

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

May 2007

Happy
100th,
Yorkville

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From modern examples of innovative book structure to ancient clay tablets, the library's collections are unique, varied and thought-provoking. (Left) *Food for Thought: an Alternative Alphabet*, a multi-layer accordion fold-out book in hard covers with a wrap-around parchment belt and marbled paste-board covered buckle. (Right) Two ancient clay tablets, circa 2000-1600 B.C.E.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Tablets, zines and everything in between

Hidden treasures in the library's collections

IMAGINE A PLACE where you can find books from the Middle Ages and costume designs from the *Anne of Green Gables* television series, as well as a treasure-trove of rare books, photographs, posters and manuscripts. Many of the library's special collections are among the best or the largest of their kind in Canada.

Book lovers, antiquarians and researchers can study many examples of rare costume and fashion books and periodicals, dating from 1598, trade catalogues

from the 19th and 20th centuries, court festival books documenting British and European royalty, private press books and fine printing.

One of the more recent and thought-provoking library acquisitions is an alternative format book titled *Food for Thought: An Alternative Alphabet*. Each fold of the book features a cut-out letter of the alphabet over a coloured laser-printed image on acetate. A corresponding page lists words beginning with that letter, in various fonts. This modern

example of an alternative format book, crafted by Canadian book artist Terry Rutherford, fits neatly in a card folded box.

Two of the more intriguing items in the library's special collections date back to the Old Babylonian period (about 2000 to 1600 B.C.E.). Two clay tablets bearing cuneiform writing were acquired by the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books in 2006. These are the oldest items in the library's collections. Previously, a 14th century manuscript of *Aesop's Fables*, also a part of the Osborne Collection, was the library's earliest artefact.

A more modern addition to the library's collections, the

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AWARD-WINNING

City Librarian Honoured

Josephine Bryant named recipient of Outstanding Public Library Service Award



THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION of Public Libraries and Brodart Canada recently announced that Toronto Public Library City Librarian Josephine Bryant has been awarded the 2007 CAPL/Brodart Outstanding Public Library Services Award.

Josephine's innovative leadership style has won her accolades throughout the library profession. She is the recipient of the 1999 Arbour Award for outstanding voluntary service to the University of Toronto. She was awarded the University of Toronto's FIS Alumni Jubilee Award in 2002, which recognizes distinguished graduates whose contributions have been a credit to their alma mater.

"A leader, a mentor and a

SEE CITY LIBRARIAN, PAGE 2...



TD GALLERY

Toronto's Sanctuaries

April 28 - June 30, 2007

THE WORKS OF eminent local architect, Henry Langley, featuring handsome architectural drawings from the 19th century, as well as photographs, prints and books, will take you into a world of serenity, hope and reflection. Toronto Sanctuaries, a TD Gallery exhibit at the Toronto Reference Library, will be complemented by a series of programs. See the calendar of events, page 4, for details. For more information about the Toronto Sanctuaries exhibit, tours and programming, contact Special Collections, Genealogy and Maps Centre at 416-393-7158.

City Librarian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

champion, Josephine is an excellent choice for the CAPL/Brodart award," according to CAPL President Susan McLean. "She epitomizes public library values and serves as a model for our upcoming professionals."

The Award will be presented to Bryant at a reception on May 25 at the Canadian Library Association Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Special Collections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Broken Pencil zine collection, is held in the Periodicals Centre at Toronto Reference Library. Pronounced "zeen", these are independently published, not-for-profit, self-made magazines or journals, created by someone with something to say.

Several donations from *Broken Pencil* magazine have provided the base for our zine research collection.

Not everyone can visit the library in person, but our digital collections are available to anyone with a computer and Internet

access. Recently revamped and relaunched, three of the library's digital collections of special material are now much easier to browse and search.

The **Toronto Public Library Digital Collections** website digitally captures and provides online access to the rare and special collections to further historical research and personal study.

The **Canadian Theatre Record/Recueil de théâtre canadien** is a website with information about professional theatre in Canada, past and present, offering an online production history index and digital images of

related artefacts including photographs, designs, posters and theatre programs.

Historicity: Toronto Then and Now provides historical and current information about Toronto and its neighbourhoods, bringing together a digital library from the library's collections (city directories, maps, pictures, etc.) or created by library staff (books, indexes, research advice, virtual exhibits, etc.), as well as links to other Toronto-based, online information resources.

To find out more, visit the library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Summer – coming to a library near you

Teens and children can find what they're looking for this summer

The screenshot shows the homepage of the **ramp** website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to 'Getting Started', 'Latest Headlines', 'Apple', 'Amazon', 'eBay', 'Yahoo', 'News', 'Facebook', 'Home', 'Windows Live', and 'Hotmail'. Below the bar, the **ramp for youth** logo is displayed. The main content area features a poll titled 'Library Musical' with the question 'Ever have the urge to sing in the library?'. The poll has four options: 'I didn't eat it', 'Trust me, this won't hurt at all', 'Wasn't me, I don't smell anything', and 'I love you too'. To the left of the poll is a sidebar with links to 'HOME', 'STUFF TO DO', 'BOOKS & MORE', 'EXPRESS YOURSELF', 'SCHOOL STUFF', 'OPPORTUNITIES', 'LIFE STUFF', and 'DISCUSSION GROUPS'. At the bottom left is the **TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY** logo. A 'Book of the Week' section is also visible.

Recently relaunched **ramp**, now easier to navigate

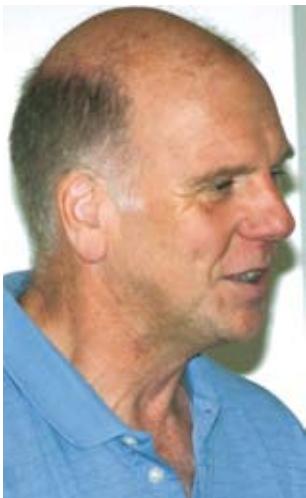
TEENS LOOKING TO find a summer job can start at the library – and they can do it without even leaving home. All they have to do is log onto **ramp**, the library's website for teens at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca. Recently relaunched with a new, easier to navigate infrastructure, **ramp** is chock full of opportunities for teens to find seasonal employment,

to exercise their creative impulses, to get help with school work and much more.

Children looking to have some fun this summer need look no further than the library, as TD Bank Financial Group partners with Toronto Public Library to present the TD Summer Reading Club.

Lost Worlds is the theme of this year's club, coming to our branches in the summer

of 2007. Kids are encouraged to keep reading all summer through exciting programs, displays and, most important, books about humankind's mysterious past, including Atlantis, ancient Egypt, Easter Island and the lands of the Vikings. TD Summer Reading Club programs will feature Robert Munsch, the Muskoka Wildlife Centre, Erewhon Theatre and much more.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Inspector Banks meets Sherlock Holmes

Mystery writer Peter Robinson visits Friends of Arthur Conan Doyle

AWARD-WINNING CANADIAN crime novelist Peter Robinson, creator of the Inspector Banks mystery series, visited the library on April 14 as a guest of Toronto Reference Library Special Collections and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. The large audience was composed of fans of both classic and contemporary detective fiction. Robinson's talk about Arthur Conan Doyle and Robinson's other early literary influences had something for everyone.

The Reference Library has one of the world's largest collections of materials about Arthur Conan Doyle. Much of the collection is devoted to Doyle's famous character, Sherlock Holmes. The collection is housed in a 19th century style drawing room where people can browse along open shelves in a manner unusual in a special collection. For more about the collection, visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca and click on Collections.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Yorkville turns 100

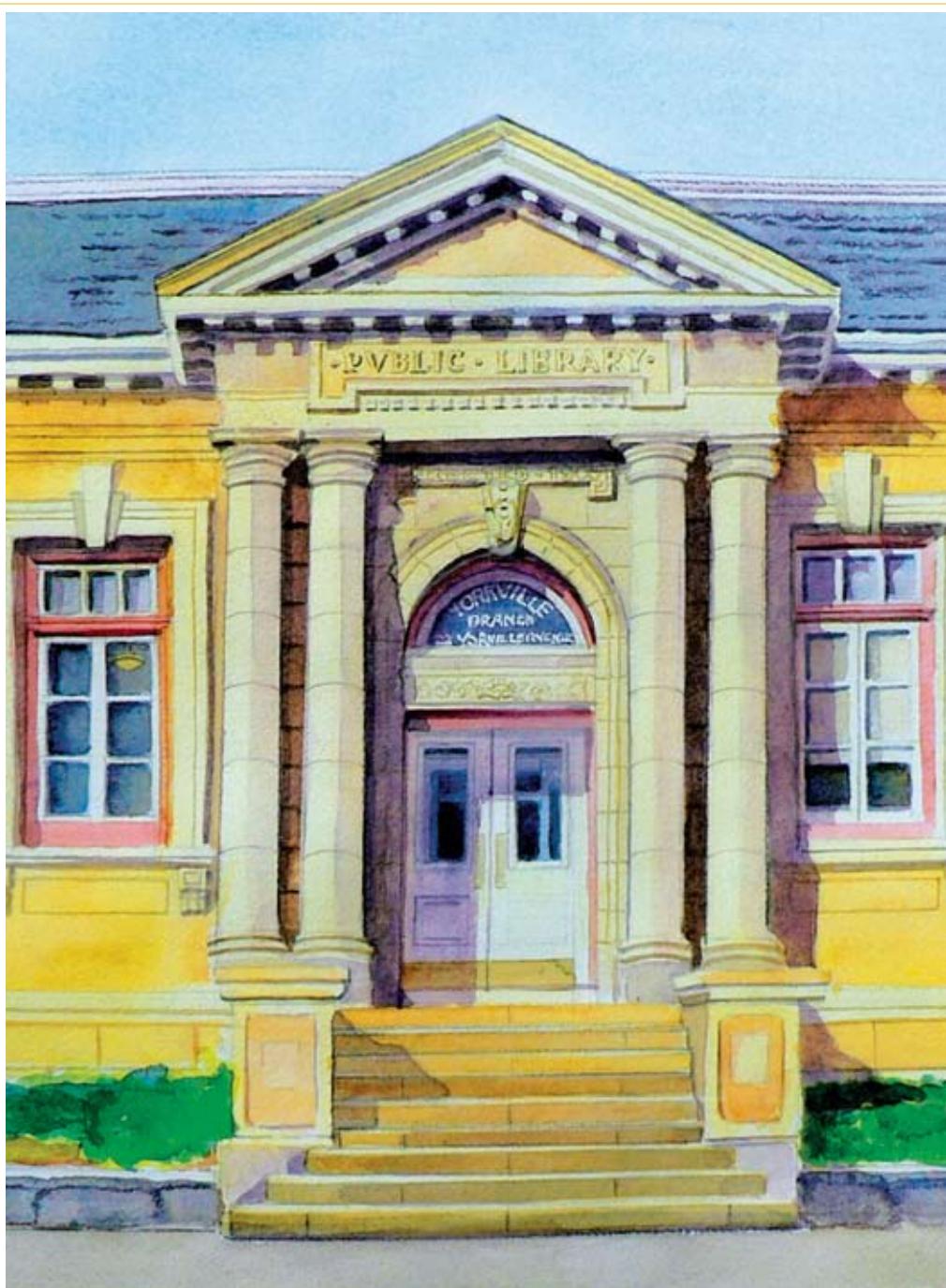
City invited to a party

TORONTONIANS ARE INVITED to join in celebrating Yorkville's centenary with six months of special events and exhibits, kicked off with a community

birthday bash on June 16.

The Yorkville Branch of the library, built in 1907, was the result of an endowment from American industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. He offered Toronto \$350,000 to build a new reference library and three branches. One of them was Yorkville. From the time

Toronto first got free public library service in 1884, the northern branch of the library was housed in St. Paul's Hall, which was just around the corner from the current Yorkville Branch. Its stock was moved to the new building which opened for business on June 13, 1907.



Commemorative painting of Yorkville Branch by artist and library staff member Linda Goldman captures Beaux Art architecture of the library's oldest building.

Asian Heritage Month at the Library

Giller winner Vincent Lam reads at library



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY of Asian Canadians and their many contributions to Canadian culture, the library is presenting a number of exciting and informative programs in May.

Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Vincent Lam will read as part of the gala event launch at Fairview Library Theatre on May 9, 7-9 p.m. and teen author Paul Yee will read at Annette Street on May 16 at 10 a.m. Other programs will focus on health and wellness, feng shui, Japanese tea ceremony, Korean culture, meditation, origami and much more. For a complete list of programs, check the library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

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: May 14, 2007.

Calendar of Events May/June 2007

Toronto Sanctuaries: Church Designs by Henry Langley

April 28 to June 30

See page 2 for details.

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Literary Language of Film - Toronto's Fabulous Filmmakers

Friday, May 4, 6 p.m.

Documentary filmmaker Ron Mann on *Alternative Culture Amplified*. Host Geoff Pevere.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Friday, May 11, 6 p.m.

Director Reginald Harkema and actors Tracy Wright and Nadia Litz on making *Monkey Warfare*. Host Geoff Pevere. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Celebrate North York Central Library's 20th Anniversary

Saturday, May 12, 2 p.m.

Celebrate the 20th birthday of North York Central Library with the Cassava Latin Rhythms band and a birthday cake. Pictures from the June 4, 1987 opening of NYCL will be on display. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.

Toronto Sanctuaries: Places of Worship and a Sense of Community

Wednesday, May 30, 2 p.m.

A slide lecture featuring Gabe

Scardellato, University of Toronto, and

Roberto Perin, York University.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Remembering Yorkville with Jane Beecroft

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30-8 p.m.

In 1972, Yorkville Branch faced the grim prospect of being torn down. The community rallied in protest and by the following year, Yorkville was declared a historic site. Learn more about this library and community from Jane Beecroft, president of the Community History Project.

Yorkville Branch, 22 Yorkville Ave.

Downtown Author Series

Thursdays, May 10, 17, 24, 7 p.m.

May 10, J.L. Granatstein

May 17, Tim Wynne-Jones

May 24, Wayne Johnston

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Uptown Author Series

May 30, J.L. Granatstein

May 31, Nadine Grelet (in French)

Room 1, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.

Canada Council Heritage Series gala launch reading

Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.

Noah Richler (host), Robert Priest, Nalo Hopkinson and Madeleine Thien share their perspectives on Canadian heritage and how it influences their work. Palmerston Branch, 560 Palmerston Ave.

The Canada Council Heritage Series moves to library branches across the city throughout May and June. Watch the library website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca for details.

For a complete listing of library programs, including Asian Heritage Month programs, 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.

Library Board Highlights

April 2007

Library's commitment to safety strengthened

Continuing to seek means of strengthening the library's commitment to safety for public and staff, the library and union Joint Health and Safety Committee will develop an action plan for the review of staff safety issues and develop strategies to address these issues.

Operating budget to maintain existing service levels

The Board was advised that the proposed reduction of \$900,000 to the library operating budget was not approved by the City of Toronto Budget Committee. Therefore, Toronto Public Library's operating budget going forward to Council will not require any reduction in service.

High levels of circulation sustained

The board reviewed an overview of the 2006 annual performance measures, which indicate that vital statistics remain stable. Over the past five years, the library has experienced a four percent growth in circulation, a 28 percent increase in holds filled and 57 percent rise in online visits.