

KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2012

Month: March

REACHING OUT TO...

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

1. Sciences and Business staff conducted a history program for homeschooling parents focussing on how to use library print and e-resources. Twenty-one attendees enjoyed exploring databases while focussing on the War of 1812.
2. The Children's Department at the Central Library was a great destination for families over March Break. A menu of programs offered magic, music, fun with Lego, an opportunity to touch a snake and see a live owl up close in Creature Quest, balloon creations and storytimes. Altogether 12 programs were enjoyed by 1250 participants.
3. The Children's Department continues to nurture relationships with community groups and on March 31 hosted a spring concert featuring three different ensembles from the Mississauga Children's Choir. The presentation was organized to help generate an interest in choral singing especially prior to annual auditions.

YOUTH

1. Readers' Den hosted a successful March Break with 10 programs attended by 109 teens. This year featured a successful partnership with the Art Gallery of Mississauga allowing teens the opportunity to visit the gallery and grow their creativity. Other partners included: Mississauga Arts Council, Ontario College of Art and Design and Youth Troopers for Global Awareness.
2. A pilot program with the University of Toronto at Mississauga offered 2 sessions at the Central Library on study skills for high school students.

OLDER ADULTS

1. Canadiana Reading Room staff provided online help to a customer in South Boston, Virginia who wrote "thank you so very much.... My mother is now ninety-two years old and **of very sound mind**. You cannot imagine how happy it made her to read this and see pictures that she'd only heard about for all these years! As soon as we gather more information, our family wants to visit Canada, meet relatives, and walk the ground our family walked on."
2. Central Sciences and Business staff conducted 4 computer workshops focussing on Internet Basics (level 1 and level 2) as well Mouse Skills. Seventeen people attended the popular Saturday morning sessions.
3. Two new Homebound customers were added and an additional seniors' residence will be added to receive monthly shipments.

NEW CANADIANS

1. Arts and History Department's English Conversation Circle is running its second series from March 20 to May 8 and already has a waiting list.
2. Sciences and Business staff coordinated 15 Career Tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, ACCESS Employment, Peel Multicultural Council, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre. 189 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job searching databases. Three groups, totalling 76 attendees, returned for a Career Research Day to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills.
3. In partnership with the Newcomer Information Centre, a division of The Centre for Education and Training, the Sciences and Business Department hosted a talk on "Tax Information for Newcomers", where attendees learned about the Canadian tax system, what to claim, and how to file taxes.
4. Sciences and Business staff hosted a lecture, "When You Find Your Dream Home, Will You Be Ready?" Attendees learned the steps on how to be a successful first time home buyer.

COMPLETING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

1. Arts and History Department staff helped reunite a customer and his birth mother after fifty years. The appreciative customer reported back to staff that his mother was indeed living in Mississauga and he was able to meet her in March after all this time.
2. In partnership with Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science (RCI), Sciences and Business hosted Dr. Kathi Wilson from the University of Toronto who spoke about "Health Impacts of Employment Barriers" to an audience of 27 attendees. They learned about barriers to employment that highly-skilled immigrants to Canada could face and what effects this may have on their health.
4. In partnership with Organized Homes, Sciences and Business staff hosted professional organizers who provided tips on reducing clutter and keeping the home organized. Eleven attendees learned how to make the best use of a small space without spending a lot of money.
5. Sciences and Business staff hosted Sadhguru, who spoke about "Isha Kriya", a guided 12 to 18 minute meditation which will help reorganize one's energies and provide enhanced clarity, improved health and heightened focus leading to greater prosperity and a state of peacefulness and joy. Fourteen people attended this session.
6. Sciences and Business staff member, Craig Rowland, repeated his very popular "Inside North Korea" lecture, based on experience as part of the first group to visit North Korea on the longest and most extensive tour ever made possible to western visitors.
7. Twenty-four clubs received books through the "Books to Go" program in March. The number of groups have nearly doubled over a year.
8. Readers' to Writers' network is set to roll out to all branch libraries this Spring. Readers' Den staff will continue to manage the exchange of manuscripts and feedback from writers and readers; however, the goal is to ensure that each branch library can support this kind of program for their community.

OTHER (special initiatives)

1. Canadiana Reading Room staff helped a couple with an antique signature quilt from the 1930s identify the provenance of the quilt. Searching the family names embroidered on the quilt, staff were eventually able to find that the quilt had been created by the Ladies Aid of the Mulock and Glenelg Baptist Church in Markdale (south of Owen Sound).
2. At a recent competition, The Robotics team from Rick Hansen Secondary School, which has been instrumental in setting up the extremely popular Robotics program in the Children's Department, received the Chairman's Award which automatically qualifies them for a place in the Worlds competition. The award is presented to the team judged to have created the best partnership effort among team participants and which best exemplifies the true meaning of FIRST through measurable impact on its participants, school, and community at large. The library has benefitted from the talent, enthusiasm, leadership and committed volunteerism of these young people. They have enriched the scope of programs offered in the library and have proven to be excellent mentors to our budding, young innovators.