

# Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

June 2010



Library celebrates diversity... pg. 2



Word Out teen summer reading gives teens a chance to read great books and talk about them online with other book lovers.

## Library summer reading programs help students of all ages maintain literacy levels

Word Out Teen Summer Reading and TD Summer Reading Club engage students by making books and reading fun

IN 2009, TORONTO Public Library branches piloted the Word Out teen summer reading program. Nearly 2,000 teens signed up online and well over 5,000 unique visitors logged onto the site.

“The teens talked on the discussion pages of the Word Out website about books they were reading, books they loved, and books they didn’t love so much, and they asked each other questions about books, writers and writing,” according to library youth advocate Ken Setterington. “And they got the chance to hear from a number of the authors on our Word Out booklist who blogged on the Word Out website.”

This year, the online presence, at [torontopubliclibrary.ca/wordout](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca/wordout), will be enhanced as all branches of the library participate, encouraging teens to read books, discuss them with their friends – both online and in library branches – and, this year for the first time, make video reviews of books they love.

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## Library continues to support at-risk youth

“It’s about getting involved in the lives of children.”

YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS the city continue to benefit from library initiatives aimed at supporting youth at risk.

Bloor/Gladstone branch hosted the GOOD project from June 14 to 25. A photo-documentation created by Toronto Catholic District School Board students from the Transitional Intervention Program for Suspended Students (TIPSS), the GOOD Project set TIPSS students up with digital cameras from December to the end of April while they were participating in Faith and Character Development Workshops. These workshops exposed them to community outreach programs, food banks, homeless shelters, and daily interactions with staff and public in classroom settings and at Toronto Public Library branches.

Another program aimed at supporting youth at risk in Toronto, called Project GRANT, partners Oakwood Village

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(l-r) Jim Aspiotis, Vic Toews and Summer Willan were on hand at Oakwood Village Branch for a Project GRANT initiative aimed at steering vulnerable youth away from crime.



## Toronto Public Library supports arts and culture

York Woods Branch home to new 'Arts Hub'

THROUGH OUR RESOURCES, programs, partnerships and public spaces, the Library serves as both a catalyst for and a gateway to all kinds of cultural and creative experiences. On June 29, Mayor David Miller officially launched the new community Arts Hub in the York Woods Branch. The Arts Hub is a multi-use space designed to support the artistic talents of the Jane and Finch community.

## Learn On The Go event brings top academics to Toronto Public Library

Talks to showcase library's extensive digital collections

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY and Yourprof, publisher of a series of audio lectures, held the first in a series of Learn On The Go events at the Lillian H. Smith Branch on June 23.

To showcase its recent acquisition of Yourprof Talks, and highlight its extensive digital collection, the Toronto Public Library and Yourprof are holding the first of a series of free events to allow library patrons to hear and meet Yourprof speakers.

Paul Stevens (Professor and Canada Research Chair, Dept. of English, University of Toronto) will speak on his Yourprof Talk, Winston Churchill's Military Romanticism. Jim Lavery (St. Michael's Hospital and Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto) will speak on his Yourprof series Global Health Research.

Learn On The Go live events invite self-directed learners to listen to, and ask questions of, Yourprof speakers and get to know the library's extensive digital collection.

Toronto Public Library has over 20,000 digital works that include e-books, audiobooks, and now Yourprof Talks. Library cardholders can access the digital archives from the convenience of their homes.

## Library celebrates city's diversity

Asian Heritage Month highlights library's multicultural collections and services



"Tabla Guy" Gurpreet Chana entertained Asian Heritage Month celebrants at Amesbury Park Branch.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY celebrates Asian Heritage Month every May, and this year the offerings were as widespread and as varied as ever, with programs happening all over the city.

"Asian Heritage Month celebrates a broad array of peoples from a wide number of places," says library manager of program development Tina Srebotnjak. "Library offerings for this celebratory month attempt to reach out across as many of these peoples and places as possible."

The library's gala kickoff, held at the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at Toronto Reference Library, was a special evening to celebrate the many heritages of Asian peoples. Library Board member Tina Edan opened the festivities and welcomed both guests and the talented artists and media personalities who made the evening special, including CBC journalist Steven D'Souza, who acted as host for the evening.

D'Souza introduced the many fine talents who were present, beginning with Rizwan Ahmad, who brought greetings from our Asian Heritage Month sponsor, RBC.

Author Judy Fong Bates read from her

*Year of Finding Memory*, Rabindranath Maharaj read from his new novel *The Amazing Absorbing Boy*, and Phoebe Tsang read from her collection of poems, *Contents of a Mermaid's Purse*.

The evening was capped off with a set of modern Indian dances by the Menaka Thakkar Dancers, and founder Menaka Thakkar was in attendance to enjoy the celebrations.

Library branches all across the city hosted more than 40 additional programs with artists of every description, including authors Ruth Ohi, J. Torres, Nurjehan Aziz and Ting-Xing Ye, musicians Gupreet Chana, the Korean Senior Citizens Society of Toronto and an amazing variety of dancers, speakers, and crafters, presenting to customers of all ages.

Over 240 people were thoroughly entertained and impressed with the Asian Heritage Month program presented by North York Central Library in cooperation with the Korean YMCA. Many examples of Korean culture were included in the afternoon of fun, from Korean folk songs to Korean fan dancing and traditional dance, to a gayageum (Korean Zither) performance.

Downsview Branch youth participated in an interactive henna workshop, a hands-on demonstration that decorated youth, while at the same time educating them about the history and use of henna.

And at Amesbury Park Branch, celebrations centred around a musical program featuring "Tabla Guy" Gurpreet Chana, who entertained a mixed audience of adults and teens. Chana not only played his four tabla drums and sang, but also talked about the history of these drums.

As always, Asian Heritage Month provides a wonderful opportunity for Toronto Public Library to highlight its many collections and services geared toward our diverse, eclectic and exciting city.

RBC Foundation is proud to support Asian Heritage Month at Toronto Public Library.



## Northern District Branch closes for renovations

Revitalized library to reopen in the fall

NORTHERN DISTRICT BRANCH (Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence) will close temporarily for renovations at the end of the day on Saturday, July 3, 2010, reopening in the fall. During the closure period, the community tenant offices and meeting rooms will not be affected and meeting rooms will remain available for booking.

Until the branch renovations are completed, customers can return library materials to any Toronto Public Library branch. Customers can visit one of several nearby branches (Deer Park, Forest Hill, Locke and Mount Pleasant), and pick up holds at Locke Branch. Fall Sunday service will be available at the Deer Park location, until Northern District re-opens.

## Summer reading programs

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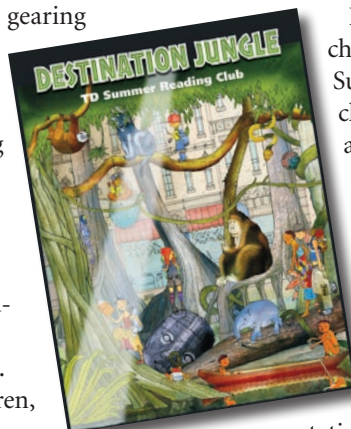
### Destination Jungle

For pre-teens, the highly successful TD Summer Reading Club, this year themed around jungle adventure, is gearing up to help primary school children maintain and enhance their literacy skills through the award-winning program of fun activities around books and reading.

This year's TD Summer Reading Club poster was created by Governor Award-winning Quebec children's illustrator Stéphane Jorisch. The Club encourages children, not only to read more, but to strive to get posters and stickers, and to complete the Summer Reading Club activity books that can help make their summer holidays unforgettable.

The TD-sponsored program will run in most major Canadian cities, and in every one of Toronto's 99 library branches. Through

the ongoing support of TD Bank Financial Group, Toronto Public Library's summer reading program, which has been around for 15 years, continues to encourage kids between four and 13 to explore the joy of reading.



Last year in Toronto, 30,637 children registered for the TD Summer Reading Club and 48,835 children attended 1,548 programs at library branches.

"Kids who joined last year want to come back," says library children's advocate Ken Settingington. "It's fun to do something with friends and discover the pleasures of reading."

Alan Convery, a TD Bank representative, says the program is good for all kids coast to coast. "One of the best ways to get kids interested in reading is to get them at an early age. Reading is core to education and kids who read more will study harder in school and get better marks."

## Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

### Manulife supports the St. James Town community

Support helps take early literacy outreach into Toronto's high-needs neighbourhoods

SINCE 2007, MANULIFE Financial has generously donated a total of \$100,000 to Toronto Public Library's Leading to Reading program at St. James Town Branch.

Leading to Reading is an innovative program that helps develop essential literacy skills in children who need them most. As a result of Manulife Financial's support, the library has been able to provide in-depth reading support to hundreds of children in the St. James Town community, enabling them to gain confidence and achieve greater success in school.

"What's special about Leading to Reading is the high quality of one-to-one literacy support given by trained volunteers," says library children and youth advocate Ken Settingington. "In 2009, at St. James Town, over 60 volunteers contributed over 500 hours to the Leading to Reading program."

"Manulife's approach to corporate social responsibility around the world aligns with our focus on delivering strong,

reliable, trustworthy and forward-thinking solutions for our clients and for the communities where we work," says Sarah Saso, Manulife's Director of Community Relations. "St. James Town is the neighbourhood closest to our head office, and we have had the privilege of helping build our community for more than five years."

With St. James Town residents coming from more than 100 countries and speaking more than 160 different languages, it is important that residents develop literacy skills at a young age. Many residents are new immigrants, and English is often a second or third language; those who struggle with poor literacy face numerous barriers to employment.

"With its emphasis on helping to build self-confidence as well as literacy," concludes Saso, "the Toronto Public Library's Leading to Reading program is an ideal partner for Manulife in our goal of building stronger communities."

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

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## At-risk youth

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Branch with the Ontario Gang Investigators Association (ONGIA) and Local 13 Division of the Toronto Police Services. The project encourages communities to be proactive in dealing with youth who are at risk.

GRANT works with young people aged seven to 18 who are at risk of joining gangs, or who are involved in gangs in the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding regions, enabling them to participate in volunteer service activities aimed at community improvement. GRANT also teaches members of the community to recognize the signs of gang involvement and its risks.

Oakwood Village Library & Arts Centre recently hosted three Project GRANT events. The first, on April 15, was designed to acquaint principals and vice-principals from local schools with experts from ONGIA and 13 Division. The second event, a media launch/news conference on May 5, featured Federal Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews, who announced funding for the project through the National Crime Prevention Strategy. The third featured keynote speaker Ron "Cook" Barrett, a gang prevention specialist from Albany, New York who has been involved with inner-city youth for over 20 years.

"The goal is to steer vulnerable youth and children away from a life of crime," Toews said at the launch of the program.

"It's about getting involved in the lives of children and getting them involved in their communities," added ONGIA president Jim Aspiotis.

## Library Board Highlights

June 21, 2010

### Todmorden Room to close during East York Community Centre renovation

The East York Community Centre will be closed from September 6, 2010 to January 4, 2011 for state of good repair work. Toronto Public Library's Todmorden Room Branch is located in the community centre and, while no renovation work will take place in the library itself, the branch will have to close during the construction. While the Todmorden Room is closed, customers will be able to pick up holds and use branches in close proximity including Pape/Danforth, Leaside, S.Walter Stewart and Thorncliffe branches.

### Increased hours coming to nine library branches this fall

In the context of the Library Board's Doors Wide Open plan, open hours expansions this fall will see nine of Toronto Public Library's busiest branches increase their Monday to Saturday hours. Malvern, Lillian H. Smith, Richview, and Thorncliffe branches will now be open 65.5 hours per week. This includes previously unavailable Monday morning and Friday night service. Goldhawk Park and Leaside will move to 62 hours per week, with six mornings and four nights of service. Bayview, Jane/Sheppard and Centennial branches will move from five to six days of service, with 50.5

open hours per week, each adding an additional evening, as well as Monday service. The changes in hours will be implemented throughout the fall of 2010; the majority of hours increases will take place in September. Express check-out has been successfully introduced at 20 Toronto Public Library branches. The introduction of this technology enables the library to expand branch open hours.

## A Free Summer Program for Young Newcomers

English Can Be Fun helps newcomer children ages 7-10 get ready for school in September. Your children will learn English with games and activities and get familiar with using the library. Classes are held at 25 library branches twice a week for 1.5 hours each session.

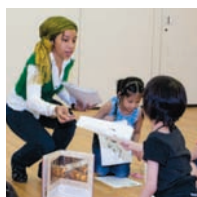
For a list of participating branches visit

<http://beta.torontopubliclibrary.ca/new-to-canada/esl-children.jsp>

If you have any questions regarding **English Can Be Fun!**

please contact the Program Coordinator, Susan Lai,

by phone at (416) 395-5953, or by email at [slai@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:slai@torontopubliclibrary.ca)



MY NAME IS...  
HELLO  
APPLE

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Website: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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