

ABSOLUTELY VITAL

A Newsletter of
The Toronto Public Library Foundation



DID YOU KNOW?

ABOUT OUR LILLIAN H. SMITH BRANCH

Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, the branch is named after the first professionally-trained children's librarian in the British Empire, who in 1912 became head of a new Children's Department at Toronto Public Library and remained in charge for 40 years. The branch is also home to the Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy as well as the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books.

PHOTO: Perkins + Will

STANLEY **Library Settlement Partnerships Program Worker**




The Library is the perfect place for new Canadians to come together and seek guidance when beginning their exciting new life in Toronto. A partnership between Toronto Public Library (TPL), Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and CultureLink Settlement & Community Services brought Stanley to the Lillian H. Smith branch in 2009, where he regularly assists newcomers to overcome the challenges that often arise with the integration process. *"It's so fulfilling to help people truly improve their lives in a new country,"* said Stanley. Some of the areas of focus for the Library Settlement Partnerships' (LSP) team include: providing free advice on finding a job, how to get a driver's license and where newcomers can go to learn English. tpl.ca/new-to-canada/



BIBLIO BASH

Gala raises over \$700,000 to support youth programs and services

On April 26th the Toronto Reference Library was transformed into a glamorous black-tie gala for Biblio Bash, presented by TD Bank Group. The event is the must-attend party for library lovers and city builders, and brought together 470 guests and [43 of Canada's top authors](#) to raise funds for youth empowerment programs at the Library, like free access to after-school homework help, digital and financial literacy learning, and programs that help develop social, creative, life and leadership skills. The sold out gala also received support from none other than Canadian literary icon Margaret Atwood.

"Thurs. nite at #BiblioBash library lovers & city builders are coming together to raise money for @TorontoLibrary. Sadly I can't be there but I am always a TPL supporter. Please help the Library with a donation - just tell them Margaret sent you! [imlibrarypeople.ca](#)"  @MargaretAtwood via Twitter, April 25, 2018

[Biblio Bash videos](#), [photo albums](#) and TPLF's new [I'm Library People documentary short film](#) featuring author Joy Kogawa, broadcaster George Stroumboulopoulos and Ontario Supreme Court Justice Donald McLeod can be found at [bibliobash.ca](#).

OUR FRAGILE PLANET

Environmental Education Series

This spring, Our Fragile Planet programs bring together authors, scientists, gardening experts and other advocates of the environment to raise awareness about the state of our planet and how we can protect it.

Special thanks to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for supporting this series since 2014.

New for 2018! TPL has hired its first-ever Environmentalist in Residence (EnvIR) to support the Our Fragile Planet program series and serve as an industry expert in the area of conservation and sustainability.

[Find a speaker, class, or film at a branch near you.](#)



OUR FRAGILE PLANET



Bob Ramsay and Peter Wohlleben

LITERARY CIRCLE RECEPTION

Private Event with Best-Selling Author Peter Wohlleben

The Foundation welcomed our Literary Circle patrons to a VIP evening with passionate forester and international author Peter Wohlleben. Bob Ramsay, esteemed member of TPLF's Governors' Council, interviewed Peter about his books *The Inner Life of Animals* and *The Hidden Life of Trees*, which was followed by a private book signing and Peter's public talk in the Appel Salon. Literary Circle members support TPL while gaining access to exclusive events, author receptions, and behind-the-scenes tours. [Join Literary Circle.](#)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Friends Of Toronto Public Library Raise \$2 Million

A record-breaking book sale hosted at the Toronto Reference Library in March raised an unprecedented \$14,000! Hundreds of Library patrons patiently waited in lines that extended well around the block outside of the branch. For more than a decade, sales from BookEnds stores, book sales and other events have contributed to **the Friends, North and South Chapters** raising an incredible \$2 million for **Toronto Public Library**. Special thanks to these faithful volunteers for their dedication and outstanding support to benefit children and youth programs at TPL.



3D Printing in the Pop Up Learning Lab

POP UP LEARNING LABS

The Greater Toronto Airport Authority Brings Cutting Edge Technology to Life

A generous gift from the GTAA is enabling the creation of a new TPL Pop Up Learning Lab in the Library's Humber Summit District, bringing brand new technology, programming and resources to six branches. As one of TPL's newest community partners, GTAA is supporting TPL's Digital Literacy strategy, ensuring Torontonians have equitable access to innovative technology and learning opportunities. Annually, **Pop Up Learning Labs** deliver over 1,400 science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to more than 16,800 participants of all ages. GTAA's gift will help support even more programs throughout 2018.

WONG FAMILY CELEBRATION

Donors Nelson Wong and Victor Wong Support the Chinese Canadian Archive

Friends, family and honoured guests joined the Wong Family and TPLF to celebrate the important contributions made to the [Chinese Canadian Archive](#), housed at the Toronto Reference Library. City Librarian, Vickery Bowles, recognized the family's advocacy and generous gift which will increase visibility and accessibility of the Collection, reflecting the rich heritage of Toronto's Chinese community.

To learn more about donating to the Chinese Canadian Archive please contact the Foundation at 416-393-7123 or foundation@torontopubliclibrary.ca



The Wong family; Franklin, Marilyn, Nelson and Victor

YOUTH HUBS

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Thanks to Bank of America Merrill Lynch's increased support, the Library is empowering teens by providing safe and welcoming spaces dedicated to their specific needs and development. [TPL Youth Hubs](#) are located at nine branches situated in priority neighbourhoods and allow young people free access to emerging technologies and learning opportunities that fuel growth, discovery, creation and innovation. Last year, over 47,000 youth benefited from a variety of enriching programs and tutoring services.

CONGRATULATIONS HELEN BURSTYN

Recipient of the Order of Canada

TPLF extends a warm congratulations to Board Director Helen Burstyn on being named Member (C.M.) of the [Order of Canada](#). Helen is now the recipient of one of the country's highest civilian honours in recognition of her exceptional contributions to Canada through her many leadership roles within non-profit organizations dedicated to literacy, arts and culture, the environment and health. TPLF is so grateful for Helen's ongoing support of Toronto Public Library.



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION IMPACT

Assist current and future TPL Librarians with a thoughtful gift that will nurture these dedicated employees. **Your donation to the Staff Development Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000, so you're doubling your gift.** Give by calling 416-393-7123 or visit the [Foundation's donation page](#).

#ImLibraryPeople

ASK A TPL EXPERT

Melanie Ribeau

Senior Services Specialist,
Indigenous Community
Connections & Partnerships

In June 2015, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released 94 Calls to Action and Toronto Public Library has an important role to play in the Reconciliation process.

Q: What is TPL focused on?

A: Our priority is to create programs and services that bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in a culturally safe and relevant space as well as facilitate public education and awareness.

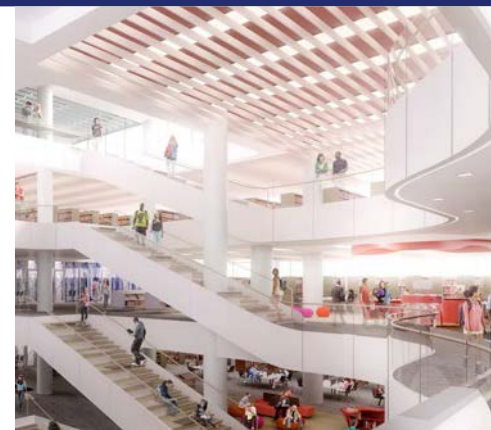
Q: What are TPL's strategies for Indigenous Initiatives?

A: We actually have 42 strategies, but one particular area of focus is incorporating Indigenous content into new and established TPL programming, on a year-round basis. This includes exciting projects like, Indigenous language programs, traditional teachings as well as a Community Librarian pilot project. tpl.ca/indigenous

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

Official Re-Opening on July 5th, 2018!

Many have asked about the renovations happening at our NYCL branch and we are thrilled to announce the branch will be re-opening soon. Mark July 5th at 12:30pm on your calendar! That's when we welcome everyone back to this stunning 21st century library with leading edge technology, media labs and a unique fabrication studio.



ARCHITECT RENDERING:
Diamond Schmitt



TPLF EXPANDS BOARD

Longstanding Foundation Board member Sarah Fulford (left), editor-in-chief of Toronto Life, was recently appointed Chair of the Foundation's board in addition to three new directors. TPLF is proud to also welcome Sharilyn Hale, Susannah K. Robinson, ICD.D and Jennifer Wardrop to the Board.

DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The Toronto Public Library Foundation makes it easy for Torontonians to invest in their community with a donation to the Library. Gifts to TPL support exemplary collections, groundbreaking programs and services as well as innovative community spaces at the world's busiest public library system.

DONATE TODAY. 416-393-7123 or tplfoundation.ca.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH BY EMAIL

To receive TPLF updates, invitations and tax receipts electronically, please provide your email address. Send a note to foundation@torontopubliclibrary.ca

JENNIFER JONES President, Toronto Public Library Foundation



I attended a luncheon recently and a guest at my table made a comment that I hear time and time again. She said, *"I had no idea that happens at the Library!"* I love seeing the look on people's faces when I let them know that TPL does so much to help address critical City of Toronto priorities like poverty reduction, digital literacy and newcomer services; and that we fundraise to support these efforts. Donations not only help us amplify our popular, proven programs, but allow us to initiate innovative new ones. I am grateful that you are part of the TPLF community. Whether you are a donor, a volunteer or vocal advocate of the Library, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of 70% of Torontonians who use the Library.

Thank you for being Library People!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

   #ImLibraryPeople