



Biblio Bash Raises a Record-Breaking \$837,807 in Support of Toronto Public Library

Toronto, ON (April, 11, 2022) – Last week, after a three-year hiatus, Biblio Bash was back in grand style! Toronto philanthropists, business leaders, city builders and library lovers came together on April 7, 2022 in the stacks of the Toronto Reference Library for Biblio Bash, presented by **TD Bank Group**, all in support of the world's busiest public library system – Toronto Public Library (TPL). Attended by 38 notable authors and 420 guests, the sold-out black-tie gala raised significant funds to support one of TPL's most vital programs – Internet Connectivity Kits.

Internet Connectivity Kits provide a free laptop computer and Wi-Fi hotspot with an unlimited 2-year data plan to some of our city's most vulnerable residents. The pandemic exacerbated the digital divide in Toronto, and highlighted just how critical online access is, so this year's Biblio Bash Committee selected this TPL program as the on-site fundraising priority for the night. The Toronto Public Library Foundation (TPLF) unveiled a new [Internet Connectivity Kit Impact Video](#), and were thrilled to welcome **Tricon Residential** as the gala's new Connectivity Sponsor.

Tyrone Edwards from CTV's ETALK did an exceptional job hosting the event, which kicked off with a powerful spoken word performance written for the occasion by Ontario's Poet Laureate, Randell Adjei. Each dinner table welcomed notable Canadian authors, sponsored by the **Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan Charitable Foundation**. Writers in attendance included Heather O'Neill, Ali Hassan, Saleema Nawaz, Shari Lapena, Linden Macintyre, Perdita Felicien, Randy Boyagoda, Ashley Audrain, Sonya Singh and Linda Rui Feng. To see the full list of authors in attendance visit bibliobash.ca.

Biblio Bash Chair, Victoria Webster, commented in her gala remarks that, "This evening is about connecting to each other, to friends and family, to the wider world and to those in need. Toronto Public Library does this in a hundred ways every day, and as I look out at all of you who have joined us here this evening, I see one of the strongest philanthropic communities in the city. I know that the TPL Foundation is in very good hands."

Upon entering the iconic Toronto Reference Library guests were greeted to a glass of bubbly at the Veuve Clicquot Champagne bar and escorted to the second-floor stacks for a reception sponsored by **Mantella Corporation**. While sipping on cocktails, thanks to Spirit of York Distilleries and Proximo, guests enjoyed music from the band, The Collective featuring Aion Clarke and Cleopatra Williams, and bid on unique silent auction packages. One-of-a-kind experiences included four different Book Club Dinners with authors Margaret Atwood, Rick Mercer, Elamin Abdelmehmoud and Ashley Audrain, a weekend stay at The Royal Hotel in Prince Edward County, VIP seats in a Luxury Suite for the Toronto Blue Jays vs New York Yankees, and a private dinner with Chefs Cory Vitiello and Rob Rossi. Celebrity photographer George Pimentel's always popular Portrait Studio sponsored by **Rogers Communications Inc.** was back, capturing the stylish crowd donning the theme of the night: black and white and floral.

Dinner was served in the atrium with a delicious menu developed by 10tation Catering, wine from Corby Spirit & Wine, and sponsored by **Labatt Breweries of Canada**. Biblio Bash ended the way it always does, with late night snacks. This year an ice cream cart from small-batch local ice cream shop Ruru Baked and trays of McDonald's burgers, were made possible thanks to Late Night Treat sponsor, **The MacNamara Family**.

Airline Sponsor, **Porter Airlines** and Hotel sponsor, **The Anndore House** allowed for a number of out of town authors to travel to Toronto and be part of the celebration. Biblio Bash was also supported by Event Sponsors, **GFL Environmental**, a sponsorship made **In Honour of Jordana's Rainbows** and media partners, **The Toronto Star** and **Toronto Life**.

"We are grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our Biblio Bash sponsors, attendees and our community of supporters, whose gifts to the library make a meaningful impact on individuals and families in Toronto," said Will Scott, CEO of the Toronto Public Library Foundation. "You simply cannot underestimate the importance of having access to a public library in your life. Access to learning, to opportunities, to resources, to supportive staff and to experiences, and TPL donors help make this happen."

Biblio Bash 2022 Sponsors:

TD Bank Group, Presenting Sponsor; Tricon Residential, Connectivity Sponsor; Rogers Communications Inc., Portrait Studio Sponsor; Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan Charitable Foundation, Author Host Sponsor; Mantella Corporation, Champagne Reception & Lounge Sponsor; Labatt Breweries of Canada, Dinner Sponsor; The MacNamara Family, Late Night Treat Sponsor; In Honour of Jordana's Rainbows, Event Sponsor; GFL Environmental, Event Sponsor; Porter Airlines, Airline Sponsor; Toronto Star and Toronto Life, Media Sponsors; The Anndore House, Hotel Sponsor

Biblio Bash 2022 Partners:

Campo Viejo Wine, Stoneleigh Wine, Veuve Cliquot, Spirit of York Distillery Co. Vodka and Gin, Maestro Dobel Tequila, Bushmills Irish Whiskey, Stella Artois, Balzac's Coffee Roasters

Biblio Bash 2022 Committee:

Victoria Webster, Chair; Amanda Alvaro, Sonja Berman, Amy Burstyn-Fritz, Beth Clarkson, Kate Daniels, Laila Deluce, Alison Fiorini, Johnny Goldman, Jennifer Grant, Jane Halverson, Shanitha Kachan, Marissa Kassam, Stuart Keeler, Jen Kirsch, Krystal Koo, Claire MacNamara, Lindsay Mattick, Claire McIntyre, Colette van den Thillart, Sarah Wellings

For more information about the gala, links to photo albums, videos and the complete list of authors in attendance at Biblio Bash, please visit bibliobash.ca and [#BiblioBash](https://twitter.com/BiblioBash) and [#ImLibraryPeople](https://twitter.com/ImLibraryPeople) on social media. Photos by George Pimentel.

About the Toronto Public Library Foundation:

The Toronto Public Library Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds to support the exemplary collections, ground-breaking programs and services, and the innovative community spaces at the world's busiest public library system; Toronto Public Library. This year marks the TPL Foundation's 25th anniversary, and since its inception in 1997, the Foundation has raised over \$95 million thanks to generous donors, corporate partners and volunteers. Donating to Toronto Public Library is an investment in literacy, education, culture and in the vitality of a world-class city. Learn more at tplfoundation.ca or call 416-393-7123.

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