

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

April 2010



New to Special Collections... pg. 3



More than 5,000 people visited the renovated and expanded Thorncliffe Branch the first day it reopened.

New chapter for Thorncliffe Branch

Community greets library's reopening with overwhelming enthusiasm

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S Thorncliffe Branch reopened on April 13 after a two-and-a-half-year renovation that sees the branch expanded and reconfigured to meet the needs of one of the most diverse and densely populated communities in Toronto. Over the course of the day an astounding 5,000 people flocked into the branch.

"It was incredible to see so many people so genuinely happy to welcome the library back into their community," says city librarian Jane Pyper. "We anticipate being very busy as the neighbourhood continues to rediscover its library. With its excellent collection of books and DVDs, free access to wireless Internet service, a beautiful reading lounge for adults and great resources for kids and teens, there is something at Thorncliffe Branch for everyone."

The expanded branch is stocked with 11,000 new books, CDs, magazines and DVDs, and has 21 public access computers, nearly twice as many as pre-renovation.

The completely barrier-free building is open longer and features express check-in and check-out, a bookable meeting room and a small group study room.

Ken Settingington, the library's advocate for children and youth says, "We've opened our fourth KidsStop at Thorncliffe. This fun and interactive space gives kids birth to five years old and their parents and caregivers hands on ways to explore and learn the six early literacy skills that can help kids get ready for reading. With more kindergarten kids entering Thorncliffe area schools than in any other part of the city, this KidsStop will be a vital resource in the community."

Torontonians share their fave books in the library's little red journals

Bright red books spotted all over the city

A WEEK AFTER Toronto Public Library released its Books We Love journals into 99 Toronto neighbourhoods, the *Toronto Star* had its first report of a sighting.

According to *Star* reporter Denise Balkissoon, Helen Kennedy found one of the journals at the Lawrence Heights Community Centre, where she works, and, after listing her favourite book, *April Morning* by Howard Fast, she emailed the *Star*.

Toronto Star theatre critic and arts journalist Richard Ouzounian launched the Beaches Branch copy of the Books We Love journal on March 22. Ouzounian selected F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* as the favourite book he wanted to share with others. Before launching the journal,

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As soon as the Books We Love journal was placed on a table at Crêpes a GoGo, near Yorkville Branch of the library, Benjamin and Stefan, a couple of young patrons at the crêperie, got hold of it, promised to write about their favourite books, and send the journal on its way.



Toronto Public Library Snapshots

Blogger completes goal to visit all 99 library branches



City librarian Jane Pyper (left) and library board chair Matthew Church flank Catherine Raine as she completed her 99-branch library odyssey with a visit to Thorncliffe Branch on its opening day after extensive renovations.

WHEN CATHERINE RAINE first arrived in Toronto in 2002 from the U.K. with her husband, she quickly became a fan of Toronto Public Library. As an ESL teacher, Raine was a regular visitor to library branches with her students and began writing about her impressions in a blog. She eventually set a goal to visit all 99 library branches as a way to get to know her new home. Raine has been interviewed about her unusual trek by the *Toronto Star* and CBC.

Her journey was completed this month with the re-opening of the Thorncliffe Branch. Raine, and more than 5,000 other people, visited the newly expanded branch. You can read about Raine's fascinating journey in her blog, *Breakfast in Scarborough* <http://c-raine.com>.

In the blog post about her Thorncliffe visit, Raine expressed satisfaction at having finished her journey, concluding, "May this blog be the wordiest thank you letter ever written to the Toronto Public Library."

Toronto Zoo joins Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass program

Popular library program now offers free access to 18 cultural attractions city-wide

IN MARCH, ONE of the city's most popular family attractions joined the Toronto Public Library's Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass program (MAP). With the addition of the Toronto Zoo, the MAP program now offers Toronto families free access to 18 of the city's greatest museums, art galleries and cultural attractions. With a valid adult library card, people can borrow a MAP pass in much the same way they borrow a book, magazine or CD at the library.

"We're thrilled to have the Zoo on board our MAP program and to be able to offer our library users access to such an incredible educational and cultural experience," says Toronto Public Library Board chair Matthew Church. "We thank the Zoo for its enthusiasm and commitment to this important program."

"Joining the MAP program is a tremendous opportunity, helping to improve access to

educational and cultural opportunities in the communities where it matters most," says library board member, city councillor Paul Ainslie. "It's great to be able to give more children and their families a chance to visit another beautiful attraction in Toronto that they might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience."

Since its inception in 2007, the Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass program has become tremendously popular. There has been great demand for passes across the city, with nearly 10,000 passes borrowed every month. Sun Life Financial generously sponsors this program, continuing its long-standing commitment to making the arts accessible to all.

The Toronto Zoo in northeast Scarborough joins 17 other attractions across the city in the MAP program, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, Bata Shoe Museum, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Casa Loma, City of Toronto Historic Museums (comprising eight museums, houses, and historic sites), Gardiner Museum, Museum of Inuit Art, Ontario Science Centre, Royal Ontario Museum, and the Textile Museum of Canada. Admission restrictions vary by venue.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/museumpass



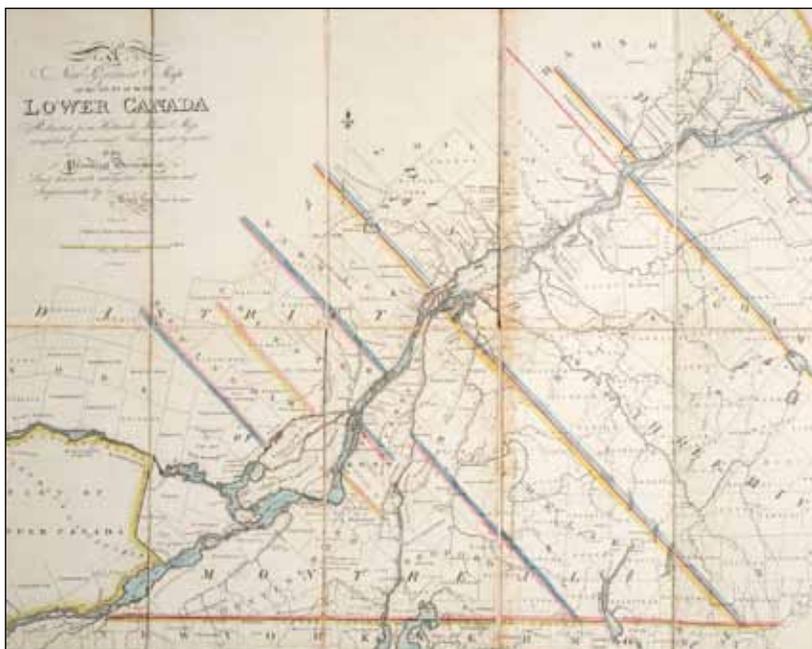
Excited children cavort with the mascots from the library, the ROM and the Zoo as Toronto Public Library welcomes the Toronto Zoo into their Sun Life Financial MAP program at a ceremony held at Malvern Branch in the city's east end.

New to Special Collections

ADDING TO ITS already extensive array of special collections, Toronto Public Library recently acquired an important and rare map of Lower Canada, by Amos Lay, Philadelphia, that represents an important and timely addition to the Toronto Reference Library's impressive map collection. *A New Correct Map of the Seat of War in Lower Canada... [1814]*, is referred to in map literature as "probably the best American-made map of Canada of the time."

The largest of its kind in a Canadian public library, the Map Collection in the Special Collections, Genealogy and Maps Centre at Toronto Reference Library consists of current and retrospective maps, atlases and gazetteers from around the world, emphasizing Canadian materials.

Among other features, the newly acquired map identifies sites of several northern battles of the War of 1812. With the approach of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, this map will be an important educational resource for students, teachers and military historians.



Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Remembering Helen Weinzwieg

February 2010 marked the loss of devoted library supporter Helen Weinzwieg

HELEN WEINZWEIG CAME to Canada as a young girl, over 80 years ago. She arrived without schooling, self-assurance or knowledge of the English language. She was a child of a single working parent, living in poverty, in a strange new land. In her youth, she formed a special relationship with a librarian at the Toronto Public Library. From this sprouted Helen's love of language, literature and books. Her library experience led her to become a writer, a mother who has imparted a love of libraries to her children, and a lifelong library supporter. To the end of her days, a library signalled a safe home for Helen — a home of her own where she couldn't be turned away. As a measure of her gratitude, Helen established an endowment fund to help the library nurture this same love of books and libraries in our city's youth. To find out more about the Helen Weinzwieg Endowment Fund or other funds at the library, please contact the Foundation office at 416-397-5924.

National Bank Financial continues support of early literacy

Support helps take early literacy outreach into Toronto's high-needs neighbourhoods

NATIONAL BANK FINANCIAL Group continues its commitment to fostering the development of the next generation of leaders through its ongoing support of early literacy in the form of the library's Story Time Outreach program. National Bank's commitment of \$30,000 a year for three years will go a long way to helping the library achieve its goal of supporting caregivers in developing pre-literacy skills in their children.

"We put a lot of resources into supporting early literacy for Toronto's children through branch initiatives like Ready for Reading and our KidsStops," says library children's advocate Ken Settingington. "Story Time Outreach takes the library's efforts to give Toronto a strong literacy foundation, and moves them out into high-needs areas of the city, to help families with young children who may not be able to get into our branches. We are indeed grateful that National Bank Financial Group is committed to help fund this much-needed and much-appreciated library program."

According to Sylvie Roy, National Bank Vice-President, Corporate Marketing and Communications, "National Bank Financial Group is an institution firmly anchored in the communities in which it is active, and deeply committed to contributing to their prosperity and well-being, and to enhancing the quality of life of people in Toronto and across Canada."

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'Lost' journals

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Ouzounian spent some time at the Beaches Branch entertaining a group of theatre enthusiasts with his stories of working in the world of performing arts and arts journalism for the past 35 years. Since leaving the branch, the Beaches copy of the journal has been spotted at several local venues, including Cafe Florentine, Pippins Tea Company and Kew Gardens park. It also made an unscheduled reappearance at the branch.

Anyone who finds a journal is asked to send a note and/or photo to yourstory@thestar.ca. And anyone who finds a Books We Love journal after April 20 is asked to return it to a branch of Toronto Public Library. Excerpts will be selected for a publication full of books Torontonians love.

The city is also showing its love for books by making Keep Toronto Reading videos about the books they love. As well, library customers are being invited to jot down a favourite title on a Books We Love bookmark and leave it in a library book for another customer to discover.

Keep Toronto Reading gives Torontonians of all ages a chance to share their love of books

Events for book lovers ongoing throughout April



Students from Hunter's Glen Junior Public School share the books they love during Keep Toronto Reading month.

AS STUDIES CONTINUE to reinforce the importance of helping children develop early literacy skills, it is fitting that the first of Toronto Public Library's more than 80 Keep Toronto Reading events was for kids. The Graphically Speaking event, which took place on April 3 at North York Central Library and featured comic book creators Brian Evinou and Julie Faulkner, met with a capacity crowd. The program taught kids how to create their own comics.

Next, Hunter's Glen Junior Public School in Scarborough hosted a full-day Keep Toronto Reading Day on Friday April 9 as part of the celebration of reading in the city. Over 400

students participated by filming YouTube book reviews that will be featured on the KTR website, keeptorontoreading.ca. They also designed and filled out bookmarks with notes about books they love, created a book poster, and enjoyed a performance by Toronto storyteller Rukhsana Khan. At an assembly at the end of the day, Toronto Public Library staff from McGregor Park Branch launched the 100th KTR journal for the students in the school to complete.

Hunter's Glen Grade 3 teacher Debbie Firestone was inspired to organize the event by the library's Keep Toronto Reading theme of sharing a love of books.

"The day was magical," she says. "Every single student and teacher left school transformed: smiling, talking to each other, vowing to read all weekend... I would love to make this an annual event."

Other early-April Keep Toronto Reading events featured eh List author Catherine Gildiner, who packed Taylor Memorial Branch for a standing-room-only reading from her memoir *After the Falls*; and eh List author and *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wentz, who drew 250 to a lunchtime reading from her book *You Can't Say That in Canada!*

Library Board Highlights

April 12, 2010

Board approves new room booking fee structure

The board approved a new room booking fee structure that will see an increase in fees taking effect July 1, 2010. The increase in fees is in response to 2010 operating budget pressures and is the first increase to these fees since 2003. With bookable meeting space at many of its branches, available at rental rates that are aligned with or lower than most comparable venues in the city, library facilities are an important part of the library's commitment to enable communities to come together for cultural, literary, and other purposes. Through its capital improvements program, the library continues to open new bookable meeting space at branches across the city.

Congratulations to *Toronto Star* short story contest winner

THE *TORONTO STAR* short story contest, which was, this year for the first time, presented in partnership with Toronto Public Library, wound up with a celebration for the winners on April 28 in the Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library. The contest drew 1,800 entries, a record number, and the top three prize winners were chosen by a jury made up of library board chair Matthew Church, city librarian Jane Pyper, short story writer Elyse Friedman, and *Star* writers Richard Ouzounian and Geoff Pevere. All winners received cash prizes, and first place winner, Zach Leger, was also awarded free tuition to the Humber School for Writers Correspondence Program. All three top stories will be published by the *Toronto Star*.

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

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