



## Library Makes Some Noise

Local music collection showcased through live hip hop and rock shows in the stacks



Toronto indie band Bruce Peninsula in concert at North York Central Library.

WHEN ODARIO WILLIAMS, fronting the Toronto hip hop band Grand Analog, finished his sound check at College/Shaw Branch of Toronto Public Library, an hour or so before he was set to perform there, he told his band mates, "It makes me nervous making so much noise in the library."

The Grand Analog concert was part of a series that sets out to do just that — Make Some Noise in the library. The series of free concerts and workshops, which support the library's burgeoning four-year-old local music CD collection, included concerts at North York Central Library and Bloor/Gladstone Branch, and three workshops at various library locations around the city.

With multiple copies of each of more than 800 titles, the local music collection represents the best of indie music from around Toronto and across Canada.

"Make Some Noise concerts bring a new audience to the library," according to youth collections specialist Lisa Heggum. "They help to make the library vibrant and relevant to people in their twenties and thirties who don't, as a group, tend to frequent the library."

"Our workshops help provide education and employment training opportunities for young people interested in getting involved in the music business," adds Heggum.

"It's a great project," according to Soundscapes owner Greg Davis. "It gives people a chance to sample music they might not have heard before, both live and on CD. And it gives people who are interested in becoming musicians, or in getting involved in the Toronto music industry, a chance to meet and work with the pros."

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**Library volunteer opportunities help youth develop foundations for future success**

Volunteers gain leadership, social integration skills



THE LIBRARY OFFERS volunteer opportunities to people of all ages, but perhaps the most active segment of the library's volunteer contingent consists of teenagers. Teens who volunteer at the library do everything from helping young children improve their reading and math skills to working on editorial teams to help select creative writing and artwork for *Young Voices*, the library's annual magazine of teen writing and art.

"One of the things we heard from the public when we did consultations for our most recent strategic plan, was that the library should provide support for Toronto's youth," says Toronto Public Library Board Chair Matthew Church. "By providing volunteer opportunities, the library provides youth with leadership skills and opportunities for social integration, and helps them develop a foundation for future success."

When a Toronto teen named Jeff got in trouble with the law, he found himself doing

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 2...

## Make some noise

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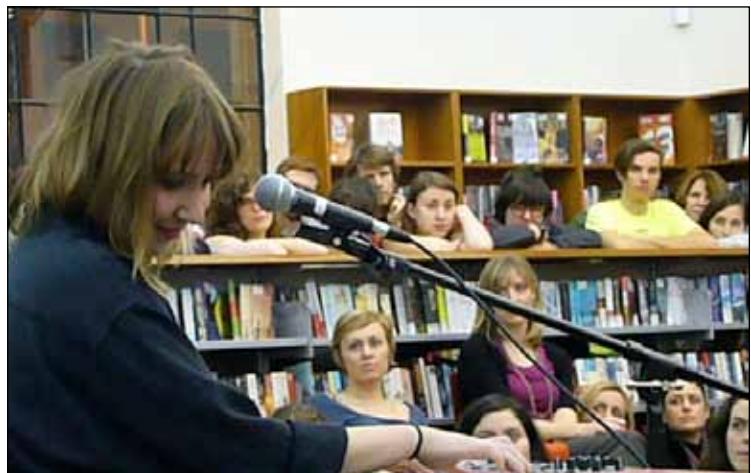
The library has worked closely with local CD store Soundscapes since the project began and has attracted a number of other partners including *Exclaim!*, Canada's premiere music magazine. And this year, for the first time, the library partnered with the Polaris Music Prize, an adjudicated \$20,000 annual award that honours the creators of a full-length Canadian album, chosen solely on the basis of artistic merit.

"Community partners are an important part of Make Some Noise," according to Hegrum. "By aligning ourselves with some of the important players in Toronto's indie music scene, the library broadens its reach and strengthens its contribution."

The North York concert featured two bands, Timber Timbre and Bruce Peninsula, and drew more than 300 people. Almost the same number of people showed up to see Katie Stelmanis play in the stacks at Bloor/Gladstone Branch.



Bruce Peninsula in concert at North York Central Library.



Classically trained indie pop artist Katie Stelmanis at Bloor/Gladstone Branch.



Toronto hip hop band Grand Analog at College/Shaw Branch.

## Volunteer opportunities

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community service at the library. Through his connections at the library, Jeff got his life turned around. He wrote a letter (right) thanking the library for the help and support he got from library Youth Advisory Group leader Penny Calvo.

Hi Everyone,

My name is Jeff. About two years ago I had some problems with the law, these were serious charges and they affected me greatly. As a result I was charged and had to go to court. My actions caused a lot of problems both for me and for my parents. I left home to stay in a group home for one year. I was allowed to go out only for community hours and the library is where I went. Penny was there for me from the beginning. The YAG has been my second home and my life has never been the same. I am currently at Sir Sandford Fleming Secondary School. Two weeks ago I asked Penny if she could write me a letter for court. I was really nervous because things in my life have never been easy. I have completed over 200 volunteer hours and have accepted many awards. Recently I was nominated for a mayor's award. As the court date approached, my eczema got worse and I had a serious reaction. I was so nervous and a bit scared. I went to court and presented the letter that Penny had written for me. The judge read the letter out loud, which is not that common. He was very impressed and dropped all the charges against me that I had with the law. I just want to thank Penny for what she does and for this amazing program she runs in our community.

Thanks,  
Jeff

# Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

## George Cedric Metcalf Foundation supports the work of Library Foundation

WITH A TWO-YEAR pledge to support staff growth and development, the George Cedric Metcalf Foundation has empowered the Foundation to successfully promote the importance of Toronto's Library in enhancing the success and vibrancy of the city, and has enabled the Foundation to share this message within the philanthropic community.

According to Foundation President Heather Rumball, "With this gift, the Library Foundation has been able to grow its support in the expansion and enhancement of library collections, programs and services and community spaces."

## Children across Toronto benefit from Leading to Reading program



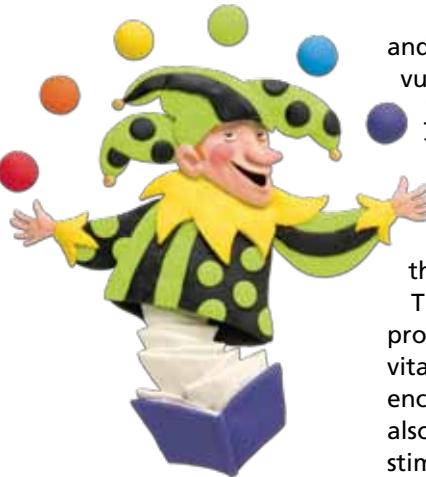
TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S innovative literacy program, Leading to Reading, helps primary school children identified with low literacy skills improve their reading and performance at school.

"There is a key to helping our children and youth achieve a better future for themselves," says library children's advocate Ken Setterington, "and that key

is literacy. The vast resources available at the library, resources that are essential for life success, help foster increased literacy and bring self-esteem, giving children greater hope for the future."

During the 2009 school year and summer, with the generous support of AT&T, CIBC, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, and Manulife Financial, the program was delivered in almost 40 branches. It helped thousands of children significantly improve their chances at successfully continuing their education and securing fulfilling career opportunities. Such opportunities would not be available if their literacy skills continued to be ignored.

## Anonymous Literary Circle Gift supports vital Storytime Outreach program



and introduces our most vulnerable children to the joys of reading while at the same time educating parents and caregivers on the value of reading to their children during their early years.

The program also promotes the library as a vital place, not only for encouraging reading, but also as a place of creative stimulation in a safe environment.

"The program is in high demand," says Foundation President Heather Rumball. "Support from donors is vital to maintaining and expanding it."

Through the generous support of our Literary Circle members, Toronto Public Library Foundation is able to provide Toronto's library with improved and expanded collections, enhanced programs and services, and revitalized community spaces. This support bolsters early literacy, workforce readiness, cultural exchange and economic development — tapping the full potential of all Torontonians across the city.

To become a Literary Circle member or for more information call 416-397-5924 or visit [tplfoundation.ca](http://tplfoundation.ca).

Your library. Vital to you. Vital to support.  
Donate to Toronto Public Library Foundation today.  
[tplfoundation.ca](http://tplfoundation.ca)



# Toronto Public Library use up in 2009

Library plays important role in difficult economic times

DURING THE FIRST nine months of 2009, compared to 2008, computer use at Toronto's library is up over 14 percent, visits to our branches are up more than eight percent and circulation is up more than four percent.

"It is well documented that library use increases significantly during an economic downturn," according to Toronto Public Library City Librarian Jane Pyper, "and we are certainly experiencing this. The library provides many resources for people looking to access employment assistance or to find jobs. In difficult times, the library plays an increasingly important role."

Over the last decade, activity levels at Toronto Public Library have increased steadily with an annual average growth rate of four percent, and the library continues to find ways to manage this growth efficiently while maintaining high customer satisfaction.

## Board Highlights November 2009

### 2010 operating budget request

The Board adopted the 2010 operating budget request of \$170.339 million net (\$183.139 million gross), which has been provided to the City for discussion and consideration. The request represents an increase of \$6.431 million net, or 3.9 percent, over the 2009 budget. The base budget increase of \$5.394 million net (3.3 percent) will enable the library to maintain current services. An additional request for a service enhancement of \$1.037 million net (0.6 percent) will allow the library to expand Sunday service, beginning in the fall of 2010.

## Library board member profile: Councillor Adam Vaughan



Councillor Adam Vaughan.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY Board member Councillor Adam Vaughan's first memory of libraries is of his visits to the Wychwood Branch as a child of five. "I remember the oak-panelled rooms and the card catalogues and just being in the stacks and pulling books off the shelves. My overall memory is of being in the library more than it is of any particular book."

Vaughan does however remember one particular book. "I remember taking out a copy of *The Jungle Book*, probably in about 1967, and not returning it till about ten years ago, at which point we quietly snuck it back into the drop box."

Books were a big part of Vaughan's family as he was growing up. He remembers his dad stocking up at the library for summer vacation. "My dad was a huge reader and he always had five or six library books, and seemed to be able to read a couple of books every day or so."

"I think what I came away with from those first, young experiences at the library," says Vaughan, "was the notion that the world outside was accessible through books. Books were a huge part of my family culture."

Vaughan says that the public library represents different things to different people at different times throughout their lives.

"My son, for example," explains Vaughan, "went to the library as soon as school started this year looking for books about peacekeeping. Around the same time, he got interested in things Japanese, and these two interests overlapped. At one point he found a section in his peacekeeping book about the Japanese involvement in the second World War — his two worlds collided! He kept saying, 'this can't be true.'

"This is such an important thing for a child, to explore his interests; but more, to see the complexities of the world in something as objective as a history book. The library is a wonderful window onto the bigger world."

As well as his work on the library board, Vaughan is on the AGO board, and this came in handy when the library was first devising what is now the highly successful Sun Life Financial Museum & Arts Pass (MAP). "Being on the library board and the art gallery board simultaneously provided an opportunity to strengthen the connection between two of the City's important cultural institutions. As an advocate for the library's MAP program, an opportunity was provided to showcase how the AGO could leverage library services and get free passes into neighbourhoods and in front of people, so everyone has the opportunity to visit these important cultural institutions, regardless of their financial restrictions."

"No matter what happens to a person throughout their life," concludes Vaughan, "or how a person's life experiences change them, the library is always there, and it always has something to offer at every stage of a person's life. The library is a portal. It's a portal from you to a larger world, whether that world is accessed through fiction or non-fiction or the Internet, or as an extension of school, the library is that portal where information flows back and forth. The library is a critical connector between you and the world outside."

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Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto.  
Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact:  
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Website: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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