

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

September 2007

**Young Voices
coming soon**
pg. 2

Toronto Reference Library – 30 years, 50 miles of ideas

Reference Library celebrates 30 years at Yonge
and Bloor



“This library is such a great repository of knowledge. You can research the role of the Governor General here, as I did, or you can just wander in and find out what kind of rocks those are up at the cottage.”

The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
former Governor General of Canada



Toronto Reference Library

Home to so many of Toronto's treasures.

The Toronto Reference Library is turning 30. Come discover the treasures in our 50 miles of stacks.

This ad funded by Toronto Public Library Foundation



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

TO MARK THE 30th anniversary of the Toronto Reference Library at Yonge and Bloor, the library will hold an open house on November 2.

“The open house will serve as an opportunity to alert Torontonians to the important role the library plays in the life of the city’s citizens,” says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. “We want to get the word out about the Reference Library’s many hidden treasures. After all, this is a public library and its treasures are not meant to be hidden – they should be known to and enjoyed by all.”

The Toronto Reference Library initially opened in 1909 at College and St. George streets in the building that now houses the University of Toronto bookstore. The branch moved to a new building, designed by renowned architect Raymond Moriyama, at Yonge Street and Asquith Avenue (just north of Bloor) in 1977.

Now, 30 years later, the building is undergoing renovations that will provide new, much-needed meeting and performance space, improve its street presence and generally make the library a more appealing and accessible space.

Besides the open house on November 2, the Reference Library will celebrate throughout the fall with programs that include author visits, literary lunches and an On Stage series, Agents of Change, profiling four individuals who are making a difference. Watch for Richard Wright, David Gilmour, Frances Itani, Jan Wong and Christie Blatchford, among others who will be appearing on the atrium stage.

The treasures of the Reference Library will also be highlighted in an exhibition in the TD Gallery. *Collected Works: A Public Legacy* will run in the gallery from October 20 to December 30. And seven prominent Torontonians have lent their names to a testimonial campaign called “Look Who’s in the Stacks.” Mayor David Miller, former The Right Honourable Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, writers Margaret Atwood and Austin Clarke, along with actor Nicholas Campbell, singer k-os, and former Mayor David Crombie all appear in posters recounting the important role the Reference Library has played in their lives and in the life of the city.



What to cut?
**Help us make
tough decisions**

See pg. 4

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca



Library joins annual city cultural events

Nuit Blanche, Word on the Street make for all-weekend party

MORE THAN THREE thousand Toronto residents took advantage of a rare opportunity to check out the Toronto Reference Library during the wee hours of September 29 and 30 as the library participated in the second annual Scotiabank Nuit Blanche. Starting at 7 p.m., *Art à la carte: a nuit blanche destination* saw the landmark building at 789 Yonge Street open all night, with movies and art installations hosted by the library's partners in the new Sun Life Financial Museum and Arts Pass: the Art Gallery of Ontario, The Bata Shoe Museum, The Gardiner Museum of Ceramics and The Textile Museum. Outside the library, the sidewalk was transformed into an arts café with street performances to dazzle and delight.

"Nuit Blanche is about making art and culture available to all Torontonians," says City Librarian Josephine

Bryant. "Toronto Reference Library joined with other cultural institutions in Toronto to make Nuit Blanche a night to remember – judging from the reaction, people all over the city had a night of fun."

The fun didn't end when the Reference Library closed at 7 a.m. Sunday morning. Word on the Street, Toronto's annual celebration of the

written word, included a library presence in three locations this year – at our regular booth highlighting services for adults and youth; at a new booth on KidStreet where everyone had a chance to check out services, programs and collections the library has to offer for children; and

one booth in Literacy Lane.

"We're always happy for the opportunity to get out and meet the people of Toronto at Word on the Street," explains Bryant. "Not just to celebrate literature, but to promote our diverse services, programs and resources."

Photo by Jason Carlin

Writing workshops, author visits, live music

Youth programs flourish at the library this fall

THANK-YOU! I WAS in the car with my brother and my father and my cell phone started beeping. It was a text message from my mother telling me that I got into Young Voices! I was so happy I screamed. Probably because that now officially makes me a published author. I asked my father to guess what the text message said and he grumbled about how text messages cost extra. When I told him what it was, he said it was worth an extra 25 cents.
- a Young Voices 2007 contributor

The library's 42nd annual Young Voices magazine of teen writing and artwork will be available in libraries across the city at the end of October. Teens who want to get started working on submissions for the 43rd issue of *Young Voices* should consider attending the *Young Voices* Writers Conference on October 20. The conference will give youth a chance to work hands-on with established writers, show off their own writing and have fun.

For the musically inclined,

the library is wrapping up a set of workshops designed for youth interested in breaking into the local music scene. The workshops lead up to the big library local music event of the season, a concert at North York Central Library featuring Ohbijou, More or Less, The Bicycles and Republic of Safety. The workshops and concert are aimed at getting the word out about the library's local music collection. Visit the library's online catalogue to reserve CDs, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

For more about the workshops, concert and other events for youth at the

library, check out the library's website for youth **ramp**. torontopubliclibrary.ca.



Yorkville campaign hits \$10,000

A CAMPAIGN TO restore the beautiful mosaic tiles in the lobby of Yorkville Branch and to restore the oak entry doors to their former glory is well on its way to achieving the necessary \$30,000. Launched during Yorkville's 100th anniversary celebration in June, the campaign has already raised \$10,000. Anyone interested in making a gift to the campaign can call 416-397-5924 or pick up a donation form at Yorkville Branch.

United Way supports literacy at the library

EACH YEAR THE United Way Appeal raises approximately \$20,000 for important library literacy programs including Leading to Reading. The United Way makes it easy to designate your donation so that it goes to your favourite charity. This year, why not designate your United Way donation to the library, so we can do even more to help? For more information, contact the Toronto Public Library Foundation at 416-393-7123.

Manulife Financial supports children's literacy

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S flagship reading support program, Leading to Reading, will soon be available to children in the St. James Town neighbourhood of the city, thanks to a generous donation by Manulife Financial. The company's \$25,000 sponsorship of the program is a natural extension of its work in support of the community through Rose Avenue Public School.

Since 1979, Toronto Public Library's innovative Leading to Reading program has helped children, Grades 2 to 6 identified with low literacy skills, improve their reading and performance at school. The program has expanded to over 40 branches and now helps more than 3,000 children annually.



Trained therapy dog and library Reading Buddies volunteer Tasha, an 11-year-old Shih Tzu, has retired. Owner/handler, Shirley Cochrane says that, in spite of recent ailments, Tasha loved coming to the program. She knew how to get to the library auditorium and was always very happy to see the children who loved to read with her. Reading Buddies is just one of a number of literacy programs the library offers for both children and adults.

Making a difference; helping adults and children learn to read

Volunteer tutors, dogs help build skills and confidence

ONE WARM SUMMER evening, Tina Natale, who works at the library's Downsview Branch literacy office, was surprised to find a volunteer literacy tutor and her learner sitting on the steps outside the library reading a book together. The library had closed for the evening, but, eager to continue their work together, the pair had moved

outside. It turns out the learner wanted to finish the book they were reading together so he could go home and read it to his daughter.

An alarming 42 per cent of Canadian adults, according to Statistics Canada, have some difficulty reading materials they encounter at home, at work and in the community. Close to half of Canadian-born

adults are challenged when they try to decode safety signs, prescription labels, workplace manuals and the notes and reports their children bring home from school.

The tutor sitting on the steps of Downsview Branch is one of 2,300 Toronto Public Library volunteers who give their time, skills and experience to support library programs, many of them in literacy programs for both children and adults.

"Toronto Public Library makes the difference," says adult literacy supervisor Joan Robinson. "Learners who work with volunteer tutors at one of the nine library literacy offices tell us they can now: complete their own time sheets at work; pass the citizenship test; read the transit signs on buses and subway trains; and many other tasks they need to perform in order to function and thrive."

For details on volunteer opportunities, go to the Volunteers link on www.torontopubliclibrary.ca or call 416-395-5555.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



This program cover from a T. Eaton's Company presentation for high school junior girls announced a show featuring forty Eaton's junior fashion councillors representing various Toronto schools who modelled clothes that students could buy from Eaton's fourth floor (downtown store) department, College Toggery Shop and Young Modern's Shop.

Credit: *Back to School in 1946* from Toronto Public Library's Special Collections ephemera collection.

Library seeks input on 2008 budget

Online survey available at
www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

RECENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION meetings at four library branches across the city were part of the library's plan to get as much public input as possible regarding some difficult decisions that will have to be made during the ongoing 2008 budget planning process. As a board of the city, the library has been asked by the city to implement cost containment

measures in 2007 and we anticipate possible budget constraints in 2008.

How do you feel about potentially significant service cuts and how will they impact you and your family? Fill out our online survey at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Writer-in-Residence Hal Niedzviecki

September 3 to December 21, 2007

Toronto Public Library welcomes Hal Niedzviecki as fall writer-in-residence. One of Canada's most prominent cultural and literary critics and a provocative novelist, Niedzviecki is also the founder of *Broken Pencil*, the magazine for underground arts and zine culture and was the magazine's editor until 2002. Located at North York Central Library, Niedzviecki will be

accepting manuscripts and meeting with writers until December 21. For manuscript submission details, check www.torontopubliclibrary.ca or call Answerline at 416-393-7131.

Thanks to the Canada Council for their support.



THE CANADA COUNCIL
FOR THE ARTS
SINCE 1957

LE CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU CANADA
DEPUIS 1957

Library Board Highlights

September 2007

Expansion of Wireless Service – Award of Contract

The board approved the expansion of the library's current provision of wireless service at Toronto Reference Library and to 38 additional locations. There is great user demand for wireless service for public Internet access

at libraries, and feedback regarding the library's wireless pilot project has been overwhelmingly positive.

Rules of Conduct Revision

Revisions to the library's Rules of Conduct include a provision to allow eating and drinking in the library, which is consistent with the approach of many public libraries across North America. Allowing eating and drinking is in tune with urban practices and creates a

Calendar of Events: October 2007

TD Gallery Exhibit: Collected Works: A Public Legacy

October 20 to December 30
In honour of its 30th anniversary, Toronto Reference Library's hidden treasures will be on display. Come explore.
TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Degrees of Nowhere: A Geography of Canadian Writing

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
A discussion about how the Canadian landscape defines the country's literature hosted by Noah Richler, featuring writers Russell Smith and Eden Robinson.
Palmerston Branch, 560 Palmerston Ave.

Queers In Your Ears

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.
Celebrate the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Collection at Yorkville Branch with Patty Barclay, Jeffrey Canton, Claire Nobbs, Evalyn Parry, Rico Rodriguez and Ken Setterington.
Yorkville Branch, 22 Yorkville Ave.

Uptown author series with Claire Cameron

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.
Claire Cameron shares her debut novel, *The Line Painter*.
North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.

Young Voices Writers Conference

Saturday, October 20, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
A daylong event for young writers, featuring Toronto editors, writers and performers. Register early as space is limited. Call 416-395-5784 or register online ramp.torontopubliclibrary.ca.
North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.

Cedarbrae renovation open house

Thursday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.
Check out plans for the renovation of Cedarbrae Branch in 2008; let us know what you think.
Cedarbrae Branch, 545 Markham Rd.

welcoming public space. The complete Rules of Conduct are available on the library's website www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Toronto Public Library Emergency Plan

The Board approved the Library's emergency plan ensuring that it is able to prepare for and respond to emergencies, whether they be Library-specific, or in connection with city-wide planning and response.

2008 Capital and Operating Budgets – Timetable and Process

The board received, for information, the library's timetable and process for the preparation, submission, approval and review of the library's 2008 capital and operating budgets. The City Manager's recommended capital and operating budgets will be presented to the board at its November 12, 2007 meeting.