

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

November 2010



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Cedarbrae reopens



Some of the "human books" who participated in Toronto's first Human Library project.

After school program for newcomer youth encourages social integration

Parents appreciate library as safe, character-building environment

THANKS TO FUNDING from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Toronto Public Library is offering After School Newcomer Hubs at three branches. The program has been running since October at Albert Campbell, Centennial and Sanderson branches.

As well as providing newcomer children and teens in grades 7 to 10 with homework help, the program is engaging youth in programs and activities that appeal to areas of their life other than school, and is as much about social integration and community building as it is about academic success.

The program is already enjoying a good measure of success, with parents responding that they appreciate having a program that allows their children to meet new friends in a safe and character-building environment.

During the first month of the program at Centennial Branch, more than 375 students dropped in. "There are a lot of students who come and do their homework, as well as socialize with each other," according to Centennial program coordinator Sarah Han. "We are fortunate to have amazing tutors who bond with the youth and

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More than 200 Torontonians participate in Toronto's first Human Library

MORE THAN 200 Torontonians took advantage of the opportunity to check out a human book from Toronto Public Library's unique collection during its first Human Library event on November 6.

The one-day pilot event was held at Toronto Reference and North York Central libraries, and at Bloor/Gladstone, Lillian H. Smith and Malvern branches. The Human Library supports the library's strategic objective of engaging diverse audiences and increasing access to information in innovative ways.

Through partnerships with community groups and organizations, the library developed a diverse, fascinating collection of more than 60 human books who volunteered to make themselves available for borrowing for 30-minute conversations. Borrowers came from a variety of backgrounds and a broad age range.



The eh* List AUTHOR SERIES

Joseph Boyden and John Ralston Saul appeared before 350 people at the Bram and Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library in October discussing their contributions to the *Extraordinary Canadians* series from Penguin Group Canada. Watch for more great Canadian authors appearing as part of our continuing eh List Series at a branch near you.



Cedarbrae Branch

NEWS BRIEF

Renovated Cedarbrae reopens to Scarborough community

Toronto Public Library welcomed the Scarborough community back to its much loved Cedarbrae Branch on Monday December 6, 2010. The beautifully renovated library has been redesigned to create an accessible, welcoming environment with improved customer service and more access to technology and collections.

“As one of the busiest district libraries we know this branch is an indispensable resource for the

Scarborough community and expect they will really enjoy and benefit from all the new modern features,” said City Librarian Jane Pyper.

Designed by Makrimichalos Cugini Architects, the renovated Cedarbrae branch features many exciting enhancements. Renovated libraries typically see a significant increase in usage – on average, 70 to 80 percent – after re-opening to the community.

Bridlewood Branch to relocate in mall

One of Toronto’s busiest library branches, Bridlewood Branch, is relocating and expanding to become nearly 50 percent bigger. The public was invited to provide input into the project during a November 19 open house at the current location of the branch. The branch will remain in the Bridlewood Mall, but move to a different space that offers significant improvement in terms of location in the mall, height of ceilings, open flexible space and visibility.

Mount Dennis Branch open house sets renovation process in motion

The Mount Dennis community came out on November 3 to provide input on an upcoming renovation to Mount Dennis Branch, scheduled to begin in 2012, and to be completed by 2013. Senior library staff and architects from G. Bruce Stratton Architects were on hand to listen to ideas. The

renovation will make the facility greener and more responsive to the community, with enhanced landscaping, a revitalized main entrance, more prominent street presence, a complete redesign of interior spaces, improved programming and community meeting spaces, a revitalized reading lounge, a new teen zone, a new KidsStop, upgraded computer access including laptop lending, increased study space and express check-in and check-out.

As always, input for renovation plans can be made via a comment form available on the library website.

Library Settlement Partnership Day highlights services for newcomers

A partnership between the federal government, community agencies, and a number of Ontario public library systems, known as the Library Settlement Partnership (LSP), was celebrated October 22 as Toronto Public Library held community open

After school program

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really go above and beyond in helping them with their learning experience.”

In addition to getting help with homework, newcomer youth have access to laptop computers, as well as programs designed to help them get settled into their new home. “So far we’ve provided a pre-employment workshop, as well as a leadership and life skills program, and a Teen Tech Talk program, facilitated by Ian Strang, where youth got to try out cool gadgets like the iPad, Kobo and Kindle,” says Albert Campbell Branch program coordinator Melanie Ribau. “On Fridays, we have either gaming or movie nights. We usually get about 50 kids for Friday programs.”

In addition to providing a

welcoming space for newcomer children, the program offers a new volunteer opportunity at the library, as seniors, adults, post-secondary students and high school students are trained to tutor children participating in the program. “One father, who speaks very little English, told me he is thankful his daughters are getting help he can’t provide,” says Sanderson Branch Newcomer Hub coordinator Sung-Min Han. “Today, I met a father whose son needs help in math and they cannot afford a tutor. They live in Etobicoke, but his son is willing to take the TTC to Sanderson.”

Human library

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A borrower who visited Malvern branch said, “I didn’t really know what to expect but was very curious and I am so



Poverty advocate Michael Creek, who heads up the speakers bureau at Voices From the Street, spoke about his experience with overcoming homelessness.

happy I took out a human book. I learned a lot from him.”

After speaking at Bloor/Gladstone with a book who had survived crushing poverty and breast cancer, another borrower described the experience as “life changing... I feel like I have a completely new perspective about people facing obstacles out of their control. Thank you so much.”

The human books in the collection were equally pleased with their experience of loaning themselves out for

brief conversations. Most were pleasantly surprised by how much they ended up learning from the borrowers and the connections they created with the other human books. Many of the human books have requested a follow-up opportunity to get together again – a “used book sale” one suggested.

Staff are in the process of reviewing all the feedback from Twitter, Facebook, media and online polls to help with planning for potential future events.

houses, hosted special speakers and provided refreshments for the second annual LSP Day. The celebration provided the library with an opportunity to highlight, celebrate and publicize services provided to help newcomers get settled in their new home. With nearly 10,000 newcomers served at 19 branches so far in 2010, the program is clearly successful in reaching out to newcomers. The celebration drew in members of the community, government representatives and newcomers. According to Thorncliffe neighbourhood library settlement worker Sarah Shi, "More than 50 clients came [to her branch] and got more information about LSP services and the library programs. This event would not have been made possible without the library's support! I feel so proud of being a member of this big family."

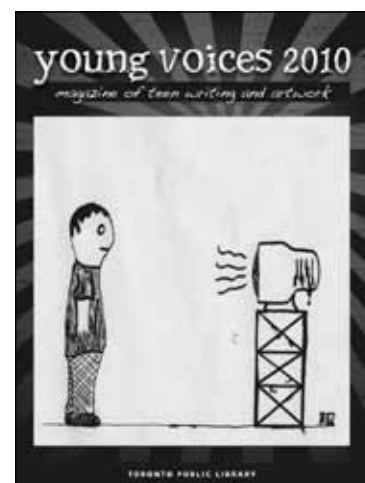
Opera Talks series partners library with Canadian Opera Company

The first talk in a three-part series of Opera Talks took place at North York Central Library on September 16, featuring Katherine Semcesen from the Canadian Opera Company talking about the history of opera. This new partnership between North York Central Library and the Canadian Opera Company was very well received by an enthusiastic audience of more than 150 people. The series continues December 9 with a talk about the evolution of opera entitled Standard Operatic Repertoire vs. Modern Opera: The Magic Flute & Nixon in China.

Young voices find expression at the library

The 2010 issue of *Young Voices* magazine is now available in all library branches, featuring a

new, exciting design, and another crop of excellent stories, poems and artwork by Toronto teens between the ages of 12 and 19. The magazine launch on October 14 was attended by a number of members of the Editorial Youth Advisory Group, the team of teen volunteers who work together to select the work that goes into the magazine each year. Following on the heels of the launch of the magazine was the annual Young Voices Writers Conference on October 16 in the newly renovated North York Central Library auditorium. As in previous years, the conference was fully subscribed with more than 160 teens participating in poetry, songwriting, blogging and other workshops, as well as an open mic and a writers table with current Toronto Public Library writer-in-residence Allan Stratton. Teens also had an opportunity to be part of an



Young Voices magazine of teen prose, poetry and artwork.

"Instant" Anthology, a magazine created over the course of the day and distributed to conference participants at the end of the day. *Young Voices* magazine and programs are designed to give teens an opportunity to develop and showcase their creative endeavours.

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Fall fundraising campaign underway

Funds to enhance people's lives

THE TORONTO PUBLIC Library Foundation's Fall Fundraising campaign is underway and set to raise \$130,000 by year's end, with the committed support of loyal friends and new supporters. The campaign will be carried out by mail and phone appeals, with funds raised supporting library funding priorities and empowering the library to further enhance people's lives. To find out more, or to support the campaign, please visit tplfoundation.ca or call 416-393-7227. Last year was the Library's busiest, and the Foundation's best year ever. Help make this year even better!

Library staff recognized for professional development

First recipients of the Foundation Staff Awards announced

THE FIRST WINNERS of the two Foundation Staff Awards – The Pauline Hinch Memorial Award for Staff Development and the Peter J. Bassnett Award for Professional Development have been announced.

The Pauline Hinch Memorial Award for Staff Development established by Gordon Hinch in memory of his late wife Pauline, a former manager at the North York Central Library, was awarded to Christina Maria Paschakis at Barbara Frum Branch.

Pauline Hinch sought to nurture a strong affection for libraries and their users among everyone she worked with, and, like Pauline, Christina Maria Paschakis developed a passion for reading at a young age and works to pass this passion on to others. She

also recognizes the importance of the many roles the library plays within the community and goes out of her way to ensure access to and promotion of the various dimensions of the library.

The Peter J. Bassnett Award for Professional Development recognizes the late Peter J. Bassnett, a former CEO of the Scarborough Public Library, and supports library staff pursuing a career in public libraries through an award for outstanding achievement in the areas of library/information studies, public administration and/or management studies. To launch the award, two recipients were honoured this year. Nalini Battu from the RFID project and Sarah Shujah from High Park Branch took top honours, both having achieved outstanding grades in their studies pursuing their Masters of Library Studies degree as well as being very active in their work at the library.

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



Program at Albion Branch to help increase youth employability

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY is currently a partner in a new program called Re-LINK, which will be hosted at Albion Branch, and aims to reengage young people through literacy and GED (General Educational Development tests) attainment. Developed through a partnership between members of a Neighbourhood Action Team workgroup that includes Breaking the Cycle, Prevention Intervention Toronto (PIT), Humber College, City of Toronto, Somali Youth Association of Toronto (SOYAT) and Frontier College, Re-LINK will help youth aged 16-24 who have dropped out of high school or are involved in the criminal justice system. Extensive GED and literacy training will aim to increase employability among youth living in the Jamestown area who are not on Ontario Works by providing them with an opportunity to obtain their GED and have access to postsecondary education, trades, and sustainable employment.

Funding for the project includes \$20,000 from the City of Toronto, \$5,000 from Albion Neighbourhood Services and \$15,000 from the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation. Frontier College will mentor an apprentice, who will be hired through SOYAT and other partners with the goal of having the apprentice deliver the full GED program in 2012.

Program series at the library



Join the conversation at the library's literary and cultural commons at the heart of the city. This fall, the Appel Salon hosted free discussions with authors, thinkers and public figures including Margaret Trudeau, Antonia Fraser, Simon Winchester, Anita Shreve and Salman Rushdie. For upcoming events, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon.



Toronto Public Library's fall season of the popular eh List Author Series brought some of Canada's best authors to library branches across the city. The blockbuster list of authors included Joseph Boyden, Will Ferguson, John Ralston Saul, Katherine Govier and Louise Penny. All events are free of charge. The eh List Author Series runs twice per year, spring and fall, and is partially supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. For details, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.



Thought Exchange: Programs for the Constantly Curious. An eclectic collection of lectures with titles such as You Could Live a Long Time: Are You Ready; Show Me the Money; Prisons, Pollution & Homelessness in the Don River Valley; and more. Get details at torontopubliclibrary.ca/thoughtexchange.

New titles to watch for

NEW ADULT FICTION



Crime Machine
Giles Blunt



Hangman
Faye Kellerman



Ape House
Sara Gruen



A Dog's Purpose
W. Bruce Cameron



Spider Bones
Kathy Reichs

NEW TEEN FICTION



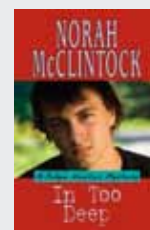
Somewhere in Blue
Gillian Cummings



My Invisible Boyfriend
Susie Day



Shadow of the Leopard
Henning Mankell



In Too Deep
Norah McClintock



Vampire High: Sophomore Year
Douglas Rees

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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.

Website: torontopubliclibrary.ca

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