

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

March 2009



Design-a-Bookmark, pg 2



Keep Toronto Reading 2009 celebrates the book in all its forms

Library's celebration of reading spreads free literary events across the city



Mayor David Miller, Library Board Chair Matthew Church and Chief Librarian Jane Pyper proudly display the Mayor's official declaration of April as Keep Toronto Reading Month.

KEEP TORONTO READING 2009 (April 1—30), the library's month-long celebration of the joy of reading, will feature 60 authors and 47 literary events at library branches all over the city, helping make the library's strategic goal of supporting city-wide and local cultural expression a reality.

"Building the library's role in the city as a provider of original and accessible cultural programming is one of our primary strategic goals over

the coming years," says Chief Librarian Jane Pyper. "This is particularly important in these less than stable economic times, as virtually all of the library's programming is free."

According to Toronto Public Library Board Chair Matthew Church, "Because Keep Toronto Reading is free, it also meets another of the library's strategic goals: making literature and books accessible to diverse audiences through creative and innovative programming."

This is the fourth year Toronto Public Library has invited everyone in the city to help Keep Toronto Reading. "With its 99 branches and its exciting array of programs, the library is the perfect place to celebrate the wonderful literary and cultural life of this city," said Mayor David Miller at the Keep Toronto Reading launch on March 26.

For the second year, One Book, the Library's community-wide reading initiative, will be an important part of Keep Toronto Reading. With our One Book, we hope to engage the city in dialogue and discussion, and to foster a sense of community through literature. This year, we encourage all Torontonians to read *Loyalty Management* by Glen Downie, a wonderful book of poetry that won last year's Toronto Book Award.

See the Calendar of Events on page 4 for Keep Toronto Reading highlights.

For full details, including program dates and times, visit keepontorontoreading.ca.

Library expands MAP program, increases access to arts and culture

Passes to cultural venues available free at all 99 library branches

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ongoing efforts toward achieving a city of opportunity shared by all has led to an expansion of the vastly popular Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass, or MAP program. In February, Mayor David Miller and Library Board Chair Matthew Church announced the expansion of the program, which began as a pilot funded by Sun Life Financial in July of 2007. The program now offers free passes to some of the city's greatest arts and cultural institutions at all 99 Library branches.

The popularity of the program is in the numbers. More than 20,000 family passes were borrowed in 2008, when the program was available at a limited number of branches. Since each Museum + Arts Pass allows two adults and anywhere from two to five children full, regular admission to one Toronto museum, an estimated 60-80,000 library patrons were able to visit museums through the program last year.

"With passes now available at every library branch in the city," comments Library Board Chair Matthew Church, "we're in a much better position to

SEE MAP EXPANSION ON PAGE 2...

MAP Expansion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

meet our strategic goal of helping make Toronto a city of opportunity for everyone. Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we are making it possible for potentially half a million Torontonians to visit museums by this time next year."

The popularity of the program is also borne out in the testimonials of library customers: "One day, I came on Saturday and saw so many people outside the library," says Stephen Browne. "When I asked one person, they told me they were waiting in line for free MAP passes. I was actually there at the right time and didn't even know it. I was able to get the Art Gallery pass and I'm so glad I went. The Art Gallery is a must see."

The passes can be borrowed by anyone in the city with a valid library card, much the way a book or DVD is borrowed from the collection. The pass provides admission to the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics, the Bata Shoe Museum, Black Creek Pioneer Village, the Textile Museum of Canada, the Toronto Historic Museums, or, one of the MAP initiative's newest partners, the Museum of Inuit Art.

Thirty-two library branches, including several in priority neighbourhoods in the downtown core, offer passes that provide access to the Royal Ontario Museum, the Ontario Science Centre, and another new partner, Casa Loma, in addition to the

expansion of this extraordinary program," said Mayor David Miller at a press conference held last month at the AGO. "Access to culture is crucial if we want Toronto to remain a vibrant, creative city that's positioned to stay strong in the current economy. The Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass program exemplifies the way strategic partnerships can improve the quality of life for all of Toronto's diverse communities."

In addition to the significant contribution of the program's partner venues, Sun Life Financial is continuing its generous sponsorship of the program, furthering its long-standing commitment to making the arts accessible to all.

Library customer Ji Woo Tong expresses nicely the importance of the Museum + Arts Program, and indeed the library itself: "I went to the Science Centre with my family and some friends, and we had a great time..."

I have been in Canada two years

and really value the library. My son loves the Science Centre and I loved that it was free for us. I am working only part-time and I spend a lot of time in the library these days."

Visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/museumpass for full details.

venues listed above. "I'm thrilled to be able to announce the

Design-a-Bookmark winners celebrate together

Contest provides creative opportunities for children



WHEN PROFESSIONAL ARTIST Tasmin Plant was a little girl, she already considered herself an artist. So she was delighted when she found out in 1977 that she was a winner in the Toronto Public Library's bookmark contest for children.

More than 30 years later, Plant was back at the bookmark celebration, this time to meet with and speak to the 2008 Toronto Public Library Children's Design-a-Bookmark Contest winners.

"When I won I just remember being really excited about it," Plant told *Toronto Community News* reporter Fannie Sunshine. "Being there Wednesday, I think it helped

them realize they can maybe make a living from the arts."

In addition to Plant's inspirational talk, the children and their families heard from children's book illustrator and TD Summer Reading Club poster artist Patricia Storms, and from Toronto Public Library Board member Okeima Lawrence.

The 16 Design-a-Bookmark Contest winners were chosen from among 4,000 entries in 2008.

One parent of a winner aptly expressed the importance of the Bookmark Contest when she told library staff, "Thank you so much for this opportunity for my child."



Some of 2008's winning entries from (L-R): Jessica Tang, age 13 (Bridlewood Branch); Eric Zhang, 6 (Brookbanks Branch); Hannah Fraser, 5 (Alderwood Branch); Varvara Nedilskia, 11 (Parkdale Branch)

Library Board member profile: Ann Decter



ANN DECTER, WHO has been a member of the Toronto Public Library Board for two years, "...grew up in a large house full of books and children." According to Decter, "We were frequent library users – four or five of us going at the same time – but not nearly as good at returning our books. There were occasions when our household had so many books that were seriously overdue, the local branch would send the bookmobile to our house to get them back. We'd see it pull up and scramble to our rooms, digging books out from shelves, closets and underneath beds."

Decter may be a bit more conscientious about returning her books to the library on time these days, but her deep regard for libraries still stands. She is particularly proud of her part in developing the library's strategic plan. "It may sound a little dry, but I think the new strategic plan developed along with senior staff is a strong piece of work that will place the library on a solid track for the next few years. In the course of developing it we talked about income inequality, the diversity of the city, the aging population, changes in technology and greening of the libraries. It's all in there."

SEE BOARD MEMBER PROFILE ON PAGE 4...

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Gordon Ramsay visits Toronto Reference Library



Gourmet chef, star of TV's *Hell's Kitchen* and wildly popular cookbook author Gordon Ramsay (left) talked about his restaurant business, his cooking philosophy and his new cookbook, *Healthy Appetite*, in an engaging interview with Toronto restaurateur Peter Oliver (Oliver Bonacinni) at Toronto Reference Library on February 8. A soldout crowd of 450 people attended the event, which was presented by The Cookbook Store, in partnership with Key Porter Books, *The Globe and Mail* and the Toronto Public Library Foundation. The Cookbook Store and Key Porter Books made a donation of a portion of the proceeds from the event to support the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Library Foundation receives \$1 million gift

Anonymous donor expands library's power to impact Toronto lives

The Toronto Public Library Foundation has received its first ever \$1 million gift from an individual donor. The donation, from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, will be used to enhance library collections and services through the purchase of accreditation, skills training and multilingual materials,

and expanding the outreach of the library's early children's literacy program, Ready for Reading. "This is a remarkably generous gift," says Heather Rumball, President of the Foundation. "It's also a great testament to the enduring love that Torontonians have for their library, and an acknowledgment of the

library's profound impact on individual and collective lives. With this enabling gift, the Foundation will be able to help Toronto Public Library expand the power and reach of its programs and collections so it can positively impact even more lives throughout Toronto."

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

**TORONTO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
Foundation

Library Board Highlights March 23, 2009

New laptop loaning service extends Library's capacity to meet public need

The Board received a staff report about a new laptop loaning service being piloted at the newly relocated Jane/Sheppard Branch. Working with City Councillor Augimeri, the Mayor's office and the Toronto Public Library Foundation, Microsoft Canada donated 14 reconditioned laptops to the library, along with several gaming components to enhance computer services at Jane/Sheppard Branch. In its previous location, Jane/Sheppard Branch had five computers that were always in high demand. Public consultations with members of the community have indicated that free library access to the Internet is a high priority for the neighbourhood, where many homes are without computers. In its new,

expanded space, Jane/Sheppard Branch will have ten bookable computer workstations, four permanently located laptops, and nine laptops that can be borrowed and used throughout the library, taking advantage of the wireless Internet access available throughout the branch.

Location set for new Scarborough Centre library branch

Working with Scarborough Community Council and Toronto City Council, the library has finalized the location for the new 15,000 square foot Scarborough Centre Branch. The branch will be located on City-owned land at 150 Borough Drive. Work on the new branch is scheduled to begin in 2009 and the projected cost, included in the capital budget, is \$8.2 million.

Board member profile

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...

Decter says her work for the library board nicely complements her day job doing advocacy and research for a national organization. "I travel a fair bit in my job," says Decter, "which I thoroughly enjoy. My work on the library board returns me to a focus on what is happening in Toronto, and in my community.

"Public libraries are building blocks of democracy," concludes Decter, "providing free access

to knowledge through books, and now computers, and supporting universal access to literacy. Our libraries are multicultural centres and vital public meeting spaces, essential to the health of the city. Like the Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto Public Library maps a city-wide network of support. I see Toronto Public Library as a TTC for the mind."

Calendar of Events April 2009

KEEP TORONTO READING keeptorontoreading.ca

Lit City: Celebrating Toronto's 175th birthday through Toronto stories from some of the city's best writers. At our kickoff event, hear celebrities read from their favourite Toronto books. Featuring actor Cynthia Dale, CBC Radio's Jill Dempsey and author, Shyam Selvadurai.

Eastern Edge: Take another look at Scarborough through entertaining readings and performances.

Literary Buzz: Join authors for guided wine tastings led by international wine journalist Edward Feinstein.

Lit Lunches: Fun discussions with a tantalizing line-up of authors. Bring your own lunch or buy one for just \$5. Featuring Joy Fielding, Bonnie Stern, Marjorie Harris and Kenneth Whyte.

Diaspora Dialogues: Meet emerging Toronto authors, as well as established names including Nino Ricci, Anthony De Sa and Priscilla Uppal.

Keep Toronto Reading for Kids: Meet Patty Sullivan, host of *Kids' CBC*, and beloved poet Dennis Lee.

Adopt A Word to Create A Story: Toronto Public Library Foundation's branch fundraising activity that asks patrons to buy a word to help build a story written especially for the library by Margaret Atwood. For more information, visit tplfoundation.ca.

For full details, including program dates and times, visit keeptorontoreading.ca.

CRIME WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE GAIL BOWEN

May-June 2009
Writers are invited to submit manuscripts of mystery or crime fiction for an individual evaluation and a meeting with Gail Bowen. For details, including submission guidelines, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca and click on "Programs and Events".

THE eh LIST AUTHOR SERIES

Meet the Canadian authors everyone's reading at eight branches throughout April and May. For more information, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

Lise Tremblay (*La soeur de Judith*)
Saturday, April 4, 2 p.m.
North York Central Library
5120 Yonge St.
(in French)

Peter C. Newman (*Izzy: The Passionate Life and Turbulent Times of Izzy Asper*)
Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
North York Central Library
5120 Yonge St.

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