

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Mayor Mel Lastman (left) and Councillor Kyle Rae (right) presented York Woods Adult Literacy volunteer Karen Dubinsky with a letter of thanks from the City Council to all library volunteers.

## City honours library volunteers

Bringing to a close the International Year of the Volunteer, Mayor Mel Lastman and Councillor Kyle Rae presented York Woods Adult Literacy volunteer Karen Dubinsky with a letter of thanks from the City Council to all TPL volunteers. The presentation was part of International Day of the Volunteer celebrations held at City Hall on Wednesday, December 5, featuring presentations to volunteers in a number of city departments.

About 800 volunteers a year perform a number of important functions at the library such as raising money for library programs and helping children learn to read and write.

### Related Clicks

Toronto Public Library  
[www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
(Support Your Library/Volunteers)

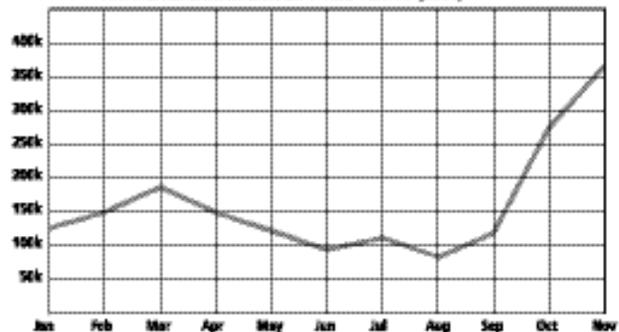
City of Toronto  
[www.city.toronto.on.ca](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca)  
(News Release Archive)

## Use of Library's gateway to the Internet triples

Toronto Public Library's one-stop Internet service, the Virtual Reference Library (VRL), exploded in popularity at the end of 2001, with more than 350,000 pages viewed in November. Library staff are hard at work adding gateways to this incredibly popular library service; currently in the works is the Canadian Theatre Record, a centralized collection of Canada's original theatre documents (for details, see [Partnership puts culture online](#), page 2).

To check out the Virtual Reference Library, go to [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) and click the VRL link on the main page.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE LIBRARY PAGES VIEWED (2001)



### Did you know...

...there was a small earthquake (2.9 on the Richter scale) on Vancouver Island on January 9? Or that there is probably an earthquake happening somewhere in the world at this very moment?

You can get an online list of earthquakes that have happened today by going to 'Astronet', listed under **General Astronomy Sites** on the Virtual Reference Library's *Expanding Universe*.

...you can figure out how far it is from your house in Toronto to

your local library branch (or any-place you want to go in Toronto) by dragging your mouse along your route on the **Current Toronto Maps** link on *Historicity*, Toronto Public Library's information portal to the city, available on the VRL?

...you can build a job search report that meets your individual needs using the VRL's *Career Bookmarks*?

These are just a few of the interesting links you'll discover when exploring Toronto Public Library online at [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).



## Newspapers from 1825 significant addition to Special Collections

Twenty copies of one of Toronto's earliest newspapers, the *Canadian Freeman* (1825-1834), were recently donated to the Special Collections Department of Toronto Public Library by Darcy MacMahon. Eighteen of these copies are from 1825, for which no holdings were previously recorded.

MacMahon is the great-great-grandson of Hugh MacMahon, who immigrated to Upper Canada from Ireland in 1819, subscribed to the *Canadian Freeman* in the 1820s, and eventually settled in Dundas, where he taught school.

## Anne of Green Gables author digitized

Efforts to make Toronto Public Library's Special Collections more accessible continue through plans to make materials from the Lucy Maud Montgomery holdings available online. Among these holdings are five letters written by the well-known and much-loved author of *Anne of Green Gables*, including one to a 12-year-old fan who asked if Montgomery's most famous character, Anne Shirley, was based on a real person.

The answer:

*No, Anne is not a real girl. She, like all my other characters was just a creation of my imagination... Sorry I had to tell you Anne isn't real. But if she is real to you that is all that matters.*



Lucy Maud Montgomery's daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Ruth Macdonald and Kate Butler-Macdonald, visited the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books in December to learn more about Toronto Public Library's Montgomery holdings.



### Related Clicks

Toronto Public Library [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca)  
(Unique Collections/Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books)

## Partnership puts culture online

Images of theatre programs, posters, photos, and stage and costume designs will soon be available online, thanks in part to a quarter million dollar commitment by the federal government.

The money will go toward developing the library's new Internet gateway, the Canadian Theatre Record, a digitized collection of Canada's original theatre documents.

In order to create the gateway, the library is actively seeking partnerships with organizations involved in various aspects of theatre in Canada. Confirmed partners include the Associated Designers of Canada, the National Theatre School and the University of Guelph.

The grant comes from the Canadian Digital Cultural Content Initiative, a

Department of Canadian Heritage partnership with private and public institutions and organizations across Canada. Its primary objective is to bring Canadian culture

into the digital age by stimulating the creation and production of Canadian digital cultural content in both official languages and promoting a significant, identifiable Canadian presence online

that reflects Canada's cultural diversity.

Watch the Toronto Public Library website [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca) for more about the Canadian Theatre Record.



### Related Clicks

Canadian Heritage Department  
[www.pch.gc.ca/cdcci-icccn/eng/intro.htm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/cdcci-icccn/eng/intro.htm)



"Lydia", *Pride and Prejudice*, Stratford Festival, 1999. Designer: Dany Lyne. Part of the Performing Arts Stage Design Collection at Toronto Reference Library.



Did you know...

John James Audubon's *The Birds of America* is not only one of the most expensive books ever published, but it is also one of the largest: its pages measure 63.5 x 96.5 cm (25 x 38 in). Ask about it at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, or by calling Answerline, 416-393-7131.

## FAST FACTS

### Top 10 most expensive books and manuscripts ever sold at auction

Book or Manuscript/Sale Venue	Price (US\$)
<b><i>The Codex Hammer</i></b> , c. 1508-10 Christie's, New York, 1994 This Leonardo da Vinci notebook was purchased by Bill Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft.	\$28,800,000
<b><i>The Rothschild Prayerbook</i></b> , c. 1505 Christie's, London, 1999 This prayerbook holds the world record price for an illuminated manuscript.	\$12,557,220
<b><i>The Gospels of Henry the Lion</i></b> , c. 1173-75 Sotheby's, London, 1983 At the time of sale, this was the most expensive manuscript or book ever sold.	\$10,841,000
<b><i>The Birds of America</i>*</b> (John James Audubon), 1827-38, Christie's, New York, 2000 This holds the record for any natural history book.	\$8,000,000
<b><i>The Canterbury Tales</i></b> (Geoffrey Chaucer), c. 1476-77 Christie's, London, 1998 Printed by William Caxton and bought by Paul Getty.	\$7,696,720
<b><i>The Gutenberg Bible</i></b> , 1455 Christie's, New York, 1987 One of the first books ever printed, by Johann Gutenberg and Johann Fust in 1455.	\$5,390,000
<b><i>The Northumberland Bestiary</i></b> , c. 1250-60 Sotheby's, London, 1990 This is the highest price ever paid for an English manuscript.	\$5,049,000
<b><i>The Burdett Psalter and Hours</i></b> , c. 1282-86 Sotheby's, London, 1998 This is the third most expensive illuminated manuscript.	\$4,517,640
<b><i>The Cornaro Missal</i></b> , c. 1503 Christie's, London, 1999 This achieved the record price for an Italian manuscript.	\$4,185,740
<b>Autographed manuscript of nine symphonies</b> by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, c. 1773-74 Sotheby's, London, 1987 This garnered the highest price ever paid for a music manuscript.	\$3,854,000

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\*Available at Toronto Reference Library



PHOTO CREDIT: ERNEST MAYER, THE WINNIPEG ART GALLERY

Augustin Anaittuq Kugaaruk, 1935 – 1992, *Inukshuk and Skull*, 1989, whalebone, antler, 14.3x14.7x14.1 cm (ht. x wi. x dp); Collection of The Winnipeg Art Gallery. Acquired with funds from The Winnipeg Foundation. Accession #G-90-510. This image is also included in *Art & Expression of the Netsilik* (Darlene Coward Wight, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, 2000), available at Toronto Reference Library. For information, contact the The Winnipeg Art Gallery. All rights reserved.

## Inukshuk comes to Toronto for World Youth Day

Like the inukshuk, a stone monument that will be raised as a legacy to World Youth Day and the visit of Pope John Paul II to Toronto in July 2002, Toronto Public Library serves as a guide to travellers, providing comfort, advice and a safe harbour.

When an estimated 750,000 pilgrims arrive in Toronto this summer for World Youth Day, they can look to Toronto's libraries to help them stay in touch with events at home via free high speed Internet computers and print and online news sources.

Did you know...

...you can place holds on books, DVDs, videos, CDs and other materials in any of our 98 branches across Toronto and have them delivered to your local library branch?



Related Clicks

City of Toronto  
[www.city.toronto.on.ca](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca)  
(News Release Archive)

## Library Board Highlights

January 21, 2002

### Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board Elected

The Board elected Gillian Mason Chair of the Library Board and Richard Goldsmith as Vice-Chair for a one-year term.

### Presentation

Toronto Civic Employees Union – Local 416 C.U.P.E. Library Division's Unit Chair, Thea Adams, North Region Sub-Unit Chair Rob Rolfe, and Union President Brian Cochrane gave a deputation concerning cost saving measures in the 2002 Budget.

### Ontario Public Library Strategic Plan: Building Values Together: A Vision for Change for Ontario Public Libraries

The Board received a progress report on this plan for information. Board member Meyer Brownstone will represent the Library Board in the development of this new strategic plan for public libraries in Ontario.

### Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy

The Board adopted the Library's Auditorium, Meeting Room and Theatre Rental Policy and fee structure with the following amendments for meeting rooms:

- Non-profit groups - \$10 per hour
- Non-profit groups which collect dues or contributions from members - \$15 per hour

The Board requested that staff report in 2004 on the impact of the policy on groups that use the Library's facilities, and on the financial impact of the policy and fee structure. Staff will also report on a room rental fee category for frequent, long-term meeting room users.

### Purchase of Electricity

The Board authorized appropriate City staff to act on behalf of Toronto Public Library to negotiate and enter into an electricity pricing

arrangement with Toronto Hydro Energy Services Inc. or the City of Toronto for the supply, as required. This is in accordance with the October 2, 2001 City Staff Report from the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to the Policy and Finance Committee regarding Purchase of Electricity.

### Black Creek Neighbourhood Branch Library – Relocation

The Board approved the relocation of this branch to the North Sheridan Mall on the northwest corner of Jane Street and Wilson and authorized staff to negotiate a lease agreement with the Westdale Construction Company.

### Digital Data Storage and Enterprise Tape Library Backup Solution – Award of RFP

Staff will enter into contract negotiations with Storage Tek Canada Inc. for the Digital Data Storage and Enterprise Tape Library Backup Solution at a price not to exceed \$643,954.29 taxes included.

### 2002 – 2006 Revised Capital Budget – Executive Management Team (EMT) Recommended Reductions

The Board recommends that the EMT capital budget for the Toronto Public Library Board be adjusted to include funding for the Beaches and Long Branch libraries in the amount of \$0.378 million in 2002 and \$3.512 million in 2002-2006 as these repairs have already been deferred in 2001. Funding for the renovation of Pape/Danforth library is recommended to be included at a cost of \$0.155 million for 2002 and \$1.955 million for 2002-2006.

This revised 2002-2006 Capital budget will show a gross capital funding commitment of \$12.416 million in 2002 and \$29.632 million in 2002-2006.

### 2002 Revised Operating Budget – Executive Management Team (EMT) Recommended Reductions

The Board recommends that the Budget Advisory Committee and City senior staff work with the Toronto Public Library Board to develop a plan for reducing the Library's gapping target, gapping being the holding back of hiring or replacing vacant positions, from the EMT recommended level of 3.6 percent to the same level as the City's gapping average. In addition, the Board will tell the Budget Advisory Committee that the Toronto Public Library Board does not approve of an additional reduction of \$0.700 million as this would

result in the reduction of current service levels.

The Toronto Public Library Board recommends that funding in the total amount of \$0.492 million be provided for the *Leading to Reading* program and the *TeenZone* website project. As well, library staff will investigate finding funds from Industry Canada for the *TeenZone* project.

Next Library Board meeting:  
Monday, February 4, 2002.

## Calendar of Events

February 2002

### Exhibit

*Ink Paper Lead,  
Board Leather Thread*  
Engraved illustrations, fine bindings,  
books and broadsides  
January 19-March 17  
Canada Trust Gallery  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Performing Arts Lecture Series 2002

Kristine Bogyo  
February 22, 6 p.m.  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Author Series 2002

*Passion and Obsession*  
Alan Cumyn  
David Gilmour  
Rosemary Sullivan  
February 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Award winning children's author

Christopher Paul Curtis  
reading from *Bud Not Buddy*  
February 22, 7 p.m.  
Bloor/Gladstone Branch.  
1101 Bloor Street West

### Heritage Month/Black History Month

*Celebrate the Life of Artist Greg Curnoe*  
Lynda Curnoe reads from her book *My Brother Greg* and shows slides.  
February 14, 7 p.m.  
Eatonville Branch  
430 Burnhamthorpe Road

### *Tell Me a Story*

Sandra Whiting tells stories from Africa and the Caribbean.  
February 14, 10 a.m.  
Mount Dennis Branch  
1123 Weston Road  
February 14, 2 p.m.  
Bridlewood Branch  
2900 Warden Avenue

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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.