

# Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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When Toronto Public Library's newest branch, St. James Town, opened its doors for the first time on October 14, Library Board Vice-Chair William Booth (far right) and City Councillor Pam McConnell (second from right) were on-hand to meet library patrons excited to see their new library.

## Toronto's newest library doing booming business

*Collections get \$20,000 boost from TD Bank*

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S newest branch, in St. James Town, opened October 14 and already business is booming.

"The opening day figures surpassed our expectations," says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. "We're thrilled about how popular the branch is already. We expect St. James Town to become one of our most popular locations."

The branch circulated more than 10,000 items during its first week of business and more than 4,600 people came through the doors.

Featuring a children's area with a parenting collection, a vibrant zone for

teens, adult literacy and ESL materials, 14 computers with Internet access plus four computers just for kids, employment and career resources and two bookable quiet study rooms, the branch also has a rich multicultural collection of books, magazines and newspapers in 10 languages other than English. There are about 17,500 adult items, 11,000 children's items and more than 2,000 fiction books for teens.

Staff at the new branch were excited to learn that the TD Bank Financial Group is donating \$20,000 to support collections at the branch.

"We are absolutely delighted to help

enhance the collection at the library's newest branch," says Scott Mullin, Vice-President, Government and Community Relations, TD Bank Financial Group.

TD Bank Financial Group's Community Giving program supports education, health and the environment, with a focus on children and youth. TD sponsors four flagship community programs — TD Canadian Children's Book Week, TD Canada Trust Scholarships for Community Leadership, the Children's Miracle Network and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation — as well as a host of national, regional and local children's programs across Canada.

The new St. James Town Branch is part of a collaborative community partnership among: the City of Toronto Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; City of Toronto Community and Neighbourhood Services; and Toronto Public Library.

"The new library will deliver quality service to one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Canada — ten times the City of Toronto average," comments Bryant.

## Fall fundraising appeal

THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY Fall Fundraising Appeal is underway in library branches across Toronto. The goal is to support and enhance children's collections, particularly children's multicultural collections, by raising \$86,000.

Find out how to help keep Toronto's children reading. Call the Toronto Public Library Foundation at 416-393-7123.

# Author Edeet Ravel opens Uptown Author Series

*Largest audience yet!*



story set in contemporary Israel amid suicide bombers and checkpoint violence. Both this book and her previous novel, *Ten Thousand Lovers*, explore the ways people connect when violence permeates their daily lives.

A charming and affable woman, Ravel elicited a lively range of comments and questions from the audience. While the discussion had the potential to become heated, calmness prevailed.

Ravel's political activities and peace work in the embattled region were major themes in both books and also in her responses to most of the questions. Ravel divides her time between her current home in Montreal, Canada, and her birthplace, Israel.

Ravel's first book, *Ten Thousand Lovers*, was a finalist for the 2003 Governor General's literary award for fiction and the Amazon.ca Books in Canada first novel award. The book was also named one of the *Globe and Mail's* best books of 2003, and one of *Quill and Quire's* top five Canadian novels that same year.

WRITE A BOOK about the realities of the Israeli-Palestinian "situation," and you'd expect some controversy. Write an honest trilogy based on real life experiences and a heartfelt desire for peace in the region, line up a series of public appearances, and then watch the fireworks.

Author Edeet Ravel was well equipped for fireworks when she read recently from her latest book, *Look For Me*, to a capacity crowd at North York Central Library. *Look For Me*, the second in Ravel's trilogy, is a fictionalized love



## George Reid mural comes to light

EIGHTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD Allan Shaw has lived his entire life in the Regal Heights house he was born in — except, as Mr. Shaw will tell you, for five years in the 1940s when he was away overseas attending to some "urgent business." For almost all of his eight decades, Mr. Shaw has been a patron of the Dufferin/St. Clair branch of Toronto Public Library (TPL).

When Mr. Shaw discovered that the Library was working with the Regal Heights Residents' Association to restore a mural at Dufferin/St. Clair, created by renowned Canadian artist George Reid, he decided to help out.

"I remember that mural," Mr. Shaw explains. "I didn't appreciate it when I was a kid. But I've gotten great use out of that library over the years and I was happy to be able to help accomplish this project."

Mr. Shaw contributed generously to the \$12,000 cost of removing paint and plaster that was put over the mural in the 1960s as part of a branch renovation.

"My parents always felt it was okay if my sisters and I were hanging around at the library," concludes Mr. Shaw. "If I can do anything to help make it a good place for generations to come, I'm glad to be able to do that."

## Lunenfeld supports children's literacy

THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY Foundation is pleased to recognize the generosity of the Samuel Lunenfeld Charitable Foundation, which recently pledged \$50,000 to support Toronto Public Library's Leading to Reading program to help primary school children who are having trouble keeping up with their classmates. Since the early 1980s, the program has helped tens of thousands of

Toronto children-at-risk gain the self-confidence and skills they need to succeed in a world where a high level of literacy is increasingly an indispensable tool.

"It is with great pleasure that we support the Leading to Reading program, as we know this is of great importance and impact on the community," says Mitchell Kunin, Executive Director of the Lunenfeld Foundation.

Read about TD Bank Financial Group's recent \$20,000 contribution to build a strong children's collection at the newest Toronto Public Library in St. James Town — see page 1

If you would like to help your Toronto Public Library, contact the Foundation at 416-393-7123.

# And the Word on the Street is: Library

A NEW LOCATION for Toronto's annual celebration of the written word, Word on the Street, spelled big success for Toronto Public Library. Thousands of people visited two booths, peopled by Library staff, Library Foundation staff and volunteers, library friends group

volunteers and bookmobile staff.

Simply Audiobooks, an online audio book rental company, gave \$1,000 worth of audio books to draw winner Gwenlyn Setterfield. Gwenlyn gets to keep half the audio books; the other half goes to her favourite library branch, Yorkville.

## Teen talk

OCTOBER WAS TEEN MONTH at the library and among the events held at the Toronto Public Library (TPL) was the launch of the 2003/2004 issue of *Young Voices*, Toronto Public Library's publication of writing and artwork by teens. Teens 12–19 years old who live or go to school in Toronto are being invited to submit original work for the 2004/2005 *Young Voices* by dropping it off at any TPL branch. Written work can be submitted online:

- go to [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)
- click on *ramp*
- click on 'Express Yourself'
- click on *Young Voices* contest

Other teen month activities included the revival of the Fairview Branch Youth Advisory Group (YAG). Forty-six eager, enthusiastic teens showed up for the first meeting and many great ideas were bantered around. The next Fairview YAG meeting promises to be a book discussion

group with a difference — the teens will be dressing up like characters in the books being discussed!

Stats for *ramp*, Toronto teens' online gateway and meeting place, are a good indication of the value of teen library services. In the first three weeks of Teen Month, over 15,000 visitors logged onto the site. *ramp* is accessible from the home page of the TPL website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

Also offered during Teen Month:

- a free, day-long writing conference on October 23 that featured cutting edge Toronto writers, zinesters and illustrators
- the launch of *I Wrote on all Four Walls: Teens Speak Out on Violence*, a co-project of the Library and Annick Press. Find out more about important services for youth at the library on our website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

## Middle Ages kids had fun!



FOR MANY years, our concept of childhood in the middle ages has been shaped by French scholar Philippe Ariès, who argues that

the notion of "childhood" scarcely existed in western Europe before the seventeenth century, and that children were regarded by their elders as small, imperfect adults.

Forty years after Ariès made his suggestion, distinguished Middle Ages scholar Nicholas Orme has introduced a new perspective based, not like that of Ariès on the evidence provided by fashionable portrait-painters, but on manuscripts, books and artifacts. The result of his research, shared with wit and humour during his September 30 appearance at Lillian H. Smith Branch of Toronto Public Library, was a glimpse into the medieval child's world. The enraptured 100-plus members of his audience got a close-up view of such important places as: the church, where ceremonies and rituals claimed the child as part of the religious family; the schoolroom, where tolerant masters devised Latin exercises replete with slang and jokes; and the chapbook vendor, with his rude, amusing little pamphlet stories.

Orme, a professor of history at the University of Exeter, was the guest of the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, and the event was sponsored by the Friends of the Osborne.

"At the reception following the talk, people looked with new interest and appreciation at the manuscripts and early books on display at Osborne," according to Osborne Collection Head Leslie McGrath. "Professor Orme conjured pleasant thoughts of mild-mannered and even fun teachers of the Middle Ages who carried rods merely as signs of office."

For more information about the Osborne Collection, the Osborne Friends, or any of Toronto Public Library's many fascinating special collections, visit the Library's website, [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca), or call Answerline, 416-393-7131.



**Definitely Not the Library** is the name teen volunteers chose for Fairview's new Youth Advisory Group. Forty-six teens showed up for the first meeting, all eager to make the library a cool place for teens.

# Kids to make their mark

2004 Laurentien Design-a-Bookmark Contest underway



One of the earliest winning entries in the Library's Design-a-Bookmark Contest for kids.

of our earliest winners, Tamsin Plant, is now quite a prominent artist — she painted a Frank Stella creation onto the ceiling of the Princess of Wales Theatre here in Toronto.”

Toronto's budding young Picassos and Plants are invited to submit their original designs at any branch of Toronto Public Library up until contest closing, Saturday, December 11 at 5 p.m. Sixteen grand prize winners will each receive a Laurentien backpack filled with Laurentien colouring products and a personal supply of their winning bookmark. Branch and bookmobile winners will each receive a book prize.

For contest details, children and their caregivers are invited to drop into any one of TPL's 99 branches, or call Answerline at 416-393-7131, or check the TPL website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

KIDS 13 OR younger are getting out their coloured pencils, crayons and paint to make their own bookmarks and get in on the 2004 Laurentien Design-a-Bookmark Contest.

“Children are just naturally creative,” says TPL Children & Youth Advocate Ken Settingington.

“The contest has been running in one form or another for close to 30 years,” according to Leslie Koster, Collections Co-ordinator, Children's/Teens Materials.

“One



*Help us get material to you when you need it*

REGULAR TORONTO PUBLIC Library (TPL) users know that getting hold of any circulating books on the shelves of the Library's 99 branches is only a matter of a few mouse clicks on any Internet computer. Over the past three years the Library system in Toronto has seen a 24 percent increase in holds filled for patrons, with nearly 10 million holds filled in total.

In order to manage this extremely successful service, the Library is seeking the help of its patrons.

Through an online and in-branch campaign, library staff are actively seeking to educate library patrons about some of the features of the online holds service, including:

- the ability to cancel holds if they are no longer needed
- the ability to “de-activate” holds, a feature which stops holds from coming in while a patron is out of town, but without affecting the patron's place in the holds queue.

Staff are also promoting other services that might be more appropriate than the holds service. Patrons looking for good reads are being encouraged to check out *Best Bets*, non-reservable best-sellers and award-winners available at 29 branches across the city. Patrons doing research are being referred to the Library's diverse and plentiful electronic resources.

For more information about Toronto Public Library's many and diverse services, contact your local branch, call Answerline at 416-393-7131, or log onto our website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

## Calendar of Events

November 2004

### Ongoing to December 31 Frozen Ocean: Search for the North-West Passage

An exhibition of original material from Toronto Public Library's Special Collections.

TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Ongoing to January 22 The Fairies' Repertory

An exhibition from early and modern children's books from the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books.

Lillian H. Smith Branch  
239 College Street

### Friday, November 12, 7 p.m. Books & Culture

The World of Sherlock Holmes, featuring speaker Les Klinger, author of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*.

Atrium, Toronto Reference Library  
789 Yonge Street

### Wednesday, November 17, 7 p.m. Books & Culture

Kerri Sakamoto, award-winning author of *The Electrical Field*, reading from her latest novel, *One Hundred Million Hearts*.

Room 1, North York Central Library  
5120 Yonge Street

### Tuesday, November 23, 7 p.m. Books & Culture

George Bowering and Lisa Moore.

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

### Saturday, November 27, 2 p.m. Author Reading

Wayne Johnston reads from his novel, *Navigator of New York*. In conjunction with the *Frozen Ocean* exhibit in the TD Gallery (see above).

Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

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416-393-7117.

The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly from September through June, in the Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. Meetings are open to the public.

The Library Board includes eight citizen members and seven City Councillors.