

ABSOLUTELY VITAL

A Newsletter of
The Toronto Public Library Foundation



BOOKMOBILE BY THE NUMBERS

1,250
Items per vehicle

26,117
Collections

13,516
Annual visits

60,413
Circulation

4,633
New materials added

9,380
Holds Delivered

28
Weekly stops to under-served areas in every corner of the city

MEET CANDY



LIBRARY ASSISTANT [MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES], BOOKMOBILE

The Bookmobile is a library on wheels! As part of Toronto Public Library's Mobile Library Services, the Bookmobile visits under-served, vulnerable and isolated residents across the city, providing greater access to library services and promoting equity. Two bookmobiles visit areas which are not easy to get to or are not close to a traditional library, including stops at community centres, shelters, and high density residential areas. In 2016 when Toronto welcomed Syrian refugees, the Bookmobile visited shelters in hotels where families were housed. We introduced them to the Library by registering them for library cards and provided access to relevant materials. Being part of the Bookmobile staff is very rewarding, and so much fun! It allows me to visit many neighbourhoods across Toronto, and to meet so many people who enjoy the services brought to them by the Bookmobile.

BIBLIO BASH

Annual Gala raises \$755,000 to Support Vital TPL Programs and Services

Toronto philanthropists, business leaders, and library lovers came together at the Toronto Reference Library for Biblio Bash, presented by TD Bank Group, to raise funds for the world's busiest public library system – Toronto Public Library (TPL). Hosted by the ladies from CTV's daytime talk show *The Social*, 43 notable authors and 460 guests attended the sold-out black-tie event. Proceeds from that night, along with online donations from the first-ever Biblio Bash Community Campaign will support two important Library priorities: the purchase of a new Bookmobile to reach under-served communities; and equipping kids in TPL's After School Clubs with exceptional programs and nutritious snacks.

Special thanks to the Marissa and Moez Kassam Foundation for generously matching the first \$50,000 raised onsite at the gala.

[Biblio Bash photos](#) and premiere film, ['A Day in the Life of Toronto Public Library'](#), starring Rick Mercer, can be found at [bibliobash.ca](#).



Our Hosts from The Social

A record-breaking black tie event



Andree Lau, HuffPost Canada interviews Samra Zafar

A CONVERSATION WITH Author Samra Zafar

Literary Circle members are a community of library lovers who support TPL's highest priority needs and enjoy access to exclusive events. We recently welcomed Samra Zafar to a private Literary Circle soirée where she chatted about her powerful new memoir. *A Good Wife* recounts Samra's heroic story of being a teenage bride in a forced marriage and escaping the life she never chose.

Join us at our next event! Become a member of Literary Circle today. tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle

FIRST-EVER COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN Launch on CP24 Breakfast



The Foundation launched its first-ever **Biblio Bash Community Campaign** from April 12-30 to enable all Torontonians to support the gala's two important fundraising priorities and help us reach our goal sooner. Foundation President Jennifer Jones appeared live on CP24 Breakfast with comedian and author Jessica Holmes and CTV Host Pooja Handa to encourage Torontonians to support this important initiative.



Jennifer Jones, Pooja Handa and Jessica Holmes

DONOR SPOTLIGHT Jane Dobell Celebrates Milestone Birthday



Congratulations to bibliophile, long-term Fundraising Chair, exceptional donor, generous collection builder, founder of the Sybille Pantazzi Memorial lecture, champion and Friend of the Osborne Collection, on your 90th birthday! **You're an inspiration to us all, and we appreciate your 30+ years of support.**

ABOUT TPL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS Toronto Star Newspaper Centre

On the lower level of the Toronto Reference Library, this space is home to over one million vintage photos from around the world. Thanks to support from the Toronto Star, the room was renovated and renamed The Toronto Star Newspaper Centre in 2001 and remains a popular spot for TPL users. tpl.ca/specialcollections

TWO NEW YOUTH HUBS

Benefit Thousands of Toronto Teens

Thanks to the continued support of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the Library is empowering youth and providing safe, welcoming and unique spaces dedicated to their developmental needs and transition to adulthood. In 2018, TPL launched two new Youth Hubs for a total of 11 branches in priority neighbourhoods across the city, offering at-risk teens free access to technology and enriched learning opportunities. Hubs foster discovery, growth, creation and innovation. More than 70,000 youth benefit from high quality tutoring, enriching programs, workshops and events in Youth Hubs. tpl.ca/youthhubs



TPL provides spaces where youth feel welcome and supported



Drummer Njacko Backo creates music with TPL customers

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT DOWNSVIEW BRANCH

Making Music Accessible to All

The second Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library launched at TPL's Downsview Branch with a day-long musical Community Celebration. City Librarian Vickery Bowles was joined by Paul Joliat, Assistant VP of Philanthropy and Sponsorships at Sun Life, and Sarah Fulford, Chair of the TPL Foundation Board of Directors. The celebration included an instrument "petting zoo", fun photo booth, refreshments, and musical programming throughout the day. Customers can borrow keyboards, guitars, violins and more, free with a library card. tpl.ca/instrumentlending



Donor families enjoying robot hockey with Zach

FAMILY STORYTIME AT TPL With Zach Hyman

Professional hockey player and children's author Zach Hyman was TPL's special guest at a private donor event. He shared his powerful message about chasing dreams by telling his personal journey to becoming a Toronto Maple Leaf. He read from his popular children's book *Hockey Hero* and then spent time with TPL supporters and their families signing autographs and playing robot hockey. See all the fun photos on our Facebook page. facebook.com/tplfoundation



KICKS OFF JUNE 22ND!
tdsrc.ca

GET READY FOR ANOTHER FUN SUMMER OF READING!

J.P. BICKELL FOUNDATION Helping Children Thrive

A gift from the J. P. Bickell Foundation is supporting TPL's After School Clubs (for kids ages 6 to 12) purchase new technology, leading educational tools, supplies and healthy snacks in 46 Library branches currently running this specialized programming. Kids in TPL's After School Clubs learn a variety of fun and educational activities, crafts, games, and STEM programs, while meeting other kids and enjoying nutritious snacks. kids.tpl.ca



Where kids learn, grow, play and flourish

#ImLibraryPeople

ASK A TPL EXPERT

Gregory McCormick
Manager, Cultural and Special
Events Programming

Q: Why is it important to showcase arts & cultural programming at TPL?

A: Helping people find a connection to culture is an important part of why we offer so much variety in our arts and culture programming. Whether it's a novel by a millennial-aged writer like Sally Rooney or a non-fiction collection by Black Canadian writers or a history of Queer Toronto, we want our programming to help Torontonians to engage with our city, our country, and the world.

Q: What do you look for when selecting authors to be part of the season at the Appel Salon?

A: We seek out a variety of authors in terms of genre, theme, and we always aim for a roster of events which appeals to many cross-sections of Toronto: whether that means literary fiction or crime writing, books on current affairs or race politics, discussions about city politics or neighbourhood development, etc. We want Torontonians to see themselves reflected in the free events we offer each week.

GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF RITA-ANNE PIQUET

Developing Art Skills With Youth

TPL received a bequest from the **Estate of Rita-Anne Piquet** to benefit youth interested in a career in art. Rita-Anne was part of a society of fine artists who had the courage to discover her own artistic vision, as a painter. She was an inspiring teacher, writer and was so giving in life. Her bequest will enable the Library to offer visual arts workshops that support opportunities for youth to work with professional artists to explore and enhance their artistic skills. tplfoundation.ca/plannedgift



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW LOGO?

Our city keeps changing. People's needs keep changing. So TPL needs to keep changing, and we are! The Library is the vital active ingredient in the lives of Library customers and the city, and we're transforming to deliver 21st century service excellence, starting with a new brand visual identity. Enjoy a sneak peek of what's to come, and get ready for exciting updates in the Fall. tpl.ca/activate



WILL AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINARS

Remember the Library in Your Will

It's so important to have a will in place and to keep it current. A well-planned will benefits you, your family and the charities you care about. Need help? Get free advice at Leave a Legacy™ Information Sessions, which run from May to October. Please consider including Toronto Public Library when making a charitable gift in your will or estate plan. tplfoundation.ca/plannedgift



DONATE TODAY

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

416-393-7213 | tplfoundation.ca

EMAIL IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

   #ImLibraryPeople