

# Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

November 2006



## ENGAGING YOUTH

### Rockin' out in the library

Bleeding edge CD collection gives library patrons opportunity to *Tune in to Toronto Tunes*

TWO FREE ROCKIN' concerts held at Toronto's two biggest library branches helped get the word out about the library's new local music CD collection. Featuring music by a hundred-plus of Toronto's on-the-edge local recording artists, discs from the new collection are available to anyone with a Toronto Public Library card.

"The local music collection and concerts are a great way for the library to encourage youth to use library resources," comments TPL Youth Collections Librarian Lisa

Heggum. "It's one of the many ways we're meeting our *Strategic Plan* goal of making young people feel welcome at the library."

Looking like they were in the library to attend a story time for adults, music lovers from all over the city and as far away as Kingston and Peterborough, enjoyed the music of: Final

Fantasy, The Creeping Nobodies, Ninja High School, Bob Wiseman and Hank at North York Central Library on November 4; and Elliott Brood, Great Lake Swimmers, Shad, The Old Soul and Lal at Toronto Reference Library on November 18.

The North York Central bands were all part of the Blocks label and music collective.

"We've actually always wanted to have a show at a library, and here everything was already arranged for us. I'm thrilled," Blocks founder Steven Kado told *The Globe and Mail*. "A lot of us grew up around the North York library, so it's exciting from that angle too."

"It has a great community feel to it," Heggum told the *Globe*. "I hope...people realize that this is actually a very natural thing for the library to do and will bring a different type of patron into the library."

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Rap artist Shad was one of five bands that rocked the Reference Library on November 18.

## IMPROVING SERVICE

### New library hours part of long term vision

Malvern Branch to open an extra day

STARTING JANUARY 8, 2007, hours of operation are changing at most Toronto Public Library branches. Most of the changes are relatively minimal, but they are the first phase of a long term vision to expand service hours across the city.

"We're looking for feedback from library patrons," says Anne Bailey, TPL Director, Branches. "We want people to tell us, if they could choose, what hours would they like their local library branch to be open?"

Malvern Branch is a big winner in this round of changes, as it will now be open seven days a week. Toronto Reference Library gains an extra hour a day from Monday to Saturday and 12 other locations will now be open an additional day.

A listing of all branches where the hours are changing is available on the library website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca); click on "Hours and Locations." Members of the public looking to influence the library's vision of library service are encouraged to:

- Talk to branch staff
- Ask for a Comments form at their local library branch
- Send comments via the library website [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)

## Toronto Tunes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

With \$40,000 seed money, Heggum developed the local music collection with advice from the staff at Toronto local music supporter Soundscapes music store on College Street, west of Bathurst Street. Beginning with 4 to 17 copies each of almost 300 titles, the collection will grow, just as the Toronto music scene continues to change and grow.

Creeping Nobodies front man Derek Westerholm encouraged fans to visit the library, and Great Lakes Swimmer guitarist/singer Tony Dekker held a small contest which had audience members coming on stage to share a library memory.

Check it out. Log onto [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca) and *Tune in to Toronto Tunes*. ☛



Great Lake Swimmers.

## BLOGGING THE CONCERTS

"The North York Central Library show... was a blast...The introductions of the bands by tiny little library-loving teens... were priceless...And Matt Collins of Ninja Highschool's skintight caramel-coloured bear costume was, uh, jawdroppingly squicky... Awesome too was the neon-lime pamphlet they [the library] were distributing called *MaKe SomE Nolse!: Music Books for Youth*."

—Globe and Mail music critic Carl Wilson on his blog at [www.zoilus.com](http://www.zoilus.com)

"WOW. Like you're not already my heroes. WAY TO GO."

—batesondodds on Stillepost.com talking about the library

"I AM EXCITED TO ROCK OUT TO HANK IN A LIBRARY!!!!!!"

—Jeff on Stillepost.com

"...why does north york become cool, right after i leave it..."

—Kursty on Stillepost.com

"does anyone have an extra ticket for me? please?"

—slowgraffiti on Stillepost.com

"This was a great show. I think Ninja High School frazzled the library workers at the event. The expressions on their faces were priceless."

—LonlyVagabond on Stillepost.com

"Ok, so, my favourite thing about the night was watching young kids respond to NHS and Final Fantasy, in particular. Maybe this show will serve as that one gig that turns them onto something really new — especially poetic, since it took place in the public library. It really moved me, watching them watch something that I/we might take for granted in our old age. Nicely done to all the bands, too."

—kid spill on Stillepost.com

"All the folks at the library and the kids helping out and introducing the bands were wonderful. And it made me really happy to see a pretty wildly diverse group of people there...everything from young kids, to older couples, library staff, blocks folks, show regulars, definitely a huge amount of unfamiliar faces, and so on...That kind of collection of people...??!! that's amazing. amazing!"

—Chuck Skullz on Stillepost.com

"I had such a great time at this show. There was such a good vibe at the library. I enjoyed the mixture of people and was happy for a younger audience—people who might not be able to come to many of the shows in Toronto!! It is really exciting that now many local band's music will be available via the Toronto Public Library. And it is so inspiring to know what young librarian's are up to these days!! good feelings all around."

—Reba Siamese on Stillepost.com

## THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS

### The Book Lover's Ball — annual gala fundraiser

February 15, 2007  
The Liberty Grand

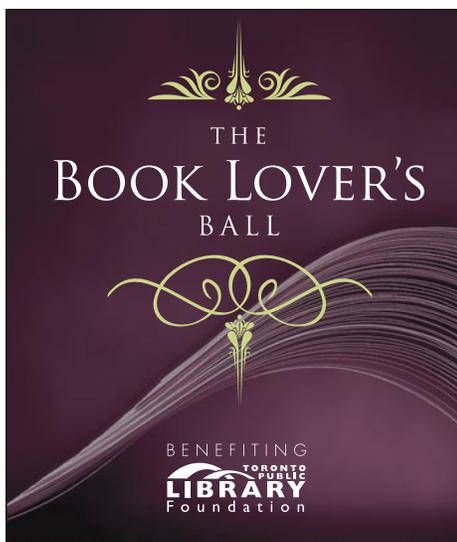
SHARE YOUR LOVE of books, meet a favourite author and assist in raising funds that will go towards developing collections and services that promote reading and life long literacy.

Dress in black tie, or a costume inspired by a favourite book title or character.

Featuring

- Novel inspired fashion show
- renowned celebrity chef Michael Stadtländer
- chef Angie McRae and sommelier Stacey Metulynsky from Food Network's *This Food That Wine*
- Margaret Atwood via Long Pen from Tokyo
- Canada AM's Seamus O'Reagan as Master of Ceremonies

For more information and to purchase tables or tickets visit [www.bookloversball.ca](http://www.bookloversball.ca) or call Karen Fleming 416-397-5977. ✦



## Heritage branches highlighted

Photo by Jon Muldoon, courtesy of Beach Metro News



Presenting the new heritage plaque for the Beaches Branch of Toronto Public Library are (l-r) Beaches Branch Head Barbara Weissmann; TPL Director of Branches Anne Bailey; Heritage Toronto Board Chair Peter Carruthers; City Speaker and Ward 32 Councillor Sandra Bussin; Beaches-East York M.P.P Michael Prue; Beach BIA Chair Neil Macdonald.

ELEVEN BEAUTIFUL HERITAGE buildings are among Toronto Public Library's 99 branches and the library is working with Heritage Toronto to place historic plaques on all of them over the next few years. Scattered across the city, these historic buildings help highlight the library's legacy.

About 75 people were on hand on September 30 when Heritage Toronto presented a plaque commemorating Beaches Branch.

Heritage Toronto Board chair Peter Carruthers told those gathered for the presentation, "This city owes much to Toronto Public Library, an organization which has not only enriched our minds with books, but our streetscapes and neighbourhoods with beautiful buildings, often designed by some of this city's finest architects."

Beaches-East York M.P.P Michael Prue attended the presentation, as did City Speaker Sandra Bussin, who presented a scroll from Mayor David Miller and members of Toronto City Council congratulating Beaches Branch for its architecture and its influence in the community over the past 90 years.

"Heritage Toronto and TPL share a deep commitment to treasure and to celebrate the stories of this city's people and places," remarked TPL Director of Branches Anne Bailey at the Beaches presentation. "TPL is proud to be partnering with Heritage Toronto to create a plaque for each of them."

A plaque was installed in November at Riverdale Branch. Runnymede and Yorkville will get plaques in 2007. The City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties is available online at <http://app.toronto.ca/heritage/main.do>. ☐

### Toronto Public Library buildings on the *Inventory of Heritage Properties*

**Annette Street**, 145 Annette St.  
**Beaches**, 2161 Queen St. E.  
**Bloor/Gladstone**, 1101 Bloor St. W.  
**Dufferin/St. Clair**, 1625 Dufferin St.  
**High Park**, 228 Roncesvalles Ave.  
**Locke**, 3083 Yonge St.  
**Parliament Street Library House**, 269 Gerrard St. E.  
**Riverdale**, 370 Broadview Ave.  
**Runnymede**, 2178 Bloor St. W.  
**Weston**, 2 King St.  
**Wychwood**, 1431 Bathurst St.  
**Yorkville**, 22 Yorkville Ave.

## IN BRIEF

### Volunteer Fair draws hundreds

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NYCL Volunteer Fair for High School Students took place on Thursday, November 9 and drew over 320 students from high schools across Toronto. The students had access to 25 community agencies that were able to offer volunteer positions to help them meet their 40 hours of community involvement requirement. Planning for next year's Fair is already underway.

### Talent show earns \$700 for United Way

On November 10, library staff got a chance to show off their talent – and at the same time raise money for a great cause. The Second Annual Toronto Public Library United Way Talent Show featured a jazz pianist, some bluegrass, karaoke singers, a rock band, a Chinese harp, an er-hu (Chinese violin), line dancers and much more.



### Albion made beautiful

Albion Branch received a Neighbourhood Beautification Grant from the City of Toronto to landscape the flowerbeds at the front of the library. The planting is to be done by volunteers in Albion's Youth Advisory Group, with the assistance of Sid Baller and his students from the Humber Arboretum. Unfortunately, according to staff, the group chose the coldest day of the year to plant the first shrubs! Teen services librarian Nicole Coker provided hot chocolate

to help her frozen teens thaw out when the work was finished.

### Congratulations Giller Contest winners

*Library contest gives patrons a chance to pick their favourite for the Giller*

Contestants who entered Toronto Public Library's Guess the Giller contest and guessed the winner of the 2006 Giller Prize were entered into a draw. Congratulations to this year's winners:

P.L. Stoddart, Elaine Crookston, Courtney Chow, Lisa Hart, Monica Donahue, Erol Aydin, David Dunn and Kate Little. On-line winners are Patricia Shirlow and Mathieu Le Francois.

These lucky (and clever) winners each receive a full set of the short-listed books. The winning title, *Bloodletting and Other Miraculous Cures* by Vincent Lam, was the second choice of library patrons. Toronto Public Library patrons' favourite book was *De Niro's Game* by Rawi Hage.

### The library meets indie culture

*Library visits Canzine, Canada's largest zine fair and festival of alternative culture*

Continuing its work to build quality collections and contribute to Toronto's literary culture, Toronto Public Library joined thousands of people who passed through the beautiful Gladstone Hotel on October 29 for the 2006 Canzine Festival, hosted by *Broken Pencil* magazine. Services Specialist and Toronto Reference Library youth rep Radmilla Dajkovich-Graham was at the library's booth promoting the *Broken Pencil* zine collection and other library initiatives developed to bring local culture to Toronto's youth and other library patrons. Dajkovich-Graham talked to hundreds of people and

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## Bloor/Gladstone Branch renovation and expansion

One-year closure to render rich rewards

THE YEAR-LONG CLOSURE for renovation of Toronto Public Library's Bloor/Gladstone Branch, beginning December 31, 2006, will result in an expanded space that supports the library's strategic goal of preserving and maintaining the legacy of our public buildings so they can be enjoyed by residents today and in the future.

The extensive renovation and expansion will:

- Expand the library by 9,230 square feet, adding

a large addition to the west with a two-storey curtain wall providing a striking street presence and view into the library

- Provide complete barrier free accessibility to the building
- Increase the size of the public meeting spaces
- Add an environmentally friendly green roof
- Add extensive outdoor landscaping with six large canopy trees

The renovation will allow for service enhancements, including:

- Expanded collections
- A new User Education Centre
- A new Discovery Centre for children
- A new Teen Zone
- A new Express Check-out
- An increase in the number of public access computers with

high speed internet from 17 to 32

- Four group study rooms.

During the closure of Bloor/Gladstone, library customers can return materials to any Toronto Public Library Branch and pick up holds at Palmerston Branch, 560 Palmerston Ave, 416-393-7680 or ask staff to change pick-up location to any Toronto Public Library branch.

During the closure, Bloor/Gladstone patrons may wish to use:

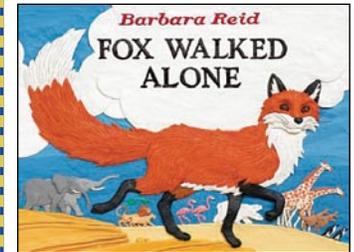
- College/Shaw Branch, 766 College Street 416-393-7668
- Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street 416-393-7746

## In Brief

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received very positive comments about TPL's efforts to promote independent publishing in Toronto and elsewhere.

## Barbara Reid launches new book at Yorkville



Renowned artist and author Barbara Reid launched her new book, *Fox Walked Alone*, at the Yorkville Branch of Toronto Public Library on October 4. About 150 people were in the audience, including children's authors Celia Lottridge, Kenneth Oppel and Mireille Messier, to name a few. Barbara's plasticine artwork for her book was on display in October in the Gallery at the Yorkville Branch.

## Seán Cullen visits Brookbanks Branch

Canadian comedian Seán Cullen (of Corky and the Juice Pigs) was at Brookbanks Branch in October. Cullen read from his recently-published new book, *Hamish X and the Cheese Pirates* and had his audience, aged 11-14, enthralled, grossed out, giggling and riveted as he took on the voices of his characters, as well as the ever-knowing, but not always trustworthy, narrator. During the Q&A after the reading, one youngster asked Seán what he wanted to be when he grew up. Seán's reply: "A horse." ✦



Architectural Rendering: rounthwaite, dick and hadley architects inc & Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd.

## Library Board Highlights November 2006

### Budget reduction

The Toronto Public Library Board reviewed the options for reducing the 2007 operating base budget request by \$2.2 million to achieve the City Manager's proposed budget of \$148.8 or a 3.0

percent increase over the 2006 approved budget. The Board agreed to accept minor service reductions of \$1.2 million.

### Bloor/Gladstone expansion

The Board awarded a contract to the lowest bidder, Pre-Eng Contracting Ltd., for the renovation and expansion of the Bloor/Gladstone branch, at a cost

of \$7.0 million. The branch will be closed for approximately one year. For the duration of the closure, staff will deliver programs in space provided at the Dufferin Mall and the New Horizons Seniors Residence. Bookmobile service will supplement services provided by other local branches.