

ADVANCING OUR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Keeping Up with World News on PressReader

Toronto Public Library (TPL) card-holders are now able to read today's *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Le Devoir*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times* and hundreds more newspapers and magazines for free. A new addition to TPL's digital resources, [PressReader](#), provides online access to newspapers and magazines from over 100 countries in over 60 languages. Customers can access current issues or check out recent back issues.

City Hall Bicycle Parking Facility to Highlight Special Collections

An exhibit of materials from [Toronto Public Library's Special Collections](#) will be part of a [new parking facility for bicycles](#) that is currently under construction in the underground parking garage at Nathan Phillips Square. Designed by [Praxis](#) architect Vis Sankrithi, portions of the structure will include a permanent exhibit highlighting TPL holdings related to the [international competition](#) held in 1958 to decide upon a design for Toronto's new city hall. The drawings and models submitted for the competition, which drew more than 500 entries from 42 countries, were returned to the entrants, but many were microfilmed or photographed and these records were ultimately donated to TPL.

Web-based Technology Services Toolkit to Help Meet Community Needs

To help Ontario public libraries expand the reach and effectiveness of their technology services, TPL and partner libraries are developing a suite of resources to assess technology services at public libraries. At the heart of the project is a web-based "Toolkit" for gathering data to inform decision-making on the use and outcomes of technology services offered by public library systems in Ontario. A discussion paper and Interim Report, [Technology Access in Public Libraries](#), was produced for TPL by [Nordicity](#).

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO ACCESS, DRIVING INCLUSION

Sunday Service Success

Building on the Board's long-term vision for expanded open hours, an additional six district branches were opened on Sundays in 2017 for a total of 16 branches offering Sunday summer service. Sunday service is popular and well used with 57,597 visits on summer Sundays and 64,096 items circulated. Toronto Reference Library averaged more than 500 visits per hour and Sunday summer visits to the newly rebuilt Albion Branch increased 62 percent over 2016. There were over 17,000 uses of the Library's wireless service across the city on summer Sundays.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING

Mobile Printing Piloted at Six TPL Branches

[A simplified system for sending print jobs to TPL printers](#) is being piloted at six east end library branches in Toronto – Cedarbrae, Goldhawk Park, Malvern, Port Union,

Scarborough Civic Centre and Woodside Square. Customers are able to print from their own mobile devices or from their computers at work or home and do free in-branch scanning on multi-functional devices for printing, scanning and copying.

Enhanced Learning Centres extend availability of popular digital resources

Six [TPL Learning Centres](#) were enhanced this year to build on the success of the [Digital Innovation Hubs](#) by extending the availability of the most popular software, hardware and educational classes. Video and audio editing software, 3D design and advanced digital design software (including Adobe Photoshop, Premiere and Illustrator) are now available at Cedarbark, Fairview, Maria A. Shchuka, Northern District, Richview and S. Walter Stewart branches. This free access to new technology supports a range of opportunities for Torontonians of all ages.

Innovator in Residence Program Returns for Fall 2017

The [Innovator in Residence](#) (IIR) series, first introduced in 2014, supports staff-led programming by engaging an expert for a six-week residency to conduct workshops, lectures and one-on-one consultations. Past residencies have included [mobile app development](#), [3D printing](#), [filmmaking](#), [audio production](#), [Arduino](#), [3D design](#) and [robotics](#). In fall 2017, three of our former innovators will be in residence at our newest [Digital Innovation Hubs](#): [Yifat Shaik](#) (Game Design & 3D Design) at Agincourt; [Elli Raynai](#) (Virtual Reality) at Albion; and [Derek Quenneville](#) (Game Design & 3D Printing) at Downsview.

Wifi Hotspots

As part of our ongoing commitment to expand access, increase opportunity and build connections with customers at their points of need, TPL is equipping staff with wifi hotspots for outreach, allowing them to register people for library cards, demonstrate digital resources and support programming at locations outside library branches.

ESTABLISHING TPL AS TORONTO'S CENTRE FOR CONTINUOUS AND SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

TPL Programs for Older Adults

A new partnership with the [ENRICHES collaborative](#), a group of [Toronto Seniors Strategy](#) supporters led by [Sinai Health](#), has resulted in a series of interactive digital health workshops, happening this fall, that will focus on the needs of family caregivers.

A collaboration with Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) is providing job search and skills training for adults 45+ in four library branches this fall and a TESS staff orientation to TPL resources.

Finally, a \$3,000 Ontario Seniors Community Grant will support a multi-topic lecture series on elder-abuse presented by TPL and informed and supported by Toronto Police and the Toronto Council on Aging.

CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THROUGH CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Meet TPL's Writer in Residence for Fall 2017

As TPL's fall 2017 writer in residence, investigative historian Peter Vronsky is meeting with writers of nonfiction history or true crime. He will also be hosting a number of programs at Toronto Reference Library. Vronsky teaches at Ryerson University and is the author of *Ridgeway*, *Serial Killers* and a number of other works of investigative nonfiction.

Science Literacy Week at the Library

Science Literacy Week (September 18-24) featured a series of programs that introduced customers to science-based activities highlighting outstanding Canadian scientists and science communicators, including palaeontologist Dr. Victoria Arbour who recently discovered Zuul, an armoured dinosaur with a tail club that is one of the best skeletons of its kind ever discovered. As part of the celebrations, TPL staff put together a Popular Science Reading List of interesting and accessible titles for all readers who are curious about the world.

Indigenous Initiatives

During the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto's Aboriginal History Month

Celebrations at Dundas Square in June, TPL was able to bridge barriers to access through onsite library card registration for lapsed customers who were concerned about library fines.

TPL is in the process of assembling an Indigenous Advisory Council that will:

- review, prioritize and advise on strategies for Indigenous initiatives
- create new connections to Toronto's Indigenous communities
- advocate for and broaden awareness of TPL's Indigenous initiatives to the City's Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities
- support the establishment of an Elder in Residence program
- enable and support community consultation.

The aim is to have the Council meet for the first time this fall.

Also this fall, there is an exciting range of Indigenous programs happening at library branches around the city, including Indigenous Canada, a 12-lesson MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada, from an Indigenous perspective. TPL also worked in partnership with CFLA-FCAB, Edmonton Public Library, Northern Lights Library System and the University of Alberta to develop a national toolkit for libraries to support customers and staff interested in taking the Indigenous Canada MOOC:

http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/indigenous/indigenous_canada_mooc/

As well, the Library has a blog post identifying local programming supporting this project:

<http://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/trl/2017/09/indigenous-canada.html>

As part of Resist 150 programming, a [One Book campaign](#) will encourage customers to read and discuss *Unsettling Canada* by joining [book club discussions](#) at branch locations, downloading [unlimited ebook copies](#) from October 1-14 or running their own book club discussion with a [Book Club to Go set](#).

International and Canadian Literary Superstars to Headline New Appel Season

More than 16 high-profile artists and thinkers are coming to the [Bram & Bluma Appel Salon](#) this fall, including international literary superstars like Nobel Prize-winner [Orhan Pamuk](#), Pulitzer Prize-winner [Jennifer Egan](#) and home-grown stars like [Wayne Johnston](#), [Alan Doyle](#) and [R.H. Thomson](#). [The Cutting Edge](#), a series supported by the [Krembil Foundation](#) that explores new ideas at the intersection of health and technology, will feature a [keynote lecture from Dr. Danielle Martin](#), author of [Better Now](#).

The eh List Writer Series

The fall [eh List Writers Series](#), featuring Canada's A-list authors and rising stars, is underway, featuring a powerhouse lineup of literary talent from coast to coast that includes best-selling author [Scaachi Koul](#), Rogers Writers' Trust Prize winner [Helen Humphreys](#) and critically acclaimed poet [Vivek Shraya](#), to name just a few. TPL also developed an [eh List recommended reading list](#) to accompany the series.

Celebrating Our Stories: Toronto Book Awards

Celebrating the literary and artistic merit of books and authors evocative of Toronto, the [Toronto Book Awards](#) is now in its 43rd year. The finalists for the 2017 Toronto Book Awards are:

- [I Hear She's a Real Bitch](#), by Jen Agg
- [Scarborough](#), by [Catherine Hernandez](#)
- [In the Black](#), by B. Denham Jolly
- [Life on the Ground Floor](#), by [James Maskalyk](#)
- [Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer](#), edited by Jane Farrow et al.

TPL hosts two Toronto Book Award events: on October 3, pop culture critic Dalton Higgins hosts [an evening with the shortlisted authors](#) at the S. Walter Stewart Branch; and on October 12, in the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, the 2017 Toronto Book Awards winner will be announced at [a celebration featuring CBC's Gill Deacon](#).

Pop Sherlock Exhibit in the TD Gallery

Sherlock Holmes is the ultimate pop culture icon. His influence is seen in every kind of popular media – from print, to stage and screen. Along the way, he has met and mixed with many of the most famous characters, brands, and stars of the 20th and 21st centuries. [Pop Sherlock](#) documents Holmes' role as an icon that has lasted generations and spanned the globe, showcasing a wide variety of his appearances in films, television, comic books and advertising. The exhibit features an eclectic array of items from the Library's [Arthur Conan Doyle Collection](#), including books, manuscripts, music, graphic arts, TV stills, movie scripts, ephemera and more.

Learning from Artists in the Library

The [Artists in the Library](#) program, presented in partnership with the [Toronto Arts Council](#), brings artists in residence to branches in neighbourhoods across the city to give the public hands-on experience creating art. This year, the program runs from September to December at 10 library branches and participants will enjoy a variety of experiences including dance, storytelling, rock camp for girls and much more.

Culture Days Coming to TPL

TPL is once again partnering with [Ontario Culture Days](#) and the [Neighbourhood Arts Network](#) to offer [more than 45 free programs at branches across the city](#) on September 29 and 30, with art, dance, theatre, poetry and more on offer as part of this nation-wide celebration. TPL also supported other library systems with planning and developing their own Culture Days programming through an Ontario Library Association panel earlier this year.

VISA Supports Financial Literacy at the Library

VISA has generously donated \$50,000 to the Library to help empower Torontonians in their financial literacy in all stages and circumstances of their life. The funding will be used to support the Library's annual personal finance campaign in 2018 and 2019, as well as year-round programming for TPL Youth Hubs from 2017 to 2019. Programs will provide participants with practical, relevant information about managing their money. The emphasis will continue to be on programs that provide high-quality information delivered by subject experts, with a balance of viewpoints that appeal to a range of knowledge and skill levels.

Summer Program Highlights

- More than 2,700 Toronto kids signed up for the **TD Summer Reading Club** (SRC) during "Get Your Summer Read On" festivities on June 17, with 12,000 children signing up for the Canada-wide version of the club.
- TPL's first stab at [Sunday programming](#) drew nearly 1,300 participants to 13 branches over five weeks in the summer, offering mini-maker STEM activities for children four to eight years old.
- [Inorganic Market events](#), offering Torontonians the opportunity to bring their electronic waste to participating branches, has brought in well over 12,000 pounds since the program started last spring.
- As part of [TPL's Canada 150](#) programming, [Parks Canada Learn to Camp](#) programs drew more than 830 people.
- TPL was at this year's [Fan Expo Canada](#) to showcase all aspects of the Library's programs, resources and services, including digital innovation equipment, connecting with an eclectic demographic that is not typically reached in library branches.

TRANSFORMING FOR 21ST CENTURY SERVICE EXCELLENCE

WebEx Conferencing Unites Three Canadian Libraries

At the beginning of the summer, Brentwood Branch hosted a cross-Canada program that utilized WebEx conferencing capabilities to connect with the [Ottawa](#) and [Vancouver](#) public library systems. Kids from each city were asked the same nine questions as a means of comparing similarities/differences among us that make us proud to be Canadian. Similarities included the love of hockey, maple syrup, poutine and the diversity of people across the country. Differences included the languages spoken and different hockey teams that each child cheers for.

Eglinton Square Branch Doubles in Size

The newly renovated Eglinton Square Branch reopened at the end of June featuring:

- welcoming spaces for everyone
- a community meeting room
- books, audiobooks, magazine and DVDs
- library materials in Chinese, French, Tagalog and a Hindi DVD collection
- public computers and free wifi.

TPL worked with architectural firm Ken Fukushima Architects on the renovations.

Friends August Clearance Sale Breaks Records

[The Friends of TPL](#), South Chapter, have once again raised an astonishing sum in support of library services by selling clearance items for 50 cents each or less. In August, at their most successful clearance sale yet, the Friends raised \$10,000 in three days by selling an estimated 30,000 items. More than 15,000 people visited Toronto Reference Library during the sale, and nearly 120 people registered for library cards.

Urban Library Council Executive Meets at TPL

At the end of July, TPL was honoured to host the [Urban Libraries Council \(ULC\)](#) Executive Board meeting at Toronto Reference Library. ULC staff and 15 members from across the United States and Canada attended the two-day meeting. The group toured the Fort York and Bloor/Gladstone branches and attended a presentation on TPL's role in Toronto's Smart City Strategy.

Toronto Urban Design Awards

TPL, along with [LGA Architectural Partners / Phillip H. Carter Architects](#) were the winners of a [Toronto Urban Design Award](#) of Excellence for the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch in the category of Public Buildings on September 13 at the Palais Royale. The criteria for the award being demonstration of urban design and architectural excellence through a relationship to the public realm, pedestrian amenity, detailing and massing, the natural environment and sustainable design. The City of Toronto hosts the awards every other year to acknowledge the significant contribution that architects, landscape architects, urban designers, artists, design students and city builders make to the look and livability of the city. The 2017 jury was comprised of David Anselmi, Director, Real Estate for Canada Lands Company CLC Limited; Elsa Lam, Editor, Canadian Architect; Gary McCluskie, Principal, Diamond Schmitt Architects; and Betsy Williamson, Principal, Williamson Williamson Inc.