



Landmark library has something for everyone

Bloor/Gladstone returned to grateful community



Opening day at the newly renovated Bloor/Gladstone Branch.

AFTER A TWO and a half year closure for a massive renovation, expansion and restoration, Bloor/Gladstone Branch was returned to its grateful community at the end of July. A crowd of eager customers waited in the rain to get into their new library.

"Kids ran downstairs to check out their colourful new play areas, longtime patrons set off to find the new locations of their old favourite sections, and the social butterflies settled into the sparkling computer lab for a status update or two," according to city blog torontoist.com. "The enthusiasm with which the branch was welcomed back was delightful to behold."

"We're deeply committed to a philosophy that respects libraries as important public space, so whenever we have the opportunity to do a renovation, we take a good hard look at how to best serve the community," says City Librarian Jane Pyper. "Yes, we have to address our functional and service issues, and that includes bringing a branch up to 21st century

library service standards and incorporating technology, but we also look at our library branches as cultural spaces, as places for people to be together to engage in discourse."

Access to electronic resources is essential to the modern public library and the renovated Bloor/Gladstone has a new Le@rning Centre, 44 computers throughout the branch, free WiFi and CD listening stations.

Besides a great many additional books and magazines, the branch has more CDs and DVDs — in

fact, the 9,000 square feet of extra space has allowed for more than 70,000 new items.

The extra space also allows Bloor/Gladstone to meet the library's strategic goal of creating cultural spaces where people can come together and engage in public and cultural activities. There are new meeting spaces and group study areas, as well as a vibrant teen zone.

The new Bloor/Gladstone also furthers the library's commitment to environmental sustainability, incorporating a green roof, enclosed outdoor reading garden and expanded outdoor landscaping with 19 new trees on site.

At the opening celebrations, a new Heritage Toronto plaque was unveiled, in tribute to the branch's long history of service to the community.

"There's a place for everyone," says Anne Bailey, Toronto Public Library's Director of Branch Libraries. "We want people to feel it's theirs because it is theirs."

New library event venue opens in the heart of the city

Appel Salon to provide public space for cultural programming, civic discourse and community engagement

TORONTO HAS A new public forum for discussion, debate and cultural programming, right at the heart of the city. The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library opened to the public on September 23, with *Globe and Mail* writer Ian Brown interviewing author Douglas Coupland about his body of work, from the seminal *Generation X* to his latest novel, *Generation A*.

The interview was the first in a six-part series, The Writer's Room, that has author and *Globe and Mail* journalist Ian Brown interviewing prominent writers about their bodies of work.

"Public libraries have always been about learning and discovery, and this can happen in a powerful way at the Appel Salon through the exchange of ideas, conversation and debate," says City Librarian Jane Pyper.

The Appel Salon is named in honour of Bram and Bluma Appel, great populists and lovers of ideas who were lifelong supporters of culture in our city. A lead gift of \$3 million to the Toronto Public Library Foundation's re:vitalize – Toronto Reference Library Campaign was contributed by the Bluma Appel Community Trust.

When not being used for library programs, the Appel Salon will be available as a venue for corporate and social events, as well as for weddings.

FOR UPCOMING APPEL SALON EVENTS SEE PAGE 4.

Library downloadables in the spotlight

Two “digital” events invited Torontonians to try out free library downloads



Richview staff welcome the Digital Bookmobile, provided courtesy of OverDrive, a supplier of library downloadables.

JANE PYPER, TORONTO Public Library’s City Librarian, was invited to speak at the August 26 Canadian launch of two new Sony eBook readers, which took place at the Royal Ontario Museum.

“The library is committed to supporting new technologies that increase access to information and create more opportunities to experience the joy of reading,” says Pyper, who used the launch as an opportunity to highlight the rapidly

increasing popularity of Toronto Public Library eBook collections, inviting all attendees to try out an eBook at torontopubliclibrary.ca.

A few days after the event at the ROM, the library hosted the Digital Bookmobile, an immersive download experience inside a 74-foot, high-tech tractor-trailer at Richview Branch in Toronto’s west end. Readers of all ages were invited to experience digital downloading through interactive demonstrations of Toronto Public Library’s audiobook, eBook, music and video download service at this free event.

“Library cardholders can check out and download digital titles anytime, anywhere, for free, by visiting overdrive.torontopubliclibrary.ca,” explains electronic materials collections librarian Joanne Lombardo. “Customers can take advantage of the download service 24/7 when they visit the library’s website. From there, they can browse the growing collection of best-selling, new release, and classic titles, and check out any digital title with a valid library card.”

spacing magazine editor Shawn Micallef comments on the value of free WiFi at the library

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY is expanding free wireless Internet access to more branches — with the plan to expand to all 99 branches by early 2010. The rollout takes place in phases, with a number of branches added each month. Shelf Life sat down with spacing magazine editor Shawn Micallef to ask for his views on free WiFi at the library and here’s what he had to say.

I use the WiFi service at the Toronto Reference Library mainly when doing research. I find it difficult to research without an Internet connection because often something I find physically in the library will lead me to want to look something up online, and then an online item will lead me to look up a book the library has that isn’t available in digital format (and won’t be, for a long time to come, or ever). That easy, natural back and forth

from physical to online wouldn’t happen without WiFi. Also, if I’m spending a day or a half day doing research in the library, I don’t have to put everything else on hold. I can still answer emails and keep other things moving.

Libraries act as information stations around the city, kind of like police, fire and ambulance stations and just as necessary, but instead of saving lives they make Torontonians smarter. Adding free WiFi is a natural extension of the role they play throughout the city as information providers. Since Toronto Public Library branches are throughout the city, they’ll bring open Internet access to places where free WiFi hotspots aren’t readily available, as they are downtown in cafes or even bars.

Toronto Public Library thanks Citizenship and Immigration Canada for supporting wireless service at the library since it began

in 2007. Their funding supports the service at branches that offer settlement services for newcomers.

To view an up-to-date list of wireless locations, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/wireless.



spacing magazine editor
Shawn Micallef

Toronto library branch marks 100 years of service

Annette Street Branch celebrated centennial in September

TORONTO PUBLIC Library’s Annette Street Branch, the second oldest operating public library branch in the city, celebrated its 100-year anniversary with an all-day party on September 12. Festivities included live music, a magician and juggler, a kids craft table, a birthday cake and a guest appearance by Local History Service Specialist Barbara Myrvold who launched a newly revised and updated version of *The Most Attractive Resort in Town: Public Library Service in West Toronto Junction, 1888-1989*.

The West Toronto Junction Historical Society presented a walking tour of the Junction community and Heritage Toronto unveiled a plaque to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the beautiful Beaux-Arts Annette Street Branch building.

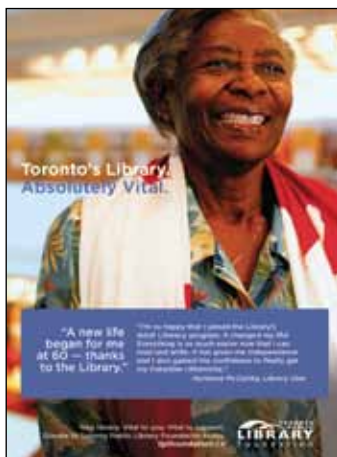
“Annette Street Branch is a well-loved and much-used community cornerstone,” said Matthew Church, Toronto Public Library Board Chair. “People grew up with this library and staff tell us that many of these long-standing customers bring their own kids here, continuing the tradition.”

The Toronto Public Library Foundation also launched a Centenary fundraising project last year, to enhance the library’s front entrance way.

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Coming soon to a television near you!

Library Foundation's Absolutely Vital poster campaign comes to life



Last fall, the Foundation's 'Absolutely Vital' poster campaign helped spread the word about how vital Toronto's Library is, to help generate enhanced giving to priority programs. The campaign featured some of the people who found the Library vital to their lives — kick-starting their careers, enabling them to become literate, "saving" and starting their lives anew.

This year, four of these real-life stories have been made into 30-second public service announcements and are now playing on Citytv (in English) and on OMNI TV (in English, Mandarin, Russian, Italian, Hindi, Tamil, French).

The PSAs will be featured during the Foundation's fall fundraising campaign, where

we'll be seeking community support through our direct mail campaign, a tele-fundraising campaign and an in-branch fundraising campaign.

Watch for these PSAs or view them on tplfoundation.ca and please consider supporting your library.

To donate today, visit tplfoundation.ca.

Endowment to support Home Library Service

Thank you to James and Karen Griffith Sowell who made a significant gift to the American Foundation for Toronto Public Library (AFTPL) in support of Karen's grandmother, Grayce Margaret Griffith. Griffith was passionate about literature and information throughout her long life in Toronto. With advanced age and visual impairment, she relied on programs like Toronto Public Library's Home Library Service to bring her the joy of reading. This gift has been granted by AFTPL, in her honour, to support the creation of an endowment fund for our Home Library Service.

AFTPL is an organization established in 2005 to promote and support Toronto Public Library and its collections, programs, services as well as outreach activities within the U.S.

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



word out! 2009

teen summer reading

Teens talk about books

Library teen summer reading program keeps teens reading all summer

NEARLY 2,000 TEENS signed up online to be a part of Toronto Public Library's teen summer reading program, dubbed Word Out!

The Word Out! website, which featured book suggestions, library programs at branches around the city, contests, and plenty of opportunities for online participation, had more than 10,000 hits over the summer, 5,000 visitors and nearly 4,000 comments.

"We're thrilled with the online

response we had this year," says library youth advocate Ken Settingington. "One of our current strategic goals is to connect with teens and bring them back to the library, and meeting them online is a great first step."

Teens were also encouraged to visit one of the 40 participating Word Out! library branches to borrow books, read down their fines, participate in programs, and pick up one of eight collector bookmarks made available each week throughout the summer.

Word Out! also offered teens the opportunity to have their library fines forgiven.

According to Settingington, the library is "working hard to reduce barriers that might make teens reluctant to visit the library. Our experience indicates that helping teens deal with outstanding fines encourages them to return to the library."



Library Board Highlights — September 2009

Capital budget to expand open hours and virtual library

The 2010-2019 capital budget was approved by the Board for submission to the City. Informed by the library's strategic plan and service delivery considerations, the budget will position the library to:

- continue with its building program, and ensure the sustainability of the physical infrastructure
- further develop the virtual branch and refresh the information technology environment
- address needs of vulnerable groups by expanding open hours in some branches.

The board-approved capital submission meets the City's targets for the period 2010–2014, but exceeds the City's targets by \$7.5 million over 2015–2019.

Eight library branches to extend open hours

Hours increases are approved for North York Central Library, and for Agincourt, Bridlewood, Cedarbrae, Fairview, S. Walter Stewart, Steeles, and Yorkville branches. By early 2010, all eight branches will have expanded hours. Bridlewood hours will increase by seven hours a week; Fairview, S. Walter Stewart and North York Central Library will each be open six additional hours a week; and Agincourt and Cedarbrae will each see a three and a half hour per week increase.

Cultural grant applications for two branches

The library Board endorsed two applications for funding from Cultural Spaces Canada, a funding program from Heritage Canada. The funding would enhance the refurbishment of theatres in the York Woods and Palmerston branches. Both have theatres that are well used by community theatre groups and local performers. The funding would allow for improvements to lighting and sound systems and improvements to the stages and backstage areas.

Program for suspended students furthers library's goal of reaching teens

The Toronto Public Library/Toronto Catholic District School Board partnership program for suspended students, called the Transitional Intervention Program for Suspended Students (TIPSS), furthers the library's strategic goal of supporting youth in their educational achievements as a foundation for success. TIPSS brings small groups of suspended students, along with their teachers, to library branches, where they receive schooling and counselling. From April 2008 to June 2009, there were 2,054 visits by TIPSS students to 25 library branches. The program introduces both students and teachers to library services. As well, a closer relationship has developed between the Catholic school board and library staff, and teachers view the library as a more active partner in student development. TIPSS is a program that the Ministry of Education is watching eagerly as a possible model for application at the provincial level.

Appel Salon rental policy approved

The Toronto Public Library Board has approved the rental policy and fee schedule for the new event venue at the Toronto Reference Library. The construction of The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon is a key component of the Board's strategic goal to support city-wide

and local cultural expression, and to build the library's role in providing original and accessible cultural programming. Private rentals will support the Appel Salon's operation and provide re-investment funds for the ongoing development and maintenance of the Toronto Reference Library.

We need to talk.

New books. Big ideas. This fall, join in the conversation at the new Bram & Bluma Appel Salon.



The City Series: What Kind of Toronto?
Tuesday, October 6, 7 p.m.



Tim Flannery with Anna Maria Tremonti
Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m.



Star Talks: Jack Diamond with David Olive
Tuesday, October 20, 7 p.m.



The Writer's Room: Antony Beevor with Ian Brown
Thursday, October 22, 6:30 p.m.



Star Talks: Measha Brueggergosman with John Terauds
Monday, November 9, 7 p.m.



The eh List: Peter Mansbridge and Rex Murphy
Tuesday, November 10, 12:30 p.m.



The Writer's Room: Francine Prose with Ian Brown
Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m.



Star Talks: Rick Hillier with James Travers
Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m.



Jeff Rubin with John Stackhouse
Tuesday, December 1, 7 p.m.

The Appel Salon
at the Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street
(one block north of Bloor Street)
torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon

Premiere Season Funder
BLUMA APPEL
COMMUNITY TRUST

The Bram & Bluma Appel
SALON
at the Toronto Reference Library

A vibrant new literary
and cultural commons
in the heart of the city

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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.

Website: torontopubliclibrary.ca

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