

Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives

Toronto Public Library was one of 70 organizations participating in an event, held at the Mattamy Centre (formerly Maple Leaf Gardens) November 9, organized by **Homeless Connect Toronto**, a non-profit organization that brings together under one roof essential resources on housing, employment, health care, and other services for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Toronto. Approximately 400 guests received services such as foot care, haircuts, dentistry, and information on housing, employment, library services and much more. More than 30 people registered for library cards, while others expressed how important it is that people without cards have access to the Library.

hctoronto.org

Toronto Public Library will participate in a **pilot project with St. Michael's Hospital** family practice. The pilot is based on a Boston pediatric model to improve literacy. Families and children visiting family medical practices in areas of Toronto where poverty rates are high are counseled at well-child visits about the importance of reading. Toronto Public Library will participate by distributing information about Ready for Reading, local branches and library card registration, among other components of library service.

Digital content awareness, progress and advocacy

For the second year in a row, Toronto Public Library conducted a successful public awareness campaign in October to highlight the availability of digital content at the Library. There were 25,000 more digital content items circulated in October than the best month to date in 2014. Ottawa Public Library translated the campaign in French and ran it in Ottawa as well. The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is distributing the campaign materials to public libraries across the province for their use.

Simon & Schuster recently made its digital content available on Overdrive, meaning all of the 'Big 5' publishers now make their e-content available to public libraries.

OLA and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries sent a library delegation to Queen's Park on November 26th to meet with MPPs and senior staff about the value of public libraries to the economic, social and individual well-being of Ontarians. Anne Bailey attended on TPL's behalf, speaking to the pricing and access issues still facing public libraries in the delivery of digital content.

Children's services

Budding young artists 13 years old and younger can pick up entry forms, at any Toronto Public Library branch or bookmobile, to participate in the **Design-a-Bookmark contest**, on until January 24. Sixteen grand prize award winners will have their designs made into

bookmarks that will be distributed at all library branches. An awards ceremony will be held in April where winners will be recognized by a library board member.

In support of **Family Literacy Day** on January 27, Toronto Public Library is presenting a line-up of family-focused programs throughout January. The theme of Family Literacy Day is “15 Minutes of Fun”, reminding us that even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills and can help parents improve their skills too. Programming includes puppetry workshops, media literacy workshops, and family fun activities. All branches will be running a family fun book bingo contest that has library activities to complete. torontopubliclibrary.ca/familyliteracy

Toronto Public Library has upgraded the **online presence of Ready for Reading**, its set of free programs, services, books, spaces and resources for children birth to age 5 and their parents and caregivers. The Ready for Reading website now features a new look and includes updated tips for parents, new storytime videos, information about KidsStops, the Library's First & Best 2014 booklist, and other resources. In addition, parents and caregivers can find branch information, branch programs, and new children's books.

Programs and exhibits

This fall, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Toronto Public Library presented **Lest We Forget**, featuring: an exhibit of War in Books for Young Readers; the Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture, *Marching in Quick Time*, given by author Linda Granfield; and the Sybille Pantazzi Memorial Lecture, *The Sanctuary of Story*, given by author Kit Pearson. The exhibit and lectures were presented by The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books at Lillian H. Smith Branch.

The **2015 season in the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon** gets underway on January 13 with an appearance by John Vaillant, number one bestselling author of *The Tiger*. A week later, Australian novelist and two time Booker Prize winner Peter Carey will be in the Appel Salon to promote his new novel *Amnesia*. Other authors appearing as part of the 2015 spring season include Miranda July, Sheila Heti, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Jane Urquhart and Kazuo Ishiguro. Also in the Appel Salon, as part of its Star Talks series, the Library will present Soulpepper Theatre Artistic Director Albert Schultz in conversation with the Star's Richard Ouzounian; Britain's Andrew Morton, bestselling author of *Diana: Her True Story*; Dr. Norman Doidge with *The Brain's Way of Healing*; and Erik Larsen brings *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitannia*. torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon

Branches

Toronto Public Library's **Weston Branch celebrated 100 years of service** with an all-day birthday party on November 22. Members of the public were joined by library board chair Michael Foderick and board member Ross Parry. MPP Laura Albanese, MP Mike Sullivan and local Councillor Frances Nunziata also joined the celebrations and presented the branch with commemorative certificates.

The event also saw the official launch of the Weston Library Centenary Project website, funded by a New Horizons for Seniors grant. As part of the branch's centenary celebrations, the Toronto Public Library Foundation has launched the Weston Branch Centenary Fundraising Campaign, which aims to raise support from the community to design and build a display cabinet to house Weston's unique local history collection, as well as a portable television monitor for the branch.

westonhistory.omeka.net

At a community meeting on November 19, library customers were invited to help shape the **upcoming renovation and expansion plan for Wychwood Branch**. Customers met Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd., heard about renovation plans, provided feedback, and had their questions answered. Customers who were unable to attend the community meeting can provide feedback at the Wychwood Branch or online.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/renovations

Progress continues on the **Scarborough Civic Centre Branch**, Toronto Public Library's 100th branch. The branch is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015. The Library is keeping the public informed of progress on our website, where you can find recent photos and a time lapse video of the construction. The website will be updated regularly until the branch opens.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/renovations/scarborough-centre-branch.jsp

Staff training, enrichment and other enhancement opportunities

At the 2014 **Staff Recognition Luncheon** in The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library on November 19, more than 150 staff celebrated together as they were honoured for reaching 25-, 30-, 35- and 40-year milestones as library workers. The Toronto Public Library Foundation presented the fifth annual Pauline Hinch Memorial and Peter J. Bassnett awards, both funded by donors who value the great work of librarians and staff at Toronto Public Library. The \$1,000 Peter J. Bassnett Award for Professional Development recognizes the late, former CEO of the Scarborough Public Library and was awarded this year to Susan Lai for outstanding achievement in the areas of library and information continuing studies. The \$3,500 Pauline Hinch Memorial Award for Staff Development, established by Gordon Hinch in memory of his late wife, a former North York Central Library manager, was awarded to Radha Shilesh, for demonstrating a strong commitment to public librarianship in her efforts to obtain a Master's of Information Studies degree.

Buying books from the public

On December 1, Toronto Public Library launched a **pilot project to purchase best-selling books from the public** at the Toronto Reference Library. The Library will buy books, for \$5 each, from a list that will be online and updated regularly. The books will be added to the Library's collection and will be made available for borrowing. The objective of this initiative is to explore more cost-efficient ways of buying materials and to potentially provide relief for the collections budget.

tpl.ca/sellbooks

In addition to purchasing used books, the Library will encourage greater revenue generation by promoting **used book sales in all library branches**. An information package on this will be available to staff in the new year, and will include advice on where to locate a book sale in a branch, how to keep a book sale looking good, and photographs showing model book sales. The Library will also be encouraging the right kind of donations by educating the public about the donations we want and do not want. Higher quality donations will lead to more successful book sales.

Foundation

On November 10, **New Collectioners**, members of the Toronto Public Library Foundation's program for young Torontonians, met, chatted, and shook hands with Justin Trudeau, Liberal Party of Canada leader. Trudeau's eloquent and passionate speech on the current state of politics in Canada, and the importance of public institutions, including the Toronto Public Library, was truly inspiring.

Earlier this month the **Friends of Toronto Public Library** North and South Chapters each confirmed a donation of \$75,000, for a total of \$150,000 in support of various 2015 Toronto Public Library programs, including Grade Four Outreach and Leading to Reading. This is the largest annual donation to the Library for each Friends chapter, and the largest combined annual gift since the groups started fundraising by selling used books and withdrawn library materials at their used book store Book Ends, with locations at North York Central and the Toronto Reference libraries.

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff