

Shelf life

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Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award winner Margaret Atwood shares a laugh with Honourary Chair of the Ball Kim McArthur over Atwood's Nancy Pearl Librarian Action Figure.

FIRST ANNUAL GALA

Book Lover's Ball a blast

Literary works celebrated with costume ball

SPEAKING AT THE launch of the Keep Toronto Reading campaign, author Margaret Atwood said the only reason a person would dress up as a superhero and attend a fancy dress ball for the library would be because they were "...passionately committed to reading and particularly committed to the Toronto Public Library system, which is one of the most amazing ones in the world."

Sporting an *Oryx and*

Crake cape and feted as "the belle of the ball," Margaret Atwood was among the over 40 authors and 400 guests who attended the Toronto Public Library Foundation's gala fundraiser, The Book Lover's Ball, on February 16 at Toronto's historic Liberty Grand banquet hall.

"It was a successful and magical evening that brought together book lovers and literary talent from across the country and helped us raise money in support of Library collections and services that promote reading and literacy," said Toronto Public Library Foundation President Heather Rumball.

Inspired by the written word, the event provided

attendees with the priceless opportunity to rub shoulders with their favourite celebrity authors – Margaret Atwood, Neil Bissoondath, Camilla Gibb, Helen Humphreys, Kenneth Oppel, Andrew Pyper, Russell Smith and many others.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation to Margaret Atwood of the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award.



A novel-inspired designer fashion show, a silent auction and dancing rounded out the festivities.

Also in attendance was Toronto Mayor David Miller, honorary chair of the event, who told Torontonians at the launch of the Keep Toronto Reading campaign: "Sometimes we

don't celebrate enough of what we're good at. We're the best at libraries. We're the best, and we should be telling people that."

NEW READING SERIES

Keep Toronto Reading

A celebration of the written word

MORE THAN 2,500 people attended special events this February during Keep Toronto Reading month. KTR showcased nearly 100 writers, storytellers, illustrators and media personalities at library events across the city.

Keep Toronto Reading highlights

The Library collaborated with PEN Canada to launch **Freedom to Read Week** on February 24, raising over \$1,000 to help PEN in their efforts on behalf of imprisoned and censored writers world-wide.

Starbucks \$5 lunches, which raised \$1,740 for the Library Foundation, were at hit at the



John Ralston Saul hosted Beyond Exile on February 24.

Lit Lunch series, which saw authors entertain guests at a number of library locations around the city. International Readings at Harbourfront cosponsored supported the series.

The **Toronto Dialogues** series, in participation with Diaspora Dialogues, featured an eclectic line-up of writers,

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Author June Callwood and guest Michael Enright, CBC Radio *Sunday Edition* Host



Guest Sam Hiyate, The Rights Factory and author Susan Swan



Book Lover's Ball Honourary Patron The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson



Barnaby Ross, VP and Director, RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and wife Lois, actuarial consultant



Author Austin Clarke and City Librarian Josephine Bryant



Author Ken McGoogan in costume as John Rae from *Fatal Passage*



Authors Michael Winter and Ray Robertson



Author Russell Smith (back, second from left) with Presenting Sponsor TD Bank Financial Group guests



Guests Mara Korkola and Christine Pountney



Toronto Public Library Foundation Board Chair Janet McKelvey and Foundation President Heather Rumball



Philippa Sheppard and author Kenneth Oppel



Toronto Public Library Board member Gillian Mason, guest Lisa Sarsfield, Library Board Chair Bill Booth and guest Rosemary Martiniuk



Kirsti Stephenson, Solutions with Impact; Kim McArthur, Event Chair; Jeremy Parsons, guest



Toronto Public Library Foundation Board member David Bishop with Event Honourary Chair Mayor David Miller and Presenting Sponsor Scott Mullin, Vice President Government and Community Relations TD Bank Financial Group



Fashion Show couture design by Mark Belford Couture, inspired by Dr. Zhivago



The Starz Band featuring Liberty Silver



Guest Auctioneer Gord Martineau, Citytv; Argo Head Coach Michael "Pinball" Clemons



Celebrity chef and author Michael Stadtländer serves up unique reception fare



Guests Salvy Trojman of Thomson Gale and Shirley Trojman



Author Camilla Gibb (seated, second from left) with Toro Publishing guests



Author Russell Smith with Event MC Seamus O'Regan, *Canada AM* co-host



Guests Earl Miller, Scotiabank and Josephine Grayson, TD Bank Financial Group



Author Katherine Govier and guest Nick Rundell

Keep Toronto Reading

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

poets and playwrights throughout February.

The Library joined partner CBC to build the buzz for this year's Canada Reads debate

at the **Toronto Celebrates Canada Reads** event, which included a reading by nominated writer Joseph Boyden, who read from his acclaimed *Three Day Road*, and a visit from sex show host Sue Johanson.

The Kids' Space series entertained young readers at five library branches and featured writers and illustrators including Jean Little, Kenneth Oppel, Barbara Reid and Tim Wynne-Jones. A TVOKids host attended one event each week.

Story City brought storytellers, including Toronto Public Library storyteller-in-residence Dan Yashinsky, to five branches on Sundays throughout the month.

Over 200 people came to see edgy American young adult writer **Sharon G. Flake** read at York Woods Library theatre. Flake, who came as a guest of the Library and A Different Booklist bookstore, also spoke at Maria A. Shchuka Branch.



Kenneth Oppel, author of the bestselling *Silverwing* trilogy, read and signed autographs for many young fans at the Richview Branch Kids' Space event, part of Keep Toronto Reading.



Husband and wife comedy team Colin Mochrie and Debra McGrath hosted the first Toronto Dialogues event at Palmerston Branch.



Author Sharon Flake read at York Woods Library theatre to a crowd of 200 people.



Giller-nominated writer Wayson Choy read at the final Toronto Dialogues event at Palmerston Branch.

Library Board Highlights February 2006

Bookmobile service fine-tuned

Two bookmobiles provide library service at 32 stops in underserved areas of Toronto. The service is reviewed annually, using demographic information about at-risk neighbourhoods and performance measures. Service at a number of stops was adjusted to meet demand and three new stops in high-needs locations will replace stops where the service has been underused.

Integrated Library System contract awarded

SirsiDynix was awarded the contract to supply Toronto Public Library with an Integrated Library System.

The Integrated Library System supports staff functions and public online access to the catalogue of Toronto Public Library books and other materials. SirsiDynix achieved the highest score in meeting the Library's Request For Proposal objectives, which included: providing a highly customer-focused and integrated user experience to a diverse audience; providing service in languages other than English; improving performance in the Library's high volume environment, particularly in the areas of materials handling and reserves management; supporting effective service and planning through reporting and decision support.



Popular artist and comics creator Seth signs an autograph for a fan at the North York Central Library Graphically Speaking event.

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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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