

BPL Book column – July 2010
Enjoy a Staycation @ Brockville Public Library

You don't have to spend a lot of money or travel great distances to enjoy a holiday. There is so much to see and do in our own beautiful corner of Canada. Start by planning a staycation at the Brockville Public Library! Our library is air-conditioned, comfortable and welcoming. Use our free Internet computers and wireless Internet service, or check a Kingston or Ottawa newspaper, to find out what's happening in neighbouring communities this summer. Wherever you go, remember to take along some books, those portable treasures that can transport you to different worlds and time zones, and satisfy your curiosity on subjects from A to Z. If your staycation plans include a trip to nearby Prescott, Rockport, Kingston, Perth or Ottawa you can download talking-books and enjoy them on your trip. Just ask us how! We also have talking-books for children and young adults. A bag of picture books and board books will entertain a child for hours on a car trip, at the cottage, or on a picnic.

BPL is going to be a busy place this summer. There are programs and a summer reading club for elementary school children during July and August based on the theme *Destination Jungle*. Visit us and see how the children's service desk has been transformed into a jungle hideaway. We're calling all crafty kids to sign up and help us to create jungle creatures –snakes, butterflies, animals and insects - to live in our library jungle. Summer program registration began on June 28 but there is still plenty of space. Again this year we have special things planned for our tweens age 8 to 12 such as a drop-in program on Wednesdays at 2:30 featuring Wii, board games and movies. Teens can have a blast at our ongoing drop-in teen programs with Wii, board games, films and Anime on Thursdays from 2:30 to 5 pm.

Adults are invited to join our newly established Kniterary Group continuing on July 13 and 27 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Adult movie nights in July are Wed. July 14 at 6 p.m. and Sat. July 17 at 2 p.m. on the big screen in our meeting-room. Check our website at www.brockvillelibrary.ca for show times in August and September.

Many new adult titles are flooding into the library. A biography or travel memoir could perhaps be considered as another kind of *staycation*, providing a window into someone else's life experiences or an opportunity to be an armchair traveler. The Brockville library has many new biographies available in our adult collection. Celebrities and people in the news are one popular subject. Is it really an enviable thing to be a modern princess? Ben Hills provides some insight in to what it is like to become a member of the Japanese royal family in his book, *Princess Masako, prisoner of the Chrysanthemum Throne*. Christopher Andersen paints a compelling portrait of a modern political and

personal relationship in his book, *Barack and Michelle: portrait of an American marriage*. Malalai Joya 's life demonstrates the truth of the phrase, "the personal is political" as you'll discover in her account of courage and political leadership in her native Afghanistan, *A woman among warlords: the extraordinary story of an Afghan who dared to raise her voice*.

Biographies of people in the entertainment world are always sought after. Sarah Marshall gives us the inside scoop on the latest 007 agent in her biography, *Daniel Craig* and includes family and publicity photos. Crystal Renn lays bare the inside story of the fashion world as a plus-size model in her memoir *Hungry*.

Our large print collections have been re-located near the information desk on the second floor so that staff can more easily assist customers. Nearby there are comfortable chairs and a display of recent titles, such as Carol Burnett's memoir, *This time together: laughter and reflection*, and Kitty Kelly's latest tell-all biography, *Oprah* (also available in regular print).

Among our new travel memoirs, you can explore the jungles of Suriname, possibly the world's last Eden, with Andrew Westoll in his award-winning book *The Riverbones*. Karen Wheeler describes, with humour and wit, how she left the glamorous fashion world of London, England for a new lifestyle and friends in her book, *Tout Sweet: hanging up my high heels for a new life in France*.

Other suggestions for great hammock or pool side reading choices include: *It ain't easy: Long John Baldry and the birth of the British blues*; *You better watch out*, a memoir by Canadian comic Greg Malone; hockey legend Theo Fleury's memoir, *Playing with fire*; *Gretzky's tears: hockey, Canada, and the day everything changed* by sports journalist Stephen Brunt; *Sleeping naked is green: how an eco-cynic unplugged her fridge, sold her car, and found love in 366 days* by Vanessa Farquharson; and last but not least, *Small beneath the sky*, a prairie memoir by acclaimed Canadian poet Lorna Crozier.

After reading a while you may want to stretch out those kinks and get some exercise. Anyone can get started on a personal wellness program by borrowing one of the library's pedometers to track your fitness milestones. If golf is your game, come out to BPL's second annual golf tournament on July 11 at Sunnidell. To register, contact Laura at 613-342-3936 or laura@brockvillelibrary.ca.

Pick up your copy of *BPL's Official Staycation Guide* and plan a staycation @your library™. Our library is fully accessible to everyone. For more information about our library's many programs and services, visit our website at www.brockvillelibrary.ca, phone us at 613-342-3936, or drop in for a visit at 23 Buell Street, opposite the post office.