

Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

September 2010



New website launch Pg. 2...

BOOK BASH!

Children's literature festival brings top authors to library



Itah Sadu



Barbara Reid



Robin Muller



Barbra Nichols



Kenneth Opel



Sarah Ellis



Ken Setterington

OVER 1,000 PEOPLE attended Toronto Public Library's first annual Book Bash!, a Canadian children's literature festival promoting reading, and recognizing the wealth of Canadian authors and illustrators creating books for children.

Supported by an endowment fund honouring Lawrence Muller, retired president of Scholastic Canada, gifted to the Toronto Public Library Foundation last year, the August 28 festival was held at North York Central Library and



Mel Lastman Square. It featured an exciting day filled with appearances from renowned Canadian children's authors such as Eric Walters, Barbara Reid and Kenneth Opperl.

Scholastic generously donated new books, allowing each child in attendance a free book to take home. Storyteller, author and musician Itah Sadu lead the crowd to a rousing musical finale and march around Mel Lastman Square at day's end.

An enthusiastic crowd also gathered at North York Central Library the night before to hear author Sarah Ellis speak about her journey as an author and the road to getting published.

Rare Sherlock Holmes artefacts enrich library's special collections

Arthur Conan Doyle's heirs donate trio of manuscripts

A TRIO OF exciting new manuscript items has been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, thanks to a donation from the famous author's heirs. The papers, originally penned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, were among the papers of Anna Conan Doyle, wife of the author's son Adrian.

The first item, an essay entitled "On the intemperance of our country, the cause of its prevalence and the means of its suppression," is one of the author's earliest efforts. It was written for a competition when he worked as a physician's assistant in the 1870s, and is full of the same kind of passionate, idealistic opinions that characterize his more mature works.

The other two items deal with Conan Doyle's iconic detective Sherlock Holmes. The handwritten script of "The Crown Diamond: an evening with Sherlock Holmes" is a one-act play that was first performed in 1921, and which Conan Doyle soon after re-wrote as a short story. The format of the resulting story, "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone," is unusual for the Sherlockian canon. The third person narrator, which replaces the voice of Dr. Watson, and the fact that all the action in the story takes place in one room are directly attributable to it having been adapted from the stage play.

The final item is the manuscript for "Some Personalia about Mr. Sherlock Holmes," an article published in *Strand Magazine* in December, 1917. This will be of particular interest to Holmes fans. In it, Conan Doyle explains some of the theory behind Holmes' methods, asserting that "the general lines of reasoning advocated

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Powerful new library website “speaks to customers”

Launched at the end of the summer, new website connects users to more library resources

THE LIBRARY’S NEW website, which has been in beta testing for a number of months, was fully launched at the end of August. Among other things, it provides a powerful new search engine that allows users to search all the library has to offer.

The new website facilitates cross-promotion of the library’s materials, programs and services using its new and powerful platform. Already, website statistics are on the rise, with one day in September seeing over 85,000 visits, so far the busiest day ever, and traffic is expected to grow throughout the school season. In the last month, the new website received over 600,000 unique visitors.

Customers continue to be engaged and helpful in providing feedback and there have been dozens of compliments received:

“Hello – i love what you are doing with the new website – it’s fresh, more user-friendly and just generally feels more like it ‘speaks to me’ i.e has me the user in mind rather than what the library staff would like to push to the user. thanks for the improvements.”

“I travel all over the world and have always praised, as one of the great features of living in Toronto, that it has the most-used library system in North America. Because of the computer network, I have 99 libraries only a block away from my home. Now I can add that it has one of the best websites of any library I know. Congratulations and thank you.”

After school program supports newcomer youth

New library program helps newcomers thrive

A NEW TORONTO Public Library after school program provides students in grades 7-10 with free homework help and the opportunity to make new friends and participate in electronic gaming and other fun activities. After School Newcomer Hubs are being introduced at the Albert Campbell, Centennial, and Sanderson branches.

The homework help is provided by trained volunteer tutors and laptops are available for assignments and research.

In addition to offering a welcoming, helpful environment for youth, the

program provides a valuable volunteering opportunity for students, adults and seniors.

The After School Newcomer Hubs are funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. For more information, search “newcomer hub” on the new library website torontopubliclibrary.ca, or email afterschool@torontopubliclibrary.ca



Library to invest in families

Partnership with city reduces barriers for lone parent families

BEGINNING THIS FALL, Toronto Public Library will join Toronto Employment and Social Services, Toronto Public Health, and Parks, Forestry and

Recreation as a partner in the Invest in Families program. Run by the City of Toronto, the initiative aims to reduce barriers to participation in city activities for lone parent families on social assistance

A part-time librarian will work in a priority area of the city for six months providing an overview of library services, distributing registration information, arranging individualized in-branch library visits, liaising with local branch staff to assist with program registration, and following up with clients to understand their use of the library.

Through participation in the program, Toronto families will gain increased access to library programs and services and the library will enhance its capacity to deliver inclusive, barrier free services.

Library partnership brings poetry to the public

Poetry is Public is Poetry initiative merges poetry with public art

POETRY IS PUBLIC IS POETRY, part of the Poet Laureate's legacy project, is an ongoing program that merges poetry with public art to claim permanent public space for Canadian poetry on Toronto walkways.

"Poetry beautifies public space, pays respect to the intelligence of the citizenry, gives respite from the grind of daily living and engages the city's humanistic ideals," according to Toronto poet laureate Dionne Brand.

Unveiled at Toronto Reference Library



Unveiled at Toronto Reference Library at the end of August, the first of a series of poetic panels to be displayed outside public libraries around the city.

at the end of August, the first of a series of poetic panels to be displayed outside public libraries around the city features poems by more than 30 poets, including Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, Anne Michaels and Leonard Cohen.

Enhanced by visual art by illustrator Frank

Viva, this collaborative endeavour involving the City of Toronto's Cultural Services and Transportation Services working in close co-operation with the Toronto Public Library and the Toronto Public Library Foundation, will see two to four installations per year embedded in visible, outdoor library spaces.

Toronto's Library. Absolutely Vital.

Generous donation aims to help and inspire others

A GENEROUS DONATION to the Toronto Public Library by Dipa and Narendra Shah will help others achieve the success the Shah's themselves have achieved, a success they attribute in part to the public library.

The Shahs credit libraries and reading with helping them develop invaluable skills such as reasoning, attention to detail, and the ability to analyze and form opinions on various subjects. Because of this, they wanted to give back to the library, specifically to the Fairview Branch, because Mr. Shah used the study facilities there extensively for more than three years to successfully complete his journey towards owning his own mutual fund dealership.

"Mr. Shah once told me that one of his guiding principles is that each person should look at the people around him to find out what difficulties they

have and then help them," says Library Foundation Associate Director, Community and Legacy Giving, Liza Fernandes. "And with this generous gift, that is exactly what the Shahs are doing. The Toronto Public Library, Toronto's Library, is arguably the most successful community builder in Toronto and is already affecting great social change across our city."

As an integral part of every community, Toronto Public Library fosters life, learning and culture in Toronto more than any other institution in our city – helping people with difficulties city-wide. Toronto's library offers resources to every citizen, at every stage of their life; it welcomes newcomers with free resources to help them get settled into a new world and a new life. Gifts like the Shahs' help to improve and expand collections, enhance programs and services, especially literacy and skill training programs, provide upgraded technology, and revitalize community spaces to respond to the changing needs of the people of Toronto.

City of Toronto Legal Services Division sells books to boost literacy

FOR SEVEN YEARS, the City of Toronto Legal Services Division has generously supported Toronto Public Library Foundation through its annual book sale. This year's sale on June 30 at Metro Hall raised over \$1,800, bringing the cumulative total raised in support of library programs and services to more than \$10,000. The book sale supports one of the library's cornerstone literacy programs, Leading to Reading. Leading to Reading helps children in grades 2 to 6 with below average literacy skills improve their reading and performance at school. The program, developed in 1999, has expanded from 18 to almost 40 library branch locations, and now assists almost 3,000 Toronto children each year.

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



Library Board Highlights

September 20, 2010

Board approves capital budget request

The Board approved the capital submission request for funding of \$14.9 million debt in 2011 and \$165.7 million debt over 2011 – 2020. The submission includes a request of \$2 million debt annually over 2011 – 2020 to address the state of good repair backlog on a more timely basis.

Board approves relocation and expansion of the Bridlewood Branch

The Board approved a new capital project for the relocation and expansion of the Bridlewood Branch and associated new lease within the Bridlewood Mall. The relocation and expansion will be funded through a combination of the landlord's contribution, and Section 37 and development charges. The cost is \$2.040 million.

Conan Doyle donation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

by Holmes have a real practical application to life.” He also tells several amusing anecdotes about life as the creator of the Great Detective, and gives some revealing glimpses into how he felt about the fictional character that not infrequently eclipsed its maker.

These one-of-a-kind items represent a valuable addition to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's manuscript holdings and are expected to be of great interest to the Conan Doyle scholars who make use of the Collection. Although copying is not allowed, members of the

Fall events 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 hosts free discussions with authors, thinkers and public figures including Mayor David Miller, Margaret Trudeau, Antonia Fraser, Simon Winchester, Anita Shreve and Salman Rushdie. For complete details, visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/appelsalon.



Toronto Public Library kicks off the fall edition of the popular award-winning Make Some Noise local indie music concert and workshop series with a concert featuring popular Toronto artist Diamond Rings Unplugged at Parkdale Branch on October 8 at 8 p.m. Check torontopubliclibrary.ca/noise for more fall Make Some Noise events.



The annual Young Voices Writers Conference for teens 12-19 years old takes place Saturday, October 16 at North York Central library starting at 9:30 a.m. Teens work on their poetry, song writing, blogging and other creative writing with professional writers. Toronto teens are encouraged to submit to *Young Voices*, the library's magazine of teen artwork and writing. Full details at torontopubliclibrary.ca/yvconference.



Toronto Public Library's fall season of the popular eh List Author Series brings some of Canada's best authors to library branches across the city from September 16 to November 22. The fall blockbuster list of authors includes Joseph Boyden, Will Ferguson, John Ralston Saul, Katherine Govier and Louise Penny. All are welcome, 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



Make an animal out of clay with the Gardiner Museum; card and spin wool with Black Creek Pioneer Village; make fans like the Maharajahs used with the Art Gallery of Ontario. For a full list of programs, search "MAP Family Saturdays" on the library website.



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.

public are welcome to investigate them onsite by visiting the Special Collections Department at the Toronto Reference Library.

The Special Collections, Genealogy and Maps Centre provides access to the Toronto Reference Library's rare and specialized research collections.

BOOK BUZZ

Our virtual book club invites you to chat online about a new book every month.

bookbuzz.torontopubliclibrary.ca

VOLUME 10
NUMBER 7

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: 416-393-7121. Next Board Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2010.

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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