Fall/Winter 2019

absolutely vital

A Newsletter of
The Toronto Public Library Foundation

What's new at St. Clair/Silverthorn?

A completely re-built branch for the residents of St. Clair West

- Additional 850 sq. ft.
- Glassed-in program room and quiet study area
- Laptop bars and additional seating
- Barrier-free access to the second floor and to washroom
- Re-imagined zoned areas
- Improved building facade and streetscape

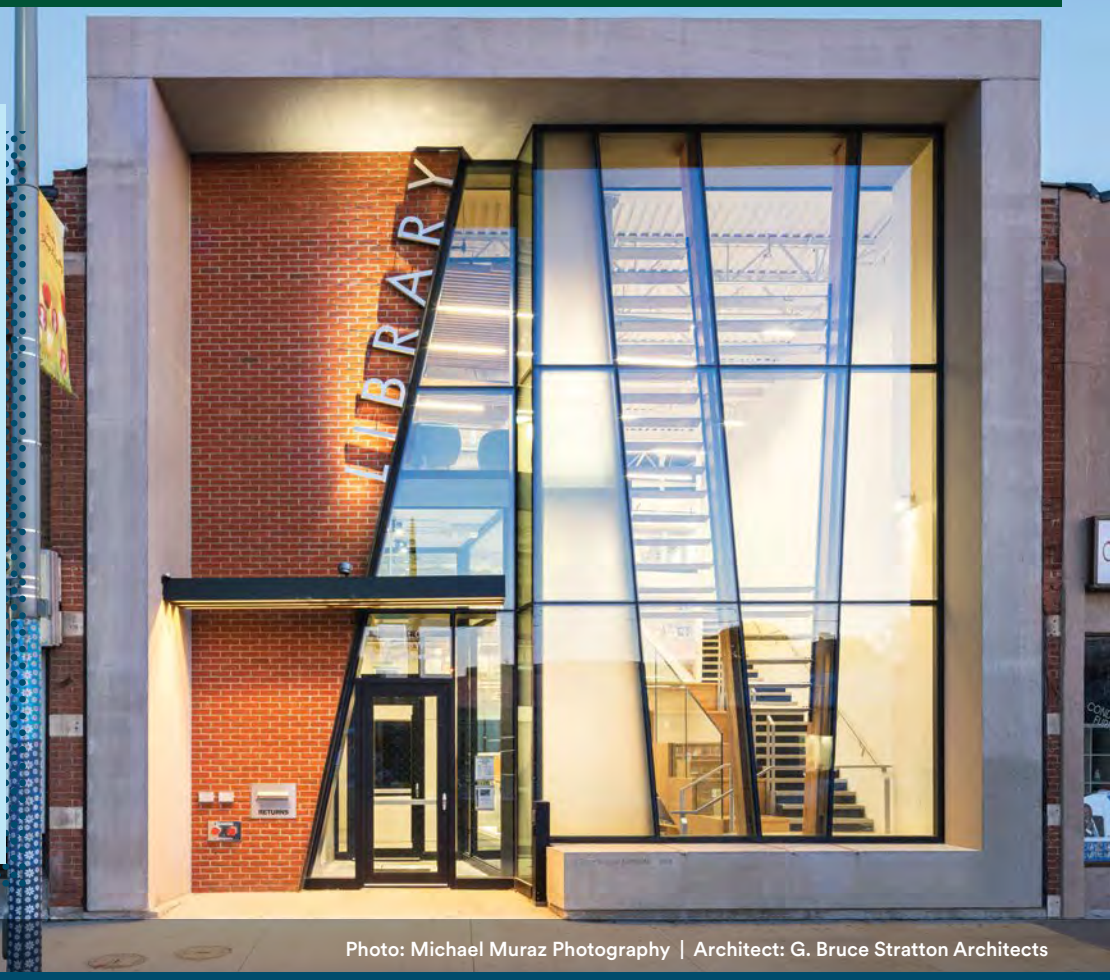

Photo: Michael Muraz Photography | Architect: G. Bruce Stratton Architects

Meet Lillian

Branch Head at St. Clair/Silverthorn

St. Clair/Silverthorn recently opened after a nearly two-year closure. It has been completely re-built from the ground up and for branch head Lillian, no day in the St. Clair west community is the same. She ensures that everything in the busy branch operates smoothly which involves supervising and mentoring staff, running programs, keeping involved with community outreach and so much more. "The best part of working in this brand new library is there is so much natural light, it just puts everyone in such a great mood!" commented Lillian. The branch will soon be home to a beautifully stenciled poem from Indigenous poet Marilyn Dumont, in both English and Cree, that Lillian personally selected for the space.

Hush Hush

Toronto's #PartyInTheStacks Raises Over $145,000 for Toronto Public Library

The sold out event at the iconic Toronto Reference Library brought together 800 guests who partied the night away, all in support of TPL.

Funds raised at the 7th annual Hush Hush will support free access for all Torontonians to ground-breaking programs and services, exemplary collections and vital resources at Toronto Public Library. A very special thanks to our Hush Hush Sponsors RBC InvestEase, Ewing Morris, Array of Stars, She Does the City, The Kit and Toronto Life.

See all the party pics at **hush-hush.ca.**

DJ Barbi with the best view overlooking Hush Hush partygoers.

Claire Tansey, TPLF Governors' Council Member Kirsten Hanson, Alison Fryer and Afrim Pristine

Literary Circle Reception

A Conversation with Toronto Foodies

On November 13th, Literary Circle members enjoyed a delicious evening focused on all things food. Claire Tansey, chef, author and TPL's first-ever Food Writer-In-Residence hosted a lively conversation with culinary experts Alison Fryer and Afrim Pristine. They had a laugh-out-loud discussion about their unique experiences in the food industry, Toronto's world-class restaurant scene and their favourite family food traditions. Thank you to Penguin Random House Canada for supporting this event.

Become a Literary Circle donor and join us at our next celebration. **tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle**

Heritage Society Author Talk With

Louise Penny and Ann Cleeves

Heritage Society members are dedicated TPL donors who choose to include the Library in their will and estate plans. Members were recently treated to an exclusive reception with best-selling writers, and dear friends, Louise Penny and Ann Cleeves who shared their passion for crime writing, and their love of public libraries.

Learn more about the membership benefits of joining Heritage Society. **tplfoundation.ca/heritage-society**

Best-selling writers, Louise Penny and Ann Cleeves

Host Liem Vu and TPLF President Jennifer Jones are twinning, and enjoying a good read.

I'm Library People Day

TPL Bookmobile Visits Global News Morning

Mayor John Tory declared Thursday, October 3rd, 2019 "I'm Library People Day" in the City of Toronto so to celebrate giving back to the world's busiest public library system, we went to visit morning show host Liem Vu at Corus Television. And, we brought the TPL Bookmobile! We want to spread the word about this library on wheels and ensure everyone knows they have access to valuable TPL services, no matter where they live in the city.

Read and watch TPLF in the news. **tplfoundation.ca/news**

Building Futures for Youth

Career Coaching in Residence Pilot in 2020

In partnership with RBC Future Launch initiative and the Friends of TPL, South Chapter, TPL will pilot a one-year in residence program working with vulnerable youth at eight TPL branches across the city. Selected coaches from counselling, education, social work and certified coaching backgrounds will assess youth interests and skills and help navigate their entry into the workforce through the development of individualized career plans and the use of recommended resources and education to help guide future success.

Friends of TPL Treasure Book Sale

Record Sales!

The volunteers at the Friends of TPL, South Chapter raised an unprecedented $24,800 for Toronto Public Library at their recent Treasure Sale. This particular sale happens every two years and buyers were able to scoop up incredible deals on thousands of first editions, rare and collectible books.

Volunteer with the Friends of TPL. **tpl.ca/support-us/friends**

In Loving Memory of Jae Blue

Benefitting Children with Disabilities at S. Walter Stewart Branch

In memory of former elementary school librarian, Jae Blue, loving family members gave to TPL to support the purchase of assistive technology, equipment, resources and materials to benefit children with disabilities and help them to participate more fully in TPL programs and activities. The gift will allow TPL to pilot these tools in the Children's Area at our branch in East York.

January is Family Literacy Month

Join us as we celebrate families sharing the joy of reading and literacy together. **tpl.ca/familyliteracymonth**

Preserving Toronto's History

A Gift to Support the Digitization of Special Collections

Over the years, the Library's special collections have grown in significance, size and relevance. In an effort to maximize their reach and depth, the Library has been focused on digitizing Special Collections content currently in the public domain. A recent gift in support of specialized equipment from donors Vera and John Chau, will help TPL advance its goals, making the Library's cultural heritage more readily available for all Torontonians, and those beyond our city, to access online.

Another Fun Summer of Reading for Kids of All Ages

Thanks to the incredible support of TD Bank Group, the 2019 **TD Summer Reading Club** was a huge success at Toronto Public Library. Ensuring children read during the summer months is crucial to building their confidence and excitement while they are not in school.

This past summer over 75,000 kids took part in the TD SRC and enjoyed 3,781 programs offered at TPL branches across the city and online. We are grateful to TD for its ongoing commitment to keeping kids reading all summer long. **tdsummerreadingclub.ca**

#imlibrarypeople

ask an expert

Daniel Onaifo

Branch Head 2, Humberwood
Community Librarian (Digital Literacy)

Q: What is a Community Librarian?

A: Community Librarians are embedded in the community, working directly with residents and connecting them to the library branches. We develop partnerships with various organizations, that respond to the distinct needs of Toronto neighbourhoods. It's an exciting way for librarians to move out of their traditional branch setting and provide a full range of library services - all at the point of need for the customer.

Q: What do you do to support Toronto communities?

A: Lots! Everything from delivering children's, youth, and adult programs, helping with library card registration, and supporting those needing assistance with job search and career advancement, academic development and digital literacy. Community Librarians also work with agencies and city divisions, some of which include the Toronto Employment and Social Services, Toronto South and East Detention Centres, FCJ Refugee Centre and Rexdale Community Health Centre.

Thank you

The Community Librarian (Digital Literacy) pilot in the Rexdale community is generously supported by Toronto Pearson Airport.

Grandma is a TPL Librarian and Lily is clearly ready for reading, and for the holidays!

Wear What You Care About

Holiday Shopping Made Easy

Purchase from our exclusive I'm Library People collection and you'll have the perfect presents for the library fans in your life. You'll also be supporting TPL because partial proceeds from every item sold are donated to the Library.

Thank you for being Library People!

Shop today.

imlibrarypeople.ca/merch

Bookmobile Community Campaign Raises $50,000!

October was Canadian Library Month and in only 4 short weeks, Torontonians united to support our **Bookmobile Community Campaign**. Together we raised a significant amount to put toward the purchase of a new Bookmobile – a library on wheels that visits underserved Toronto communities. The participation was overwhelming and we thank everyone who made a donation.

Learn more about the TPL Bookmobile
tpl.ca/bookmobiles

From our TPL Foundation family to yours,

we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Join the conversation

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