

Library/City partnership highlights literary TO



The new Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library was the scene of the Toronto Book Awards gala on October 16, when Toronto Mayor David Miller (right) congratulated author Austin Clarke on winning this year's award.

ONCE AGAIN THIS fall, Toronto Public Library and City of Toronto teamed up to support literary culture in the city by helping Torontonians “get a new read on Toronto” through the celebration of the annual Toronto Book Awards.

On October 16, Mayor David Miller announced the winner of the 2009 Toronto Book Award, Austin Clarke for *More*, at the brand new Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library. Helping with the ceremonies were host Matt Galloway of CBC's *Here and Now*, and City Librarian Jane Pyper. Also in attendance were the other short-listed authors — Anthony De Sa (*Barnacle Love*), Maggie Helwig (*Girls Fall Down*), Mark Osbaldeston (*Unbuilt Toronto*) and Charles

Wilkins (*In The Land of Long Fingernails*).

“The livability of a city is enhanced by the vibrancy of its cultural life,” says City Librarian Jane Pyper. “Cultural activities like the Toronto Book Awards help the people of the city define themselves.”

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Toronto Book Awards, which also coincides with the City's 175th anniversary celebration. Established by Toronto City Council in 1974, the Toronto Book Awards honour authors of books of literary or artistic merit that are evocative of Toronto. The annual awards offer \$15,000 in prize money, with each finalist receiving \$1,000 and the winning author receiving the remaining prize money.

Environmentalist Flannery makes Toronto Public Library one of two Canadian stops on North American tour

Weather Makers author one of many leading writers, thinkers and newsmakers to visit library as part of the Appel Salon's stellar fall line-up

AS SHE LEFT the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon on Tuesday evening, Rosemary Graydon said, “What a terrific program. In fact, all of the programs this fall look wonderful — I can't believe we get to see all of these people for free!”

Greg Layton concurred. “That's a great room,” he said, “and a great resource for the library.”

Rosemary and Greg were two of nearly 400 people who had come to the Toronto Reference Library's new Appel Salon to see Australian scientist and environmentalist Tim Flannery interviewed onstage by CBC Radio's Anna Maria Tremonti. Flannery and Tremonti spoke for nearly an hour about Flannery's new book on global warming, *Now or Never: Why We Need to Act Now to Achieve a Sustainable Future*.

A lively Q&A followed, and people commented afterwards that the discussion — which was one of only two Canadian stops on Flannery's North American tour — was “enlightening”, “a wake up call” and “a glimmer of hope.”

The interview with Flannery was part of a full slate of onstage discussions taking place throughout the fall. In September, author Douglas Coupland kicked off the Appel Salon's inaugural season as he sat down with *Globe and Mail* columnist Ian Brown to discuss his body of work, from his groundbreaking *Generation X* to his latest *Generation A*. As part of the six-part series, The Writer's Room with Ian Brown, Ian also

SEE TIM FLANNERY ON PAGE 2...

Museums come to the library

Sun Life Financial MAP program expands to bring Saturday family fun to library branches around the city



ON A SATURDAY afternoon in early October at S. Walter Stewart branch, two little girls stand by the stage in the activity room, spinning a loose clump of sheep's wool into yarn. At a table nearby, three siblings lean over a square of brightly coloured cloth appliquéd with images of birds and flowers. "What do you think?" asks Susan Fohr. "What is this one made of?" She passes around samples of lace, cotton, burlap, and other textiles. The kids run the cloth between their fingers, concentrating.

Fohr is the Learning Services Coordinator at the Textile

Museum of Canada, one of seven Toronto museums participating in MAP Family Saturdays. Thanks to an increased contribution by program sponsor, Sun Life Financial, and the contributions of MAP venue partners, the library is now able to not only offer passes to Toronto families to visit Toronto's top museums and cultural venues for free, but this fall the library is also bringing the museums to them!

"Our MAP program has been so popular with our customers, so we wanted to find a way to provide even greater access to the cultural experiences that our MAP partners offer everyday in their venues," explains Linda Hazzan, Toronto Public Library's Director of Marketing and Communications. "From

learning to paint like the Group of Seven with the Art Gallery of Toronto, to discovering medieval armour and weapons with Casa Loma's armour expert, these programs bring creative cultural and educational experiences to our customers, right in their own neighbourhoods. It's great."



Tim Flannery

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Environmentalist Tim Flannery.

interviewed renowned military historian Antony Beevor, and will be in conversation with Margaret Atwood and others this spring.

Earlier in October, the library partnered with the *Toronto Star* to hold a forum on the city. Called "What Kind of Toronto?," it featured a blue ribbon panel, moderated by *Toronto Star* columnist Royson James, which looked at the city we want to fashion in the years to come. In November, there will be high profile discussions in the Appel Salon nearly every week: *Toronto Star* music critic John Terauds will interview soprano Measha Brueggergosman; *Toronto Star* national affairs columnist James Travers will interview retired Chief of the Defence Staff Rick Hillier; and *Globe and Mail* editor-in-chief John Stackhouse will interview economist Jeff Rubin.

"In promoting the Appel Salon, we've been asking Torontonians to 'join the conversation,' and they have been!" says Manager of Program Development Tina Srebotnjak. "We're very happy that this great new space at the heart of the city is bringing people together to explore the literature, the culture and the issues of the day — from their perspectives as Torontonians and as global citizens."

Torontonians show off their moves at the library's all-night all ages dance party during Nuit Blanche

DURING THIS YEAR'S Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, dance fever enveloped the Toronto Reference Library. More than 6,600 people from all walks of life came out to try out dance moves after seeing them demonstrated by experts from Toronto's best dance studios.

The 'Dance Dance Evolution!' all-night all-ages dance party kicked off at 7 p.m. on October 3 with the twist, and moved its way through other dance styles, including disco, hip hop, Bollywood, capoeira, country and western, salsa, and concluding with the serene fox trot at 6 a.m.

"The library was very excited to take part in Scotiabank Nuit Blanche again this year," says City Librarian Jane Pyper. "It's the one night during the entire year when a library stays open all night and hundreds of thousands of Torontonians join together to celebrate the joy and magic of the arts in a truly unique and



inspired way."

Instructors from Arthur Murray Toronto, Axe Capoeira Toronto, International School of Dance, Mandy's Dance and Vybe Dance Company led crowd-pleasing lessons — while breakdancers outside on Yonge Street entertained the crowd with sick moves and lessons.

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Foundation's fall campaign kicks off

THE FOUNDATION'S FALL fundraising campaign in support of the Toronto Public Library has officially launched. The goal: to reconfirm the continued and vital role the library has played in our lives this past year — with particular focus on the true stories of the many Torontonians whose lives have benefited from Toronto's library.

Visit your local branch to see posters depicting these true stories and look out for our public service announcements running on Citytv, Omni, YouTube, and on our website, tplfoundation.ca.

We encourage Torontonians to demonstrate your support by taking advantage of the convenient ways to make a gift by telephone, mail, online or in person.

For more information on the Foundation or on this year's campaign, or to share your own feedback and stories, please contact the Foundation office at 416-393-7123, or via our website, tplfoundation.ca.



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



Partnerships with Toronto schools help the library support youth

Library supports educational achievement through two Toronto school board programs



A PAIR OF partnerships between the library and Toronto schools is supporting some of the city's most vulnerable youth in their educational achievement, and helping provide a foundation for their continuing success.

The Transitional Intervention Program for Suspended Students (TIPSS) is a unique partnership between Toronto Public Library and Toronto Catholic District School Board that brings

suspended students into library branches to meet with teachers and social workers to receive one-to-one instruction until they are transitioned back into regular classes. More than 340 TIPSS students made more than 1,400 visits to library branches around the city during the 2008/2009 school year.

"The success rate is over 90 percent re-integration, so both institutions have reason to

celebrate," says library youth advocate Ken Settingington. "This program is a great way for the library to meet its strategic goal of collaborating with other city agencies to support the young people of Toronto."

The TIPSS program has recently been nominated for the Ministry of Culture's Service Innovation Awards.

Another program for youth, this one for newcomer high school students, called Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW), also involves fruitful partnership with Toronto schools.

Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, NOW aims to orient recently arrived high school students to school and community resources, including the library. Over a four day period in the week before the beginning of the school year, newcomer students are given a broad range of information that prepares them for an easier transition into school and the community.

"We had 21 branches

participating in Newcomer Orientation Week this year," according to library planning and development manager Elizabeth Glass. "We want newcomer teens to see the library as a welcoming, safe place where they can get the help they need to succeed in school. We also want to acquaint them with the diverse array of resources we provide to help them and their families thrive in their new home."

The program is a partnership between schools, Settlement Workers in Schools, Toronto Public Library, and peer leaders who are former newcomers trained to work with more recent newcomers. The program saw 29 schools visiting 20 branches and more than 1,000 participants in 2009, with nearly 400 library cards issued to newcomer students.

"It's an important program," says Ronald Rojas, a CultureLink settlement worker. "It gives these new kids a chance to make friends, learn about their new school, and feel more at home in their new city."

Board Highlights October 2009

Capital budget approvals

The Board approved a revised 2010 – 2019 capital submission to reflect recently approved infrastructure funding for the Toronto Reference Library and an adjustment to the City debt target for the York Woods Arts Hub project. The Board also approved reductions to the second five years of the 2010-2019 capital budget request in order to meet City targets.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Library staff gave a report and presentation on the AODA, providing an overview of the standards, requirements and impacts of the Act as they relate to the library. The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) became law in 2005, with the standards now coming into effect. Its purpose is to develop, implement and enforce standards for accessibility in relation to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings and transportation, and to achieve an accessible province by 2025. Five accessibility standards have been developed to date in the following areas: customer service, information and communications, built environment, employment and transportation. With the exception of the transportation standard, all will have a direct impact on the library, including a potentially significant financial impact. The library's commitment to accessible buildings, services and collections is well established and we will work with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario and the City of Toronto to make the library fully accessible according to the new standards.

Library Events – November 2009

THE eh LIST

Ongoing author series showcasing Canada's best writers across the city.

November Authors

Denise Chong, *Egg on Mao*; A.F. Moritz, *The Sentinel*; Terry O'Reilly and Mike Tennant, *The Age of Persuasion*; Peter Mansbridge, *One on One*; Rex Murphy, *Canada and Other Matters of Opinion*; Jane Urquhart, *Lucy Maud Montgomery*; Anne Giardini, *Advice for Italian Boys*; Kim Echlin, *The Disappeared*; Lily Poritz Miller, *In a Pale Blue Light*; Neil Bissoondath, *The Soul of All Great Designs*; Catherine Gildiner, *After the Falls*.

Details:
torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist

THE BRAM & BLUMA APPEL SALON AT THE TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY

Measha Brueggergosman

Toronto's "glam-diva soprano" talks about opera, cabaret and life after open heart surgery with *Star* music critic John Terauds.

Monday, November 9
7 p.m.

Rick Hillier

The retired Chief of the Defense Staff talks about the changing roles of the Canadian military with *Star* news columnist James Travers.

Thursday, November 19
7 p.m.

The Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library
789 Yonge Street
(one block north of Bloor Street)
torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon

MUSEUM & ARTS PASS FAMILY SATURDAYS

The library brings the museums to you! On Saturdays in November, library branches around the city host family events featuring activities and exhibits from Toronto's museums.

Casa Loma
Albert Campbell Branch
Colborne Lodge Museum
Runnymede Branch

Art Gallery of Ontario
Sanderson Branch
November 7
2-3 p.m.

Bata Shoe Museum
Barbara Frum Branch
Gardiner Museum
Parkdale Branch
November 14,
11 a.m.-12 noon

Colborne Lodge Museum
High Park Branch
Textile Museum of Canada
Mount Dennis Branch
November 14
2-3 p.m.

Casa Loma
Weston Branch
November 21,
2-3 p.m.

Museum of Inuit Art
Bloor/Gladstone Branch
Black Creek Pioneer Village
Brookbanks Branch
November 28
2-3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY AT THE LIBRARY

Galileo's Legacy
(Adult)
Thursday, November 5
7-8 p.m.
Morningside Branch

Amazing Astronomy for Kids
(Ages 6-12)
Saturday, November 21
2-3 p.m.
Sanderson Branch

The eh List
AUTHOR SERIES

The Bram & Bluma Appel
SALON
at the Toronto Reference Library

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL
map
MUSEUM+ARTS PASS

The International Year of Astronomy 2009

VOLUME 9
NUMBER 8

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:
November 16, 2009.

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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