

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

February 2009



Photo courtesy of Clive Sewell



February 12 marked the fourth annual *Book Lover's Ball* in support of Toronto Public Library Foundation. Celebrity Chef Massimo Capra (middle), host of the Food Network's *Restaurant Makeover*, and hosts of HGTV's *Home Heist*, Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan, mug for the cameras during the cocktail reception. See page 3.

New literary series coming soon to a Library near you

THE EH LIST, Toronto Public Library's new flagship author series, brings top Canadian authors to branches across the city to read from and discuss their latest works.

Beginning this spring, The eh List will bring important Canadian literature to the city, spreading readings to uptown, downtown, midtown and east and west area locations, and feature the Canadian books and writers everybody's reading.

Authors slated to participate in The eh List include Austin Clarke, Donna Morrissey, Joy Fielding, Edeet Ravel, Miriam Toews, Mary Lou Finlay and Nino Ricci, among others.

"This kind of programming by the Toronto Public Library is a

SEE THE EH LIST ON PAGE 2...

KEEP TORONTO READING 2009 **one** BOOK

LAST YEAR, TORONTO Public Library launched an exciting new initiative in community building – the inaugural Keep Toronto Reading One Book program, inviting everyone in the city to read the same book and explore its themes, ideas and merits. This year, the Library once again invites Torontonians to read a book together, this time a book of poetry, *Loyalty Management*, by Toronto author Glen Downie.

"It's particularly fitting that our One Book selection this year is a book of poetry,"

Library announces book of poetry for city's second annual community read

April's Keep Toronto Reading Festival to celebrate Toronto Book Award winner *Loyalty Management*

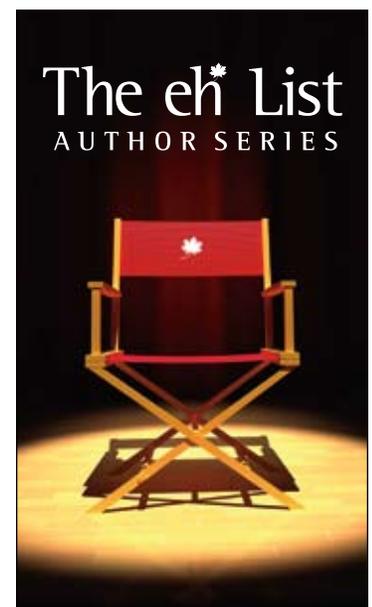
says Toronto Public Library Chief Librarian Jane Pyper. "In moving our month-long Keep Toronto Reading festival from February to April — a month that traditionally celebrates poetry — we hope to highlight this beautiful form of the written word."

Loyalty Management author Glen Downie, who lives in the Junction neighbourhood of Toronto, says he is honoured to have his book selected for One Book 2009. "The value of One Book," explains Downie,

"is that it provides a common springboard for discussion, appreciation and debate about books in general. I hope those who like this One Book will be encouraged to read more poetry, and that those who don't will read and champion another they admire more. In this way, One Book may lead to many books."

In *Loyalty Management*, which won the 2008 Toronto Book Award, Glen Downie explores the bonds we freely forge to people and to places.

SEE ONE BOOK ON PAGE 2...



Ontario students are the winners in this Library partnership

Ontario Time Machine contest offers peek at rich resource for Grade 7 and 8 history students

ONE OF ONTARIO'S great online learning resources, the Ontario Time Machine, ontariotimemachine.ca, is offering Grade 7 and 8 students a chance to win fabulous prizes by using the site to answer five questions in a Digital Scavenger Hunt.

Recently awarded the Ontario Ministry of Culture's Award for Innovation, Ontario Time Machine is an online learning site for Grade 7 and 8 students of Ontario history and their teachers.

"Ontario Time Machine is certainly an excellent resource for middle school students," says Toronto Public Library Director of Research and Reference Libraries Linda Mackenzie. "But it's

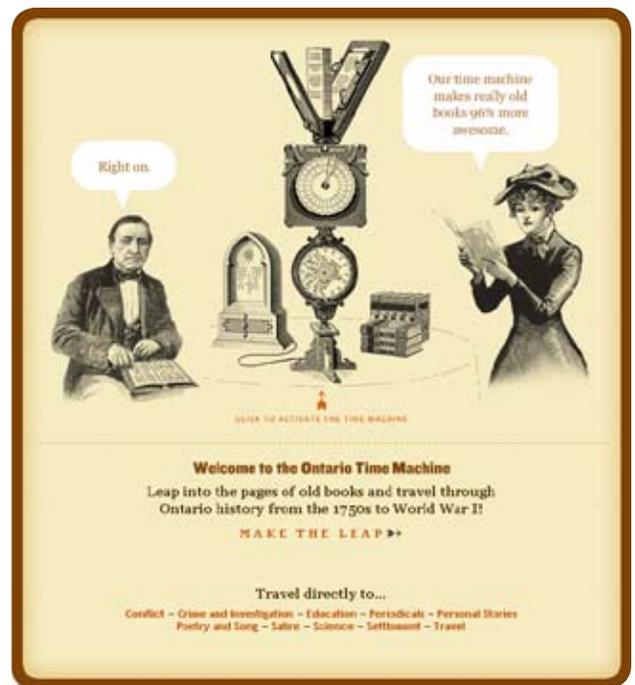
also a lot of fun. Readers can actually turn the pages using our specially designed page-turning technology."

A partner project of the Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston Frontenac public library systems, Ontario Time Machine showcases a selection of some 30 books from Ontario's early days.

According to a teacher-librarian who uses the site, OTM is "super, engaging... students will appreciate the visuals."

The books have been enriched by librarians, using definitions, images, sound files and more. The site also offers classroom activities that specifically support the Ontario history curriculum.

The rules for the Digital Scavenger Hunt contest are simple — students use Ontario Time Machine to answer five questions. All correct



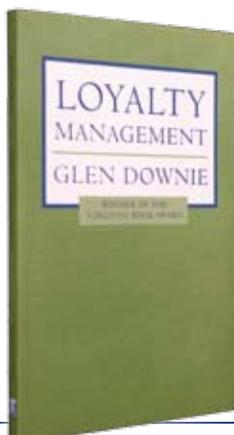
entries are eligible for a draw and the prizes include a digital camera and an MP3 player. The contest deadline is May 1, 2009.

One book

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His sixth book declares its loyalties by uncommon attention to lives lived, whose traces may be as evident as brickwork or as hidden as signatures under old wallpaper. Sensitive to meaning in the humblest object – a spoon, a doll, a pocket watch – these poems testify that loyalty bears the weight of tangible personal reality, whether of a newborn hefted into her cradle or a father's ashes lowered into the ground.

"We've got plenty of exciting programming to help you join others in the city keen on communing through One Book," says Manager of Program Development for the Library, Tina Srebotnjak. "Downie will lead a



Toronto Junction neighbourhood pub crawl on April 18; he'll join singer/songwriter and author Dan Hill, and author David Gilmour for an intriguing discussion about fatherhood in the modern context on April 7 at the Beaches Branch; and he'll be part of the Harbourfront reading series on April 15."

The Library will also host a poetry slam on April 23 and a discussion of the politics of poetry on April 16, both events taking place at Parkdale Branch.

"One Book adds a rich layer to this city's cultural and literary life – one that involves the whole city," says Toronto Mayor David Miller. "*Loyalty*

Management is a book that evokes Toronto and its neighbourhoods, from the Victorian houses of the Junction to the sculptures outside our skyscrapers, but it also looks beyond our city."

For a full listing of One Book events, visit keepertorontoreading.ca/onebook.



Author Nino Ricci visits Northern District Branch May 14 as part of The eh List Author Series.

The eh List

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

real boon to the city," according to eh List author Nino Ricci. "For writers, it is a chance to connect with parts of the community that most other literary series

never get near. Over the years I've had some truly magical experiences through readings at Library venues, and have come to a much better understanding of the important part that literature plays in so many people's lives."

Ricci, who is scheduled to visit Northern District Branch on May 14 as part of The eh List series, is also slated to appear at Palmerston Branch on May 1 as part of the Library's Keep Toronto Reading festival.

"The eh List continues to deliver on the Library's commitment to support creativity and culture in Toronto," says Library Board Chair Matthew Church. "Programs such as these provide free access to top quality literary programming, making it possible for all Torontonians to celebrate Canada's rich and vibrant literary culture."

Eight locations across the city will host the series. The eh List also features two French language programs, with authors Lise Tremblay and Stéphane Dompierre.

Library Board member profile:

Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler

ADAM Chaleff-Freudenthaler brought 10 years of experience as a community activist to the Toronto Public Library Board when he joined two years ago. His enthusiasm and energy have been a great asset to what Chaleff-Freudenthaler claims is, "the best Library system in the world, bar none."



Chaleff-Freudenthaler

"But, to maintain the Library's status as the best," continues Chaleff-Freudenthaler, "it is important

that the City continue to invest in the services the Library provides. I'm very proud of the work I've done with members of the Board's budget committee to successfully make the case for increased funding for our Library. It means more work is being done to renovate and refresh older Library branches while maintaining the same great service Torontonians are used to receiving at their local branches."

For Chaleff-Freudenthaler, the Library is all about community. "I was at the Albion Branch for a public consultation in 2007 and I saw community in that branch like I hadn't anywhere else. The branch was abuzz with children doing their homework together and youth teaching seniors how to use computers, and on the walls hung art that the community had created. For that, Albion is one of my favourite branches in the city."

Libraries have been a part of Chaleff-Freudenthaler's life for as long as he can remember. Born in Toronto, he remembers sitting in the Library listening to his parents and the librarians read his favourite books. "My

SEE NEW BOARD MEMBER ON PAGE 4...

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Photo courtesy of Henry Lim



A night of sheer literary fun *The Book Lover's Ball* helps support Toronto's "most successful, dynamic community builder"

LOVE WAS IN the air as more than 600 guests crowded the Fairmont Royal York this past February 12 for the fourth annual gala in support of Toronto Public Library Foundation. The success of *The Book Lover's Ball* proved, once again, that Toronto loves its Library.

In celebration of the written word, 56 of Canada's leading authors attended, including Margaret Atwood, Graeme Gibson, Joseph Boyden, Christie Blatchford, Jane Urquhart, Dr. Vincent Lam, Richard J. Gwyn, M.G. Vassanji, Wayson Choy and The Right Honourable Paul Martin. Other notable guests included Honorary Chair Mayor David Miller, The Hon. Aileen Carroll, Co-Chairs Donna Hayes and Brad Martin, and Chief of Police William Blair.

The evening began with a reception featuring a selection of delectable hors d'oeuvres prepared in person by celebrity Chef Massimo Capra – host of the Food Network's *Restaurant Makeover*.

Over a superb dinner, prepared by The Fairmont Royal York's Chef David Garcelon and created from Anita Stewart's *Canada*:

This year's *Book Lover's Ball* was the most successful in the event's four-year history.

The Food, the Recipes, the Stories, Diana Swain, host of *CBC News at Six*, once again acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Guests showed their support for the Foundation through silent auction and raffle ticket purchases and an energetic live auction. Foundation President Heather Rumball reported this year's *Book Lover's Ball* was the most successful in the event's four-year history and anticipates raising \$360,000 this year with \$50,000 more going towards Toronto Public Library Foundation than in 2008.

Wrapping up the evening, a fashion show, inspired by 60 Years of Harlequin Romance, proved love never goes out of style. The runway show featured romantic designs created by the likes of Lucian Matis, Ross Mayer, Bustle, Farley Chatto and many more top Canadian designers.

The Foundation is grateful to their many sponsors, including Harlequin, Random House, Whitehots Inc, TD Bank Financial Group, The Remington Group, Toronto Star, The Printing House and CBC.

Congratulations to Barry Sookman on winning *The Book Lover's Ball* raffle prize, a five-day trip to Bermuda.

Your library. Vital to you. Vital to support.
Donate to Toronto Public Library Foundation today.
tplfoundation.ca

TORONTO PUBLIC
LIBRARY
Foundation

Board member profile

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first vivid memory of the Library is sitting in the solarium at the Wychwood Branch," remembers Chaleff-Freudenthaler, "as I watched a puppet show and a bright sun warmed the room. I was three or four at the time. The Library was my introduction to the world."

Currently employed as a communications professional in the public sector, Chaleff-Freudenthaler is no stranger to public service, nor is he a stranger to community service. He has worked for years with students, youth, seniors, parents, teachers and educational support staff to improve the quality and accessibility of public and post-secondary education in Toronto and throughout Ontario, helping to win funding for the programs and services that Toronto's most vulnerable young people need in order to succeed.

"The Library is everything that is right in our city," concludes Chaleff-Freudenthaler. "It is the underpinning of our democracy. It embraces and supports the curiosity of Torontonians of all ages, and is the place neighbours from all walks of life come together to find opportunity, inspiration and recreation."

Library Board Highlights February 9, 2009

Library refines efforts to celebrate Canadian literature

The Board approved a motion to discontinue the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award. The Library's recently established literary and cultural programs meet most of the goals the award was

originally intended to achieve. The Library's new partnership with the City in presenting the Toronto Book Awards, and the Keep Toronto Reading initiative, now in its fourth year, promote reading and raise the profile of Canadian literature, both of which were fundamental goals of the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award. By discontinuing the award, the

Library is able to more effectively focus its resources in pursuit of its goals.

Board reviews City budget request

The Toronto Public Library Board reviewed the 2009 operating budget proposed by the City of Toronto, which will allow the Library to maintain service levels during these

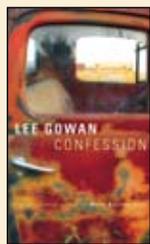
difficult economic times. The proposed budget is \$162 million net, representing a four percent or \$6.2 million net increase from the 2008 budget. The four percent increase will allow the Library to maintain current service levels and reduce reliance on a limited funding source (development charges) to fund Library materials.

Calendar of Events February/March 2009

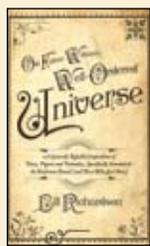


The eh List Author Series

Be part of this new literary series at Toronto Public Library. Read about the series on page 1. For a complete list of The eh List programs, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.



Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m.
Lee Gowan reads from *Confession*. S. Walter Stewart Branch, 170 Memorial Park Ave.



Thursday, March 5, 12:30 p.m.
Bill Richardson reads from *Old Father William's Well-Ordered Universe*.

Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.



Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m.
Mary Lou Findlay reads from *The As It Happens Files*. Barbara Frum Branch, 20 Covington Rd.



Thursday, March 26, 12:30 p.m.
Donna Morrissey reads from *What They Wanted*. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St.

Freedom to Read Week 2009

Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.
Doors open 7 p.m.

Closer to the Land: Freedom of Expression and the Environment

Around the world, environmental voices are being censored and suppressed. PEN Canada, Harper Collins Canada and Toronto Public Library present a passionate panel of environmental activists. \$10 at the door. Advanced tickets are available at Book City. All proceeds go to PEN Canada. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Toronto Public Library Foundation

Friends Clearance Sale

Buy books for 50 cents or three for \$1 at the Friends of Toronto Public Library semi-annual clearance sale. Also get magazines and some audio-visual materials. All proceeds go to Toronto Public Library Foundation, in support of Library programs, collections and services. Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, March 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. tplfoundation.ca



Keep Toronto Reading

has moved to April. Check the March issue of *Shelf Life* for information, or visit keepontorontoreading.ca.

For all Toronto Public Library programs, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca.

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The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June at Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

Web site: torontopubliclibrary.ca

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