

# absolutely vital

A newsletter from  
The Toronto Public Library Foundation

## Welcome to Brentwood

Located in Etobicoke, this beautiful neighbourhood branch has a KidsStop Early Literacy Centre, a Teen Zone and plenty of computers. It also has this lovely Reading Garden outside where people can regularly be seen enjoying their books, having a coffee, or using the branch's free Wi-Fi.

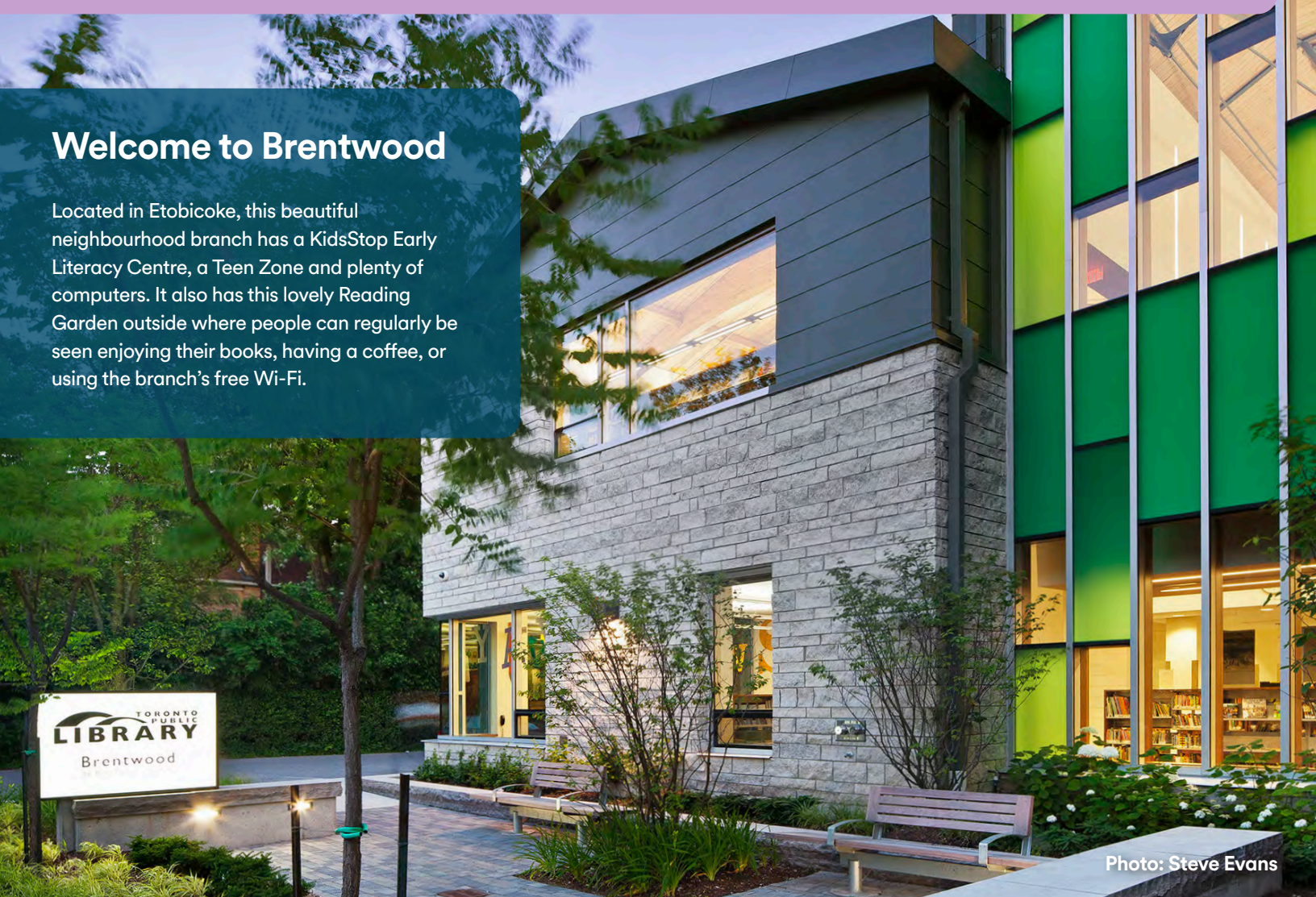


Photo: Steve Evans



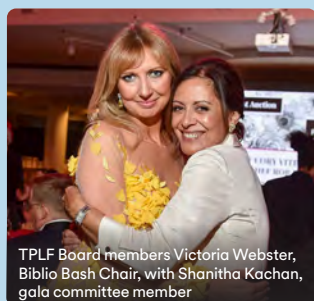
## Meet Teresa

### Children's Services Specialist, Brentwood Branch

We think Teresa has one of the coolest jobs at Toronto Public Library! She reads books at story time, hosts puppet shows, and is part of a small committee of Library staff who select the children's books you see in our 100 branches. *"I love my job because I get to be silly with the kids, and interact with all the wonderful families who regularly visit the branch. The best part is recommending books to young readers and then chatting with them about how much they enjoyed the story."*



## Record-Breaking Fundraiser Biblio Bash, presented by TD Bank Group raises \$837,807



Biblio Bash was back in grand style! Toronto philanthropists, business leaders, city builders and library lovers came together on April 7, 2022 at the Toronto Reference Library to support the world's busiest public library system. Attended by 38 notable authors and over 400 guests, the sold-out black-tie gala raised significant funds to support one of Toronto Public Library's most vital programs - the Internet Connectivity Kit program. Thank you to the Biblio Bash volunteer committee and our sponsors for helping us exceed our fundraising goal.



Hosted by ETALK's Tyrone Edwards, he commented, *"It was an honour to host this year's Biblio Bash. The vibes were right especially after the unavoidable hiatus, the fashion was on point and we raised a lot of money for a great cause. Toronto showed up and showed out!"*

For photos, news coverage, impact video and social media visit [bibliobash.ca](https://bibliobash.ca) or search #BiblioBash

## Toronto Public Library Foundation Celebrating 25 Years

In 1997, Janet McKelvey and Richard Boxer co-founded TPLF to establish a charity that would "build a city of lifelong readers, learners and creators for a successful Toronto". Here we are, 25 years later! Since its inception, TPLF has raised \$95 million thanks to generous donors, partners and volunteers.

Let's take a walk down memory lane and highlight some of TPLF's philanthropic milestones.

### 1997

TPLF founded and Canada Trust donates \$1.2M to help save the Audubon Collection.

### 2006

Sophie Lucyk leaves legacy gift of over \$3M and dramatically changes children's Literacy at the Library - supporting Sophie's Studio, KidsStops, and more.

### 2009

First significant capital campaign with million dollar gifts from the Estate of Bluma Appel (over \$4M) and Charles and Marilyn Baillie (\$1.5M).

### 2016

Launch of Chinese Canadian Archive which wins a 2018 Heritage Toronto Award.

### 2021

The Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room officially opens at the Toronto Reference Library.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Linda Diener and Rosellen Trudeau retire from the Friends of TPL North Chapter.



## Thank you for your years of service

Linda was hired as a librarian when the North York Central Library (NYCL) opened in 1997 and has spent the last 25 years as a volunteer with TPL holding numerous roles, most recently as Chair of the North Chapter Board. Following her retirement from a career as a paralegal, Rosellen joined the Friends as a volunteer in the BOOKEnds used bookstore at NYCL. She too has held a number of important positions including Volunteer Coordinator and Store Manager.

## Literary Circle Donor Reception An evening with award-winning writer Sheila Heti



Photo: Charla Jones

After months of virtual events, Literary Circle members and friends were back together for a private event and author talk with Scotiabank Giller Prize nominee, Sheila Heti. Hosted at the Toronto Reference Library on April 25, 2022, guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres while listening to Sheila discuss her latest book, *Pure Colour*.

## Join Literary Circle Today

With an annual gift of \$1,500, join a community of library champions who believe in the vital work TPL does. Members also gain access to an array of local and international authors, storytellers and thought leaders.

Learn more at [tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle](https://tplfoundation.ca/literary-circle)

Did you know?

## You can borrow a musical instrument from the Library

Libraries are so much more than books!

The Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library is the first of its kind in the city, and also the first in public libraries across Canada. With generous support from Sun Life through their Making the Arts More Accessible™ program, Toronto Public Library offers a collection of musical instruments, such as the ones featured here, that can be borrowed with your library card at two of our branches.

Thank you to Sun Life for renewing your generous support of arts and culture at Toronto Public Library so people of all ages and abilities can explore their love of music.

Borrow instruments at TPL's Parkdale and Downsview branches.  
[tpl.ca/instrumentlending](https://tpl.ca/instrumentlending)



## In Memory | John Honderich

We were saddened to learn of the passing of TPL Foundation's Governors' Council member, John Honderich. Mr. Honderich had a great passion for this city, for storytelling and for championing causes he cared about - including public libraries. A longtime supporter of TPL, Mr. Honderich was instrumental in creating the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre at the Toronto Reference Library as well as facilitating the newspaper's donation of over one million digital photos to the Toronto Star Photograph Archive at TPL. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and close friends.

## 25 years of support from TD Bank Group

We are proud of our partnership with TD Bank Group, through the TD Ready Commitment, for generously supporting the Library since 1997, giving over 18 million dollars to unique and engaging programs, services and spaces.



### TD Summer Reading Club

Ensures kids keep reading all summer long, while building their confidence and excitement for learning.



### TD Heritage Programming

Educational, social and cultural resources, programs and experiences that embrace diversity and strengthen our communities.



### Our Fragile Planet

Environmental education on issues like conservation, green energy, recycling and wildlife preservation that help protect the planet.

## Estate of Diane Bisson

## A Donation to Highest Priority Needs



Throughout her lifetime, Diane Bisson was an avid reader of books and newspapers, and used Toronto Public Library extensively. Her decision to leave a large bequest to the Library is one shared by thousands in our donor community who choose to give an undesignated gift and make a positive impact in the lives of Torontonians.

Interested in leaving a gift to the Library in your will?  
 Learn more at [tplfoundation.ca/plannedgift](https://tplfoundation.ca/plannedgift)

## K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation Expanding TPL's Pride Collection

The K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation's ongoing support of the Pride Collection helps provide free and equitable access to diverse and inclusive resources at the Library. Thanks to their recent gift, TPL can expand e-resources within this important collection, which is one of the largest 2SLGBTQ+ collections in Canada. The Pride Collection features thousands of titles for all ages about the culture, history and life experience of these communities.



## ask an expert

### Aly Velji

Manager, Adult Services

In consultation with Indigenous communities across the city, Toronto Public Library established its Strategies for Indigenous Initiatives, which outlines the Library's commitment to Reconciliation.

**Q: Can you explain what TPL's Indigenous Advisory Council is?**

**A:** The Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) is comprised of community members from diverse Indigenous communities and representatives from Indigenous service providers across Toronto. The IAC provides feedback and guidance on the direction of Indigenous Initiatives at TPL and are a permanent part of the Library's response to Truth and Reconciliation.

**Q: Can you highlight ways TPL is implementing Indigenous initiatives?**

**A:** TPL has developed Land Acknowledgment Statements, the annual Read Indigenous campaign and is strengthening online Indigenous content and resources to educate customers and staff on Truth and Reconciliation, residential schools and treaty relationships. TPL is also Indigenousizing its spaces with the renaming of the Bayview branch to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' and the planting of a medicine garden at Albert Campbell Branch.

Indigenous Celebrations program series is generously supported by:



And made possible, in part, thanks to a generous gift in memory of Avie Bennett.

Now is a great time to support your Toronto Public Library  
**Donations made before July 31<sup>st</sup> will be matched**

[tplfoundation.ca/summermatch](http://tplfoundation.ca/summermatch) or call 416-393-7123



**Donations help Toronto Public Library provide free access to library information and resources that Torontonians need for:**

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Lifelong Learning
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Culture and Entertainment

When you give today, we'll immediately double your donation thanks to a Matching Campaign and direct your gift to where the Library needs it most.

### TPLF News | Introducing William Scott

#### Toronto Public Library Foundation announces appointment of Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to announce that William "Will" Scott has joined the TPL Foundation as the new Chief Executive Officer. Will began his new role in April and comes to TPLF after serving as Chief Advancement Officer at Evergreen, the largest environmental organization focused on urban issues in Canada. As a former urban public school teacher and history professor, Will has an abiding commitment to literacy and education and we welcome him to Toronto Public Library.



### Will your employer match your gift? *They might!*

**Learn how to make your TPL donation go even further.**

Many companies have donation matching programs, which means when you give to your favourite causes (like Toronto Public Library!), your employer can help you give even more. The TPL Foundation has added a handy new search tool in our online donation form that checks if your employer participates in a matching gift program. It's easy to use and gives you the potential to double or even triple your donation.

[tplfoundation.ca/employermatch](http://tplfoundation.ca/employermatch)

Join the conversation

#ImLibraryPeople