

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

May 2010



Toronto Comic Arts Festival pg. 2

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FEATURED PROGRAMS

Third Annual June Callwood Lecture: Moral Courage Fri., May 1, 7:30pm Toronto Reference Library

David Bergen reads from The Retreat Fri., May 28, 7:00pm Northern District Branch Part of the 25th List series

Medieval Storytelling Workshop with author Kathleen McDoonell Tue. Jun. 8, 8:30pm Ryerson Branch Part of Luminaria

TO THE LATEST FROM YOUR LIBRARY

BLOGS

Head Librarian Jane Pyper: By the book or by the byte - Feature in Toronto Start Thu May 14 | Posted by Edward Kamp

Read full-text eBooks about job searching Mon May 18 | Posted by Francine Ward

Children's book picks for Summer 2009 Fri May 15 | Posted by Kim Settembrini

WHAT'S NEW

The 25th List Author Series: Meet the Canadian writers everyone's reading! We're showcasing Canada's best writers and their new books and they're coming to a library near you.

New library website more powerful, easier to use

Powerful search capability makes library's plethora of resources easier to access

THE BETA VERSION of Toronto Public Library's new website has been getting 7,000 hits a day, leading up to the launch of the new site in June.

"Response for the new site has been very positive," says library eServices Manager Dara Renton. "Customers posted hundreds of comments and suggestions leading up to the launch, many of which resulted in adjustments and fine tuning to make the site even better."

The new site brings library customers an easier-to-use interface, and a powerful search engine that not only makes it simpler to find the titles of books, movies, music and more in the library's catalogue of over 11 million items. The new features also help users find information about programs and events, branch hours and locations, as well as library blogs and related websites.

"By pulling together books, programs, community resources, databases, blogs and much more in the results of a single search, the new website opens doors to many new resources — both for existing library customers and for new ones," according to Renton.

Check out the new Toronto Public Library website at beta.torontopubliclibrary.ca and start finding your way to library resources you never knew we had.

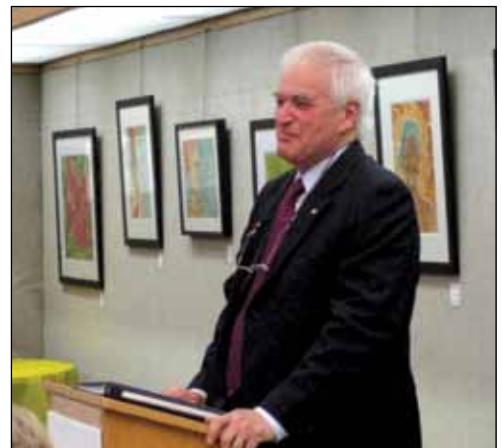
Library's new programming series supports awareness and education about mental health issues

"Out of the Shadows" guest speakers share experiences to help break down stigmas

AS PART OF the library's ongoing efforts to support those who suffer from mental health issues, and the agencies and groups who, in turn, support them, Toronto Public Library launched a series of programs about mental health called "Out of the Shadows", in partnership with Reconnect Mental Health Services, on April 8.

"Mental illness strikes people from all walks of life," says library manager Cynthia Toniolo. "Yet the social stigma attached to it can be very real, creating a barrier to

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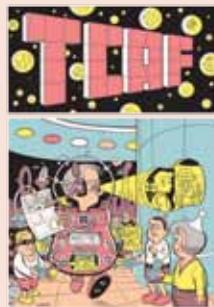
Former Ontario lieutenant governor the Hon. James Bartleman addressed a packed house at Richview Branch as one of the speakers in the ongoing "Out of the Shadows" series, presented by the library in support of those who experience mental health issues.



Festival attendees enjoyed readings, panel discussions, exhibitors, signings, and art installations (above).

Shakespeare and Kermit the Frog make appearance at the Reference Library

11,000 attend Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Canada's largest festival of its kind



SCOTT PILGRIM, KERMIT the Frog, Shakespearean icons, raging zombies, and even a zine-i-fied Lady Gaga were just some of the comics creations that animated the 2010 Toronto Comic Arts Festival on May 8 and 9

at the Toronto Reference Library.

Last presented in 2009 at the Reference Library, TCAF hosted 11,000 visitors from across Canada, the US and the world - who enjoyed engaging programming, meeting their idols, and even playing with a video arcade exhibit.

This year's festival expanded to the library's recently-opened event venue, The Appel Salon, on the second floor of the Reference Library — which also hosted 400 guests for TCAF's opening night event on May 7, with comics legend Daniel Clowes, in town to launch his new book, *Wilson*.

The library also hosted The Doug Wright Awards for Canadian Cartooning at the Appel Salon on the evening of May 8. Among the comics literati honoured was Canada's Seth, who won Best Book of the Year for *George Sprott*. "I think TCAF gets better each year," says Seth. "Comics have had a rough

climb up from cultural junk to the fringes of the literary world and I think it is a delicious irony that the comic book, once the enemy of learning, is now celebrated in the very heart of Toronto's book culture — the wonderful Reference Library... I particularly liked the (new Appel Salon) space; really, a grand and inviting space."

Supporting creativity, culture, and artists is a priority for the library. In addition, use of the library's popular graphic novels collections continue to grow. In 2009, use of adult graphic novel titles increased by 23%. As such, the partnership with TCAF is a natural and wonderful fit.

Many visitors raved that TCAF was held in a public library. "I love libraries and love that people are coming in off the street and seeing stuff that they would not see otherwise," said longtime Neil Gaiman collaborator Charles Vess, visiting from Virginia.

New Zealander and *The Muppet Show* artist, Roger Langridge thinks libraries are vital partners. "The comics industry is in a place where it really needs to reach out to the public a lot more. The library seems like the ideal place to do that."

Artists were not the only celebrities. Lucy Burke quickly became popular with the crowd, for the sheer fact that she travelled all the way from Australia just to volunteer at

TCAF. She said her long commute was worth it. "TCAF is just amazing. I am absolutely blown away. I didn't know what to expect, at first, but the comics scene here is so big!"

UK-based artist Marc Ellerby also raved: "The fact that TCAF is free and it's busting full of people — and it's in the library — that's amazing. England has a lot to learn from shows like TCAF."

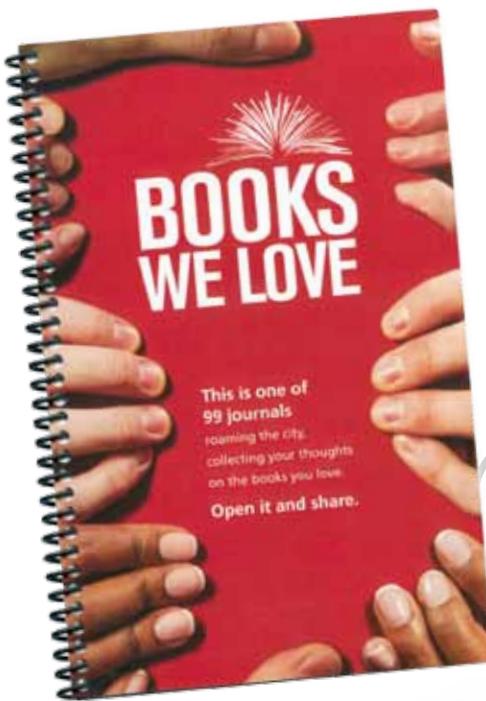
Local artists were equally spotlighted at TCAF, including Torontonian Jeff Lemire, who launched his new work, *Sweet Tooth*. "TCAF is always my favourite show. I love that it brings so much attention to Toronto and to how great the public library system is for getting graphic novels to kids, teens, and to people who maybe can't afford to collect them regularly."

This year's TCAF also received great media and blog coverage — including covers on both *Eye Weekly* and *Now* magazine. On May 9, TCAF also became the #3 trending topic on Twitter (in Canada), only behind Justin Bieber and Mother's Day.

Perhaps visitor Eric Orchard summed it up best: "TCAF is the world's best comic book event. It's a huge international affair. I got to meet a tonne of amazing creative people at the library. It was phenomenal!"

On the Books We Love

Torontonians share the books they love in "little red" Keep Toronto Reading journals



AT THE END of April, as the Keep Toronto Reading festival officially came to an end, the library's goal of promoting culture, community and the joy of reading in the city was more than realized through its Books We Love Campaign. With journals travelling all over the city, to schools, donut shops, restaurants and book clubs, and hundreds of people logging their favourite books, the Keep Toronto Reading Festival theme, "Share the books you love," was embraced by Torontonians all across the city.

On *In the Skin of a Lion*, by Michael Ondaatje

"It makes me see this city I grew up in as a place of potential wonder, rather than just its dull surface of plonking commerce."

- in a journal found at The Rushton restaurant

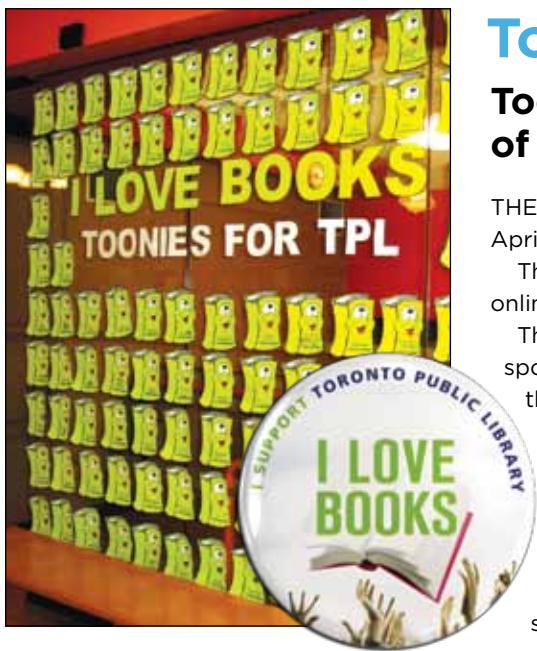
On *I Love You Forever*, by Robert Munsch
"My mother read this to me when I was young. She almost never made it through without a tear appearing. I now read it to my daughter. She laughs and says, 'Are you going to cry again?'"

- Alexa, in a journal found at "a friend's dinner party"

On *The Lizard Cage*, by Karen Connelly

"It's a challenging read, but worth it. The book is intense, horrifying at times, and heart-wrenching. It deals with the situation in Myanmar in a beautifully written novel. You can tell that the Canadian author is a poet."

- Gaudi, in a journal found in Tim Horton's



Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Toonies for TPL Campaign draws thousands of supporters

THE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL Toonies for TPL campaign wrapped up at the end of April after garnering much positive feedback and raising tons of toonies!

This year's campaign thanked in-branch donors with an "I Love Books" button, and online donors by adding their name and favourite book to the Foundation website.

Thousands of branch customers made a donation of a toonie or more and proudly sported "I Love Books" buttons to show their support. Dozens of people showed their support online and shared their favourite books.

This year's Friends' Book Sales in the TTC were also a resounding success, raising a record-breaking \$2,956 in just 18 hours (up from \$2,500 last year)!

Thank you to Friends for making this much-anticipated annual event another huge success!

And thank you to all the tireless library branch champions — true champions of library service in Toronto, who enthusiastically and creatively made this campaign a success.

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

tplfoundation.ca



Mental Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

acceptance and treatment."

Aiming to help people learn about the signs, symptoms, and treatment options from health care professionals, "Out of the Shadows" informs and inspires, and above all, helps to break down the stigmas associated with mental illness.

"The library has a mandate to meet the unique needs of all the people of Toronto," explains Toniolo. "If this series can bring some of the people dealing

with mental health issues out of the shadows and into the city's libraries to start looking for help, then I think we're doing our job."

Speaking to a packed room, former *Chatelaine* editor and author of *My Mother's Daughter: A Memoir*, Rona Maynard launched the series at Richview Branch, as she spoke candidly about her personal struggles with depression and offered the audience hope.

The series continued on May 4 to another packed house with a visit from former Ontario lieutenant governor the Hon.

James Bartleman, who talked about his personal experience with mental illness and his efforts to overcome it. He also talked about the broader issue of mental illness and suicide in the aboriginal community.

"Out of the Shadows" will continue with additional programming in June at selected locations with award-winning author Merle Nudelman, as well as a number of professionals from the city's health care facilities. Full program details are available on the library's website at torontopubliclibrary.ca/

outoftheshadows.

"People will hopefully feel encouraged to discover the numerous resources we have to offer in support of mental health," says Toniolo. "Simply searching 'mental health resources' on the library's new website turns up a wealth of books and websites where people with mental health issues can turn for help."

Library Board Highlights—May 10, 2010

Toronto Public Library still busiest neighbourhood-based library in the world

The board received a detailed report confirming that Toronto Public Library is still the busiest neighbourhood-based library in the world, with higher circulation per capita than any other international or North American library system serving a population base over two million. Overall circulation increased 4.9 percent over 2008, from 29.8 million to 31.3 million. The number of holds placed and filled also increased, as did visits to library branches.

Library kiosk service considered for revamped Union Station

With city plans underway to revitalize Toronto's Union Station, the library board is

considering the possibility of providing kiosk service at the busy transportation hub. A kiosk enables the expansion of library service without the costs associated with building a library branch.

Youth media lab and art space planned for Northern District

The board approved a license agreement with Delisle Youth Services for a period of five years to create a youth media lab and art space in the basement of the building that houses both Delisle and the library. Delisle has received Trillium and Health Canada funding to create the space, which will serve as a gateway or conduit to the Northern District Branch and Delisle Youth Services, on the second floor of the library

building. Library staff have begun discussions with Delisle about the possibilities for joint programming, with youth engagement being a cornerstone of the development and implementation of the service.

Northern District Branch to close for state-of-good repair retrofit

The board approved an approximately four-month closure of Northern District Branch for renovations to the first floor of the library, which include state of good repair fixes and updates to the floor plan to accommodate changes in library service since the branch opened in 1975. The renovations are partially funded through Federal Infrastructure Stimulus funding, and affect the

main floor library only. Library meeting rooms and tenant offices on other floors remain open throughout the renovations.

Board approves architect for new Waterfront branch

The board approved the appointment of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB) for the new 15,000 square foot Waterfront Branch of Toronto Public Library. KPMB, a well known and regarded firm of architects based in Toronto, was the architect for the library's Burrows Hall project in 1998.