

# ABSOLUTELY VITAL

A Newsletter of the Toronto Public Library Foundation

Spring/Summer 2015

## Toronto's 100th Library branch opens in Scarborough

Tulips weren't the only thing opening in Toronto this spring. May 20 saw the emergence of something just as beautiful and full of promise: Toronto Public Library's 100th branch.

The new Scarborough Civic Centre Branch includes the Library's third digital innovation hub. With 18 computers, a KidsStop interactive learning centre and a multipurpose event space, the branch was designed



*Toronto's 100th Library branch opened May 20 at the Scarborough Civic Centre.*

with flexible features to allow staff to respond to the community's ever-changing needs.

"The 100th branch is a milestone worth celebrating, but its true importance is in the services it brings to the local community," said Anne Bailey, director of branch libraries. "The much-needed branch will animate the south side of the Civic Centre, engaging the community and inviting people in to this wonderful new space."

The building has a terraced green roof inspired by the stone and plant mix of a northern Ontario landscape. An outdoor reading garden provides a view of trees that have been on the site for decades.



*Business and community leaders from Scarborough were treated to a sneak peak of the new Scarborough Civic Centre Branch.*

## 100 branches = 100 reasons to love the Library

Did you know? There are '100 Reasons to Check-Out TPL.' This campaign is raising awareness and encouraging use of the Library's wide variety of programs and services.

If you were downtown on May 26, you might have seen the 100 Library ambassadors walking from Toronto Reference Library to Nathan Phillips Square. Each ambassador wore a t-shirt with one of the 100 reasons and gave

out bookmarks listing all 100 reasons.

The Foundation is running a related campaign called '100 Reasons to Give to Toronto Public Library.' Visit [www.tplfoundation.ca/100-reasons](http://www.tplfoundation.ca/100-reasons) to see all the programs, services, collections and spaces that are made possible because of generous donors like you. While you're on the site, please share your reason for supporting TPL.



*The Yorkville branch with reasons to check out TPL.*

# Introducing Toronto's new City Librarian

In January, Vickery Bowles took on the management of the busiest urban public library system in the world. She oversees the system's 100 branches and 11-million item collection.

Formerly director of collections and citywide services, Vickery is a passionate believer in the power of the public library. She views it as "a democratizing force in the modern world."

"Libraries are literary and cultural

destinations, places to collaborate, innovate, create and learn," said Vickery. "In this milestone year in which we open our 100th branch, I am proud to say that Toronto Public Library provides beautiful public spaces in neighbourhoods across this city, delivering Library services where people live, in branches and online. The Library has established itself as the place for public discourse, civic engagement, discussion and debate."



*As Toronto's new City Librarian, Vickery Bowles will pioneer new approaches to Library service and will lead the Library's continuing transition to digital.*

## 10 million dollars... can you guess how many new readers?

**For more than 20 years, TD Bank Group has generously supported Toronto Public Library programs, services, collections and community spaces.**

TD's support of Toronto Public Library includes funding for branch programs and collections, The Book Lover's Ball, the TD Gallery, Aboriginal History Month, Black History Month, Asian Heritage month and nearly a dozen other initiatives.

Nowhere is their commitment more evident than in their title sponsorship of the TD Summer Reading Club, a program of fun summertime activities that engage young children in the joy of reading. Since 2004, the program has encouraged more than 2.5 million new readers, while championing Canadian writers and illustrators.

With the renewal of their support to the TD Summer Reading Club in the form of \$2,600,000 for 2015-2017, TD Bank

Group will exceed a cumulative \$10 million in support.

TD's support has fostered learning and skills development through reading, history, arts and culture. Thanks to their extraordinary



*Since 2004, the TD Summer Reading Club has supported more than 2.5 million young readers.*

commitment, the Library has been able to create opportunities that feed children's imaginations and contribute to their quality of life.

"TD is committed to advancing children's literacy through programs like the TD Summer Reading Club that encourage children to develop a passion for reading," said Frank McKenna, deputy chair, TD Bank Group. "We believe that public libraries are vital community-building institutions and we are proud to partner with Toronto Public Library to offer reading programs for young Canadians."

As the \$10 million milestone approaches, there's no question that TD Bank Group has made a huge impact in the lives of Torontonians.



*TD Bank Group is a long-time sponsor of Black History Month at Toronto Public Library.*

# Can a donation help Torontonians take control of their healthcare?

Torontonians are hungry to learn about health and healthcare. Recognizing this, the Krembil Foundation has stepped up with funding for a combination of health-related event programming, curated collections and staff expertise.

The Krembil Foundation's donation of \$225,000 over three years will support *The Cutting Edge*, an annual lecture series on health and health technologies. It will also enrich the specialized

health collections at Toronto Reference Library and North York Central, adding new works at all reading levels. Finally, it will provide for staff training in health literacy, so that Toronto's librarians can guide people to the most reliable and up-to-date sources of health information.

"When people seek out health information, they are often under stress and feeling vulnerable. Seen as a trusted source, Toronto Public Library uses its expertise

to assist patrons in their search for reliable material," said Mark Krembil, president of the Krembil Foundation. "We believe that with access to the best possible information, more Torontonians will be able to take control of their health and care."

Watch for the first *The Cutting Edge* lecture at the Toronto Reference Library this November, with spin-off events at branches across the city.

## A safe haven for the ill and vulnerable

Libraries are safe havens for people who struggle with mental illness, addiction and homelessness. But it's not always easy for Library staff to know how to help. Now, thanks to a \$20,000 donation from Bell, these ill and vulnerable people have somewhere to turn.

The money will fund a mental health outreach program at the Yorkville branch and Toronto Reference Library, both heavily used by this vulnerable population. The partnership between Toronto Public Library, Streets to Homes and Toronto Public Health has a nurse visit the branches for two half-days each week, directly engaging people with mental and other health problems. It will also fund training to help Library staff understand how they can help improve the mental, physical and social outcomes of marginalized people.

The bottom line? The Library remains a safe, welcoming environment that makes a true difference in the lives of all its users.

### DID YOU KNOW?

With 100 branches, TPL is the largest library system in the world!

## 100 runners for 100 reasons



The Toronto Public Library Foundation is an official charity of the 2015 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon and we are looking for 100 of you to join our team! Raise money for Toronto Public Library by running 5 km, a half-marathon or a full marathon on October 18.

In its 25 years, the marathon has raised millions of dollars for charity. We're counting on you to help us raise money for the Library. To register, please visit [www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com/en/charity/tpl.htm](http://www.torontowaterfrontmarathon.com/en/charity/tpl.htm) and search for Toronto Public Library Foundation or contact Liana Colacci, 416-393-7089, [lcolacci@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:lcolacci@torontopubliclibrary.ca)

# June 2 is '100 Reasons to Give Day'

Drop into your local branch on June 2 to show the Library some love.



*Toronto Public Library Foundation team.*

June 2 is '100 Reasons to Give Day' and we're asking Library visitors to donate a toonie – or more. The goal is to raise \$10,000 in this one-day fundraising blitz. Donors are invited to write their name and reason for giving on stickers that will be displayed in branch. We're hoping to cover the walls!

The Foundation team will be out of the office and in the branches meeting Library customers and helping raise donations. If you see one of us (that's us in the photo), please say hello. We love to meet Library supporters!

A special thanks to the *Toronto Star* for donating ad space supporting '100 Reasons to Give Day.'

Reason 10

# Donors make life-changing programs possible. You can too.

**100 Reasons**  
to check out TPL

Get a library card today. It's your all-access pass to this and much more. [TPL100.ca](http://TPL100.ca)

#TPL100



Media partner:



*Reason 10 spreads the word about the importance of donors.*

## An exceptional group of Library champions

To celebrate the Library's 100th branch milestone, Toronto Public Library Foundation has established the Council of 100. Donors who pledge \$10,000 or more this year will be recognized as patrons of this prestigious group. Patrons will receive an invitation to an exclusive Council of 100 event and be recognized in one of Toronto's major newspapers.

To learn about how you can become a Council of 100 member, please contact Carla Rogers at 416-393-7067 or [carlarogers@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:carlarogers@torontopubliclibrary.ca).

**Absolutely Vital** is issued twice a year to donors to the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Our mission is to inspire giving to Toronto Public Library in support of exemplary collections, ground-breaking programs and services, and innovative community spaces.

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**Toronto's Library.** With you for life.

