

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

September 2008



"Even though I was 60 years old, I wanted to read books and to fill out my own forms and to write my own messages... I wanted to be independent." – Hortense McCarthy, Toronto Public Library Adult Literacy Program participant and winner of a 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Award

Library helps adults learn to read

30 years of Adult Literacy tutoring celebrated

IN 1977, WHILE working at York Woods Branch, Carole Hodgins noticed a man wandering among the shelves, looking helpless and frustrated.

"I approached him and discovered that he was looking for books to help him teach his wife to read and write," says Hodgins. "He thought it would be best to borrow

books to take home to her, so she wouldn't be embarrassed at the library."

Hodgins put her experience as a teacher to work, seeking out ABC picture books and recommending methods the man might use to help his wife. Hodgins saw the man around the branch a number of times after that, borrowing books, but she never found out how things turned out for his wife. Still, the experience stayed with her. When she retired in December 2002, she went looking for a volunteer opportunity and Toronto Public Library's Adult Literacy Program seemed like just the thing.

"I had the desire to teach," says Hodgins, "and I knew that it would only take one learner to have this same desire to learn. Life is too short to waste. I decided I wanted to do something that I knew someone would appreciate. I wanted to make a difference in someone's life."

A year after Hodgins met the man who wanted to help his wife read, Jean Orpwood, then CEO for North York Public Library, hired a part-time teacher to work with adults in their late teens and early twenties who came into the York Woods Branch requesting help with reading, writing and spelling. By the following year, there were too many participants in the program for the teacher to handle on her own. She trained the first group

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Library executes summer reading rescue

TD Bank Financial Group continues support of library's annual Summer Reading Club

THE TD SUMMER Reading Club came to the rescue once again for thousands of children across the city with a fun-filled program that encourages them to seek summer adventures in the pages of their favourite books!

The TD Summer Reading Club promotes reading and literacy by encouraging children to continue reading throughout the summer. The theme of this summer's TD Summer Reading Club was *Laugh Out Loud (LOL)* and was a huge success, keeping kids reading, laughing and

captivated for the entire summer break.

Popular Canadian cartoonist Patricia Storms designed the artwork featured in the poster and logbook, which depicts a computer game, the object of which is to capture as many falling books as possible.

The TD Summer Reading Club encourages children to read, especially over the summer months. With the tremendous success of this program and the generous support of TD Bank Financial Group, the program now reaches nearly 434,000 children across Canada.



Adult literacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of volunteer tutors in 1979.

Thirty years later, the Adult Literacy Program is offered in nine Toronto Public Library branches, providing trained volunteer tutors who work one-on-one with English-speaking adults 16 years of age and older. In 2007, nearly 200 learners met with tutors for literacy instruction.

“According to Statistics Canada, 42 percent of English-speaking adults experience difficulty reading,” says adult literacy supervisor Joan Robinson. “The library’s Adult Literacy Program plays a vital role in rectifying this situation.”

Fifty-two branches have adult literacy collections

with materials to help build literacy skills. In addition, the library supplies 17 community literacy programs with deposit collections. Staff from the literacy department also visit school board literacy classes to promote the library and reading for the fun of it.

About the same time as Carole Hodgins was retiring and signing on as a volunteer for the Adult Literacy Program, Hortense McCarthy came into Downsview Branch with her daughter and noticed a flyer for the Adult Literacy Program. McCarthy, who came to Canada from Jamaica in 1970, had been thinking for many years that she would like to learn to read and write properly. She went downstairs to the literacy office and met with literacy

coordinator Tina Natale.

“Tina asked me why I came to see her,” McCarthy explains in an award-winning essay she recently wrote. “I told her that, even though I was 60 years old, I wanted to read books and to fill out my own forms and to write my own messages. I didn’t want my family to help me read menus in restaurants. I really wanted to be independent.”

Six years later, McCarthy is the Ontario winner of a 2008 Canada Post Community Literacy Award in the Individual Achievement category. Before that, she also won the Bread and Roses Award for another essay she wrote called “Being Nicer to Me.”

“I’m so proud of her,” says Natale. “Hortense’s story is a great example of the kind

of success we encounter on a regular basis in the adult literacy department. We’ve helped so many people become happier, more confident contributors to their communities.”

“Thank God that I came to the literacy program,” concludes McCarthy, “and that I had the courage to change my life. Everything is so much easier now because I can read and write!”

For details on the Toronto Public Library Adult Literacy Program and how to volunteer, visit the Toronto Public Library website at torontopubliclibrary.ca or call 416-395-5555.



Photo Credit: Matt Barnes



Photo credit: Kareem Ajani

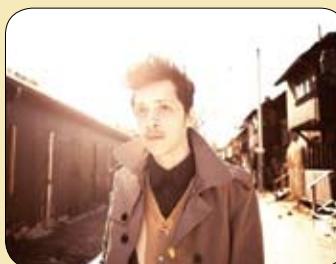


Photo credit: Jamie Hogge



Photo credit: Liebe E.P.

Youth make some noise, take some noise at the library

Free concert and workshops celebrate library’s local music CD collection

AS HAS BEEN the case for the past number of years, youth are an important focus for Toronto Public Library’s fall programs. For the third year in a row, North York Central Library will host the Make Some Noise concert and invite youth to Take Some Noise home in the form of local music CDs for loan.

Gentleman Reg, Masia One, Slim Twig and Winter Gloves will take the stage on Saturday, November 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are free, but limited, so youth are encouraged to pick them up as soon as they become available, starting October 13, at select library locations and at Soundscapes at 572 College St., west of Bathurst.

The library’s local music collection continues to expand and includes recordings by a diverse range of Toronto artists, as well as some from across Canada. It includes hip hop, electronic, rock, alternative and much more.

Leading up to the concert, Toronto Public Library invites youth to participate in a series of hands-on workshops exploring various aspects of the music industry, including a session on how to get in on the music business with the help of people currently working in the local music community.

Partnerships power programs

Community connections bring full range of literary and contemporary culture to the library

PARTNERSHIPS WITH CITY culture providers and with the City of Toronto are giving Toronto Public Library greater reach in its role as a cultural repository, according to Toronto Public Library Manager of Program Development, Tina Srebotnjak. "Whether it's original programming for the Toronto Book Awards, hosting of the Doug Wright Cartoon Awards, or our annual participation in Nuit Blanche, the Toronto Public Library sees partnerships as an important way to encourage discovery of and extend access to literary, contemporary and community culture in the city."



"Get a New Read on Toronto" with Toronto Book Awards

A RENEWED PARTNERSHIP at the library will yield an exciting lineup of events surrounding the Toronto Book Awards. Partnering with the City of Toronto to promote and raise awareness of this unique literary award, the library will hold readings with this

year's finalists; an online contest and blogging on Book Buzz, the library's online book club; and an Awards Gala on October 17, hosted by CBC's Mary Ito and featuring live music and the big award announcement by Mayor David Miller.

"We want to engage Torontonians in an exploration of their city through these evocative books," says Srebotnjak. "We're calling on everyone in the city to 'get a new read on Toronto,' and that's what we'd like these books to provide. These awards belong to everyone in the city, so unlike most book award galas, ours will be open to all!"

Besides appearing at library branches around the city, the Toronto Book Award shortlisted authors appeared at Word on the Street, held at Queen's Park Circle on September 28.



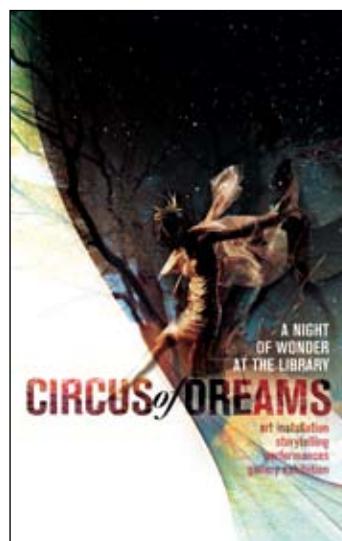
For Better or For Worse creator Lynn Johnston shows off the certificate inducting her into the Canadian Cartoonists' Hall of Fame at the 4th annual Doug Wright Awards held at Toronto Reference Library on August 8.

in both the growth and circulation of our collections. Our partnership with The Beguiling comic book store is a great example of a strong community partnership that benefits the

library, The Beguiling, and most importantly, our customers."

Close to 200 guests attended the Doug Wright Awards to listen to hilarious and heartfelt reflections from Johnston: on her favourite *For Better or For Worse* storylines, thoughts on the new crop of artists, her friendship with *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz, and more. Prominent guests included graphic novel creators Chester Brown, Seth, Mariko Tamaki, bookseller Marc Glassman and Power Plant curator Helena Rickett.

As summed up by award winner Ann Marie Fleming in a *National Post* article: "So much thought, love and care went into the show, which is exactly like comics... So much love and care goes into every frame."



Circus of Dreams – Scotiabank Nuit Blanche

IN ANOTHER CITY partnership, the Toronto Reference Library will once again be participating in Scotiabank Nuit Blanche. The Reference Library will be open all night, starting at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 4 and staying open until 7 a.m. on Sunday. Billed as "Circus of Dreams," the event will include a light installation transforming the atrium into a nighttime forestscape, interactive improv storytelling with the Rosedale Heights High School improv

team, the TD Gallery's exhibit exploring the history of the circus, and an outdoor sideshow featuring stilt walkers, fire dancers and more.

"Every year, we try something new for Nuit Blanche," says Srebotnjak, "and this year is no exception. One of the most exciting additions this year is the Rosedale Heights High School improv team. These dynamic performers will be creating a story over the course of the night, with a new chapter added every hour."

"The evolution of our participation in Nuit Blanche provides a great metaphor for the library's partnerships in general," concludes Srebotnjak. "Every time we meet with another organization, everyone gets excited about all the possibilities, and out of this excitement great programs continue to grow and develop."

Board Highlights

September 15, 2008

Library capital budget request

seeks to expand hours

The library board adopted a capital budget submission of \$14.2 million debt in 2009 and \$52.4 million debt for 2010-2013 for discussion and consideration by the City of Toronto. This year's budget submission, if approved, will allow the library board to begin the implementation of its three-year plan to increase branch open hours by 25 percent across the city. The capital budget request will also enable the library

to address several of its State of Good Repair projects, including the completion of branch renovation projects currently underway, and the start of a new renovation project in 2009.

Sponsorship policy reaffirms commitment to public funding for libraries

A revised Toronto Public Library sponsorship policy was approved by the board, strengthening the library's commitment to public funding as the primary source for all programs and services. The board also endorsed the Canadian Library Association

position on sponsorship, recognizing the opportunities to enhance, expand and improve library service that sponsorships can provide. The revised policy also provides criteria to evaluate the appropriateness of sponsorship for children's programs and allows for increased library board involvement in sponsorship approvals.

Naming opportunities to help achieve Reference Library capital campaign goal

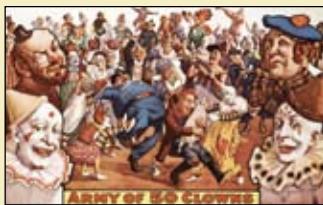
The board approved the naming opportunity framework developed by the Toronto Public Library

Foundation and that will assist the Foundation in achieving its \$10 million capital campaign funding goal in support of the \$30 million revitalization of the Toronto Reference Library. The framework reserves naming opportunities within the Reference Library to donors offering gifts of \$250,000 or more. The name of the Toronto Reference Library itself is not available as a recognition opportunity through this campaign.

Calendar of Events

October 2008

Scotiabank Nuit Blanche



On to October 5

The Circus Comes to Town

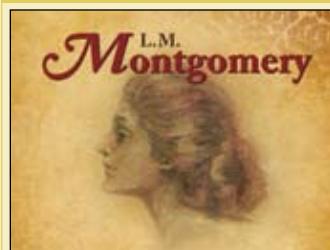
An exhibit of posters, artists' prints and vintage photographs from the CNE, souvenir programs, children's books and more from the Special Collections of Toronto Public Library. TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St.

Saturday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.-7 a.m.

Circus of Dreams

A light installation transforms the Reference Library atrium into a nighttime forestscape; interactive improv storytelling with the Rosedale Heights High School improv team; an outdoor sideshow featuring stilt walkers, fire dancers and more. Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St.

100 Years of Anne of Green Gables



On to December 5

Anne of Green Gables: Celebrating 100 Years in Print

An exhibit featuring books enjoyed by Lucy Maud Montgomery in her childhood; her own writings; and later books that show the enduring influence of *Anne of Green Gables*. Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch 239 College St.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.

The 21st Annual Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture

L.M. Montgomery at Her Finest and Funniest
With journalist and children's book critic Dr. Deirdre Baker. Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Lillian H. Smith Branch 239 College St.

Hindsight: Historical Fiction in Canada

Rethink history with Canada's best authors



On to December 4

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.

Maureen Jennings

Taylor Memorial Branch 1440 Kingston Rd.

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Edeet Ravel

Barbara Frum Branch 20 Covington Rd.
And many more...

Sunday Oct. 5, 2008

Cedarbrae Branch closes for renovation

Scheduled for completion in 2010. The renovation will redesign all the interior space and implement many service enhancements. Cedarbrae customers are being rerouted to Bendale Branch, which will have temporarily extended hours.

Toronto Book Awards

in partnership with the City of Toronto



Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

An Evening with the Shortlisted Authors

Four of the Toronto Book Award finalists read and chat with the audience in an intimate theatre setting. Palmerston Branch Theatre 560 Palmerston Ave.

Friday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Toronto Book Awards Gala

Mayor David Miller announces this year's Toronto Book Award winner. Hosted by CBC's Mary Ito. Live music. Reception 5:30 p.m. Cash bar. Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St.

For a complete listing of *Toronto Book Award*, *Hindsight* and other Toronto Public Library programs, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca and click on Programs. Or call Answerline 416-393-7131.