

# Shelf life



## Adult Literacy Program enriches life for new mother

*One month before my baby was born, I came to get help at the York Woods Library Adult Literacy Program. I wanted to learn how to improve my literacy skills. Sometimes it is hard to do things, but I tried and I put my best foot forward. It turned out to be a very good thing that I did because now my son, Roosevelt, is five months old and I can read to him.- Julieth Phillip*

When Julieth Phillip came to the Adult Literacy Program on August 1, 2000, she could read simple sentences and things like street signs. She wanted to be able to apply for jobs on her own, write messages and notes, and, most of all, she wanted to be able to read to the baby she was expecting in just a few short weeks.

Julieth and her tutor, Maureen, worked on reading and writing skills. They spent time in the library choosing books for Julieth to read to little Roosevelt. Eight months later, Julieth could write notes and messages, read baby food labels, package instructions, and directions for medication. She read the newspaper and short stories, and most important, she could read fluently and confidently to Roosevelt.

The Adult Literacy Program is offered in eight libraries in Toronto and provides one-on-one instruction for English-speaking adults who want to develop basic reading, writing, and math skills. More information about this and other literacy initiatives of the Toronto Public Library is available on our website: [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

## Harry Potter flies off shelves

Books about Harry Potter, the planet's biggest celebrity who has attracted millions of kids (even the most reluctant readers), are flying off the library shelves. The numbers below capture the activity and demand of J. K. Rowling's wildly popular books:

	Copies	Reserves*
<i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	350	387
<i>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</i>	588	82
<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	316	131
<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i>	527	112

These titles are available in a number of languages, including French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Normally, patrons who have reserved copies of these books can expect a two to three-week waiting period.

\*as of November 16.

## New look



Toronto Public Library sports a new look on its business products, publications and website, following the approval of a new logo by the Library Board. The phased-in, no-waste program to implement the new logo started October 1.

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## Children's Librarian joins literary elite



Photo: Tom Sandler

Children's and Youth Advocate librarian Ken Settingington (left) won the **2001 Toronto Arts Award** in the writing and publishing category on November 12. With his book *The Snow Queen* and his support for children's literature, Ken joins an illustrious group of Toronto's literary elite, including authors Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje, editor Ellen Seligman and Harbourfront Reading Series host Greg Gatenby.

# 2001 Magazine CONTEST

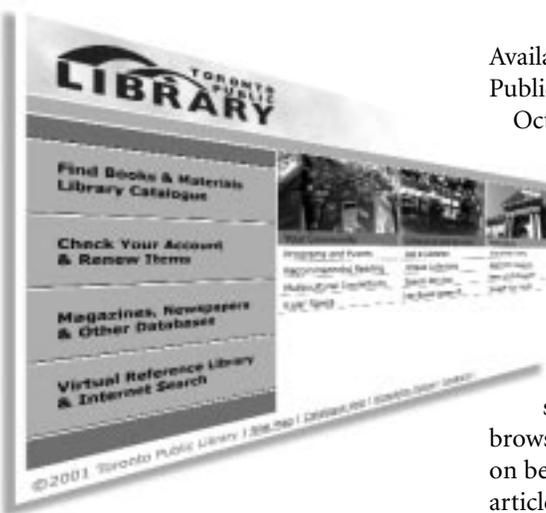
Library magazine for  
teens by teens

## Young Voices

Young adults 12-19 who live in Toronto are being invited to submit poetry, stories, articles and artwork to any branch of Toronto Public Library between now and January 18, 2002, for possible inclusion in *Young Voices 2002*, the library's annual magazine for Toronto teens.

The program supports the literary and creative life of teenagers, gives them the opportunity to have their work published, and includes them in the conceptual development, judging, and promotion of the final product.

Entry forms, featured on the back of the *Young Voices* bookmark, are available in Toronto's 98 library locations.



## Awake when you are - the library's new website

Available every day and night, Toronto Public Library unveiled its new website October 12. The new website makes it easier for library customers to find information and locate or reserve books, CDs, DVDs, videos and other materials in the library's online catalogue of 11 million items.

Library patrons can reserve or renew books more quickly, see what they have checked out, browse their list of holds, get advice on best books, search for magazine articles, read e-books, get answers to quick questions, or do in-depth online research using the Virtual Reference Library, a one-stop smorgasbord for library-recommended websites and other electronic resources.

Torontonians with no access to the

Internet from home or work can drop into their local library and use one of the 1,300 high-speed computers stationed in library branches across the city.

Use of the library's web services is growing exponentially. With over 3.1 million virtual visits in the first half of 2001, use of the library's website is up 70 per cent from last year. The Virtual Reference Library, which organizes the Internet and provides gateways to commercial and library-produced databases, gets nearly 100,000 virtual visits a month by students, newshounds, businesses and others surfing the Net for information and enlightenment.

Toronto Public Library gratefully acknowledges the support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation and the Government of Canada through Industry Canada, which provided funding for this project through the Urban Community Access Program (Urban CAP).



# Trends in Chinese writing

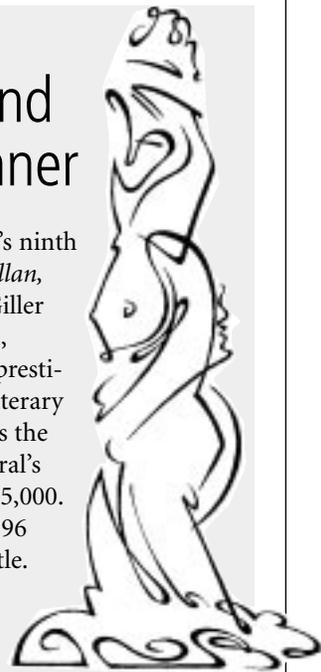
Speaking in both English and Chinese to 120 people from a variety of cultures, authors Yan Li, Ling Zhang and Bo Sun read from their works, answered questions and signed books at a literary event in the Toronto Reference Library on November 12. Organized by the library's Languages Centre to celebrate the written word in Chinese, the event informed Canadians who have an interest in Chinese literature and culture, about the library's large Chinese collection. With 160,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction at 16 library locations, the Chinese collection has the highest circulation of any language collection in Toronto's library.



Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies at the University of Waterloo Yan Li (left) is the author of *Daughters of the Red Land* and *Married to the West Wind*; Freelance writer Ling Zhang is the author of *Miss Shanghai* and many other fiction works; Bo Sun is the News Editor of the Sing Tao Daily. His works include *Men at 30s* and *Hello! Toronto*.

## Giller and GG winner

Richard Wright's ninth novel, *Clara Callan*, won the 2001 Giller Prize for fiction, Canada's most prestigious \$25,000 literary award, as well as the Governor General's award worth \$15,000. The library has 96 copies of this title.



## FAST FACTS

### The 10 oldest newspapers in Canada

Newspaper	Year Established
<i>Chronicle-Telegraph</i> , Quebec, QC	1764
<i>Gazette</i> , Montreal, QC	1778
<i>Recorder &amp; Times</i> , Brockville, ON	1821
<i>Vanguard</i> , Yarmouth, NS	1833
<i>Whig-Standard</i> , Kingston, ON	1834
<i>Globe and Mail</i> , Toronto, ON	1844
<i>Herald</i> , Halifax, NS	1844
<i>Ottawa Citizen</i> , Ottawa, ON	1844
<i>Standard-Freeholder</i> , Cornwall, ON	1844
<i>Cambridge Reporter</i> , Galt, ON	1846

Except for the Cornwall newspaper, Toronto Public Library has some holdings of every title.  
Source: Early Canadian Companies, Toronto Public Library, 1967

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## ANSWERLINE answers questions quickly

Want to know:

- The speed of the fastest sneeze ever recorded?
- The correct way to hold the Canadian flag?
- The average life span of a ladybug?\*

Call Answerline at **416-393-7131**. Or email by logging onto the Toronto Public Library website at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)

Answerline is Toronto Public Library's centralized quick-reference telephone and email service. More than 25 staff members, with expertise on a wide array of topics from Egyptology to personal finances, are available to answer your questions.

About 1,600 volumes of quick reference material, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and trivia books, along with the Internet and the library's commercial databases, allow Answerline staff to answer just about any question, usually in under five minutes. If they can't find the answer within a few minutes, they'll check among the Toronto Reference Library collection of 1.3 million books and more than half a million periodicals – not to mention information on microfilm and fiche – and call you back, often in under two hours.

With phone calls and emails coming in from all over the world, staff aren't able to do in-depth research, but if your question has a brief answer, Answerline is the place to call.

\*a. 165 km/hour (AltaVista Web search), b. There is no correct way (Flag Etiquette in Canada), c. Four weeks (Encyclopedia Britannica)

# Library Board Highlights

November 19, 2001

## Operating Budget Monitoring Report – October 31, 2001

The Board received this report for information.

## Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy

A presentation was given by staff to provide the Board with information about the proposed revisions to the Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy. The recommendations were not approved.

## Maria A. Shchuka District Library Reconstruction – Award of Tender

The Board awarded Van Horne Construction a contract for the demolition and reconstruction of Maria A. Shchuka District Branch at a cost of \$5,395,771 including taxes.

## Redevelopment Opportunities for Reconstruction of Libraries

The Board instructed library staff to undertake the identification of library sites with redevelopment potential including the potential revenue or other benefits that might be derived from such redevelopment opportunities with the assistance of the Facilities and Real Estate Division at the City of Toronto.

## Technical Environmental Review – Report of Meeting

This report was received by the Board for information.

## Technical Environment Review – Award of Request for Proposal

The Board passed a motion allowing staff to enter into contract negotiations with DMR for Technical Environment Review services at a price not to exceed \$193,029.

## Attendance Management Program

The Board passed a motion approving the adoption of the Attendance Management Program for employees.

**Next Meeting:** To be confirmed. For details, please call 416-393-7215.

## Toronto's library tops all

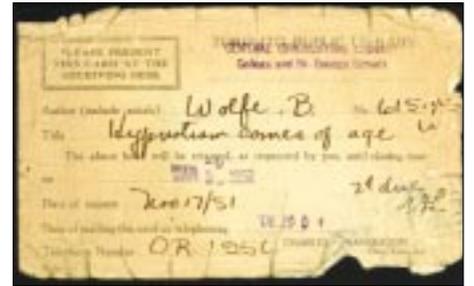


Despite the fact that Los Angeles Public Library serves almost 1.5 million more people than Toronto Public Library, and New York Public Library serves about half a million more, TPL circulates nearly twice as much material as either city. According to the Public Library Association Statistical report issued in 2001, Toronto's annual circulation is 25,382,467, compared to LA at 12,986,003 and New York at 12,842,278.

The smallest library listed, Polk Public Library in Nebraska, serves 620 people and circulates 4,240 items annually.

The second smallest library, Dayton Public Library in Iowa, (818 people borrowing 26,360 annually) has five Internet workstations, which works out to one workstation for every 164 people in town. Toronto Public Library, with 1,300 Internet workstations, has one workstation for every 2,163 people in its service area. LA and New York both have fewer Internet workstations than Toronto; LA, with a total of 1,057 workstations, has one workstation for every 3,578 people, and New York, with 1,055 workstations has one for every 2,910 people.

## Patron picks up book after 50 years



A library patron walked into Barbara Frum Branch with a reserve ticket from 1951, and asked if he could request a copy of the same book. To his delight, a staff member found it for him in the Special Collections Department at Toronto Reference Library. The original notice shows two cents due for filling the request, and the now outdated telephone exchange OR 1256. It will become part of the library's archives.

## Calendar of Events: December, 2001

### First Night Toronto 2002 December 26-31, 2001

Admission buttons available in all 98 locations of Toronto Public Library throughout December

### Author Series 2001

Gutter Press celebrates its 9th anniversary with readings from:  
Barbara Leslie  
Derek McCormack  
Moe Berg  
Tamara Berger  
December 6, 7:30 p. m.  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge St

**Shelf Life** is published 10 times a year by the Toronto Public Library Board, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 2G8.  
**Marketing & Communications Office:**  
416-393-7117.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly from September through June. Meetings are open to the public. The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.