

## **KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2011**

**Month: November 2011**

### **REACHING OUT TO...**

#### **FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS**

1. The Children's Department participated in an outreach program to teen moms and their babies. The young women are working independently to complete their high school credits while YMCA staff took care of their babies. For 8 weeks, the moms and babies enjoyed a weekly babytime program which featured songs, finger rhymes and simple books. The response has been very positive as the young moms became aware of the value of sharing books and reading, playing and singing with their babies in the development of early literacy skills as well as nurturing the bond between mother and child.
2. Children's Department staff attended the Library Board forum for Families and Caregivers at Burnhamthorpe Library. This forum was aimed at examining the services currently being offered and future possibilities
3. Central Library staff hosted a "Your Library" event to homeschoolers. An attendee emailed: "I was very impressed by the presentation that staff gave today. I was also very impressed to see that the Mississauga Library system is so open to homeschoolers and their needs!! As a homeschooling mom, I am always looking for great places to take my kids during school hours that are close and free and useful. I will be encouraging my older kids to use the library more."

#### **YOUTH**

1. Staff from the Arts and History Department led a variety of research and library literacy workshops and building tours for 10 classes from 4 local middle and high schools. A total of 234 students attended.
2. Readers' Den hosted Alyxandra Harvey, author of "Haunting Violet." Ms. Harvey is a well-known youth author and was pleased to meet with fans of her work at the Central Library.
3. Readers' Den continues to offer quality and accessible youth programs including Teen Advisory Group meetings, the Teen Book Club, teen gaming programs and teen film night. Library staff are considering new initiatives with Engineering Without Borders, the Mississauga Arts Council and University of Toronto at Mississauga for 2012.

#### **OLDER ADULTS**

1. Central Sciences and Business staff held 4 computer classes (Internet Level I and Level II, Email for Seniors and Computer Mouse Skills), welcoming Older Adults. 19 people attended.
2. Staff from the Canadiana Reading Room hosted this year's last lecture in the Heritage Speaker Series on November 17. Local historian and author Alan Skeoch gave an excellent presentation on the Japanese internment in Canada. Held in the new Maya Prentice Theatre, the lecture drew 52 people, of

various ages and backgrounds, including many Japanese Canadians, some of whom had actually been interned during World War II.

3. A customer who uses Homebound services called to thank the Library for offering services to customers who are unable to visit in person. She has enjoyed many books and CDs over the years and wanted to acknowledge staff for their good work.

## **NEW CANADIANS**

1. Central Sciences and Business staff coordinated 11 Career Tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, and Peel Multicultural Council. 127 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job search databases. Staff invited them back for a Career Research Day to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills. 77 returning students took advantage of the offer.
2. The Newcomer Information Centre (NIC), a division of The Centre for Education and Training (TCET), has moved to its new location on the 2nd floor of the Central Library, near the Newcomer Information area. NIC staffs a table in that area six days a week, eight hours a day. During times when NIC are not staffing a table, Central Sciences and Business staff have committed to taking customers contact information and sharing it with NIC staff for follow up.
3. Central Sciences and Business staff attended the Community Forum for Newcomers. This was an opportunity to hear directly from community stakeholders to improve the library system's services for Newcomers.
4. The Arts and History Department is facilitating an English Conversation Circle on Tuesday evenings. Only in its first month, the drop-in group has attracted positive comments from the dozens of attendees coming from diverse backgrounds, needs and experience.
5. Readers' Den staff offered 5 tours for New Canadians. Participants came from India Rainbow and the Dufferin Peel Separate School Board.

## **COMPLETING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS**

1. Families were welcomed to the Library by Children's Department staff during the City's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Two viewings of the award-winning animated movie, The Snowman, gave participants a chance for a warm and relaxing reprieve from the outdoor festivities.
2. Central Sciences and Business staff, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science (RCI), hosted Dr. Ali Rizv, a noted cancer pathologist for his lecture entitled "A Pathological Obsession : Disease through the Microscope". Dr. Rizvi shared his knowledge about the origins of the practice of pathology and its possible role in the future of medicine to a captivated audience of 64 people. The lecture was videotaped and can now be accessed worldwide through the RCI website (<http://royalcanadianinstitute.org>).

## **OTHER (special initiatives)**

1. Readers' Den launched the "Readers to Writers Network". This program allows local authors to submit copies of their work to staff in the Readers' Den department. Staff will then facilitate the reading of their submission by local readers who can offer some basic feedback on the writing. This initiative was suggested by a library user and it will benefit local authors in the writing process.
2. The Canadiana Reading Room provided 13 high-resolution copies of photos from the Historic Images Gallery to Dipika Damera, MPP Mississauga East-Cooksville for the constituency's 2012 calendar. Ms. Damera's assistant sent a thank-you note reiterating how satisfied she was with the library's support and service.