

KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2011

Month: September-October

REACHING OUT TO...

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

1. Author/illustrator Ian Wallace did two presentations to Grade 4/5 children on his book, *The Canadian Railroad Trilogy* based on the music of Gordon Lightfoot. The opportunity to meet an author in person is always enthusiastically received and stimulates a huge interest in the creative process. The library is fortunate to have generous sponsorship of author visits by the Friends of the Library.
2. The Children's Department has entered into a partnership with Rick Hansen Secondary School's award-winning Robotics Team. A 10 week program is being piloted and is designed to encourage an interest in science and technology. The program is conducted by students with the assistance of parent volunteers and school staff. The response has been outstanding! For four consecutive weeks at least 70 children have started to build their own robots. The excitement is electrifying! Most recently, an information session was held where all were keen to know how they could introduce similar programs in their schools. Department Head teacher and mentor, John Hobbs, explained that this is precisely why the library has been identified as the perfect venue for hosting the program, allowing children from all neighbourhoods to participate.
3. Saturday Oct. 28th was a perfect example of the range of drop-in activities available to children and their families. Rise and Shine Family Storytime in the morning, Robotics for school-aged children in the midday and a Spooktacular Halloween Storytime in the afternoon. In the one day more than 200 children participated in library programs.

YOUTH

1. The Canadian Reading Room hosted the first annual Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award on Saturday, October 1st. The award recognizes outstanding youth writing. Works must be based on a real person, event or place related to the history of Mississauga. The judges, Jan Noel (University of Toronto at Mississauga) and Matthew Wilkinson (Heritage Mississauga) awarded the first prize to Kayla Demers for her work "A Trip Back In Time". Honorable mentions went to Julia Raftery and Winston Liu.
2. Reader's Den pilot BINGO Teen Summer Reading Program was well-received by customers and will be expanded throughout the system for next year. A special prize was awarded for the 100th participant. A total of 108 entries were received.
3. Former Central Teen Advisory Group member (2007-2011) Yousra Hassan-Gendil was awarded a scholarship by the United Achiever's Club, in part due to her contribution to the

library system. Yousra is now attending the University of Toronto.

OLDER ADULTS

1. Sciences and Business staff presented a program “Inside North Korea” on October 24th. Long closed to foreigners, North Korea has taken slow steps towards opening up to the outside world. Craig Rowland, a Central Library staff member, was in the first group to embark on the longest and most extensive tour of North Korea ever made possible to western visitors. Craig presented a slide show of his 18 days in North Korea followed by a Question and Answer period for the 27 attendees.
2. Sciences and Business staff began a Non-Fiction monthly documentary series entitled “What’s up? Docs!” Films have included Michael Moore’s Sicko and the Oscar-Award winning “The Cove”. Films play on the last Wednesday of every month to growing audiences.
3. In partnership with the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Sciences (RCI), Sciences and Business staff presented Dr. William Harris of McMaster University, who lectured on the “Creative Reactions to the End of the World”, addressing the diverse ways artists and writers have drawn inspiration from discoveries made about the universe, beginning with Galileo. The lecture attracted 30 people, despite it being the same night as the Provincial Election and the Maple Leafs’ season opener.
4. The Arts and History Department coordinated an Older Adult Volunteer Fair at Central Library on Saturday, September 17th in partnership with Volunteer MBC (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon). Over 30 community organizations looking for older adult volunteers participated in the Fair while the Chinese Business Association sponsored its annual Crime Awareness Day Salute to Seniors on Celebration Square with practical workshops and events. The synergy of these two simultaneous events created a unique opportunity for older adults in the heart of Mississauga.
5. Arts and History Department librarian, Dorothy Kew, has won a Senior Achievement Award in the category of Keeping History Alive sponsored by Ontario’s Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration for her unstinting support of local history – research, education, and service in the Canadiana Reading Room. The supporting documentation included testimonials from the Library’s heritage partners (Museums of Mississauga, Heritage Planning Department and the affiliated organization Heritage Mississauga Foundation), several key researchers, various media articles and nominations. Dorothy Kew will join 19 other seniors to be honoured in a ceremony at Queen’s Park on Thursday, November 17th.
6. Reader’s Den staff visited the Forum Italia senior residence, presenting an overview both in-library and homebound services.
7. Reader’s Den staff attended the October 21st Community Forum for Youth. This was an opportunity to hear directly from community stakeholders for continued growth and improvement towards the library system’s services for young adults.

NEW CANADIANS

1. Sciences and Business staff coordinated 25 career tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, and Peel Multicultural Council. 312 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job searching databases. Staff also invited participants back for a Career Research Day in order to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills. 92 returning students took advantage of the offer.
2. Reader's Den staff conducted 4 tours of Central Library for 40 English as a Second Language students from the India Rainbow Community Services of Peel's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program. Students received an overview of library services with an emphasis on materials of interest to newcomers. Arrangements were made to receive library cards following tours.
3. The Arts and History Department continues to hold the very popular English Conversation Circle in the Canadiana Reading Room on Tuesday nights in partnership with Newcomer Centre of Peel.
4. The Children's Department continues to offer a Welcome to Canada Family Storytime which attracts between 40 and 50 participants on a weekly basis.

COMPLETING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

1. On October 1st, the Mississauga Library System hosted the 4th Annual Mississauga Book Fest for the first time in Central Library. This year, the Book Fest was held in conjunction with Culture Days and Doors Open. All locations participated by sending staff, volunteers and/or book trucks for the book truck parade. Book displays celebrating Central's 20 years were mounted throughout the building. Tech Rovers offered assistance with new gadgets and library services and costumed characters had children delighted throughout the day. The Local Authors' Lounge provided an opportunity for local authors to network with each other and the public. Children's author and illustrator Jeremy Tankard closed out the event with an hour-long Talk and Draw session in the Noel Ryan Auditorium. With almost 4,500 people in attendance and nearly 60 volunteers on hand, Book Fest proved to be a big success for the library and the City.
2. The Arts and History Department in Partnership with the City's heritage community presented lecture three in the on-going Heritage Speakers series. The War of 1812: Why Canada is not a US State was presented on October 6th by Professor Emeritus Ken Weber at the newly renovated Maja Prentice Theatre attached to Burnhamthorpe Library.

3. Reader's Den staff contributed to a successful Book Fest event on October 1st. In addition to serving as guides for building tours and helping with the FOL book sale, staff ran a dedicated youth space featuring gaming and button-making. New displays celebrating 20 years of Central were mounted throughout the floor. Finally, the event was used to launch and promote awareness of the new Reader-to-Writer Network; several writers and readers stopped by this booth and signed up to participate in this project.

BUSINESSES

1. Sciences and Business staff continue to produce and promote The Business Bridge, a newsletter for staff and customers that provides information on various business services offered by the library. Due to its growing relevance within the community, The Business Bridge will become a quarterly publication in 2012.
2. Sciences & Business staff attended the October 19th Community Forum for Small Business. This was a chance to hear directly from community stakeholders so that services for Small Businesses and their owners can be improved.

LIVING GREEN

1. Sciences and Business staff, in conjunction with the Applewood Garden Club, presented "Magnificent Abundance" with David Tarrant. 85 people attended the event.

OTHER (special initiatives)

1. As part of partnering commitments with the "hi Collaborative", Sciences and Business staff have compiled eight reading lists covering various health-related topics, to be posted on the brand-new hi website. These lists are unique in that they link to the library catalogue and not to a for-profit company.