

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

May 2009



Toronto Comic Arts Festival, pg 3

Toronto Public Library Foundation launches re:vitalize campaign

Historic campaign in support of Toronto Reference Library revitalization



Left to right: Richard Boxer, re:vitalize Campaign Cabinet member, Hon. Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture, and Mayor David Miller helped announce the Foundation's \$10 million re:vitalize – Toronto Reference Library Campaign at a May 7 media launch at the Reference Library.

THE TORONTO PUBLIC Library Foundation announced the launch of **re:vitalize – Toronto Reference Library Campaign**, a \$10 million capital campaign in support of the \$34 million revitalization of the Toronto Reference Library.

The first broad-based capital campaign in Toronto Public Library's 125-year history, **re:vitalize** will recreate the Toronto Reference Library as Toronto's foremost public centre for life-long learning, the exchange of ideas and community engagement.

"Our goal is to build on the significant investments from the City and the Province to enable the Toronto Reference Library to achieve vital enhancements for library users," said Richard Boxer, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Campaign Cabinet. "We are extremely pleased with how well our campaign has been received."

SEE re:vitalized ON PAGE 4...

Thousands emerge to help Keep Toronto Reading throughout April

Celebration of the book in all its forms brings fun to all corners of the city

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY presented its month-long showcase of books and culture, Keep Toronto Reading, in April this year. Thousands of Torontonians enjoyed an exciting line-up of free events, performances and discussions at library branches and partner locations throughout the city.

According to Toronto author

and library staff member Martha Baillie: "The library... makes books available by means of such a widespread network of branches, shipping items all over the city, free of charge; this I marvel at everyday." Baillie spoke during Keep Toronto Reading at an event celebrating her new book *The Incident Report*.

SEE KEEP TORONTO READING 2009 ON PAGE 2...



Canadian food personality Bonnie Stern at Toronto Reference Library.

emerge

KEEP
TORONTO
READING 2009
APRIL 1-30

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

With literary lunches, wine tastings, author readings, visits from CBC TV's Kids' Canada host Patty Sullivan, and a slew of events surrounding the One Book celebration of Glen Downie's book of poetry, *Loyalty Management*, Keep Toronto Reading 2009 featured something for everyone.



About 100 kids enjoyed an *Anne of Green Gables* mini-play on April 25 at Lillian H. Smith Branch. After the play, the actors sat and talked with the children.



CBC Kids' Canada host Patty Sullivan visited three library branches throughout April. Hundreds of kids showed up to enjoy stories, activities and music, and to share some time with Patty. Keep Toronto Reading For Kids also featured animation workshops organized by Keep Toronto Reading partner the National Film Board of Canada and a visit to Casa Loma by renowned poet Dennis Lee as he read from his book, *The Cat and the Wizard*, set in the iconic castle.



About 90 people participated in the Junction Literary Pub Crawl with One Book poet Glen Downie, ending up at Chalkers Pub, overflowing their patio, where Downie held court, discussing his book *Loyalty Management*. Other One Book events included a Harbourfront Centre appearance, a poetry slam at Parkdale Branch, and a book club discussion led by Molly Peacock at Mt. Pleasant Branch: "I've not had much experience with poetry," said book club member Gwynneth Marshall, "but...Molly's discussion... was so interesting. I got so much...from her discussion."



About 65 fans of fatherhood packed into the Beaches Branch to hear from Glen Downie (right) and fellow fathers – and authors – (l-r) Ralph Benmergui, David Gilmour and Dan Hill, talk about their experiences being dads. Fatherhood is a theme examined by all four authors in their books, including *Loyalty Management*, Downie's book of poetry, which won the Toronto Book Award and was the library's Keep Toronto Reading One Book selection this year.

Toronto Comic Arts Festival draws 10,000 to Reference Library

Largest and best-ever lineup of local and international comics creators, according to *Toronto Star*



Over 10,000 comics and graphic novel lovers descended upon the Toronto Reference Library on May 9 and 10 for the Toronto Comic Arts Festival. “Without a doubt, this was the best-run, best-imagined and most enjoyable TCAF to date,” says Brad Mackay, Director of the Doug Wright Awards for Canadian Cartooning. “My only criticism of TCAF being held at the library is ‘Why didn’t anyone think of this sooner?’ It’s such a natural fit... I can’t imagine it being held anywhere else now.”



The Toronto Comic Arts Festival featured over 200 artists from around the world, including *Scott Pilgrim* creator Bryan Lee O’Malley (pictured above), Scott McCloud from the US, Emmanuel Guibert from France and Anke Feuchtenberger from Germany. O’Malley says the festival is important, “because there are only a few shows of this type in North America, and only one like it in Canada.” O’Malley thinks it’s cool that the festival happened at the Reference Library, featured in his *Scott Pilgrim* series, “because the Toronto Reference Library is the coolest place on earth!”



“[TCAF] has been wonderful,” says New York City-based artist Matt Wiegler, who was part of the Sunday kids’ programming presented by Owl Kids – which featured storytelling, puppet shows, crafts (above) and lots of free giveaways. “The space is gorgeous. One of my favourite comics shows to date.” According to comic artist Emmanuel Guibert, visiting from France, the festival was, “Excellent... Standout moments are always in a one-to-one conversation with someone stimulating. There have been a lot of them, with people of all ages. My last panel with children was a special treat.”



Legendary manga artist Yoshihiro Tatsumi (left), from Japan, attended TCAF for the first time. It was also his first time visiting Canada. “It was a fun two days,” he said. “I think the [library] space is just perfect. I think [TCAF] will become bigger and bigger.” Tatsumi and the other international guests at the festival weren’t the only people who came a long way to be at the festival. Fans travelled too, including Marc Ellersby, who came all the way from England. “TCAF is quite opposite from the British conventions where you have to pay 20 pounds to get in and it’s usually out of the way,” he says. “And the sheer amount of people coming through the door... You have guys and girls, young and old, and it’s not just the nerdy fan boys.”

Donation valued at more than \$1 million

18th and 19th century maps and prints of outstanding significance and national importance

JAMES DAVIDSON BAIN, the grandson of Toronto Public Library's first Chief Librarian, James Bain Jr., has donated a collection of 18th and 19th century North American maps and prints to the library, valued at more than a million dollars.

"The maps and prints, which will become part of the Special Collections, Genealogy and Maps

surrounding the border, and showing early views of two churches built in the mid-1800s.

"The maps and prints are truly of outstanding significance and national importance to Canada as a whole, to the various regions in Canada, and to the Toronto Public Library," according to Mackenzie.

"When we talk in our strategic



John Senex, fl. 1690-1740, A new and exact map of the Island of Barbadoes in America, according to an actual and accurate survey made in the years 1717-1721, approved by the Royal Society & Authorized by His Majesty's Royal License by William Mayo 1722.

Centre at Toronto Reference Library, are a strong addition to the already outstanding Special Collections at Toronto Public Library," according to library director of research and reference libraries Linda Mackenzie.

Among the Canadian maps in the donation are: an 1845 plan of Montreal, showing the newly built Victoria Bridge and planned developments along the dock; a plan of Quebec in October, 1759, immediately following the French defeat at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham; and an undated plan of Fergus, Canada West, with scenic views

plan about engaging Toronto's diverse communities," says library board chair Matthew Church, "we are, on the one hand, referring to geographically located communities. But we are also talking about Toronto's communities of scholars, artists, writers, historians, and any number of other such communities that exist in a city as culturally vibrant as Toronto."

The library's Special Collections, Genealogy and Maps Centre houses the largest map collection in a Canadian public library.

re:vitalized

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The Foundation announced it has received gift commitments to-date totalling \$5.2 million. A lead gift of \$3 million was contributed by the Bluma Appel Community Trust. In recognition of this, the largest private donation ever made to the Foundation, a new state-of-the-art event space at the Reference Library will be named The Bram and Bluma Appel Salon. The new space, which will allow for a host of cultural events and programs, will be opening this September.

When completed in 2012, the revitalized Toronto Reference Library will better support the ways people study, seek and share information through innovative upgrades that include 140 additional high-speed internet workstations, a new Glass Entrance Cube, an expanded exhibition gallery, a new two-storey rotunda to showcase Special Collections, and expanded space for research.

The \$34 million Toronto Reference Library revitalization project is generously funded by the City of Toronto, with a \$14 million contribution through its capital budget, and the Government of Ontario with a \$10 million investment announced in March 2008.

For more information about the capital campaign, visit revitalizeTRL.ca or call the Foundation office at 416-397-5977.

Library Events June 2009

THE eh LIST

Ongoing author series showcasing Canada's best writers.

June authors:

Jonathan Bennet, Giles Blunt, Andrew Davidson, Joy Fielding, Shani Mootoo, Peter C. Newman, Miriam Toews
Details: torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist

LUMINATO AT THE LIBRARY

Bringing children's books to life.

The Nightwood, Robin Muller
Half World, Hiromi Goto
More events and details: torontopubliclibrary.ca and luminato.com

GREYMATTERS

Celebrate Seniors Month with great books.

Heart of Darkness
Leaves of Grass
The Odyssey

More events and details: torontopubliclibrary.ca/greymatters

ABORIGINAL WEEK JUNE 20-27

Celebrate First Nations culture, art and literature.

For a full list of library events, visit the Programs and Events page at torontopubliclibrary.ca