Financial Control Policy

The board adopted this policy to provide the Toronto Public Library Board with delegation of authority to senior Library staff to conduct the financial affairs of the Library in a controlled, effective and efficient manner. This includes budget approval, procurement of goods and services, award of contracts, authorization for commitments, approval for payments, write-of of bad debts and control over further delegation authorities. The new policy combines and replaces the interim Financial Control Policy and Purchasing Policy.

Strategic Plan 2004 – 2006: Proposed Consultation Plan

The Toronto Public Library is beginning the development of new three-year strategic plan. Consultations are planned at the city-wide, regional and local levels starting this fall. The Toronto Public Library wants public and staff input in order to continue delivering the best possible services.

Toronto Public Library Foundation — 2002 In Review, 2003 Priorities

Rick Goldsmith, the Library Foundation Chair, provided a status report on the Toronto Public Library Foundation’s progress and targets. The report identified a target of $1.5 million annual campaign for 2003 to support library programs — including children’s reading and literacy programs.

Operating Budget Monitoring Report — April 30, 2003

This report, which gives a summary of the gross and net expenditures for the four month period ending April 30, 2003, was received by the Board for information.

Lease Renewals and Reconstruction

Lease renewals were approved for Bridlewood and Guildwood branches. Morningside Branch was approved for relocation and lease renewal. McGregor Park Branch was approved for reconstruction and Runnymede Branch was approved for closure for reconstruction.

A public consultation for the upcoming Beaches Branch renovation was held June 16. Members of the public who wish to make comments or suggestions can do so anytime online at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, July 14, 2003

Nino Ricci at world’s largest library conference

Ralph Nader, Nino Ricci, Margaret Atwood, Gloria Steinem among featured speakers in Toronto, June 19-25

NINO RICCI WILL BE ONE OF MANY AUTHORS in attendance when the American Library Association (ALA) and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) convene together in Canada for the world’s largest and most comprehensive library conference and exhibition. Thousands of librarians, educators, writers, publishers and special guests will attend more than 2,000 meetings, discussion groups and programs on topics affecting libraries, June 19-25 in Toronto.

Featured speakers include Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), sponsor of the Freedom to Read Protection Act; Ralph Nader, consumer advocate and founder of the D.C. Library Renaissance Project; Naomi Klein, activist and author of No Logo; Karen Nussbaum, founder of 9-5 Women; Nino Ricci, award-winning author; Margaret Atwood, author of The Handmaid’s Tale; and special guests will attend more than 2,000 meetings, discussion groups and programs on topics affecting libraries, June 19-25 in Toronto.

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Award-winning author and broadcaster Rex Murphy and Belzberg Professor of Information Management at the University of Toronto Janice Gross Stein will keynote Wendy Newman’s CLA President’s Program on Sunday morning.

Acclaimed author Margaret Atwood and her seminal book The Handmaid’s Tale will take centerstage as part of the first-ever One Book, One Conference program. As an added bonus, Random House has donated more than 100 of Atwood’s newest book Oryx and Crake to be raffled to conference participants.

For the kids, there’s the 2003 TD Summer Reading Club. Free at local library branches across the city, this year’s reading club offers a hidden treasure trove of underwater creatures, exotic fish, deep-sea dives and exciting adventures.

See ALA/CLA Conference on page 3

Stay cool, have fun — the library’s the place to be!

IF YOU’RE LOOKING to cool off this summer, drop by one of Toronto Public Library’s 98 branches; they’re air-conditioned and offer terrific programs for the whole family. All library programs — for kids, teens, adults and older adults — are free and designed to help you learn in a fun way. You’ll also find books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and free high-speed Internet access and email.

American Library Association/Canadian Library Association, June 19-25

Highlights

Thursday, June 19, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Cities, Neighbourhoods, Libraries: Partnerships that Work

David Crombie, former mayor of Toronto, federal cabinet minister and current President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute; Toronto City Librarian Josephine Bryant; Los Angeles City Librarian Susan Kent; Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray; Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli; Louise Guillemete-Labory, Directrice, Bibliothèque de Montréal.

Friday, June 20, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Role of Libraries in a Global Society

 Speakers featured at this conference on topics helping libraries and the issues affecting them include: Congressman Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont), sponsor of the Recently Introduced Freedom to Read Protection Act; President Barack Obama; and the Rt. Hon. Lord (Harold) Wilson, former British Prime Minister.

Saturday, June 21, 9–11 a.m.

A Meeting with Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal

Featuring feminist authors and activists Gloria Steinem (co-founder of Ms. Magazine), and Eleanor Smeal (President of the Feminist Majority Foundation). Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium

Sunday, June 22, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Sucking Cyberteens into the Library Matrix

Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialist Lisa Heisig.

Sunday, June 22, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Emerging Immigrant Communities: The Public Library Responds

Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialist Chrys Myleopoulos.

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ALA President’s Program Featuring Ralph Nader

Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader founded the DC Library Renaissance Project in December 2002 to generate community, political, private and foundation support to improve the DC library system to a world class standard. Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium.

Tuesday, June 24, 9–9:30 a.m.

Globalization, World Trade & You with Naomi Klein

Featuring Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist and the author of the international best-seller No Logo and authority on globalization, world trade and the impacts they have on developing and first world countries. Metro Toronto Convention Centre Auditorium

Tuesday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.

Providing Effective Library Services to Homeless People

Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialists Ilka Abbott, Pat Bull and Jenny Schnoll.

Monday, June 23, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon

Homework Help for Children and Youth: Strategies for Successful Library Involvement

Featuring Toronto Public Library staff specialists Elizabeth Glass and Katherine Palmer.

Monday, June 23, 4–5:30 p.m.

PLA President’s Program featuring Margaret Atwood

The highlight of the “One Conference, One Book” initiative, featuring Margaret Atwood, author of The Handmaid’s Tale.

Tuesday, June 24, 8–9 a.m.

Lynn Johnston on Being a Cartoonist

Featuring Lynn Johnston, award-winning cartoonist.

Tuesday, June 24, 9:30–10 a.m.

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Lynn Johnston’s cartoons For Better or For Worse is in print for more than 20 years and now appears in over 2000 papers in Canada, the United States and 20 other countries. It is translated into eight languages. There are more than 30 books currently in print.

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TODAY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 5 • JUNE 2003

Summer reading fun for the whole family

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Summer Reading Club

For the kids, there’s the 2003 TD Summer Reading Club. Free at local library branches across the city, this year’s reading club offers a hidden treasure trove of underwater creatures, exotic fish, deep-sea dives and exciting adventures.

See Summer Reading Club on page 2
Summer Reading Club

Continued from page 1

Malvern gets major reconstruction

MALVERN BRANCH of the Toronto Public Library closed June 8 for a one-year major renovation and expansion. Patrons of this northeast Scarborough library will enjoy an additional 10,000 square feet of space when it reopens in the summer of 2004.

“Such busy library serves a community whose population has quadrupled since it opened in the early 1980s,” says City Librarian Josephine Bryant. “This is an exciting project that gives us the opportunity to meet the needs of this growing community.”

When Malvern reopens, it will be visible from the street and offer its patrons a computer training room, expanded meeting rooms, spaces for quiet study and adult and children’s literacy programs.

The Malvern renovation project will be executed by Phillip H. Carter — Architect in joint venture with Kingland + Architects Inc. Carter designed the Barbara Frum Branch and the award-winning Lillian H. Smith Branch. He has renovated numerous other branches including Centennial, Wychwood, Main Street and Fairview.

Hours of the nearby Burrows Hall Branch have been extended to provide library service to the surrounding community. As well, a bookmobile, parked near the construction site beside the main entrance to the Community Centre, serves the Malvern community: Tuesday and Thursday, 3–4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 1–4:30 p.m.; and Friday, 3–5 p.m.

During the closure, library customers can return library materials to any Toronto Public Library Branch. Malvern holds on library materials can be picked up at the Burrows Hall Branch, 1081 Progress Avenue, 416–396–8740.

Other branches in the area are Highland Creek Branch, 3550 Ellesmere Road and Woodside Square Branch, Woodside Square Mall, 1571 Sandhurst Circle.

For more information:
• visit the library website at www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
• call Answerline, 416–393–7131.

Summer Reading for teens

Teens will be the focus of a number of library initiatives this summer:
• Fairview Branch holds a Teen Photography Contest throughout July. For more information, call Answerline, 416–393–7131
• Teen Storytelling will be offered in July by storyteller Dan Yashinsky
• Teen Storytelling for Toddlers is being offered on Saturday mornings throughout July. For more information, call Answerline, 416–393–7131
• Teen Journaling Camp gives teens an inside look at the world of journalism as they work with Toronto Star columnist Michelle Landsberg. Saturday Night editor-in-chief Matthew Church, and Kim Berat, who grew up in a Toronto urban community, will teach the camp. For more information, call Answerline, 416–393–7131
• Teen Reading Club offers teens the opportunity to read and share books with other teens. Teens learn how to use the library and enjoy books, games and other kid-friendly activities. For more information on these services and registration details:
  • check the summer issue of What’s On, the library’s guide to programs and services
  • visit the library’s website www.tpl.toronto.on.ca
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Summer Reading Club

Continued from page 1

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The TD Summer Reading Club is expected to attract more than 50,000 children across Toronto; more than 700,000 young- sters are expected to participate at public libraries across Ontario.

Many thanks to the TD Financial Group for helping hundreds of thousands of youngsters by generously supporting the 2003 summer program. Also, thanks to the Canada Council for funding some of our author/illustrator visits.

For children new to Canada, English Can Be Fun helps chil- dren between the ages of nine and 12 improve their English skills while having fun and getting to know other children. As well as preparing for the coming school year, the children also learn how to use the library and enjoy books, games and other kid-friendly activities.

For more information on these services and registration details:
• check the summer issue of What’s On, the library’s guide to programs and services
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In Brief

Leading to reading expands again

The library’s popular Leading to Reading pro- gram, offering free, one-on-one help for elemen- tary school children with reading difficulties, is being offered at two new locations this summer. Downsview and Annette Street Branches, thanks to additional funding from the City of Toronto. Downsview and Morningside Branches join our list of year-round Leading to Reading locations, bringing the total number of library branches delivering this important service to 32.

For information about a Leading to Reading location near you:
• check the website, www.tpl.toronto.on.ca;
• click on Special Services
• call Answerline, 416–393–7131
• drop into your local branch and ask staff.

$120,000 for high-needs kids

Six Toronto Kiwanis Clubs have banded together to sponsor a library storytime outreach for chil- dren in high needs areas of the city. The $120,000 commitment by Kiwanis will move Toronto Public Library’s popular storytime programs out of the libraries and into the community. The pro- gram is expected to get underway this fall.

I-R: Ken Hanson, Anne Bailey, Don Kibblewhite, Velma Martin, Susan Strong, Katie Strong, Murray Lang, Bill Stuart, Barnaby Ross and Alberta Craft.

GATS and the impact on public service

THE GENERAL AGREEMENT on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations now underway — “hot and heavy” — in Geneva, are more transparent and more inclusive than earlier rounds.

“And that’s a good thing,” said Ken Traynor, moderator of the panel discussion, WTO and GATS: The Challenge to Public Service, held at TRL, on May 22.

“Because good public policy only develops when people who use public services and people who deliver public services are involved,” Paul Whitney, Director of the Vancouver Public Library and Canadian Library Association rep at the discussion, couldn’t agree more, but he noted, “there is a real lack of awareness of what libraries in fact do. There is no case law regarding this. Many things are undefined, ambigu- ous and contentious.” Libraries need to stay involved, he said, to see “how the pressure will play out over many rounds.”

GATS is an international agreement, in effect since 1995, and administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO), that attempts to remove barriers to trade in commercial services. Canada is an original signatory and is actively working to develop the agreement are ongoing.

More than 70 people attended the pub- lic discussion led by Traynor, a researcher with the Canadian Environmental Law Association. Panel members included: Steven Strykhman, Law Partner, Sack, Goldblatt and Mitchell; Paul Whitney, John Burrett, Manager, Economic and Social Policy Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and James Pertulla, Senior Policy Advisor/Team Leader, Trade and International Policy Branch, Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation.

ALA/CLA Conference

Continued from page 1

Gloria Steinem and Eleanor Smeal will jumpstart the Auditorium Speaker Series Saturday morning; and dozens of authors will be on hand for signings and conver- sations on the exhibit floor.

For the most up-to-date conference information, please visit the ALA home page www.ala.org and click on the Annual Conference icon on the right.

TPL wins Web award

Toronto Public Library has won a 2003 Best of the Web Award for the SmallBizXpress Gateway, featured on the library website www.tpltoronto.on.ca (click on Virtual Reference Library). The gateway, which features information for small businesses and entrepre- neur, was chosen for the award by librarians, educators, subject-area specialists and editors. Criteria for selection included usability, accessi- bility, design clarity, range of resources; ranges of services and community impact.

SmallBizXpress will be discussed in depth at an American Library Association pre-conference, Breaking Free: Rebooting Your Library Website from A–Z. Read more on pages 1 & 4.

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