

absolutely vital

A newsletter from
The Toronto Public Library Foundation

All about Cedarbrae

This busy district branch is an indispensable resource for the Scarborough community it serves. You can find:

- KidsStop Early Literacy Centre
- Computer labs for hands-on learning
- Youth Hub and Teen Zone
- Quiet study rooms and outdoor reading areas
- Collections in a variety of languages like Chinese, Hindi, Tamil, Polish and French



Photo: Steven Evans

Meet Tom.



I'm 91 years old and I visit TPL every day.

My branch is Cedarbrae

"My late wife and I bought a home in this neighbourhood before the library was even built, so this branch has been part of my life for a long time. I was a Toronto police officer and worked odd hours, so when I was home during the day, I'd spend time reading at the library. Once I discovered all the free magazines at TPL, I stopped buying them and used the money I saved to retire early! **I've been retired 34 years, and I'm a daily visitor at Cedarbrae. Toronto Public Library has enriched my life in so many ways. All the staff here know me, and they feel like a part of my family.**"

Volunteer Spotlight

TPLF welcomes new Board Chair and Director

We're thrilled to announce the appointment of Anne Maggisano as Chair of the TPLF Board of Directors. Anne is the Vice President of Client Relations at Burgundy Asset Management and is a past TPL Foundation Director, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee. We also welcome Marlon Hylton, former partner at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, and now CEO & Senior Counsel at INNOV-8 Data Counsel & INNOV-8 Legal Inc., a law firm and technology company.



Anne Maggisano



Marlon Hylton

TPL Friends of the Osborne Collection Receives bequest from Estate of Clara Lahmer

This generous gift will establish an endowment for ongoing funding of the Albert Lahmer Memorial Lecture (now the Clara and Albert Lahmer Lecture). The lecture also helps increase awareness for the **Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books**, a world-leading research collection of rare and notable children's books housed at the Lillian H. Smith branch.



tpl.ca/osborne

Remembering Gordon Hinch

It is with sadness that the Toronto Public Library Foundation acknowledges the passing of Gordon Hinch, an annual donor, avid fundraiser, and a supporter through Planned Giving. Gordon established the Pauline Hinch Memorial Award for Staff Development to enable TPL staff to further their careers in librarianship. The award was created in memory of his wife Pauline, a TPL librarian, and has now been re-named the Pauline and Gordon Hinch Memorial Award in his honour. tplfoundation.ca/endowments



Fall donor celebration features
award-winning filmmaker

Deepa Mehta



“It's not just storytelling - libraries
are a stronghold of possibilities.”

- Deepa Mehta

Hosted by Globe & Mail columnist Liz Renzetti, the lively conversation took place in The Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room and guests tuned in virtually. Deepa discussed her exceptional career, upcoming projects, and her thoughts on the critical work libraries do.

Watch the full interview:
tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle

This event was presented by Literary Circle and Heritage Society. To learn more about TPLF memberships, visit tplfoundation.ca.

TPL Internet Connectivity Kits

670 kits delivered to low-income residents who urgently needed a digital lifeline

In October, the [Toronto Vital Signs 2021 Report](#) released by the Toronto Foundation provided a snapshot of the impact COVID-19 has had on our most vulnerable residents.

“The accelerated shift online has exposed an immense digital divide. Without equal access to the internet and technology, the online world is perpetuating obstacles for those who were already being marginalized by systematic barriers.” - Toronto Vital Signs, 2021 Report

The Library launched the program to address this very challenge, offering a free laptop, Wi-Fi hotspot and data plan to those in need. New donor support in 2021 comes from a generous anonymous donor, the Richard and Colleen Peddie Foundation, a gift made in honour of Diana Morrison and Family, and several other donors.



Grateful recipients send their thanks

What is a Community Librarian?

They are TPL staff who connect with vulnerable populations at their point of need.

Community Librarians work directly with social services organizations such as shelters, refugee centres, community housing and incarceration centres. These librarians are able to offer help with sourcing housing, job searches, resume writing or technology assistance.

Thanks to an anonymous lead donor and other generous supporters, [Community Librarians](#) are making a difference beyond the traditional walls of TPL branches.

Free industry-recognized IT certificate courses offered at TPL

Made possible thanks to an investment from Bank of America

Toronto's technology industry is growing rapidly with the third fastest rate of tech job growth in North America. At the same time, there is a widening skills gap in the labour market, and not enough trained IT professionals to fill available jobs. The Library recognizes that IT training programs are expensive and not accessible to all, so this TPL staff facilitated certification program offers virtual group and one-on-one sessions, resulting in course completion rates as high as 80%.



Update!



Thanks to donor support, 31,500 children's library cards have been cleared of overdue fines, 50% from low-income areas.

Toronto Public Library is officially fine-free for materials borrowed on children's cards

Removing barriers to library access ensures kids stay connected to the information and resources they need - for school, learning, culture and entertainment.

“I am immensely grateful for this. It has been a very difficult year and the Library being fine-free for kids allows for a stress-free experience with TPL.” - Library user

Thank you to the City of Toronto TOSupport grant program, and lead donors Friends of Toronto Public Library, South Chapter, the Haynes-Connell Foundation, an anonymous donor as well as several other donors who made this possible.

#ImLibraryPeople

ask an expert

Miranda Huska

Branch Head, Parkdale Library

Q: Why is it important for Toronto Public Library to have a Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library?

A: Studies show that playing an instrument enhances reading and math skills, creative development and emotional well-being, increases auditory attention, and grows appreciation for culture and history. Borrowing a musical instrument is a natural extension of traditional library services and we're grateful to have two Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Libraries at TPL.

Q: Who benefits most from this service in our city?

A: So many people! We lend instruments for a wide range of purposes. To those who want to try something new; to anyone who is returning to music after some years; to parents who want their children to try instruments before buying one and committing to lessons; to families or friends who jam together; teachers, students, seniors, people in shelters, professional and amateur performers. It's a pleasure to see so many people making use of this unique and valuable service.



Thank you

This service is made possible with generous support from Sun Life through their Making the Arts More Accessible™ program.

Annual Holiday Giving Campaign is here!

Help build success, resilience and well-being for our city



Thank you for believing in the work TPL does, and for giving to the world's busiest public library system.

tplfoundation.ca/holiday
416-393-7123

This holiday season, we're directing your gift to TPL's priority projects. Donations help ensure everyone in Toronto has access to the free Library resources they need to recover from the pandemic and thrive.

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 at imlibrarypeople.ca

Meet #LibraryLily



Grandma is a retired TPL Librarian and Lily looks ready for reading during the holidays.

Gifts by Will



Planning to leave a gift in your will?

Let us know or learn how you can support the Library.

tplfoundation.ca/plannedgift

This holiday season, donate to Toronto Public Library and make a meaningful difference in your community.

- ✓ Give online at imlibrarypeople.ca/holiday
- ✓ Make a tribute gift in honour or memory of someone special at tplfoundation.ca/tribute
- ✓ Join Literary Circle and enjoy a years' worth of benefits tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle

Donate today or call 416-393-7123

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THE GIFT
OF THE
LIBRARY

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