

ramp offline

Toronto Public Library for Teens

Vol III Issue 2

Where young authors can submit

Compiled by Karen Krossing, author for children and teens

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Young Voices, Toronto Public Library's magazine of writing and art by teens age 12-19. Click on *ramp*, then *Express Yourself*, then *Young Voices Magazine* under **Writing Gone Wild**.

www3.sympatico.ca/susanio/WWCcomp.html

Wordwrights Canada, Canadian writing resources and contests for students.

www.theclaremontreview.ca

The Claremont Review, international print magazine, accepts manuscripts by writers age 13-19.

www.cyberkids.com

Cyberkids, accepts work for online publication.

www.kalwriters.com/kidswwrite

KidsWWwrite, e-zine for young authors and readers.

www.newmoon.org

New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams, print magazine edited by girls age 8-14.

www.youngpoets.ca/ezine

Re:verse, zine for young poets, organized by the League of Canadian Poets.

www.skippingstones.org

Skipping Stones, a multicultural children's magazine that encourages children to submit both art and writing.

www.stonesoup.com

Stone Soup, print magazine of writing by young people up to age 13.

www.thestar.com

The Toronto Star considers articles by writers age 9-14 for *Brand New Planet*. Click on *Brand New Planet*.

www.wetinkmagazine.com

Wet Ink Magazine, a literary, visual arts and multimedia magazine for and by Canadian youth age 13-19.

www.whatifmagazine.com

What If? Canada's Fiction Magazine for Teens, a showcase of writing for and by Canada's teens.

teenlink.nysl.org/WordSmiths-Current.cfm

WordSmiths, an anthology of writing by teens on the Web, accepts submissions from youth age 12-18.

Watch future issues of *ramp offline* for more writers' tips.

Getting that professional polish

Library writing workshop

By Sanjeev Narayanaswamy



TEENS DON MASKS TO STIMULATE CREATIVITY AT YOUNG VOICES WRITING WORKSHOP.

Teens were treated to an evening of fun, as they gleaned tips for improving their creative writing at a workshop with Toronto writer Karen Krossing held at North York Central Library on February 20. Sanjeev Narayanaswamy participated in the workshop and reports.

The writing workshop was very useful for me and other students who like to write, but just can't get that professional polish on their work.

The first activity was like this: Ms. Krossing passed around a "treasure" box full of words. We were to pick three words each from the box and spend two minutes writing a story with those words in it. When all of us were done, we had to guess the words in each others' stories.

Next, we attempted to describe a villain. After that we characterized a hero. Finally, we combined the two descriptions to write a scene featuring those two characters.

Now came the best part: the masks! Ms.

Krossing took out dozens of masks and told us to put one on to help make us think more like the characters we were to write about. This was a great idea, and since we had mirrors, we could instantly put ourselves in the shoes of the characters we each chose. Ms. Krossing gave us a situation: a person, known to all of the characters the students were impersonating, had died and each character had to write a response. That activity marked the end of the session.

I learned a lot of tips, for example, Ms. Krossing explained that, "too much description can be boring; use only as much as you think is enough."

It was impossible to not have fun in the workshop because Ms. Krossing is a great teacher and the activities are really well thought out. I hope other people can enjoy the opportunity to do writing workshops at the library as much as I did.

Watch *ramp offline* for upcoming library writing workshops. Or check *ramp* website for teens at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Exposed: Core Expressions of Toronto Youth

Emily Lu and Elizabeth Liu

There were plenty of options for visitors to the *Exposed: Core Expressions of Toronto Youth* art show. They could take in 80-odd pieces of striking artwork, nibble on bruschetta and other tasty finger foods, and check out live rock bands, all in the same space. It all happened on the second floor of the Northern District Branch on March 8.

An all-ages audience flowed through the library corridors, stopping now and then to examine a unique piece of art or to watch a band rock out. The visual art came in a variety of mediums, from oil to acrylic, silkscreens to scratched CDs – even a few spray-painted car doors – while the performances ranged from soft jazz to classic rock to funk to hardcore.

Prior to the event, Delisle Youth Services spent hours framing and arranging all the artwork while ND's Youth Advisory Group coordinated the band line-up. In the end, all the hard work paid off, resulting in a lively show that showcased the wide-ranging talents of Toronto's youth.



Don't know what to write next

It's not The End of the World!!

Celebrated author

Tim Wynne Jones presents a youth workshop for aspiring writers 13-19.

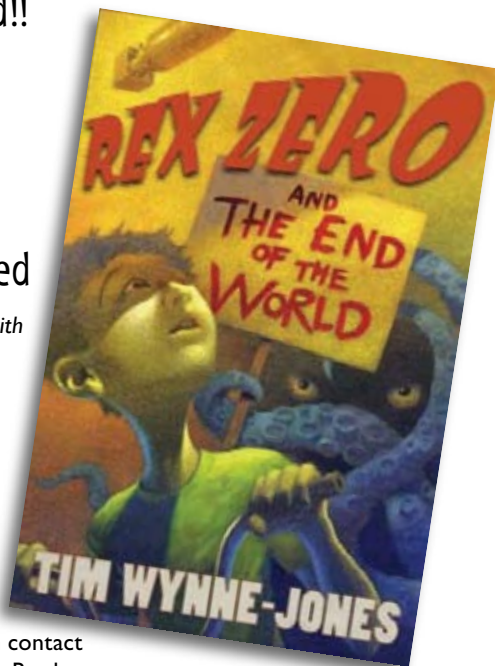
Tuesday, May 15, 4-6 p.m.

“Ten things you may get tired of hearing me say – complete with a very brief explanation of why I keep saying them...”

Conflict, motivation, story, character and more...

Lillian H. Smith Branch, 239 College Street (at Huron)

Space is limited. Registration required, call 416-395-5509. For further information contact the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, 416-393-7753.



Coffee House Night

words/music/film/youth open mic

An evening of youth performance. Bring your own work to share at the open mic.

openmic&gloom
poems&films
coffee&tears
violins&rants
piano&surprises
blood&drums

May 31, 6-8 p.m.
North York Central Library,
Auditorium
5120 Yonge St.
416-395-5674

FREE!
All are welcome!

More open mics – page 4

A joint production by the
NYCL Youth Advisory Group
and the NYCL Writers' Group.



Need a quiet place to study?

Deer Park Branch (St. Clair just east of Yonge) program room is open every weekday from 3:30-5pm for quiet study. For more study halls, see pg. 4.

Children's Mental Health Week

May 7th-13th, 2007



Children's Mental Health Ontario
Santé Mentale pour Enfants Ontario

Join celebrated author Pamela Porter for a reading and discussion of her acclaimed novel *The Crazy Man*.

The Crazy Man received the 2005 Governor General's Award for Children's Literature (English text), the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction and numerous other accolades. This is a story to be read and loved by children, young adults and adults alike.

For more information call 416-395-5509 or email smoynes@torontopubliclibrary.ca

With financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada



Monday, May 7, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

North York Central Library Auditorium
5120 Yonge Street @ North York Centre subway
No registration required. Free!

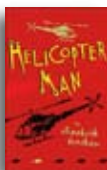


Teen Mental Health Fiction

Helicopter Man

Author: Elizabeth Fensham

Peter Sinclair cares for his father, who is mentally ill, and tries to make the most of their homeless life together.



bad things from happening, and he can't imagine giving them up. He calls it "controlling things." His doctor calls it obsessive-compulsive disorder. When Devon starts at a new school, his compulsions start to get him in trouble, and before long he realizes that his only choice is to confront his behaviours and the events that trigger them.

Tallulah Falls

Author: Christine Fletcher

After her bipolar friend, Maeve, runs off to Florida, high-school-junior Debbie Badowski changes her name to Tallulah Addy, dyes her hair platinum blonde, gets a tattoo and runs away from her Portland, Oregon home in search of her friend.



Invisible

Author: Pete Hautman

Doug Hanson is invisible—to the kids at school who to ignore him and to the popular girl he obsesses over. His best friend, well-liked Andy Morrow, is also invisible—to everyone but Doug. As Doug tries to keep secrets long hidden, the inner world he has carefully constructed threatens to crumble.



Japanese novel tells the sweet story of a high school romance between an average guy and a beautiful girl. Tragedy ensues when the girl falls ill with leukemia. A bittersweet tale of young love, enduring devotion and heartbreaking loss.

The Beckoners

Author: Carrie Mac

When Zoe moves to a new town, she finds the line between victim and tormentor is easily crossed. She is drawn quickly and deeply into the Beckoners and before she knows it, she's initiated, painfully, into this nasty, exclusive group of girls.



Aquarium

Author: Tomoko Taniguchi

In the first of three stories in this volume, Naoka is devastated when she isn't accepted into her best friend's high school. She's ashamed, depressed and not sure she deserves to live. (A number of Japanese teenagers commit suicide over test results every year.) She takes refuge in her love of the aquarium, spending hours there, and meeting a young man who shares some of her interests.



Stay With Me

Author: Garret Freymann-Weyr

The suicide of 16-year-old Leila's much older half sister sparks a journey of discovery as she searches for answers.



The Crazy Man

Author: Pamela Paige Porter

After Emaline, 11, is crippled by an accident with her father's tractor in 1965, her father kills her beloved dog, Prince, and walks away from the farm on the Saskatchewan prairie. Her mother takes in Angus from the local mental hospital to help with the farm work, but the neighbours jeer and complain about the "sub-human" crazy man on the loose. Emaline never denies Angus' illness, but she sees his kindness and strength, and they help each other with their work and with their grief. Narrated by Emaline in short lines of free verse.



Rooster

Author: Don Trembath

Rooster is in trouble with his school, his mother, his stepfather, and his girlfriend. He might not graduate from high school but he doesn't care. So the guidance counsellor and the principal come up with a plan to get Rooster through grade twelve and out of their lives.



Not as Crazy as I Seem

Author: George Harrar

Devon Brown won't eat in the school cafeteria, covers his hands before opening doors, eats things in groups of four, and hangs up his shirts (with all their buttons buttoned) by color. Some kids think he's crazy, but Devon knows better. His tricks keep



Becoming Chloe

Author: Catherine Ryan Hyde

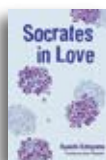
Jordan is gay and nearly died from his father's abuse; childlike Chloe can't speak directly about her past horrors. Together they set out on cross-country road trip in search of beauty.



Socrates in Love

Author: Kyoichi Katayama (art by Kazumi Kazui)

This manga adaptation of the best selling



Trigger

Author: Susan Vaught

Jersey Hatch can't remember why he tried to kill himself. This popular boy who seems to have it all—sports, wit, friends, love—has committed a devastating act upon himself, and no one knows why.



Get a job

ACD Get a Career in the Insurance Field May 1 6-7:30pm; Get an Apprenticeship Career May 8 6-8pm
Get an Office Job, May 15 6-8pm; **AN** Career Bookmarks call 416-393-7521; **BR** Job Search Help May 9 4-5pm; **DP** Discover Job Opportunities May 8 2-4pm; **MCG** Get an Apprenticeship Career age 16-24 May 2 1-3pm; **CL** YMCA Employment Services Information Warehouse Drop-in May 8, 22, Jun 12, 26 2-4pm; **RD** Job Hunting on the Internet call for info; **TRL** Career Resources for Secondary School Students includes career exploration, school directories and educational financing May 9 4:30-5:30pm; **YW** Employment Assistance May 2, Jun 6 2-4pm; May 30 job search on the Internet; Jun 27 interview skills part I

Babysitting

BR age 11+, \$35, register 416-967-4244 ext. 255, refer to course #1 55274390 Jun 9 9-4pm; **PM** age 11+ register 416-967-4244 Jun 2 9am-4pm; **PA** age 11-15 \$35 payable to City CPR Centre register 416-531-7088 May 26 9am-4pm

Movies

AB age 13+ May 31, Jun 28 4:30-7pm **AP** May 17, Jun 14 6-8pm; **FV** May 24, Jun 21 4-5:30pm; **MAL** May 11, 3-5pm **MAS** Movie Nights age 12-19 May 2, Jun 6 6-8pm; **CL** Movies for Guys guys only age 12-19 May 17 4-6pm; **ND** May 30 4pm; **PA** age 13-19 call for info; **PK** call for info; **RI** call for info; **WE** age 13-17 May 7, Jun 4 4pm

Anime, manga, cartoons

AB Animeshon Club Thu Apr 5-Jun 21 4-6pm; Manga Club Fri Apr 13-Jun 29 4-6pm; **BF** Cartooning and Anime Workshop with Dirk Michiels Jun 9 2-3pm; **CL** Anime Night age 12-19 Jun 6 6-8pm; **PA** Wednesdays Anime Club for Teens age 13+ May 23, Jun 27 4:30pm; **RN** Anime Films Jun 5 4-6pm

Homework help

BRW Grades 7-12, Mon Apr 2-Jun 25 (except May 21) 3:30-6pm & Fri Apr 13-Jun 29 3:30-5pm; **CED** Tue ongoing to May 6:30-8:30pm; **EA** Research Workshop Grade 7-12, call; **FV** Research Workshops for Teens Grade 7-12 book a librarian to show you web resources, Wed ongoing 4-5pm; **GHP** May 7 4:30-5:30pm; **MAL** Tue, Thu ongoing 6:30-8:30; **Homework Help on the Net** call for info; **MAS** Mon ongoing to May 4:30-7:30pm; **MI** Research @ Your Library call for info; **OV** Research Workshops for Teens Grade 7-12 book a librarian to show



website for teens at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

you web resources, call for info; **RD** All in One Search call for info; **RN** Research Workshops call for info; **SA** Wed Apr 4-May 30 4:30-7:30pm; **TRL** Magazine and Journal Databases as Research Tools tour of Periodical Centre included, General Overview: Jun 7, 2-4pm; Science and Health Databases May 3, 2-4pm; **YW** Tue Apr 5-May 31 5:15-8:15pm; Web-based Research Wed ongoing (except May 9, Jun 13, 20) 6:30-7pm

Study hall

AB Teens Only Zone, Sun Apr 1-Jun 24 1:30-5pm; **PK** call for info Sun ongoing 1:30-5pm; Mon-Fri ongoing 3:30-5pm

Readers/Writers

BR Girl Talk: Mother/Daughter Book Club age 11-15 + moms Apr 28, May 26, 2pm; **CS** Phoenix Poets' Workshop Apr, 28, May 12, 26, Jun 9, 23, 2-4:30pm; **CL** Book a Librarian get help finding books, call for info; **CL** Writers' Group age 12-19 Thu May 3, 17, Jun 14, 28 4:30-6pm; **ND** Mother-Daughter Book Club May 19 2-3pm; **RN** Book Club meets monthly call for info

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AN TPL's website for teens, Thu ongoing, 7-8pm; **YW** Toronto's Teen Meeting Place Tue ongoing 6:30-7pm

Open mic and performance

Be an audience member, or come and let your talent shine
BF May 7, Jun 15, 6:30-7:30pm; **MAS** age 12-19 May 9, Jun 13 6:30-8pm; **FV** DJ workshop call for info; **CL** age 12-19 Thu May 31 6-8pm; **YW** Karaoke at the Library share your best reading, spoken word and singing experience, call for info; **Comedy/Talent Night** Audition: May 23 6-7pm; Performance: May 28 7-8:30pm

Crafts

AN Knitting for Beginners 28, May 12, 26 2-3:30pm; **CL** Origamians: The Art of Paperfolding age 12-19 May 19, Jun 16 2-4:30pm; **ND** Craft Curious for Teens May 8, 4-5:30pm; **PM** Origami Fun May 12 2pm; **YW** Have Fun Learning to Sew learn creative sewing and tailoring with/without patterns and express your unique style and personality Thu May 10 6:30-8pm

Newcomers

FV Newcomers' club meet other teens who are new to Canada, or just new to the neighbourhood, non-newcomers welcome to come share May 1, 15, Jun 12, 26 4-5pm; **CL** English Conversation Circle for Youth age 14-24, Mon Apr 2-Jun 25 (except May 21) 4-6pm; **Homework Help for English as a Second Language** Teens Grades 7-12 call 416-588-6288 for info Tue ongoing 4-6pm; **RD** After School Teen Club for Newcomers Mon ongoing 4-6pm; **RN** English Conversation Circle Thu Apr 5-May 31 4-6pm; **SA** English Conversation Circle age 14-24 Thu ongoing 4-6pm

Asian Heritage Month

AB Bollywood Movie: Krrish May 15 4:30-7:30pm; Asian Fusion Dance age 13-19 May 28 4:30-6:30pm; **AN** Author Paul Yee, May 16 10am; **GA** Mehndi Magic with Sumreen Naz age 12+ May 12 2-3pm

Other stuff

GW Guildwood Day at Sir Wilfrid Laurier C.I. Jun 2; **LS** Fantastic Pulp Show and Sale \$2 admission May 12 10-5pm; **MAL** Scrabble Club call for info; **CL** Online Time for Teens age 12-19 May 11, Jun 8 4-6pm; **Drawing Club** bring your sketchbook May 14, 28, Jun 11, 25 4-6pm; **VV** Club Penguin book share, crafts, activities, help with school projects Thu Apr 5-Jun 28 6-7pm; **YW** The Bully of Balesbridge Bay highlights the adoption of martial arts values as an antidote to bullying May 30 11am-12noon; **Sexual Health at the Library** the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention www.black-cap.com provides workshops, literature and brochures on sexual health topics May 8, Jun 12, 5-7pm; **Open House** all ages giant book sale, special attractions, story tent and games for children, music, refreshments Jun 23 10am-1pm; **Right Moves** a professional chess instructor teaches chess to help teens improve their critical thinking and solve complex problems May 5, 19, Jun 2, 16 2:30-4pm

Volunteers needed

Homework Club and Leading to Reading Grade 10+

Reading Buddies Teen Volunteer Training **CL** Be a volunteer Reading Buddy to a younger child this summer, age 14-19, training takes place Jun 13, 14 6-8pm
Youth Advisory Group make the library a better place for teens; earn volunteer hours; meet other library-loving teens.

GET MORE INFO

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca > ramp > Opportunities > Volunteering at the library

*SOME PROGRAMS HAVE AGE, REGISTRATION OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS. CALL THE BRANCH FOR INFO.

BRANCH CODES & PHONE NUMBERS

AREA CODE 416 FOR ALL BRANCHES

Agincourt **AG** 396-8943
Albert Campbell **ACD** 396-8890
Albion **AB** 394-5170
Annette **AN** 393-7692
Barbara Frum **BF** 395-5440
Brentwood **BR** 394-5240
Bridlewood **BRW** 396-8960
Brookbanks **BB** 395-5480

Cedarbrae **GED** 396-8850
College/Shaw **CS** 393-7668
Deer Park **DP** 393-7657
Eatonville **EA** 394-5270
Fairview **FV** 395-5750
Gerrard/Ashdale **GE** 393-7717
Goldhawk Park **GHP** 396-8964
Guildwood **GV** 396-8872
High Park **HP** 393-7671
Lillian H. Smith **LS** 393-7746

Malvern **MAL** 396-8969
Maria Shchuka **MAS** 394-1000
McGregor Park **MCG** 396-8935
Mimico **MI** 394-5330
North York Central **CL** 395-5674
Northern District **ND** 393-7610
Oakwood Village **OV** 394-1040
Palmerston **PM** 393-7680
Pape/Danforth **PA** 393-7727
Parkdale **PK** 393-7686

Riverdale **RD** 393-7720
Runnymede **RN** 393-7697
Sanderson **SA** 393-7653
Toronto Reference **TRL** 395-5577
Victoria Village **VV** 395-5950
Weston **WE** 394-1016
Wychwood **WY** 393-7683
York Woods **YW** 395-5980