little sampling:

- *Return of the Condor: The Race to Save Our Largest Bird From Extinction*, John Moir
- *Change the World for Ten Bucks: 50 Actions to Change the World*, New Society Publishers
- *Speaking of Earth: Environmental Speeches that Moved the World*, Alon Tal, ed.

- *Sustainable Living for Dummies*, Michael Grosvenor
- *Canoeing on the Grand River: A Canoeing Guide to Ontario's Historic Grand River*, Jim Reid, ed.
- *Food Not Lawns: How to Turn Your Yard into a Garden and Your Neighbourhood into a Community*, H.C. Flores

For more environmentally friendly books, check out the Weather Makers booklist at the Recommended Reading link on the library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

TD SUMMER READING CLUB

Reading club participation brings improved achievement

Free summer fun at the library keeps kids reading

Experts point out that students experience significant learning losses over the summer, most notably in the areas of reading and math, and that these losses add up over time to create a significant learning gap. Summer reading clubs enhance children's self-esteem, increase their confidence to express views and opinions in a group, and keep learning loss at bay.

For amusement and enriching entertainment this summer, Toronto's kids can drop by their local library, ask for the free TD Summer Reading Club poster and activity booklet, and start reading.

Many thanks to the TD Bank Financial Group for continuing their generous support of this program and to Canada Council for funding some of the library's author/illustrator programs.

To find out more about the TD Summer Reading Club and how kids can join, check the library program guide, *What's On*, or visit the KidsSpace page of the library website at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

THROUGH A VARIETY of free events, storytelling presentations and fun reading-related materials, Toronto Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club ensures that kids keep up their reading over the summer months and have fun doing it.



The music and bamboo dance by Folklorico Filipino Canada set the tone for a fascinating and fun evening,

as about 150 people came to Fairview Library Theatre on May 9 for the gala launch of the library's **Asian Heritage Month** programs. CBC host Mary Ito was joined by authors Anita Rau Badami, Vincent Lam, Jaspreet Singh and Darcy Tamayose. Celebrations continued throughout May with programs for adults and children that featured Asian stories of wit and wisdom; Chinese cooking, dance, medicine, painting, poetry; Japanese flower arrangement; and more.

Toronto Conference

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Canada to showcase successful public library services, programs and partnerships.

CULC represents urban libraries at a national level and works collaboratively to build vibrant urban communities by bolstering the capacity of Canada's large urban libraries.

Toronto Public Library in Jeopardy!

Toronto Public Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection was the subject of a question on the popular television game show *Jeopardy!* on May 11. Contestants were asked to identify the author of

the Sherlock Holmes stories, and were giving the clue: "A Victorian-styled room at the Toronto Public Library is 'Holmes' to a collection on this author". The correct response was worth \$1,200.



The inaugural **June Callwood Lecture** on April 26 was a stunning success with more than 500 people attending, making it one of the library's best attended events. Mary Jo Leddy gave a moving lecture, and everyone enjoyed the event thoroughly. The annual lecture honours the late June Callwood and her commitment to social activism.

(Below) Local teens use their lunch hour to check out their new hot spot, **Woodside Square Branch**. Over 3,000 people celebrated the reopening of the library on April 30. At 10,000 square feet, this library is more than double the size of the previous location, which is appropriate since it is one of Toronto's busiest neighbourhood locations with customers borrowing almost half a million items annually.



Library Board Highlights

May 14, 2007

Board adopts 2007 operating budget

The Toronto Public Library 2007 operating budget, as approved by Toronto City Council on April 23, was adopted by the library board. The budget consists of gross expenditures of \$164.348 million, revenues of \$14.636 million and net expenditures

Calendar of Events June/July 2007

Toronto Sanctuaries Revitalizing Historic Churches

Wednesday, June 13, 2 p.m.
With Toronto-based architect Elizabeth Davidson, great granddaughter of Henry Langley. The Toronto's Sanctuaries Church Designs by Henry Langley exhibit continues to June 30.
TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Yorkville Branch Centennial Birthday Party

Saturday, June 16
Join city officials and faces from Yorkville's past and present. Step into the past with a historical walking tour (10 a.m.). Watch history unfold as Toronto Public Library and Heritage Toronto unveil a plaque in honour of Yorkville's milestone (12 p.m.). Festivities for the family. Refreshments will be served (1–3 p.m.).
Yorkville Branch, 22 Yorkville Avenue

National Aboriginal Day

This June, join Toronto Public Library as we celebrate National Aboriginal Day, with special

events in library branches across the city.

Aboriginal Folktales and Crafts
Saturday, June 16, 11 a.m.

Beaches Branch, 2161 Queen Street East

Aboriginal Stories, Songs and Activities

Monday, June 18, 2 p.m.

Danforth/Coxwell Branch,
1675 Danforth Avenue

Author Reading: Jan Bourdeau Waboose (SkySisters, Morning on the Lake)

Thursday, June 21, 1:30 p.m.

Spadina Road Branch,
10 Spadina Road

Aboriginal Stories and Crafts
Thursday, June 21, 4 p.m.

Malvern Branch, 30 Sewells Road

Book sale in support of Literacy

Wednesday, June 27 & Thursday, June 28, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Hosted by the City of Toronto's Legal Division. All proceeds will support the library's Leading to Reading literacy program. Donations of books are welcome and can be dropped off/sent to the City of Toronto Legal Department, 26th floor, Metro

Hall, 55 John Street, M5V 3C6.

The book sale will be held in the Rotunda, Metro Hall, 55 John Street

Sidewalk Book Sale

Saturday, July 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join the Friends of Toronto Public Library as they present their first-ever outdoor book sale. Lots of great books and other items at rock-bottom prices. Proceeds support library programs, including: English Can Be Fun, a summer program to help children new to Canada get ready for school in September; and Home Library Service, providing library service for those unable to visit a library branch.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

For a complete listing of library programs, including Seniors' Month programs and much more, check: *What's On*, the library's program guide; *What's More*, the library's program supplement, available in any library branch; or visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

of \$149.712 million, which represents a 3.62 percent increase over 2006.

New location for Jane/Sheppard Branch in the works

The board approved a 15-month lease renewal for the Jane/Sheppard Branch, which will remain open at the Jane Sheppard Mall during construction of a new building to house the branch. The new branch is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

Library strategic plan for 2008-2011 in development

With 2007 marking the final year of the library's current strategic plan, *Urban Stories*, the library board has begun the process of developing a new strategic plan for 2008-2011. The process will include extensive public consultation, an environmental scan, the creation of priorities and a plan for implementation.

Equal access to library art exhibit space formalized

With the adoption of a harmonized policy for the exhibition of artwork in select library branches across Toronto, the library board has set the stage for broader use of library gallery space, supporting the library's strategic priority of supporting residents in engaging in the cultural life of their city and its neighbourhoods.