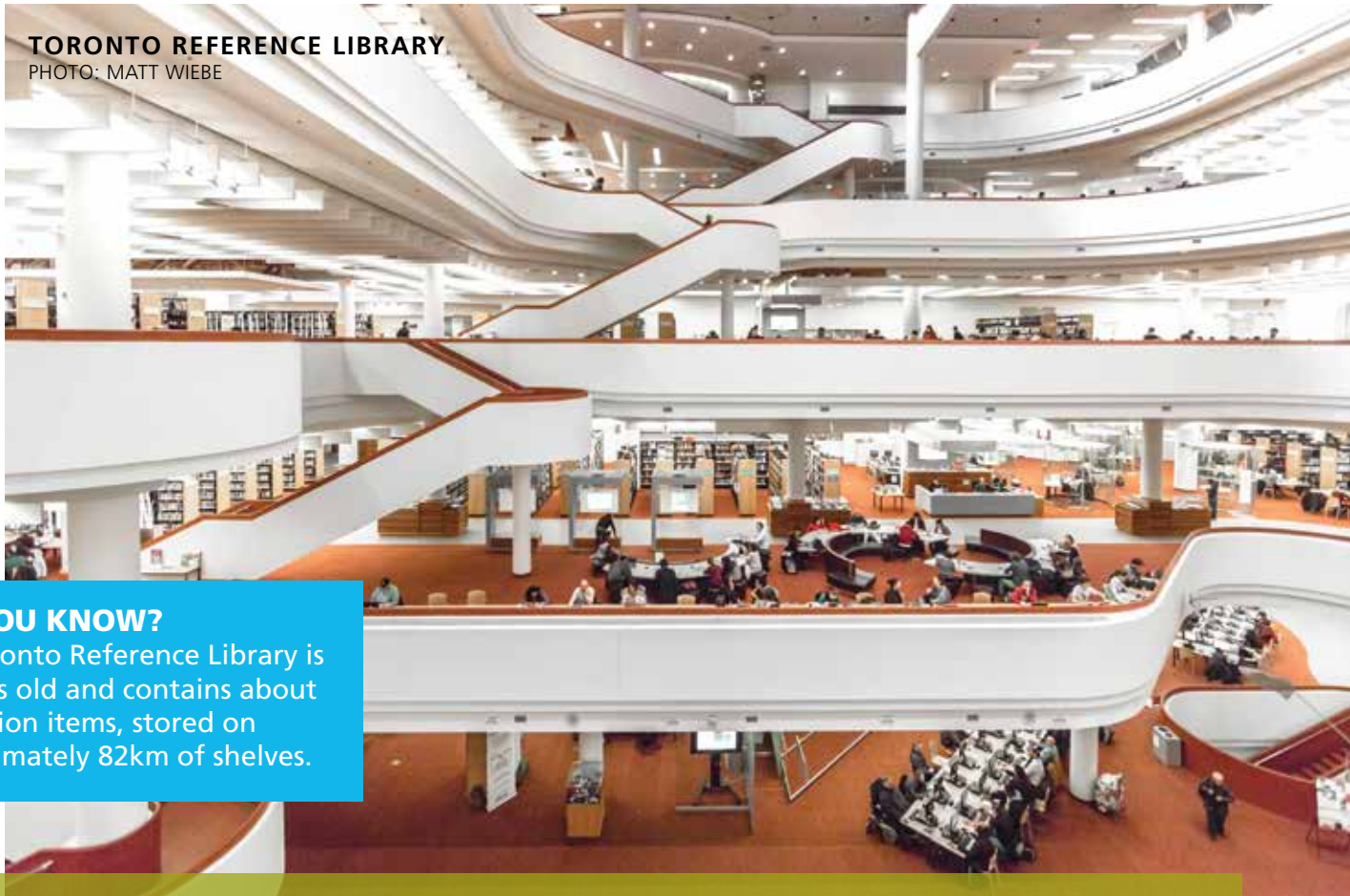


# ABSOLUTELY VITAL

A Newsletter of  
The Toronto Public Library Foundation

**TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY**  
PHOTO: MATT WIEBE



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Toronto Reference Library is 40 years old and contains about 5.5 million items, stored on approximately 82km of shelves.

## A NOTE FROM TPLF PRESIDENT

### Jennifer Jones



**THIS YEAR MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY** of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, and I could not be more proud to be leading such a devoted and hard-working team. Since its inception, TPLF has raised an astounding \$75 million for the Library which helps fund a diverse and essential mix of programs and services. All of us who call Toronto home are fortunate to have the world's busiest library system right at our doorstep, and we want to ensure that TPL always remains the leading, world-class, 21st century library it is. Every donation to the Library - big or small - has impact. For each \$1 invested in Toronto Public Library, Torontonians receive \$5.63 in value. So, to all our donors who are part of the Library's success and who help us build better communities, thank you.

## BIBLIO BASH RAISES OVER \$605,000 FOR THE LIBRARY

### Inaugural Gala Celebrates Toronto Public Library Foundation's 20th Anniversary

On April 27, Toronto Reference Library was transformed from a bustling library into a glamorous red carpet gala where 450 city builders, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and supporters of TPL came together with celebrated Canadian authors to raise critical funds for the Library. Hosted by comedian and author Mary Walsh, the sold-out event included a cocktail reception in the stacks, dinner in the atrium and an after-party where guests were encouraged to browse the many activities and collections TRL has to offer including the vinyl record collection, virtual reality pods and the Digital Innovation Hub. Generous donations raised at Biblio Bash support digital innovation and priority needs.

View the Biblio Bash Photo Gallery at [bibliobash.ca](http://bibliobash.ca).

**SAVE THE DATE** ★ BIBLIO BASH ★ **April 26, 2018**



### NEW COLLECTION MEMBERS' EVENT Cocktails & Conversation with Author Scaachi Koul

New Collection is the Foundation's member program offering young professionals (under 45) exclusive access to the city's vibrant literary scene and networking opportunities. On May 29, BuzzFeed writer, cultural observer and new author Scaachi Koul (left) was the special guest sharing stories from her funny collection of essays, *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter*. For upcoming events and membership information visit [tplfoundation.ca/new-collection](http://tplfoundation.ca/new-collection).

**5TH ANNUAL HUSH HUSH PARTY** ★ [HUSH-HUSH.CA](http://HUSH-HUSH.CA) ★ **OCT. 21, 2017**



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Victoria Webster

Although she had not spent much time in the library since university, Victoria participated in a library tour and that was a turning point. "Once I truly understood all the products and services the Library has to offer, and saw first-hand how life-changing it can be, I was ready to get involved." A busy wife, mother, and former board member at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Victoria stepped into her new role as Committee Chair of Biblio Bash and quickly got to work recruiting new members, securing sponsors, assisting with event planning, and being a vocal supporter of the Library. "Having Victoria lead our volunteer committee was a big part of the event's success. Her creativity and passion brought a new energy to the team and we are grateful for the many hours she dedicated to Biblio Bash" said Julie Flynn-Still, Director Development & Strategic Partnerships at TPLF.

## CREATING ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

*TPL Wi-Fi Hotspot Lending Program to Expand Thanks to Google Canada, City of Toronto and Rogers Communications*



The CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) reports 41% of households living on low incomes do not have home Internet access. As we move to an increasingly digital lifestyle, an Internet connection is simply essential, allowing families to do everyday activities like homework, banking and completing government forms.

Dr. Riaz Qureshi used his Wi-Fi Hotspot to study, search for a job, stay connected to family abroad and to learn directions around his new city. "As immigrants settling in Canada, it was initially a financial burden on my family to pay for Internet," he says. "Borrowing a Wi-Fi Hotspot from the Library was extremely helpful to accomplish my many tasks. I am proud to say I passed my first exam for my Canadian medical license and now have a job."

Leading digital inclusion in Toronto is a priority for TPL, and the highly successful partnership with Google Canada, the City of Toronto and Rogers Communications will see the Library's Wi-Fi Hotspot Lending Program expand this August from 200 to 500 devices.

Learn more at [tpl.ca/hotspot](http://tpl.ca/hotspot).

**ABOVE:** Lindsay Colley, Vice Chair, TPL Board; Vickery Bowles, TPL City Librarian; Mayor John Tory; Dr. Riaz Qureshi, hotspot borrower; Sam Sebastian, Managing Director, Google Canada.

## SUN LIFE FINANCIAL MUSEUM + ARTS PASS

### Celebrates 10 Years of Arts Access

Sun Life Financial wants to ensure families across Toronto have equal access to the arts, and over the last decade, 750,000 Sun Life Museum + Arts Passes have been distributed at Toronto Public Library. Their generous investment of more than \$1.8 million has made it possible for 1.5 million Torontonians to borrow passes and enjoy free admission to 17 local museums and cultural attractions.

More information is available at [tpl.ca/museumpass](http://tpl.ca/museumpass)



## with thanks

**SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, OVER \$1 MILLION IN LEGACY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED** from the estates of Mary Wanda Brown, Elsie Cross, Jack Freiman, Theresa Letniak, Marjorie Manners, Margaret McGovern, Frank Peers, Lilly Quack and Willa Ribchester. These gifts will make a substantial difference in funding the Library's priority projects.

To learn how a gift through your will can support the Library, please call Liza at 416-397-5924.

**IN MEMORY** | We were saddened to learn of the passing of two members of the TPLF family, Governors' Council members **Thor Eaton** and **Avie Bennett**. Both were highly successful businessmen, Canadian arts, music and literature advocates and true friends of Toronto Public Library. The Foundation is sincerely grateful for their years of support.

# #TPLStories



## Meet the people who use Toronto Public Library

**Meet Odette...** "I used to be scared of the library. Once I visited I felt better because there are lots of friendly people and lots of books. My favourite books are *The Littlest Pet Shop* series and ones about Pete the Cat." **Meet Helen...** "I love the library! Now that I am an elementary school teacher, I use the public library constantly. It is not only cost-effective but, more importantly, it is a hub of knowledge that I can go to when I need resources for teaching." **Meet Tom...** "I stopped buying magazines when the library opened. I used to buy four a month and with the money I saved I retired two years early! I'm now a daily visitor taking out paperbacks, magazines and reading the newspaper."

Read more TPL Stories on  
Toronto Public Library's Facebook Page.  
[f torontopubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/torontopubliclibrary)

*"The library means something different to each person who uses it. Every branch is unique, just like the Toronto community it serves. It is a place to learn to read, to study among peers, to access digital resources, to acquire a new skill, and to find a sense of community. Absolutely every donation matters and helps us continue the vital work we do at Toronto Public Library."*

**VICKERY BOWLES, CITY LIBRARIAN**

## KEEP IN TOUCH BY EMAIL

To receive TPLF updates, invitations and tax receipts electronically, please provide your email address. Simply send a note to [foundation@torontopubliclibrary.ca](mailto:foundation@torontopubliclibrary.ca) or call 416-393-7123.

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## Ask An Expert

### Jennifer Borkowski

Children's Librarian  
Runnymede Branch,  
Toronto Public Library

**Q: Why is it important for kids to read over the summer?**

**A:** *Children who don't read over the summer risk losing up to three months of hard-earned reading progress. Even short bursts of reading can increase a child's confidence, preparing them to go back to school.*

**Q: What's your best tip to keep kids reading while on vacation?**

**A:** *Devote time to selecting special reading material to take away to camp or the cottage. If you're staying put, choose entertaining titles to read sporadically while waiting in line, riding in the car, or even in the bathroom!*

**Q: How does the TD Summer Reading Club work?**

**A:** *The Club encourages children to choose their own books to read, then answer questions to collect stickers. Participants can share reviews, post jokes, and read story installments on the website.*

## DON'T FORGET!

It's time to register your kids and grandkids for the free TD Summer Reading Club.

[tpl.ca/readingclub](http://tpl.ca/readingclub)

