

Shelf life

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

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Ribbon cutting at Long Branch: Barry Kemp, Long Branch Historical Society President, Architect G. Bruce Stratton, TPL Board Vice-Chair Bill Booth, TPL Board Chair Gillian Mason, Local Councillor Mark Grimes, South/West Regional Director Nancy Chavner, District Manager Brigitte Richter, and Branch Head Jonathan Demers.

Enthusiastic public welcomes back Long Branch

Art Deco features, expanded collection part of major renovation

IF YOU like a huge crowd, a bopping live band and even a cunning magician, Long Branch Library was the place to be on September 27. The branch reopened after a major renovation, which took just under seven months to complete.

Toronto Public Library Board Chair Gillian Mason and local Councillor Mark Grimes were on hand for the festivities. In her comments, Mason highlighted the features of the new branch, a fully accessible, one-floor operation, boasting 35,000 books, magazines, CDs and DVDs – 3,000 of which were added during the closure. A new bookable meeting room meets community needs. Two snazzy lava

lamps in the new Teen Zone perfectly accentuate the interior design.

Project architect G. Bruce Stratton took cues from the exterior Art Deco features and moved them into the interior of the renovated building. Curvilinear and rectilinear patterned carpet tile, brightly coloured stainless steel decorative features and decorative slate tiles complement walls painted a deep red and baby blue – common Art Deco colour choices. Wood surfaces feature bird's eye maple and Sapele veneer finishes. The design includes ample natural light from existing windows and two new skylights in the front foyer. •

Youth flock to writers' conference

Teens from all across city flock to North York Central to be part of Young Voices Writers' Conference

WORKING WITH writers Mark Ngui, Anne Laurel Carter, Angela Rawlings, Stuart Ross, Judith Thompson, Clifton Joseph and Edo van Belkom, more than 90 keen young writers participated on October 22 in writing workshops, learning new skills and polishing their stories and poems.

"They really appreciated the opportunity," according to teen services specialist Sharon Moynes. "In particular, they seemed to love the open mic session. Many asked if it could be longer next year."

Stuart Ross, currently acting as the
Please see Writers' conference, pg. 2...

Want your kids to read more?

TD Canadian Children's Book Week at Toronto Public Library

SO YOU want your kids to read more? Keep the TV out of their bedrooms, and go with them to your local library — was the message during TD Canadian Children's Book Week, October 29 to November 5.

"Children who don't have a TV in their room are much more likely to visit the library than those who have their own TV," says Ken Settingington,
Please see Canadian Children's Book Week, pg. 2...

Writers' conference

Continued from page one...

Library's electronic writer-in-residence, was overwhelmed by teens wanting to take part in his blue pencil room session, where he provided immediate, practical feedback on their writing.

For those eager for feedback, but who missed the conference, Stuart continues to function as online writer-in-residence until November 18, 2005. Teens are invited to submit short poems or stories to Stuart via the Library's website: www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; click on *ramp*.

The event also featured spoken word performances by Adwoa Badoe and Dwayne Morgan, both of whom were extremely well received by the audience. In the words of one conference participant: "Loved the poetry. Dwayne Morgan gave me chills, he was that good! So strong!"

The Young Voices Writers' Conference is an adjunct of *Young Voices*, the Library's magazine of teen writing and art, which is published annually. Teens wishing to submit stories, articles, rants, poems or artwork for consideration for next year's *Young Voices*, should drop into their local library branch and pick up a submission form. The submission deadline is April 7, 2006. •

Canadian Children's Book Week

Continued from page one...

Advocate for Child and Youth Services at Toronto Public Library and one of four co-authors of a recent, nation-wide survey of reading, media and public library use by Canadian children in Grades 4-7.

"And by far the most common way for children to get to a library is with an adult, usually a parent," he says.

"Clearly, parents continue to play an extremely important role in introducing their children to library use and to reading. And we think there's no better time for parents to take their kids to their local branch, and borrow an

armful of good reading, than during TD Canadian Children's Book Week."

Opening Doors to Children, published this year, featured information gathered through interviews with 3,486 children – including frequent and infrequent library users – in six Canadian cities including Toronto. Kids were polled on a variety of topics including how and why they visit the library; how they find what they're looking for; and what libraries need more of.

Topping the list of fiction reading favourites, says Setterington, are mystery, adventure, scary or funny stories, while legends topped the list for non-fiction. Emphasizes Setterington, "the strength of a really good story remains paramount, whatever the medium or format."

For more information about *Opening Doors to Children*, contact Ken Setterington, Child and Youth Advocate for Library Services, Toronto Public Library at ksettington@torontopubliclibrary.ca. •

Diaspora Dialogues collaborative effort

Monthly festival highlights range of Toronto's cultural communities

LAUNCHED IN spring 2005, Diaspora Dialogues brings together established and emerging writers, poets, playwrights and spoken word artists from Toronto's immigrant communities to explore

their lives in Toronto. Publishing and mentoring activities, as well as the monthly festival, help newcomers develop their voices through story while portraying the true diversity of Toronto to a wide audience. The Maytree Foundation



and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council support the Diaspora Dialogues Charitable Society; Toronto Public Library and the YMCA are also partners and the Library is host to some of the events.

READING & PERFORMANCE

On November 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Malvern Branch (30 Sewells Road; near Sheppard Ave. East and Neilson Rd.) award-winning writer Shyam Selvadurai (nominated for a 2005 Governor General's Literary Award) and PEN Writer-in-Exile Goran Simic, will be reading from their works. Two new voices from the 2005 Diaspora Dialogues project, Amatoritsero Ede and Sandra Lozano, will join Shyam and Goran. A spoken word performance by Belladonna and the Awakening will make this a dynamic evening.

Events are pay-what-you-can at the door with a suggested donation of \$5. Light refreshments are served during the break. •

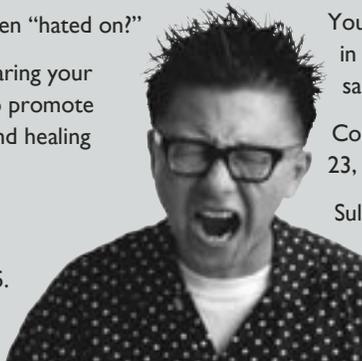
Speak out against hate and discrimination Tell us your story; earn \$25

Have you had a serious, life-changing experience involving discrimination?

Have you been "hated on?"

Consider sharing your story to help promote awareness and healing for others.

Complete an interview and earn \$25.



Toronto Public Library, in cooperation with publisher Annick Press, is looking for youth ages 15-23 to tell their stories on a one-to-one, confidential basis.

Your story can make a positive difference in the lives of teens who may be facing the same issues. You can inspire change.

Contact: Lisa Samuels, 416-221-4802 ext. 23, lisas@annickpress.com,

Sulekha Sathi 416-393-7701

ssathi@torontopubliclibrary.ca

or Ab Velasco 416-397-5978

avelasco@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Research and Reference

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

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, over 7,000 people walk through the doors of Toronto Public Library's three research and reference libraries. They may be attending a Learning Centre program at Toronto Reference on web basics for seniors or undertaking company research to find that job. Young people regularly visit North York Central to watch a film or read one of the latest teen books in the youth HUB. Many of the 2.6 million visits a year are to use one of 325 public computers or to work in one of 2,000 study spaces.

Research & Reference Libraries

The North York Central Library is a seven-floor, 160,000-square-foot subject-divided library. Its annual 1.3 million circulation makes it the busiest branch in the Toronto system. Both Toronto Reference Library

Unique Role

The Reference libraries have a unique role in library service delivery through their provision of: extensive collections for public use; subject expertise; public access to electronic resources; public education; and the hosting of city-wide cultural events.

It is the collections that are at the heart of library service and bring so many users to our doors. The 82 kilometres of shelving at the Toronto Reference

Library houses five million items; if lined up along Ontario highways, they would easily stretch from Bloor and Yonge to Cambridge, Ontario. There are 15 subject departments at North York Central and Toronto Reference ranging from Children's to Science and Technology. Our collections are highly comprehensive; historical and international in scope; and cross all formats – postcards, microforms, DVDs, schematics, images, magazines, books and more.



Toronto Reference Library language study.

and North York Central were designed by Moriyama and Teshima, ten years apart, and bear a striking design kinship both inside and out.

The third research and reference library, Urban Affairs, is located in Metro Hall and, as its name suggests, it focuses on all things urban – mass transit, land development, waste management and municipal government. Urban Affairs also serves as a corporate library and research service for the City of Toronto.



Staff assisting patrons at North York Central Library.

Customized Research

When a user opening a pet store was keen to know how many pets there are in Toronto, our Business Centre staff was able to provide not only that figure, but how much on average people spend on their pets. At the Performing Arts Centre, staff comb trade journals and newspapers to identify upcoming play auditions, listing them on the public board and reserving copies of the text for actors wanting to audition. There is no telling how many local actors got their first big break as a result of the Performing Arts Centre.

Genealogy collections are invaluable to users tracing family history or historical events. Passenger lists for Chinese immigrant arrivals solved the mystery shrouding the arrival of one user's grandfather in Canada to work on the railroad in the 19th century. Another library user identified the burial place

of Sir John A. Macdonald's brother who was murdered at age five by his babysitter, a retired soldier. When the City needed information about the original construction of Nathan Phillips Square for the upcoming design competition, staff was able to provide all of the needed planning reports, newspaper files and architectural reviews.

Periodical and Newspaper Centre

Two well-used collections at TRL are format-based rather than organized by subject. The Periodicals and Newspapers Centre covers all subjects, in many languages and with issues dating to the 1700s. The collection is very popular with students. Newcomers are heavy users of the multilingual journals and newspapers as
Please see Research on back page...



Early morning crowds at North York Central.



Julian Barnes, visiting Toronto for the International Festival of Authors, stopped in at the Arthur Conan Doyle Room at Toronto Reference Library. He's promoting *Arthur & George*, a novel about an event in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle. Barnes toured the collection and is shown here examining *A Study in Scarlet*, a rare copy of Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in print.

Research & Reference

Continued from page three...

they make use of the trade and professional journals to aid with career searches.

Toronto Reference's Picture Collection, with its more than one million images, is one of only four such collections in public libraries in North America. It is an important resource for research and inspiration valued by illustrators,

designers, graphic artists and filmmakers. Artist Albert Slark used the collection to research his design for a U.S. postage stamp, and well-known illustrator Anita Kunz is a regular user.

Clearly the 7,000 daily visitors to the Library's Research and Reference branches recognize that the Library has much to offer everyone. Watch for "Focus on Research and Reference, Part Two" in the November issue of *Shelf Life*. •

Library Board Highlights October 2005

2006 Operating Budget Submission

The Board approved the \$146 million (net) 2006 Operating Budget submission to the City of Toronto, which represents a four percent increase to the 2005 budget.

2006 Capital Budget

The Board approved a capital

budget of \$11 million debt for 2006 and \$11.5 million debt for each of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Award of Contracts, Snow Removal and Security

The Board approved the Award of Contracts for snow removal and security services.

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, November 28, 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.

Calendar of Events Fall 2005

On the Theme of Novels

Monday, November 7, 7 p.m. Douglas Glover reads from his three most recent books: *Elle*, *Precious* and *The Enamoured Knight*. *Elle* won the 2003 Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction and was nominated for this year's International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Question and answer period to follow. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St.

Francis Chalifour

Tuesday November 8, 7-8 p.m. Chalifour's young adult novel *After* has been nominated for a 2005 Governor General's award for Children's Literature. The book addresses the issue of suicide (in this case, the suicide of a parent) with honesty and courage. The event is open to all ages. Annette Street Branch 145 Annette St. (west of Keele).

What Does it Take to Succeed as a Writer?

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. Representatives from the Canadian book trade will partake in a lively panel discussion that will culminate in questions from the audience. Author Ken McGoogan will serve as moderator. Panelists

will include publisher Phyllis Bruce, author Katherine Govier, author and literary critic Philip Marchand and literary agent Beverley Slopen. Main Floor Atrium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

Memories and History

Thursday, November 24, 7 p.m. Beth Powning will read from her novel *The Hatbox Letters*, a book about loss, grieving, memories and the true meaning of home. Eva Stachniak, the author of *Necessary Lies* (Books in Canada First Novel Award in 2000) will read from her second novel *Garden of Venus*, an exploration of Polish history. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St.

Christmas Stories

Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. Alistair MacLeod, one of Canada's greatest writers, will read from his acclaimed book *To Every Thing There is a Season: a Cape Breton Christmas Story*, a story set on a farm on the west coast of Cape Breton. Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

For a complete listing of activities, check *What's On*, available in all branches; visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca; or call Answerline 416-393-7131.

Sets of short-listed titles still to be won in Guess the Giller; Early bird winner won tickets to Giller Readings at Harbourfront

Congratulations to Natalya Zhang of Bayview Branch for winning the early bird round of Guess the Giller 2005. Natalya won two tickets, graciously donated by Harbourfront, to their Giller Prize Readings from the Shortlist Titles on Saturday, October 29 at 8 p.m. at the Premiere Dance Theatre. All entries are also eligible to win a complete set of the short-listed titles, to be held November 11. Enter online (www.torontopubliclibrary.ca) or at any branch.

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