

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

June 2009



Persiflage in the Library, pg 3

Innovative partnerships help create new library space for community

Relocated Kennedy/Eglinton Branch features innovative youth media centre



Local teens hang with Dewey at the renovated Kennedy/Eglinton Branch opening on June 25.

THE NEWLY RENOVATED and expanded Kennedy/Eglinton Branch of Toronto Public Library, which opened on June 25, represents a unique and exciting partnership that has offered the community unprecedented involvement in configuring their new public library space.

The ProTech Media Centre, an area in the branch devoted to making technology available to neighbourhood youth, was developed through an innovative new partnership between Toronto Public Library, the City of Toronto, Microsoft Canada and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation.

A few weeks before the branch opened, a group of youth involved in the development of the ProTech Media Centre

visited the branch. Dayna Browne, a youth just out of her teens, took a look around the not-quite-finished branch and said, "Can I get these guys to come and do my kitchen. I love the design and these colours."

Jason Sinclair, who worked with the ProTech advisory group, says he got involved because, "I wanted to express my concerns about community rec programs in the area. I felt they weren't meeting the needs of the kids in the community. They weren't having any impact. Kids these days are into PSPs and iPods and other technology. So the ProTech Centre seemed like a great idea."

Before Kennedy/Eglinton closed last summer, Branch Head Marie Belanger took a team of staff over to a local rec

SEE KENNEDY/EGLINTON ON PAGE 2...

Teen summer reading launch party delivers animated exchange

Battle of the books, prizes and pizza help kick off Word Out! Teen Summer Reading at the library

ACTORS MEGAN FAHLENBOCK and Christian Potenza, the voices of Jen and Jude on the hit TVshow *6Teen*, were joined by FLOW 93.5 FM radio host J. Wyze to help launch Word Out! Teen Summer Reading on Monday, July 6 at North York Central Library.

The launch party featured an animated battle of the books, pitting Christian, Megan and J. Wyze against each other in a fun and fantastic fight for their fave summer reads.

"Summers were always my favourite time for reading as a kid, because I could read whatever I wanted and as much as I wanted," says Megan. "Do you have any idea how many

books there are in the library? Me neither, but I do know that it will take many, many summers to read them all, so I'm not afraid of running out!"

"Word Out! offers teens the chance to hang out with their friends, meet other teens, and participate in a community of readers," according to library youth advocate Ken Settingington. "And they can do it at the library, or from home via the Word Out! website at torontopubliclibrary.ca/wordout."

Along with the opportunity to read great books and talk about them online with other teens, Word Out! offers teens a chance to win great prizes and to have their library fines forgiven.

Teens can visit their local library branch to find out more about "reading down" their library fines. Library staff will give a \$1 coupon for each hour that teens spend reading. As an added incentive, teens who register online will receive a \$10 coupon to go toward library fines.

Teens wanting to join Word Out! Teen Summer Reading should log onto torontopubliclibrary.ca/wordout.

For questions about the program, or any questions about teen services at the library, contact:

Ken Sparling, ksparling@torontopubliclibrary.ca, 416-397-5970.



Jude from *6Teen*

Kennedy/Eglinton

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

centre, Gordonridge Community Centre, to solicit input on the needs of the community that the library might meet. “We went over with all these questions,” says Belanger. “But the youth in the focus groups answered questions we didn’t even think to ask. So right from the start, youth were helping direct the development of the new branch.”

“The Toronto Public Library has been instrumental in making the City’s Neighbourhood Action a success,” according to Claudia Coore, Community Development Officer for Eglinton East/Kennedy Park Neighbourhood Action Team. “The staff are true ‘intrapreneurs’ – constantly looking for ways to address the local needs of our racialized communities. The Eglinton East/Kennedy Park ProTech Media Centre came into being through innovation and the

courage of the Toronto Public Library, Centennial College, local young people and Microsoft.”

Kerry-Ann Dyer, another member of the ProTech advisory group, emphasizes that the group looked for ways to meet the needs of as many people as possible: “We wanted to get everyone in the community using the place, from kids to seniors. And we want people to come from other communities to see what we’ve done here so they can see that they can do the same thing in their communities.”

Funding for the project has been achieved through the Partnership Opportunity & Legacy (POL) Fund of the City of Toronto (Mayor’s Platform #5), with the understanding that the library will be able to expand and enhance services to youth in the community, particularly through partnership opportunities.

Funding for the new Media Centre is provided by the

City and Microsoft Canada. Tropicana is the Centre’s operator. In-kind partners are Toronto Public Library, City of Toronto, Microsoft Canada, Centennial College, and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation.

“The expansion of Kennedy/Eglinton Branch is a boon to the neighbourhood,” according to Toronto Public Library board chair Matthew Church, “but it is also part of a city-wide, long-term library goal of providing, through our ongoing capital improvements program, beautiful, inviting, and functional

public space across the city.”

The renovated branch, which has expanded to 6,500 square feet, up 70 percent from the previous space, will be a vital new resource for youth, in a neighbourhood sorely lacking in youth-friendly spaces. It will be a convenient gathering place for community groups; there will be increased study space for students; there is an enhanced children’s area with kid-sized computers; and wireless Internet, express check-outs, and both interior and exterior book drops for quick returns.

SEE MORE KENNEDY/EGLINTON PHOTOS ON PAGE 4...



Neighbourhood youth Dayna Browne, Jason Sinclair, Kerry-Ann Dyer and Branch Head Marie Belanger check out their new library branch.

Bloor/Gladstone Branch reopening

Everyone is invited to celebrate the grand reopening of the beautifully renovated and expanded Bloor/Gladstone Branch, the latest in the library’s ongoing capital campaign to make inviting, functional public space available across the city.

July 23, 12 noon • 1101 Bloor St. W.

Library Board member profile: Councillor Chin Lee



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY Board member Councillor Chin Lee

doesn’t remember having access to a public library as a child growing up in Malaysia, but he does have a library memory from those days.

“I remember donating and raising funds to build a library for the school I attended

when I was a young teen. The school went from Grade 1 to Grade 13 and I was part of a community fund drive that gave us a wonderful library that occupied the full third floor of a wing of the school.”

Lee came to Canada when he was 18 years old, and although he didn’t use the public library much back then, he developed an appreciation for a good research library through his use of the library at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute, where he studied.

“The library plays an essential role in the city as a distributor of knowledge,” says Lee. “You can read books and periodicals, borrow

films and access the Internet. The library keeps changing, depending on community needs. Toronto Public Library is wonderfully adept at adjusting to meet the ever-evolving needs of the city’s people.”

According to Lee, one of the most important roles the library board plays is in continuing to ensure that the library is welcoming and accessible to everyone in the city. “The public library needs to be accessible, it needs to be located near where people live and play and work. With our 99 branches, and plans to open more branches in the near future, I believe Toronto Public Library meets the needs

of the people of the city.”

Lee also acknowledges the important role of the Toronto Public Library Foundation in helping to expand and enhance library service in the city beyond the core services a public library is called upon to perform. “The library foundation is doing a great job in going out partnering with private companies to provide library services that go beyond the core needs. A great example is the Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass.

“We in Toronto should be very proud of our library system,” concludes Lee. “It is one of best utilized, best marketed in the world.”

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Children answer Library Foundation's call to illustrate Atwood story

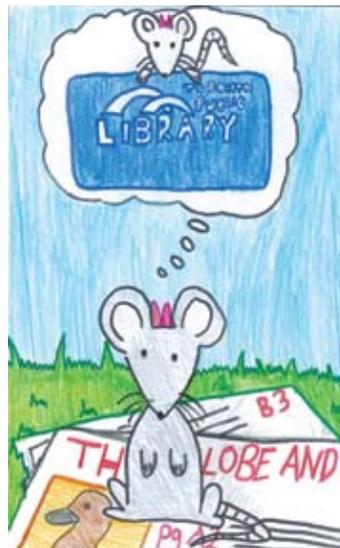


L-R: Artwork prepared by Angelica, age 10, North York Central Library; Nicole, age 9, Port Union Branch

With more than 230 submissions, the Toronto Public Library Foundation had a tough time choosing three winners for each of three age categories in the children's

drawing contest to illustrate Margaret Atwood's *Persiflage in the Library* short story.

"Every one of the illustrations was wonderful and creative," says Foundation



President, Heather Rumball. "In our eyes, they were all winners. We were thrilled that so many children participated and helped bring the story to life in such a vibrant fashion!"

For their outstanding drawings illustrating a scene in *Persiflage in the Library*, each winner receives a package of children's books. Winners were: Kelly, age 6, North York Central Library; Koko, age 4, Elmbrook Branch; Sharn, age 5, Morningside Branch; Genevieve, age 8, North York Central Library; Nicole, age 9, Port Union Branch; Turna, age 9, Dawes Road Branch; Angelica, age 10, North York Central Library; Caroline, age 12, Maryvale Branch; and Megan, age 12, Bayview Branch.

To see all of the winning illustrations, visit the Foundation website: tplfoundation.ca.

TD Bank Financial Group supports children's literacy programs at the library

Toronto Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club keeps kids reading all summer

The TD Summer Reading Club, generously sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group, is one of Toronto Public Library's free cornerstone programs for children, providing materials and incentives that encourage boys and girls to keep reading and enjoying books during the summer. This year's club, Agent 009, is themed around detectives, with original artwork designed by acclaimed children's book illustrator, Werner Zimmermann. "TD Bank Financial Group has been a generous funding

partner for the library since 1996," according to Toronto Public Library Foundation President, Heather Rumball. "They are one of the Foundation's most significant annual corporate donors and the impact of their support is felt across our city and beyond." "TD is dedicated to helping children learn and thrive, as demonstrated by a significant investment in literacy and education," says Alan Convery, Manager, Community Relations, TD

Bank Financial Group. "We are proud to be working with the library on the TD Summer Reading Club, and on all the other library initiatives we continue to support." TD has been title sponsor of the TD Summer Reading Club for the past 12 years, helping to expand the program to a Canada-wide initiative which assists 250,000 children across the country. Recently, TD renewed their commitment to the TD Summer Reading Club for the next three years, up to 2011, providing

\$1.4 million over three years. Thanks to TD Bank Financial Group's ongoing support, library systems across Canada are creating positive reading experiences for thousands of children, parents and caregivers. TD also continues to support the Foundation through sponsorship of Kindergarten Outreach, The Book Lover's Ball, Pathways to Education, and Word Out! Teen Summer Reading program prizes.

Your library. Vital to you. Vital to support.
Donate to Toronto Public Library Foundation today.
tplfoundation.ca

**TORONTO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
Foundation

Library Board Highlights—June 2009

Library literacy centre named for former library staff

The literacy centre at North York Central Library has been renamed The Margaret Canning and Jean Orpwood Adult Literacy Centre, in recognition of Margaret Canning's significant contributions to the development of library adult literacy services.

Popular district library branch slated for major renovation

Brentwood Branch is scheduled to close in the fall of 2009 for an 18-month major renovation. Library staff are currently finalizing alternative service plans for the Brentwood community, including increased hours at nearby branches, relocation of popular programs such as book clubs, and continued outreach efforts at Toronto Public Library.

Malvern Branch to get new Youth Hub

The Malvern Branch Expansion – Youth Hub Initiative is part of the approved capital

budget for 2009-2010 for a total cost of \$2.25 million. The proposed space will provide much needed support, services and a safe space for disengaged youth to develop positive relationships, leadership and life skills. Funding for this project has been achieved through the City's Partnership Opportunities Legacy Fund and the Youth Challenge Fund.. The space will be part of Malvern Branch, and TPL will pay facility operating costs estimated to be approximately \$30,000 per year, included in the approved operating budget.

Toronto Public Library continues to show strong performance

The Board received for information an overview of the 2008 annual performance measures, benchmarking initiatives and highlights from the 2008 strategic plan. The report, available on the library website torontopubliclibrary.ca, shows that Toronto Public

Library continues to be the largest and busiest public library system in North America. In 2008, more than 16 million people visited the Library; 29.8 million items circulated; virtual visits surpassed 20 million for the fourth consecutive year; over 44 million electronic items were examined; and 686,116 people participated in library programs.

Library waste diversion program a model for the City

The City has set an aggressive goal of 70 percent solid waste diversion from landfill by 2010. The library's waste diversion rate in 2008 was calculated by the City at 86 percent, an increase from 60 percent in 2004 when statistics were first kept, and well in excess of the city's goal. The Library is a model for the City, with its diversion rate being the highest of any agency or board.

Library to participate in Build Toronto mandate

Build Toronto's mandate is to maximize value of lands owned by the City and its Agencies, Boards and Commissions, stimulate job creation and regenerate Toronto's neighbourhoods. The City has identified two Toronto Public Library branches – Deer Park and Parkdale – as sites that Build Toronto will assess for potential development. The library board approved a motion to turn over the property to Build Toronto for assessment purposes, with the commitment that the libraries remain on the sites.

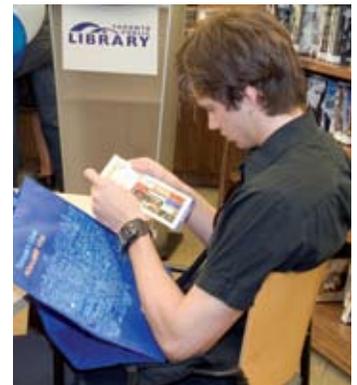
Financial Statements approved and library achieves savings in 2008

The audited 2008 financial statements, which included an unqualified auditor's report, were approved. The report also identified an operating surplus of \$18,320 at year-end that will be returned to the City.

Kennedy/Eglinton

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From L to R, below: Trying out the new kid-friendly computer; Community Branch Head Marie Belanger, City Librarian Jane Pyper, Toronto Public Library Board Chair Matthew Church, local Councillor Michael Thompson and Toronto Public Library Board member Councillor Paul Ainslie welcome Kai-Sheng and Johnathan, the first two young customers to enter the branch on opening day; a Kennedy/Eglinton customer wastes no time finding a good read.



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The Toronto Public Library Board meets monthly at 6 p.m., September through June at Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto. Meetings are open to the public. Board Contact: Nancy Marshall 416-393-7215.

Website: torontopubliclibrary.ca

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