


ONE FOR THE BOOKS

This year's Biblio Bash was a resounding success, with the city's literati and glitterati raising more than \$1 million supporting the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Photography by George Pimentel

An already impressive fundraising record was smashed on Thursday, April 20, when more than \$1 million was raised at Biblio Bash 2023, held at the distinguished Toronto Reference Library. Attended by more than 450 of the city's most illustrious bibliophiles, philanthropists, business leaders and other noteworthy personalities (including 41 prominent authors), this year's black-tie gala — one of the most revered events of the year — was held to raise funds for the Toronto Public Library's "Leading to Reading" program. This free service pairs students who require help with reading with volunteer tutors — it's a wonderful campaign that not only celebrates the joy of reading, but it also ensures local children get the support they need when it comes to cultivating solid literacy skills and confidence.

The evening, presented by Tricon Residential, was hosted by Global News National anchor Farah Nasser and included a truly delicious dinner by The Food Dudes and dessert by Dufflet, courtesy of Balzac's. (Burgers and donuts were served as guests closed out the evening.) As always, a fabulous selection of one-of-a-kind silent auction prizes were available for guests to bid on, including an evening with Margaret Atwood in the Writers Room at Toronto's Park Hyatt Hotel and an exceptional meal at Sushi Masaki Saito, the city's only restaurant with two Michelin Stars.

"We are grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors, attendees and our community of supporters, whose gifts to the library make a meaningful and lasting impact on individuals and families," Will Scott, the CEO of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, said. "As a former educator, I've seen first-hand how critical programs like 'Leading to Reading' can play a role in our city and this support will ensure the library can expand the program and meet growing community needs." 



1. WILL SCOTT (CEO OF TPL FOUNDATION) AND VICKERY BOWLES (TPL'S CITY LIBRARIAN). 2. TAMARA BAHRY AND LAURIE WHITE. 3. JENNIFER LIPKOWITZ. 4. REEMA PATEL, SONIA JHAS AND ANUJA VARGHESE. 5. JANET TURNBULL IRVING AND JOHN IRVING. 6. KRYSTAL KOO AND SUZANNE ROGERS. 7. CHRISTI HIMMELHEBER.