

Shelf life

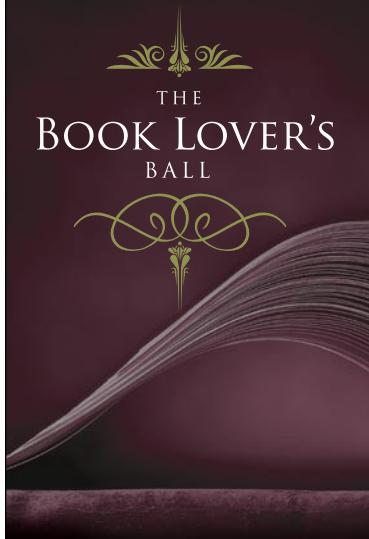
Toronto Public Library News & Views

March 2007

KEEP TORONTO READING
FEBRUARY 1-28, 2007

Experience the unexpected

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Book Lover's Ball 2007 at The Liberty Grand.

FOUNDATION FUN

Book Lover's Ball 2007

It was a night to remember...

THE SUCCESS OF The Book Lover's Ball proved, once again, that Toronto loves books and its Library. Over 640 guests crowded the Liberty Grand for the second annual gala hosted by the Toronto Public Library Foundation. Many guests came dressed in attire inspired by their favourite literary character or book title and mingled with others donned in their elegantly formal best. Costumed attendees, ranging from Marie Antoinette to Tin Tin, created stiff competition for the "best costume" award!

In celebration of the written word, over 60 distinguished

Canadian authors were among those present for the special night, including Austin Clarke, Peter C. Newman, Camilla Gibb and Thomas King. Margaret Atwood made a return appearance via LongPen from the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to Japan, Joseph Caron. Other notable guests included event Honorary Co-Chair Mayor David Miller, Jack Rabinovitch, Tony Gagliano, Doug and Shelley Ambrose, and Diana Swain.

Over a superb dinner, inspired by *This Food That Wine*'s chef Angie MacRae and sommelier Stacey Metulynsky, Canada AM co-host, Seamus O'Regan once again acted as Master of Ceremonies. The highlight of the evening was the TPL Celebrates Reading Award presentation by City Librarian Josephine Bryant to

sci-fi author Robert J. Sawyer,

Guests showed their support for the Foundation during an energetic live auction, a silent auction and an exciting raffle. The fashion show wowed guests with story settings, riveting performances and stunning couture designs. Following the show, guests danced the night away.

Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support of the second Book Lover's Ball!

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SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE BOOK LOVER'S BALL NEWS...



Mayor David Miller and City Librarian Josephine Bryant with (from left to right) Seamus O'Regan, TPL Foundation President Heather Rumball, TPL Board Chair Bill Booth, Rosemary Martiniuk, TPL Board Vice-Chair Kathy Gallagher Ross and Arthur Ross.

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca



EXPERIENCE THE UNEXPECTED

Keep Toronto Reading 2007

Something for every part of your mind, body and soul

FEBRUARY WAS A month of expecting the unexpected as the Library hosted its second annual Keep Toronto Reading celebration. Events were diverse and original with star-studded line-ups and celebrity hostings.

Toronto Public Library and CBC Radio 99.1 joined forces for Toronto Celebrates Canada Reads 2007, a highlight

of this year's Canada Reads program. Close to 350 guests enjoyed readings from actress Megan Follows, renowned chef Jamie Kennedy, writers David Bezmozgis and Anosh Irani and playwright Hannah Moscovitch. Matt Galloway served as host and Suba Sankaran provided musical entertainment.

TPL's Lit Lunch series: The



Musician Suba Sankaran (left) and Dylan Bell, delighted the crowd with performances between each interview.

Nine Flavours of Literature, not only returned this year, but expanded from two to three locations a week. TPL once again partnered with International Readings at Harbourfront Centre and Starbucks, bringing back the ever-popular Starbucks bag lunches for just \$5. It was a literary treat for all. From 'Sweet & Spicy' to 'Other Worldly Delights,' there was something for everyone on how to write Harlequin novels, mysteries, science fiction and more.

To complement the Lit Lunches, TPL and LCBO united to create Vino Vin Vino,

a series with an extraordinary combination of Italian, French, and South American author readings and wine-tastings in the Library. LCBO's *Food & Wine* columnist Lucy Waverman was on hand at the Yorkville Branch to launch the first of three sold out venues.

Bryan Lee O'Malley, creator of the Scott Pilgrim series — *Entertainment Weekly's* Independent Comic of the Year (2006) — visited North York Central Library and shared some teasers about the highly anticipated new Scott Pilgrim comic coming out this year.

The Library and the Friends of Toronto Public Library



Actor Megan Follows (right) flew in from Los Angeles to participate in Toronto Celebrates Canada Reads 2007. Also featured: Matt Galloway.



David Bezmozgis read from his short story collection *Natasha and Other Stories*, one of this year's nominated books.



For just \$5, Lit Lunch attendees received a sandwich, water, cookie, and a \$5 gift card from Starbucks. Over nine events, \$3,100 was raised for the Toronto Public Library.



Lucy Waverman launched Vino Vin Vino, a series in collaboration with the LCBO.



Bayview Branch hosted Wines of South America, one of three intimate wine-tasting events.

(North and South chapters) presented three book sales — in the TTC. Selling withdrawn and donated books, they learned that people love a bargain. The book sales raised \$1,250 and helped generate awareness of KTR. Purchasers also received a brand new book for free, generously donated by Tundra Books, Harlequin and Random House of Canada.

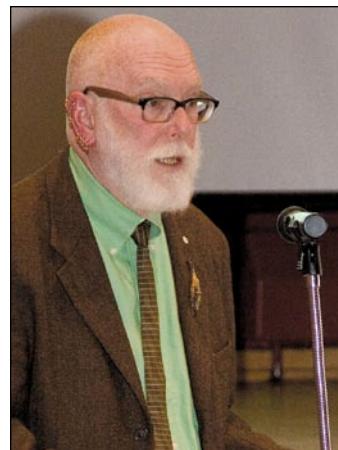
Over 150 people attended the presentation by Charles C. Hill, Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada, on the life and times of Emily Carr. This event coincided with the new exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario — *Emily*

Carr: New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon.

Writers and musicians kicked off Freedom to Read Week at the Toronto Reference Library with *Inventory: Writers Tracking Conflict and War*. Over 500 people attended this KTR signature event. David Bezmozgis, Dionne Brand, Bernice Eisenstein, Camilla Gibb, Rawi Hage and Ann-Marie MacDonald joined PEN Canada writer in exile Senthil Ratnasabapathy, Canadian folk legend Bruce Cockburn and rapper Shad. Carol Off, host of CBC Radio's *As It Happens*, hosted.



One of many beautiful works shown during the Emily Carr presentation. *Stumps and Sky* (1934) is oil on paper. Gift from the Douglas M. Duncan collection, 1970. Copyright Art Gallery of Ontario 2007.



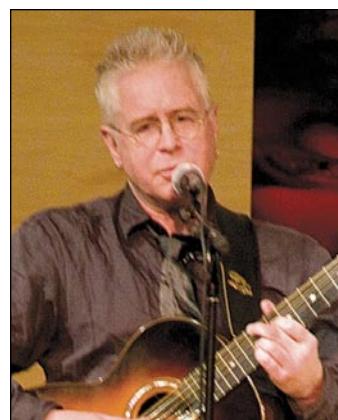
Charles C. Hill speaks on the life and times of Emily Carr.



Camilla Gibb was one of seven speakers at this year's PEN benefit.



The Library and the Friends of Toronto Public Library (North and South chapters) visited Bloor/Yonge, Finch and St. George subway stations for their KTR in the TTC book sales.



World-renowned Canadian folk legend Bruce Cockburn performed at the PEN event.



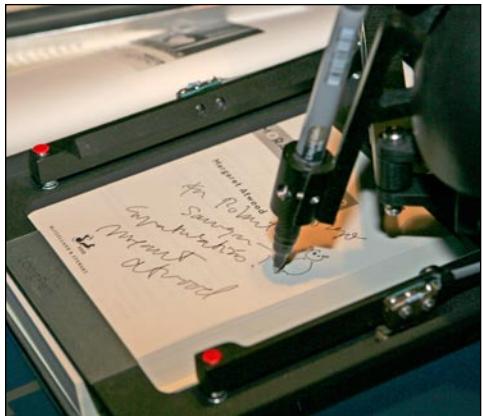
PEN Canada writer in exile Senthil Ratnasabapathy read from his work at the PEN event.

Book Lover's Ball 2007

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...



The literary-inspired fashion show provided a unique twist to the gala. Seen here representing *Amadeus*, models wore clothing designs created by Toronto-based designer, Ross Mayer.



Margaret Atwood made a return appearance at The Book Lover's Ball with the help of the LongPen, as she signs her book in Toronto from the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan!



Robert J. Sawyer showed off his Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award, presented by City Librarian Josephine Bryant.

Book Lover's Ball Raffle Winner — Susan Wilmont

Susan Wilmont was lucky enough to win the Book Lover's Ball raffle and is now enjoying three of Scotland's greatest treasures — golf, scotch and literature! She and a guest received airfare for two to Edinburgh, Scotland where she will meet bestselling author Ian Rankin in Rebus' Haunt the Oxford Bar and receive a signed copy of his most recent, bestselling book *The Naming of the Dead*.

Library Board Highlights February 26, 2007

Jane/Sheppard Capital Project

The Board approved a funding increase for the Jane/Sheppard capital project to avoid a one-year closure of the existing branch while the new branch is under construction. The funding increase, amounting to \$487,000 debt (\$527,000 gross), will be fully funded by savings realized from the S. Walter Stewart branch project. The transfer will not affect S. Walter Stewart and has a zero net impact on debt funding from the City.

Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative

The Board received for information the report *Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative — 2005 Performance Benchmarking Report*. The purpose of the initiative is to identify and develop appropriate service-specific performance measures and benchmark the results to identify best practices. Out of nine library systems, Toronto Public Library ranks first in number of library holdings per capita; first in number of times in a year circulating items are borrowed; first in number of library uses per capita; second lowest in cost per library use; and lowest in annual number of library service hours per capita (3-way draw).

**Volume 7
Number 2**
Shelf Life is published 10 times a year by the
Toronto Public Library Board, 789 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 2G8.
Marketing & Communications Office: 416-393-7117.
Next Board Meeting:
March 26, 2007.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June, in the Board Room, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

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