

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Citizen Board members recognized

On behalf of the Toronto Public Library Board, Councillor Janet Davis (far right) presented the Board's citizen representatives with a gift in recognition for their contribution to public library service in Toronto between 2001 and 2004. l-r: Bill Booth, Vice Chair; Mitchell Weisberg; Gillian Mason, Chair; Mizan Ibrahim. Also recognized, but not in the photo, were citizen members Meyer Brownstone, Rick Goldsmith, Mark Nightingale and Marjorie Stephenson. See back page.

## Library patrons peg Giller winners

### *People's pick at Toronto Public Library mirrors judges' choice*

IT WAS A TIGHT three-way race, but ultimately the people's choice in Toronto mirrored the judges' decision this year for the 2004 Giller Award. Top pick, garnering 26 percent of all ballots cast in the Toronto Public Library's (TPL) Guess the Giller contest, was *Runaway* by **Alice Munro**. Close runners-up were *All that Matters* by **Wayson Choy** and *A Complicated Kindness* by **Miriam Toews** with 21 percent each. *The Tiger Claw* by **Shauna**

*Please see Guess the Giller, page 2 ...*

## Working Together

### *Community Library connections*

THE POWER OF collaboration was evident recently at Toronto Reference Library, as librarians from four large urban centres came together to explore ways of using public library spaces, resources and services to strengthen communities in need. The Working Together project is one of a number of planned Toronto Public Library (TPL) initiatives that aim to fulfil the Library's strategic goal of strengthening underserved communities.

On October 18 and 19, staff from the four collaborating library systems met to discuss their progress so far. Working Together project librarians in Vancouver, Regina, Toronto and Halifax have spent

the past few months meeting with as many agencies and individuals in their communities as possible to map potential partners in community development and to identify priorities for building strength in these communities. Project librarians are now beginning to implement computer skills training programs for community members, in cooperation with other agencies in their communities.

A highlight of the two-day workshop at the Reference Library was a session provided by Community Development Officers Judy Brooks and Rosemary Bell, from the City of Toronto Community and Neighbourhood Services department.

*Please see Working Together, page 3...*



### Discount Nutcracker: sweet!

Patrons checking out books, movies, music, or anything else at any branch of Toronto Public Library, will get a bonus offer on their date due slip: 20 percent off on tickets to select performances of The National Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Discounts are for performances on:

- December 11, 2 and 7:30 p.m.
- December 12, 5:30 p.m.
- December 16, 7:30 p.m.
- December 17, 7:30 p.m.



## Canadian presence at South African conference

FOUR TORONTO members of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) attended the 29th Biennial IBBY Congress held in September, in Cape Town, South Africa. Mariella Bertelli, Linda

Deterville, Theo Heras and Pam Mountain, who are also Toronto Public Library librarians, joined over 600 delegates from 68 countries for a five-day conference where cross-national and cross-cultural dialogue was much in evidence. Heras and Mountain presented a paper, *Crossing Oceans: African Stories Come to Canada*, with a bibliography of picture books written by Afro-Canadian and Afro-Caribbean-Canadian writers. Bertelli presented a workshop on storytelling using media.

On behalf of Canada's High Commission in South Africa, Bertelli was also invited to tell stories at the Sid G. Rule School in Cape Town. The children were thoroughly entertained by her storytelling and puppetry.

IBBY is an international organization dedicated to promoting peace and understanding through children's books.

**Belladonna** all spoke out. The event was organized in partnership with the YWCA to mark its Week Without Violence, October 17-23.

Bloor/Gladstone Branch hosted a visit by teen author **Linda Holeman** who read from *Search of the Moon King's Daughter*.

Thanks to the Canada Council for the Arts for their ongoing support of author/illustrator visits at Toronto Public Library.

For upcoming Toronto Public Library programs and events, visit [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca), pick up a copy of the Library's program guide, *What's On*, or call Answerline 416-393-7131.



Giller- and Booker-Prize finalist **John Bemrose** read from *The Island Walkers* on November 2 at Agincourt Branch, leaving many members of his audience with a desire

to visit Paris, Ontario, where Bemrose grew up and where his book is set.

## Who's been visiting the Library

### *Kids meet authors at TPL during Canadian Children's Book Week*

WHEN **Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak** was a small boy living in Repulse Bay, he spent time travelling by dog team, living in igloos and sod huts and he went to sleep at night to the stories and legends shared by his family.

When Kusugak visited Elmbrook Park Branch of Toronto Public Library on November 5, he didn't come by dogsled, but the Grade 4 and 6 children who came to meet him were enthralled by Kusugak's tales of Inuit culture and growing up in the Northwest Territories. They were also interested in his demonstrations of toys made by his father and the intricate string animals that Kusugak wove on his hands to illustrate his stories awed everyone.

Kusugak's visit to Elmbrook was one of eight opportunities kids had to meet this fascinating writer, as Kusugak visited library branches in all areas of the city.

Kusugak isn't the only author to journey a great distance – he now lives in Rankin Inlet – to entertain and enlighten Toronto children. Well-loved children's author **Marie-Louise Gay** came from Montreal and visited a half dozen branches; **Deborah Hodge** arrived from Vancouver to meet with kids at two TPL branches; and award-winning teen sci-fi writer **Duncan Thornton** travelled from Winnipeg to meet with Grade 7 and 8 kids at Fairview Branch.

Also at NYCL, award-winning author **Kerri Sakamoto** appeared on November 17 as part of the ongoing Uptown Author Series. Holding up a chewed up copy of her latest novel, *One Hundred Million Hearts*, Sakamoto explained that her dog had chosen it to destroy from among all the books on her shelves. "Everyone's a critic," she quipped.

Another NYCL event, on October 20, saw 235 teens from across the city arrive for the Bully2U! event, featuring nine writers and artists speaking out about bullying. Spoken word artist **Dwayne Morgan**, beat box virtuoso **Subliminal** and authors **Nalo Hopkinson**, **Anne Marie Aikins**, **Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha**, **Mariko Tamak**, **Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch**, **Sarah Withrow** and

## *Young Voices* 'the best'

OVER 100 CREATIVE YOUTH celebrated Teen Month by attending Toronto Public Library's (TPL) Young Voices Writers Conference at North York Central Library on October 23. Authors **Allan Stratton**, **Barbara Nichol**, **Shyam Selvadurai**, **Nalo Hopkinson**, **Emily Pohl-Weary** and **Stuart Ross** gave brief presentations and then led creative writing workshops. The event also included performances by dub poet **d'bi young**, storyteller **Dan Yashinsky** and comic illustrator **Marc Ngui**. According to event coordinator, Youth Services Librarian Brian Bertrand, "Everyone had a lot of fun and over lunch we discovered that teenagers don't like coleslaw. They do, however, like prize draws, and we had a lot of fun and interesting gifts to give away, like books, gift certificates and tickets."

One teen participant summed things up when she said, "The Writers Conference was the best thing I've been



to so far out of all the library's events! It had the best of both worlds: readings and QA/workshop sessions. I'm looking forward to next year's conference. It was like a career day with writers from all areas... It has boosted my confidence following this career path. Fabulous!"

Funding for this event was provided by Ontario Works, which also provided money for eight author visits to TPL branches, plus five author visits to various youth organizations and shelters throughout the city.

## Dial-A-Story keeps growing

ON ANY AVERAGE DAY in Toronto, 600 kids pick up the telephone, dial 416-395-5400 to listen to a story in one of eight different languages provided by the Toronto Public Library (TPL) on the Dial-A-Story service. Now a new language, Polish, has just been made available, complementing stories in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Cantonese and Mandarin.

"We're pleased with the enhancement and high use of this service," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "It's a good innovative example of the kind of services the library provides to promote the joy of reading."

Right now on Dial-A-Story, children are being offered a special treat: National Ballet of Canada stars reading *The Nutcracker* in four different languages – Jennifer Fournier in English, Sonia Rodriguez in Spanish, Etienne Lavigne in French and Piotr Stanczyk in Polish. Find out how to get

discount tickets to *The Nutcracker* on page 1.

Dial-A-Story is generously supported by Bell Canada. "When children become readers their world is forever wider and richer," notes Kelly McDougald, SVP, Bell Canada. "Our company is seeking innovative ways to connect people, technology and knowledge. The Dial-A-Story program helps improve the future of our young people, and ultimately supports the building of strong communities within our City and across the province."

## Working Together

*Continued from pg. 1...*

Discussions ranged from the issues involved in developing community contacts and partnerships to program planning for non-library users.

Also in attendance at the conference were representatives from Working Together project sponsor Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

TPL staff took visiting librarians on a tour of the Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park neighbourhoods, the two Toronto communities where the Working Together project is being piloted.

The project, which began in early 2004, is expected to take three years to complete.

## Guess the Giller

*Continued from pg. 1...*

**Singh Baldwin** was next at 16 percent; *Beyond Measure* by **Pauline Holdstock** received 10 percent; and *Galveston* by **Paul Quarrington** received six percent.

Contest winner Emmy Mendoza-Wong, who entered the Library contest online, receives all six shortlisted books for her correct guess. Runner-up Ruth Hands receives a copy of *Prize Writing*, a collection of essays from previous Giller Prize winners.

All books on the shortlist saw an immediate increase in interest at the library following the shortlist announcement on October 7.

Holds increased for:

*All that Matters* . . . . .from 152 to 499  
*Galveston* . . . . .from 51 to 179  
*Beyond Measure* . . . . .from 10 to 229  
*The Tiger Claw* . . . . .from 93 to 342  
*A Complicated Kindness* from 1255 to 1409  
*Runaway* . . . . .from 265 to 546

All books are also available in the Library's Best Bets collections. Best Bets are non-reservable, one-week loan collections that include bestsellers, award winners, books made into movies and popular classics available in 40 branch locations.

This is the second year TPL has cooperated with the Giller Prize to offer this contest to Toronto residents.



City of Toronto Community Development Officers recently led Working Together project librarians in a session discussing community development. (l-r) Patti-Lynne McLeod, Regina Public Library; Judy Brooks, City of Toronto; Sonia Pacheco, TPL; Darla Muzzerall, Halifax Public Library; Annette De Faveri, Vancouver Public Library; Rosemary Bell, City of Toronto.



Weston Library  
circa 1915.  
From *History of Weston*  
by F.D. Cruickshank and  
J. Nason, Weston (ON):  
*Times and Guide*, 1937

## Weston Branch turns 90

ON JANUARY 12, 1913, the Weston Public Library Board was awarded \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Toronto

architectural firm Lindsay & Brydon designed a simple Arts and Crafts style library, enriched by stained-glass windows and Art Nouveau mosaic panels – a unique feature among the Ontario Carnegie libraries. The Weston Library opened on Tuesday evening, December 29, 1914 at the northwest corner of King and Main streets, Weston. Happy 90th birthday Weston!

## Library Board Highlights

November 2004

**Citizen Board members recognized**  
The eight citizen members of the Toronto Public Library Board were recognized and thanked for their commitment to public library service in Toronto. The citizen members work with five City Councillors also appointed to the Library Board.

**Budget submissions approved**  
The 2005 operating and capital budgets were approved by the Library Board to go forward as requests to the City. Two deputations were presented to the Board regarding the use of funds from the capital budget: Councillor Jane Pitfield requested that the Board consider the addition to the Board's list of capital budget projects of a renovation and expansion of the Thorncliffe Branch; Gordon Crann, former East York Councillor and former East York Public Library Board member, expressed his support for the Board's proposed capital budget renovations at the S. Walter Stewart Branch. He noted that in addition to the Thorncliffe Branch, additional library service is warranted in other areas of the district.

**Operating budget surplus**  
The 2004 Toronto Public Library operating surplus of \$957,000 will be used toward funding the pending arbitration ruling on the Library's wage rate and job reclassification harmonization, if the Board's recommendation is adopted by City Council.

**TPL joins newly formed federation of libraries**  
Toronto Public Library has joined the newly formed Federation of Ontario Public Libraries as a founding member.

**Accountability improved with adoption of policies**  
The Board adopted three new policies: the Expense Claim Policy, the Procurement Processes Policy and the Lobbying Disclosure for Request for Proposals and Tender/Quotation Calls Policy. Questions about Toronto Public Library policies and guidelines can be directed to the City Librarian's office: 416-393-7215.  
[citylibrarian@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:citylibrarian@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

*Next Board meeting:  
Monday, December 13, 2004*

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Marketing & Communications Office:  
416-393-7117.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June, in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto.  
Meetings are open to the public.  
Board Contact: Nancy Marshall  
416-393-7215.

**Board Members**  
Gillian Mason, Chair  
William Booth, Vice-Chair  
Meyer Brownstone  
Councillor Gay Cowbourne  
Councillor Janet Davis  
Rick Goldsmith

Mizan Ibrahim  
Mark Nightingale  
Councillor Kyle Rae  
Councillor Karen Stintz  
Councillor Sylvia Watson  
Mitchell Weisberg

## Calendar of Events

November/December 2004

Saturday, November 27, 2 p.m.  
Meet Wayne Johnston  
The author of *The Navigator of New York* and *Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, in conjunction with the TD Gallery exhibition *Frozen Ocean: Search for the North-West Passage* (on to December 31, TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library).  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Friday, December 3, 6-8 p.m.  
The Nutcracker: Ballet Talk and Exhibit (for adults)  
The history of the story of *The Nutcracker* in different cultures; the history of The National Ballet of Canada's production; the business of *The Nutcracker* for dance companies; famous dancers and their interpretations; costumes and photos from The National Ballet's Archives. Presented by Dance Historian Kate Cornell.  
Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

Saturday, December 4, 2-4 p.m.  
The Nutcracker Storytime and Interactive Display (for children)  
Children are invited to a special storytime with the story of *The Nutcracker*, ballet crafts and a movement workshop presented by The National Ballet of Canada.  
North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street

Tuesday, December 7, 7 p.m.  
Author Series: Unusual Novels  
Derek McCormack reads from his new novel *The Haunted Hillbilly*.  
Ken Sparling reads from his untitled novel.  
Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street