

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 9 • NOVEMBER 2005



Animals Are Allowed in the Library

November 12 – January 22, 2006 Toronto Reference Library • 789 Yonge St • Toronto

**TD
Gallery**

TD Gallery show highlights animals in art and literature

See story page 4...

Reading: the key to the whole story

Carrier uses his experience to highlight the importance of reading

IN COLOMBIA, a teacher struggles with a major decision: now he's turned 40, should he continue the family tradition and pass on his well-worn copy of *Don Quixote* to his eldest child, a teen whose interests seem only to extend to slouchy pants and attitude?

Go ahead, his wife tells him. Your son reads more than you think. He spends hours on the computer.

The teacher, not knowing what to do, not believing that the gift will really be appreciated, nevertheless feels unable to break tradition, and does, indeed, pass on the book.

And that, says author and former national librarian Roch Carrier, is

what everyone must do to ensure the continuity of learning and culture from one generation to the next.

Just when it seems, he said, "that the tradition is about to be broken — it must be kept on. We are a community, a chain of readers. This is how ideas pass directly from one generation to another generation. And this is how we fertilize the time we are living in."

Carrier, who delivered the 2005 HarperCollins Lecture at the Toronto Reference Library in November, entranced his audience with stories from his own life and his experiences in countries around the world,

Please see Roch Carrier, page 2...

Memoirs of a Cover Girl at the Osborne

Major donor Jane Dobell uncovers her passion for book collecting

JANE DOBELL captivated her large audience with *Memoirs of a Cover Girl*, a slide show about her life with books, which took place October 20 at the Osborne Collection. Many know of Jane's generosity to the library and of her reputation as a connoisseur of children's books and art. This special

Please see Jane Dobell, page 4...

Guessing the Giller at the Library

Library readers defy Giller choice and choose Sweetness in the Belly as the popular pick

IT WAS a tight race but the 2005 Giller judges picked David Bergen's *The Time in Between* for this year's Giller Prize. Five great books were up for the award — it couldn't have been easy on the judges — but interestingly, Toronto Public Library users felt differently than the official judges while voting at our 99 branches or through our online voting booth. The popular winner of the Library's Guess the Giller contest was Camilla Gibb's *Sweetness in the Belly* — a full two weeks before the actual winner was announced, Gibb's book jostled for the lead and never gave it up.

In second place in the Library's poll

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Roch Carrier

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illustrating the importance of books and reading.

In Cambodia, he said, when Pol Pot took control of government buildings, including the library, soldiers threw books out the windows. People outside, however, picked up those books and buried them in their gardens for safekeeping until better times returned.

In Estonia, after Communism fell, one of the first things citizens did, he said, was build a new library, saying that, with this act, they were “burying Communism.”

In his own life, growing up in a home without books, the gift of an encyclopaedia for youth, he said, opened doors

to knowledge and stimulated his imagination in ways that remain with him to this day.

“No kid, born anywhere in the world, is born poor,” said Carrier.

“Every kid born on this planet is born with an inheritance of world knowledge, world wisdom and world memory — a human bank inherited by everyone.”

“Every kid born on this planet is born with an inheritance of world knowledge, world wisdom and world memory — a human bank inherited by everyone. But the only access to that world bank

is through reading. That’s the key to the whole world — the whole story.”

In a globalized world, where information is the “big asset, the big richness” he urged everyone — parents, teachers, librarians — to do more to help every child gain access to that knowledge.

Carrier dedicated his talk to three women: his grandmother; who, he said, spent only one day of her life in school, yet “knew

everything,” boggling his young mind as he wondered how she had managed to learn so much in one day; Sister Bridget, the teacher with a decidedly Irish accent who taught him to read; and his own “little sister” who taught school, and especially reading, for 35 years, significantly dwarfing his own accomplishments in the eyes of their home community.

Carrier signed copies of his latest book, *The Flying Canoe*.

Sir William E. Logan and the Geographical Survey of Canada

Collaborative effort archives valuable geological and historical materials

WILLIAM E. Logan, Canada’s first great scientist, travelled across North America and Wales recording scientific observations, mapping geological resources and wearing out his boots. Today, a century and a half later, researchers may retrace his steps without leaving their desks.

Toronto Public Library, in a partnership with Library and Archives Canada, McGill University Archives, National Library of Wales and Natural Resources Canada, now offers online access to many of Logan’s notebooks, journals, maps and publications.

To access Toronto Public Library’s contributions go to William E. Logan Partnership Project by clicking on the “Library Portals” button on the Toronto Public Library website’s homepage (www.torontopubliclibrary.ca). Original materials have been digitized and mounted on the website. The material includes detailed journals of Logan’s travels with both professional and personal observations, as well as his charming sketches.

Preservation and Digitization manager Johanna Wellheiser comments: “This is a wonderful opportunity to make our Logan materials available online and to repatriate them virtually with these other collections.”

The site includes links to the partnership’s two Logan websites, *Written in Stone* and *Diary of a Rock Star* (geared to children).



City Hall Branch staff pose with one Giller winner, Indira Narajin (from L-R: Tony Pinto, Indira, Neil McDonald and Ana-Maria Costa).

Guess the Giller

Continued from page one...

was the actual winner, David Bergen’s *The Time in Between* with Joan Barfoot’s *Luck* and Lisa Moore’s *Alligator* tied for third place. Edeet Ravel’s *Wall of Light* was in fourth place. All the titles on the short-list saw an immediate increase in circulation at the Library following the shortlist announcement on October 28. The requests for the titles doubled, tripled or, in the case of *Wall of Light*, were seven times as high.

Almost 4,000 ballots were entered last month both online and in our 99 branches

in the Library’s Guess the Giller contest. Over 1,400 website visitors also checked out our on-line book reviews of the short-listed titles. Over 20 contest entrants won sets of all the short-listed titles and anthologies of previous Giller winners.

Many thanks to publishers Knopf Canada; McClelland & Stewart; Doubleday Canada; House of Anansi Press; and Random House Canada for their generous donations. Thanks also to the Scotiabank Giller Prize staff for donating copies of *Prize Writing, the 10th Anniversary Collection* and for all their help and support.

Research and Reference

Part Two of a series highlighting the Toronto Public Library's Research and Reference Libraries

IN THE October issue of *Shelf Life*, Part One of "Focus on Research and Reference" outlined some facts about Toronto Public Library's Research and Reference libraries and collections. But great collections aren't all we offer; the three Research and Reference libraries also offer a variety of centralized services.

Our centralized services include Answerline, the library's quick information service; IntelliSearch, an in-depth research service that finds, packages and delivers the right information to you for a fee; and the Consumer Health Information Service at Toronto Reference Library.

Each year, the Library borrows about 5,000 items from other libraries for our users and loans 8,000 items to other libraries through Interlibrary Loan, a reciprocal resource sharing among libraries. When the former Governor General needed

the music to a *Hymn to the United Nations* for Kofie Annan's visit to Canada, her office turned to Interloan.

Through the Library's Photography and Digitization service, the public can purchase professional reproductions of images. Canada Post used this service for their commemorative Audubon stamp.

Partnerships and Programming Readings and performances allow Torontonians to live with culture at the library, explore ideas or have a dialogue with some of the best-known names in the country. Alistair MacLeod, Lt. Governor James Bartleman, Clayton Ruby, Sandra Shamas and Anton Kuerti have all recently appeared to rave audience review. Often our collections lead to partnerships and programming opportunities. Mary Lou Fallis researched one of her musical recordings



A rare moment in Information Commons – empty chairs just before opening.

at the Reference Library and, in turn, was an eager participant in the Performing Arts Lecture Series. The same can be said of Albert Schultz of Soulpepper and many others.

There is no doubt that the services offered by the Toronto Public Library's three research and reference libraries play a crucial role in the provision of public library

services. An average of 7,000 visitors each day to the three facilities take full advantage of the collections but also rely on our information services, connections with other libraries Canada-wide and our cultural programming. In the December issue, *Shelf Life* takes a closer look at the unique Urban Affairs Branch, a most unusual public library located at Metro Hall.



The Library's new stage offers an up-close and personal experience with authors and other participants.

Renovation of the Toronto Reference Library

More spacious, user-friendly public space includes a stage, new study area

THE RENOVATION of the Toronto Reference Library's first floor has resulted in a more spacious, attractive and user-friendly public space. Due to the removal of some interior walls and an internal wood fence, the united and expanded public space is now more coherent and versatile. Designed by Moriyama & Teshima Architects, the floor includes a new public performance stage with state of the art audio visual equipment, five new study rooms, a new home for the Centre for People with Disabilities, expanded public study space and a lounge opening up the library to Yonge Street.

The first floor is home to a variety of services that include the Information Commons, the main Internet hub of the library. The renovations also included a Digital Design Studio and two computer Learning Centres that offer free public instruction on how to use the Internet, digital information resources, and conduct research on a variety of topics.

There are still major program elements on the main floor to be incorporated, as well as renovations to the upper floors that have been deferred until capital funding issues have been resolved.

Library Board Highlights November 2005

New branch planned for Toronto's waterfront

The Board received a report on a possible site for a new branch in the city's waterfront area. Discussions are in progress with Toronto Community Housing to explore the opportunity of locating the library on city-owned railway lands at the corner of Bathurst and Fort York Boulevard.

The 2005 operating budget

The Board considered reduction options to meet the City Manager's Proposed 2006 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Library. Three minor service reductions totaling \$0.369 million were approved and staff were asked to continue to seek further savings.

Jane Dobell

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evening, Jane gave us a look at the passion that has driven her to collect, enjoy and share beautiful, rare and unique items, and to become, despite her diffidence, a book historian and expert in the field of illustrated children's books.

After Jane's moving speech, the Director of Research and Reference, Linda Mackenzie presented Jane with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of Jane's many



Jane Dobell, book collector.

contributions to Toronto Public Library, spanning over 20 years of special gifts, support and volunteer help through the Friends of the Osborne Collection.

The evening continued with a reception upstairs at Osborne, where the

books and art Jane had spoken of with such affection and delight were on display. Guests were struck by the beauty and richness of the show, which contained such treasures as a picture of Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans and a watercolour of Jeremy Fisher by Beatrix Potter. To the many notable donations and hours of work she has given to Osborne, Jane added a new dimension on October 20: the wit, warmth and knowledge behind the gifts represented in this exhibition have been revealed as never before, and we are all the richer for this evening of discovery.

Animals Are Allowed in the Library

(Well, in the TD Gallery anyway...)

Continued from page one...

Whether in the circus or the zoo, in the field, the stream or the air, on a dinner plate or an altar, animals have fascinated humanity from its earliest origins.

Selected from Toronto Public Library's rare books, original art and ephemera collections, the latest show at the TD Gallery features prints from Audubon's *Quadrupeds* (originally intended as a companion volume to *Birds of America*), and includes

wild and domestic animals, mythological creatures and animals at play.

The TD Gallery show's images are wide-ranging and stunning in their emotive and historical value. In addition to the *Quadrupeds* selections, children's toys and charming popup books are featured in the gallery show, alongside a leather postcard of a horse commiserating over the slaughter of his brother, a graphic painting of a red fox caught in a leghold trap and sequinned animal costume designs from a variety of Canadian theatre productions.

Animals Are Allowed in the Library continues at the TD Gallery, Toronto Reference Library. (See Calendar for details).

Calendar of Events

Fall 2005

Animals Are Allowed in the Library

On to Jan. 22, 2006
TD Gallery
Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street

Animals Are Allowed in the Library Programs:

Animal Tracks

A hands-on stencil workshop for all ages.

Thur., Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.
Beeton Auditorium,
Toronto Reference Library

Animals in Graphic Art and the Printed Word

Presented by Barry Kent MacKay, author, wildlife artist, naturalist and animal advocate.

Wed. Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.
Beeton Auditorium,
Toronto Reference Library

Toys Come Alive!

An exhibit
The Nutcracker, the steadfast Tin Soldier, old-fashioned Dutch dolls, teddy bears and Pinocchio are just the beginning. Come and see books in which teacups dive into dishpans, brooms haul buckets, rocking horses and plush toys wake up when children go to sleep in the secret world where toys rule.

Dec. 12-Feb. 18
Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books
Lillian H. Smith branch
239 College Street, 4th floor
Admission free
Call 416-393-7753

Check our program guide, *What's On*, visit

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca, or call Answerline 416-393-7131 for more program information.

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.
Next Board Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2005.

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.

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