

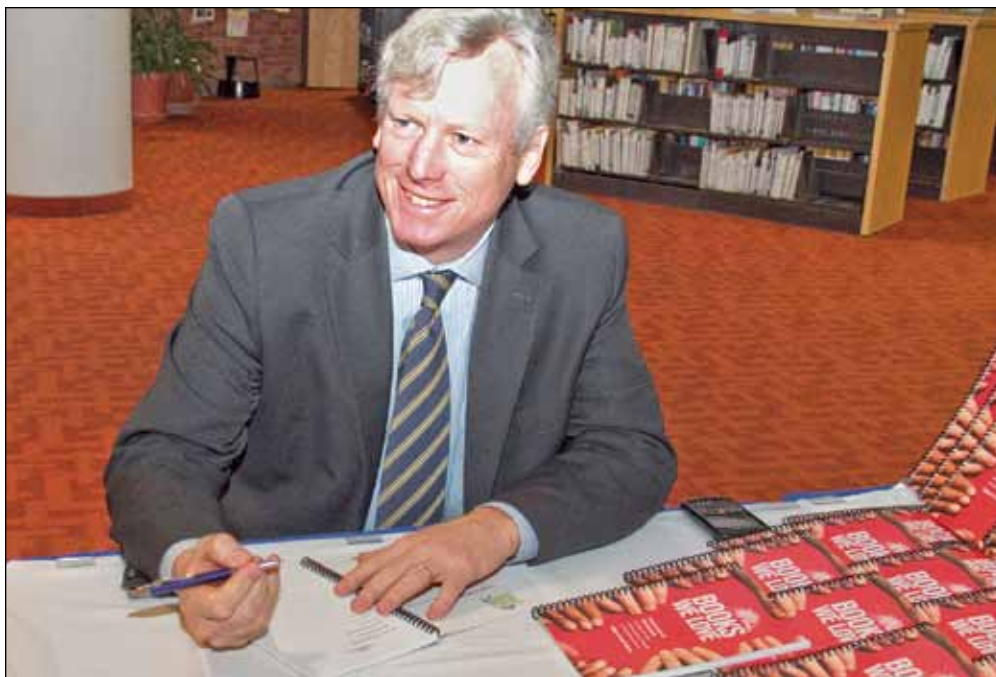
# Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

March 2010



New library website... pg. 2



Mayor Miller signs a Books We Love journal at the launch of Keep Toronto Reading.

## Toronto Public Library wants you to lose one of its books

### 'Lost' journals to reveal city's most loved books

AN EXCITING AND innovative campaign to encourage Torontonians to share the books they love will be an integral part of Toronto Public Library's fifth annual Keep Toronto Reading Festival, which runs throughout April.

At the forefront of the campaign are 99 "Books We Love" journals, identifiable by their bright red covers. These journals, one for each of the library's 99 branches, were launched across the city on March 22. They will roam from place to place and from hand to hand, collecting the thoughts of book lovers all over town.

The library is asking that the journals be returned to any branch on or after April 20, to become part of the Toronto Public Library collection. The book titles will be compiled into a giant "Books Toronto Loves" reading list, to be published online at [keeptorontoreading.ca](http://keeptorontoreading.ca), and the journals themselves will be displayed in branches.

At the Keep Toronto Reading kickoff on March 5, Mayor David Miller told a crowd at Toronto Reference Library: "Since this festival began, I have been wowed by our city's passion for books in all their forms. I know that passion will continue this year, as the library invites us all to share the books we love."

Throughout Keep Toronto Reading month in April, at over 80 events at library branches across Toronto, book lovers will get the chance to meet authors, discuss what makes poems work, find out why vampire fiction is so popular, enjoy delicious food- and wine-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2...

## Conference delegates tour award-winning library branches

### Four library branches awarded for excellence in design and planning

THE VERY POPULAR annual tour of recently renovated Toronto Public Library branches was offered again this year in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre at the end of February.

As in previous years, the tour offered conference delegates the opportunity to take a look at a broad range of recent renovations, from a state-of-good-repair renovation at Agincourt to branches that underwent major renovations, including two that won OLA Library Building Awards for excellence in design and planning: the relocated and expanded Jane/Sheppard Branch and the expanded and renovated Bloor/Gladstone Branch.

Delegates also toured the recently expanded and renovated Kennedy/Eglinton Branch, featuring a new ProTech media centre, which offers free digital arts and technology skills training for youth in priority neighbourhoods.

Two other branches won OLA Library Building Awards this year: Dufferin/St. Clair and S. Walter Stewart branches. Both branches were featured in last year's tour.



Recently renovated and expanded, the Bloor/Gladstone Branch won an Ontario Library Association building award for excellence of design and planning.



# Toronto Public Library Snapshots

## Dial-a-Story: Not just for kids

Innovative telephone story service helps newcomers learn English

WHEN WYCHWOOD BRANCH staff got a call from a little boy looking for a book with a story he had heard on Dial-a-Story – which allows children to hear stories over the phone in 12 languages – branch manager Isobel Lang found the story in a book called *The Tiger's Whisker*. She put a hold on the book and called to tell the boy's mother the book would be coming soon. She was about to hang up the phone when the mother stopped her and said, "Thank you for Dial-a-Story. It has really helped our family."

"Apparently the whole family listens to stories in English on Dial-a-Story," explains Lang. "When I asked the woman what language she spoke at home, she told me Eritrean, and I told her that was a language we don't have on Dial-a-Story. The woman said, 'But you have English and that is what we listen to.' Then she thanked me again for Dial-a-Story."



## Library use continues to climb

2010 already breaking new records

IN THE WAKE of last year's record-breaking circulation statistics, the library is on its way to another very busy year, with circulation up

in the first two months by 4.5 percent, with over five million items circulated throughout January and February.

"In 2009, Toronto Public Library had its busiest year ever," according to library board chair Matthew Church. "The fact that library use continues to increase in 2010 speaks to the love people in Toronto have for books, and for their library. I think we on the Board can take this as a sign that library staff are continuing to do a great job of meeting the diverse information and entertainment needs of the people of Toronto."

## Thorncliffe Branch to reopen

Extensive renovation to increase size to 10,000 square feet

AFTER AN EXTENSIVE, two-year renovation that sees the library doubling in size from five to ten thousand square feet, Thorncliffe Branch will reopen in April. Featuring Toronto Public Library's third KidsStop interactive centre designed to develop pre-literacy skills in children, the branch will also have a new community room for meetings, programs and quiet study, a new teen zone, a new adult reading lounge, and express checkout.



## New library website to help Torontonians find their way

Beta testing broadened as public invited to test drive new online library experience

STARTING THE FIRST week of March, public beta testing was broadened for the new library website [beta.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://beta.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

The new site was promoted to all users through the current library website and on the library's Facebook and Twitter pages. The news was instantly spread by many Twitter users, including Mayor David Miller, [torontoist.com](http://torontoist.com), other library organizations, and library customers. Great feedback and suggestions have already been received, with many customers liking the new search experience and visual design. The full launch of the new website is scheduled to happen later this spring.



## 'Lost' journals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

tasting events, and swap favourite books with Toronto celebrities. They will also be encouraged to recommend books to other readers via write-in bookmarks and video book reviews, to be posted on the festival's website, [keepertorontoreading.ca](http://keepertorontoreading.ca).

As part of the festival, the library also

launched this year's One Book community read, the Toronto Book Award-winning novel *More*, by Austin Clarke. "This celebrated and compelling novel strikes me as the perfect community read," according to Mayor Miller. "It's filled with the sights and sounds of the city. And it offers so much to discuss and debate."

Readings and discussions of the book

will take place throughout April.

For more information and a complete list of all Keep Toronto Reading events, visit [keepertorontoreading.ca](http://keepertorontoreading.ca), pick up a program and reading guide at any Toronto Public Library branch, call Answerline at 416-393-7131, or visit your local branch.



## Ontario History Quest — better than ever

Great interactive online resource for high school students and teachers relaunched



ONTARIO HISTORY QUEST (OHQ), an award-winning website dedicated to student learning and the discovery of Ontario's history – its people, their dreams, struggles and achievements – has just gotten better.

Toronto Public Library has digitized and made available thousands of primary source historical records, including books, maps, flyers and documents for OHQ, which was recently re-launched with more and better content than ever.

"OHQ allows students to experience original old texts and artefacts almost as though they had the originals in their hands," according to Johanna Welheiser, the library's manager of preservation and digitization. "And with the value-added content provided by expert librarians, OHQ provides a rich educational experience."

For students and teachers in Grades 7, 8, 10 and 12 studying history from the 1780s to 1970s, OHQ is an interactive online tool that gets kids excited about learning history.

The recent OHQ upgrade brings: a new user interface including improved search capability; new French content; updates to reflect the latest Ontario curriculum; an additional Grade 7 module covering 1780s–1820s; and more than 1,200 new images.

Toronto Public Library created OHQ in partnership with the Archives of Ontario, the City of Toronto Archives and Library and Archives Canada, with funding provided in part by the Ontario Ministry of Culture Library Strategic Development Fund and the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canadian Culture Online Program.

To experience Ontario History Quest, visit [ohq.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://ohq.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

## Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

### Support the Foundation and help Keep Toronto Reading

LAST YEAR, TORONTO Public Library had its busiest year ever, and 2010 promises to be even busier, with circulation of materials up 4.5 percent in the first two months of the year.

"Now, more than ever, the library needs your support," says Toronto Public Library Foundation president Heather Rumball. "During Keep Toronto Reading month in April, there are a number of ways to show your love of books and, at the same time, to support Toronto's library."

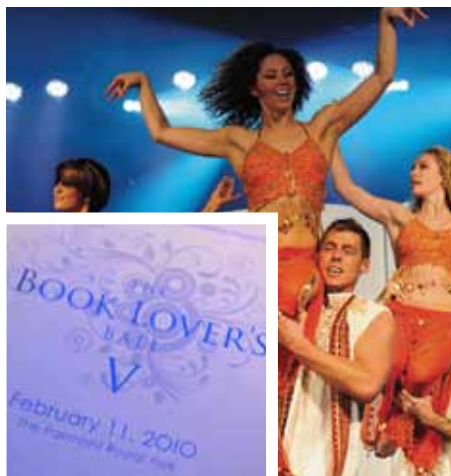
With over 80 special Keep Toronto Reading programs being offered at 41 library branches, there are plenty of reasons to visit your local library. And customers visiting library branches in April are being invited to donate a toonie for Toronto Public Library. A donation of \$2 or more will help support the Foundation's mission to keep Toronto reading, learning and working. And — you'll receive a button showing your support and love of books.

You can also donate online at [tplfoundation.ca](http://tplfoundation.ca).

When donating online, share the title of your favourite book and the Foundation will list your name and favourite book on its website for the month of April.

If you ride the subway, you can buy a book for a buck on April 12 and 26 from noon to 6 pm at the Yonge-Bloor subway station, or on April 19, noon to 6 pm at Finch station. On those dates, the Friends of Toronto Public Library will be selling used books for \$1, and new books, donated by Random House of Canada and Tundra Books, for \$5 each.

"With your generous support, you can help Keep Toronto Reading," says Rumball.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL Porto, winner of a five-night trip for two to Paris, France, including return airfare and hotel accommodations at the Hotel Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel. Michael was the lucky winner of this spectacular raffle prize draw, which he entered at the Toronto Public Library Foundation's gala fundraiser, the annual Book Lover's Ball, which was held at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel on February 11. For more information about the Toronto Public Library Foundation's annual gala fundraiser, and to view photos from the event, please visit [bookloversball.ca](http://bookloversball.ca).

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

**TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Foundation

## Library Board Highlights

March 22, 2010

### Board adopts Budget Committee recommended operating budget

The Board adopted the Budget Committee recommended 2010 operating budget of \$180.58 million gross and \$167.09 million net, which represents a 1.9 percent net increase over 2009. At its March 12 meeting, the City's Budget Committee recommended the approval of the library's 2010 operating budget with an increase that would avoid Sunday service reductions. The 2010 operating budget is subject to Council approval at its April 15-16, 2010 meeting.

### Board approves 2010 and 2011 fundraising priorities

The Board approved the library's 2010 and 2011 fundraising priorities, which will now be shared with the Toronto Public Library Foundation for funding consideration in 2010 and beyond. Like other public libraries, Toronto Public Library pursues supplementary funding to enhance the level, extend the range and improve the quality of library service.

Priorities for 2010 and 2011 were developed using the themes and goals of the library's strategic plan and include support for children's literacy centres and reading programs, expanded access to free cultural programs and completion of the Toronto Reference Library's revitalization.

## Toronto Public Library scores Media and Communication Award

THE ONTARIO LIBRARY Association awarded its Media and Communications Award to Toronto Public Library for the Make Some Noise campaign, which promotes the library's local music collection by putting rock concerts and local music workshops in library branches. The campaign last fall garnered

widespread media attention, in everything from specialty music blogs to more mainstream outlets like *torontoist.com* and the *Toronto Star*. The award recognizes communications initiatives that successfully challenge stereotypes about libraries and librarians.

## EVENTS April 2010

### KEEP TORONTO READING FESTIVAL 2010 April 1-30

#### One Book Kickoff

Music, dramatic readings by Trey Anthony, onstage interview with Austin Clarke.

Tuesday, April 6, 7 pm  
Appel Salon, 2nd Floor,  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge St.

#### Books, Food & Wine

Chef Lucy Waverman and Wine Doctor Edward Finstein guide you through three delicious tastings. Tickets \$35

Wednesday, April 14, 6 pm  
Appel Salon, 2nd Floor,  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge St.

#### Earth Day Book Exchange

Celebrate Earth Day with a book swap.

Thursday, April 22, 2 pm  
Beaches Branch  
2161 Queen St. E.

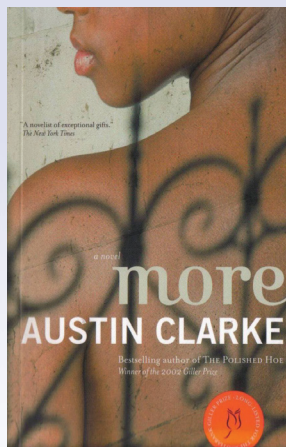
For a full listing of over 80 Keep Toronto Reading events, visit [keepontorontoreading.ca](http://keepontorontoreading.ca).

KEEP TORONTO READING 2010

one BOOK

Join our city-wide book club this April and read Austin Clarke's *More*.

Pick up a Reader's Guide at your library and join us for events that bring this exceptional book to life.



### CELEBRATE MORE

- Join our One Book launch with dramatic readings, an interview with Austin Clarke and... *More*.
- Head to The Real Jerk for a delicious *More*-inspired menu
- Hear a panel discussion on themes of parenthood, abandonment and the immigrant experience in *More*
- Attend book talks with critic Donna Bailey Nurse
- Win a dinner with Austin Clarke for your book club

### MORE ONLINE

[keepontorontoreading.ca/onebook](http://keepontorontoreading.ca/onebook)

- Read a virtual chapter of Austin Clarke's *More*
- Listen to a dramatic reading
- Explore an interactive map of Toronto as seen by *More*'s Idora Morrison

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Next Board Meeting:  
Monday, April 12, 2010.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 pm, 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](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

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