

OMDC plays an important role in Ontario's book publishing, music, interactive digital media, film, magazine publishing and television industries

OMDC Offers Virtual Locations Scouting Anytime from Anywhere

OMDC unveiled its new online digital locations database, "Locations Ontario," to local film and television industry representatives on March 24. The database promises to save producers time while inviting a wealth of business opportunities into Ontario. Attending the event held at OMDC's Toronto office were local location managers, production managers and industry representatives, as well as filming liaisons from notable Ontario locations, who were treated to a sneak preview of the website's new features, including its new locations package-creation capabilities. The feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive, from both U.S. clients and local users.

With over 3,700 complete digital location files, encompassing over 80,000 individual images, the dynamic, interactive and fully searchable virtual locations library promises to revolutionize the way film and television producers view and consider potential filming sites for their upcoming productions.

Locations Ontario represents the culmination of an initiative that began nearly a decade ago, and houses not only photos of potential filming locations across Ontario, but a wealth of information on contacts, filming availability, restrictions and architectural style.

When OMDC's Locations Library first opened its doors in 1985, and until its collection was converted to digital format, location scouts were required to visit the library in person during business hours to sign out 35mm photofiles of locations. If the file they needed wasn't on the shelf, the scout might have had to arrange to get it another time.

Thanks to new technology, such time-consuming and potentially costly procedures are a thing of the past. Physical materials, such as 35mm photos, have been

replaced with digital images, meaning they can be used by multiple location scouts at any given time.

The database's records have grown exponentially since the first digital location photos were shot, electronically processed and imported into the system in early 2000. Thanks to the work of skilled photographers, library and technical staff, and local location scouts, as well as location owners themselves, photos of every sort of location—as well as a number of studios and standing sets—are all available by becoming a registered member of the database.

This digital library, like its physical predecessor, is premised upon a category system like a regular library. But instead of "literature" or "chemistry" visitors find resources by searching by location category, e.g., "police stations" or "offices – modern".

The location packages that once took several days to assemble and courier to an international client can now be produced and made available for viewing in a fraction of the time. Whether you need a few reference photos or a complete package tailored to suit your script, Locations Ontario is a one-stop source for any look producers require, from gentrified to gritty, rural to urban, modern to period.

Beyond its advantages to production personnel, Locations Ontario also offers Ontario a distinct competitive edge in attracting internationally-based producers to the province, helping to create jobs and generate production-related revenue for local communities.

Go to <http://locations.omdc.on.ca> for Locations Ontario online, where you may tour the database as a guest, or get full access by signing up as a registered user. Contact Dana Kearns, Scott McKinnon or Hilary Palmer at 416-314-6858 for information.

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca

To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Hodan Waberi at hwaberi@omdc.on.ca

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The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of OMDC

OMDC Updates and News

17th Annual Trillium Book Awards Announced at Toronto Reference Library

On March 31, the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, Marcelle Lean, OMDC Chair, and Michel Frappier, CEO of OMDC announced the 17th Annual Trillium Book Awards in both the English- and French-language categories in a public ceremony in the Toronto Reference Library's atrium (see p. 4 for a list of finalists). Janet McKelvey, Chair of the Toronto Library Foundation Board, announced that this year's Trillium Book Awards Shortlist authors were made honorary members of The Literary Circle of the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Go to www.omdc.on.ca for more information on Trillium finalists and check back on May 4 for the Trillium Book Award winners.

Thanks to the Toronto Reference Library, who allowed OMDC to use the atrium for this announcement as they celebrated 120 years of library service.

April 14: Al Waxman Calling Card Information Session

Interested applicants are invited to attend info sessions at the conference centre, 175 Bloor Street East, North Tower, third floor, Toronto. The drama session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the documentary session runs from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Register for one or both of these sessions by using our online form at www.omdc.on.ca. Registrations must be received by end of day Monday April 12.

Gold Label Program Recipients Announced

On April 5, OMDC announced that the five companies that are recipients of the OMDC's New Voices New Visions, Gold Label program, including **Arts & Crafts, Curve Music, Kindling Music, Linus Entertainment** and **Sonic Unyon**, have been awarded \$40,000 each. The funds are designed to assist them in the creation and implementation of their strategic business and marketing initiatives.

OMDC Program Deadlines and Supported Events

April 24 | **Ontario Sound Recording Tax Credit (OSRTC) Information Session**, 4 to 6 p.m. in the Conference Centre, third floor, 175 Bloor Street East, North Tower, Toronto. To register for the session, please contact Barbara Hingley at 416-642-6639 or e-mail bhingley@omdc.on.ca. Registration is free but space is limited.

May 14 | **Submissions due for Al Waxman Calling Card Drama and Documentary Programs**. Deliver them to OMDC, 175 Bloor Street East, Suite 501, South Tower, Toronto, ON, M4W 3R8 (note our new address). To access guidelines and application forms visit the OMDC website at www.omdc.on.ca under Business Development / New Voices, New Visions.

June 22 | OMDC information session on the **Ontario Book Publishing Tax Credit (OBPTC)** begins at 10

a.m. Representatives from OMDC and Ministry of Finance will be on hand to discuss issues surrounding the credit and the application process, and to answer questions. The session will be held in the third floor conference centre at 175 Bloor Street East, Toronto, North Tower. For more information or to register for the event, please contact Barbara Hingley at 416-642-6639 or send an e-mail to bhingley@omdc.on.ca.

Ongoing to May 2004 | **New Media Business Alliance iLunch Series 3.0: Six Steps Toward the Future**, held at the Indian Motorcycle Club in Toronto. These six lunch-hour presentations and panel discussions will explore interactive digital platforms, development environments and business models that hold promise for the future of the interactive digital media sector. www.nmba.ca.

The Great Ontario Book Break

Ontario book publishers, through their association, the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario (OBPO), in conjunction with Harbourfront Reading Series and Ontario Media Development Corporation, held a two day event at Harbourfront on April 3 and 4. With 31 publishers and approximately 150 authors participating, this was truly a celebration of Canadian authors and their Ontario based publishers. Each publisher had a display of their books from which the public could browse and pur-

chase, and throughout the day there were authors present to sign their books. There were also several events, which included multiple author panel discussions, readings by many children's book authors and a *CBC Canada Reads* segment with Guy Vanderhaeghe in conversation with Noah Richler. Despite the cold weather (especially on Sunday) many book lovers found their way to this first-of-a-kind event and took advantage of this opportunity to interact with the authors and publishers.

Upcoming Markets and Festivals

April 16-18	AFCI Locations Trade Show 2004, Santa Monica, CA. www.afci.org/locations/index.asp
April 23-May 2	hot docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival, Toronto. www.hotdocs.ca
May 1	Genie Awards, Toronto. www.academy.ca
May 4	Trillium Book Awards/Prix Trillium Announcement, Toronto
May 11-18	CFC's Worldwide Short Film Festival, Toronto. www.worldwideshortfilmfest.com
May 12-23	Cannes International Film Festival, Cannes, France. www.festival-cannes.fr
May 13-16	Digifest 2004 On The Move, Toronto. www.dx.org/whats_on/digifest.html
June 4-6	Book Expo America, Chicago, IL. www.bookexpoamerica.com
June 8-11	2004 Mags University at the Old Mill in Toronto. www.magsu.com
June 11	27th Annual National Magazine Awards @ Carlu, Toronto. www.nmaf.net
June 10-12	North by Northeast (NXNE) 10th Anniversary Music Festival, Toronto. www.nxne.com
June 13-17	Banff Television Festival, Banff, Alberta. www.banff2004.com

Congratulations!

Congratulations to this year's finalists for the **Trillium Book Award/Prix Trillium**. They are: Di Brandt for *Now You Care* (Coach House Books), Pier Giorgio Di Cicco for *The Dark Time of Angels* (Mansfield Press), Barbara Gowdy for *The Romantic* (Harper Flamingo Canada), Thomas King for *The Truth About Stories* (House of Anansi Press), Djanet Sears for *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (Playwrights Canada Press), M.G. Vassanji for *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* (Doubleday Canada), Franco Catanzariti for *Sahel* (Les Éditions Prise de Parole), Margaret Michèle Cook for *En un tour de main* (Le Nordir), Serge Denis for *Social-démocratie et mouvements ouvriers* (Les Éditions du Boréal), François Paré for *La distance habitée* (Le Nordir), Gabrielle Poulin for *Ombres et leurs* (Les Éditions du Vermillon). Finalists for the Trillium Book Award for Poetry/Prix de poésie Trillium are: Adam Getty for *Reconciliation* (Nightwood Editions), David O'Meara for *The Vicinity* (Brick Books), Adam Sol for *Crowd of Sounds* (House of Anansi Press), Angèle Bassolé-Ouédraogo for << Avec tes mots >> (Éditions Malaika), and Marc LeMyre for << ...gaga pour ton zoom >> (Éditions Prise de Parole).

On April 4, **ReelWorld Film Festival** announced awards including the Kodak Award for Best Canadian Short Film, which went to the Al Waxman Calling Card short film *Nigel's Fingerprint* (Producer: Kim Kuhteubl, Director: Amy McConnell). See www.reelworld.ca for a complete summary of this year's awards and announcements for the 2005 ReelWorld Film Festival.

The shortlist for the **2004 Griffin Poetry Prize** was unveiled March 31. The nominees on the Canadian short list are Di Brandt's *Now You Care*, Leslie Greentree's *go-go dancing for Elvis*, and Anne Simpson's *Loop*. The international shortlist is made up of Suki Kwock Kim's *Notes from the Divided Country*, David Kirby's *The Ha-Ha*, August Kleinzahler's *The Strange Hours Travelers Keep* and Louis Simpson's *The Owner of the House*. The prize is awarded each year for the best two books of poetry in English. The winners, who receive \$40,000 each, will be announced June 3.

2004 Juno Award winners were announced on April 4 from Edmonton, Alberta, hosted by Alanis Morissette. Beyond the record crowds attending and the great live performances, there were some highlights among the awards. Artist of the Year and Rock Album of the Year went to Montreal's Sam Roberts; Toronto's Billy Talent took home New Group Of The Year and Vancouver-based Nickelback (EMI) took home the Group of the Year and Juno Fan Choice Award. Francophone Album of the Year went to Wilfred Le Bouthillier. www.juno-awards.ca.

Rohinton Mistry's novel *Family Matters* was included in this year's shortlist for the world's richest literary

prize. Mistry is now one of 10 finalists for the 2004 International **IMPAC Dublin Literary Award**, which will be announced in Dublin on June 17. The winner will receive €100,000 (about \$164,000). Novels are nominated for the award by libraries in more than 100 countries around the world. Only one other Canadian has ever won the prize, which has been given out since 1996. In 2001, Alistair MacLeod won for his novel *No Great Mischiefs*. Mistry's novels have been acclaimed both in Canada and abroad. His novel *A Fine Balance* won the 1995 Giller Prize, and became an American bestseller when it was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. In 1991, his novel *Such a Long Journey* won the Governor General's Award for fiction.

Margaret Atwood is the sole Canadian author still in the running for this year's **Orange Prize for Fiction**, one of the U.K.'s major literary awards. Atwood's latest novel, *Oryx and Crake* (McClelland & Stewart), is one of the 20 works on the longlist for this year's prize. The winner will be announced on June 8; the award carries a cash prize of £30,000, or approximately \$72,000. Established in 1994, the annual Orange Prize goes to a fiction title authored by a woman. Canadians have won twice: Anne Michaels won in 1997 for *Fugitive Pieces* and Carol Shields took the award for *Larry's Party* in 1998.

Congratulations to *The Canadian Senate in Bicameral Perspective* by David E. Smith (University of Toronto Press) for being nominated for the **Donner Prize**. This annual prize honours a book on Canadian public policy; the prize is sponsored by the Donner Foundation. This year's winner will be named at a ceremony on April 29 and will receive \$35,000; the other nominees will receive \$5,000.

Congratulations to the Toronto Reference Library, which is celebrating 120 years of library service, and to Dennis Lee, poet laureate who was honoured with the **Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award**.

The winner for the **National Business Book Award**, an annual \$10,000 prize co-sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers and BMO Financial Group, will be announced at a Toronto ceremony on April 22. Congratulations to the following Ontario works for being three of the five short-listed for the award:

- *Money Players: How Hockey's Greatest Stars Beat the NHL at its Own Game*, by Bruce Dowbiggin (McClelland & Stewart)
- *Fueling the Future: How the Battle Over Energy is Changing Everything*, edited by Andrew Heintzman and Evan Solomon (House of Anansi Press)
- *The Perilous Trade: Publishing Canada's Writers* by Roy MacSkimming (McClelland & Stewart)

Upcoming Events and Industry Deadlines

April 23 | **DGC Broadcast/Specialty Channel Panel for Drama Producers.** Meet the Commissioning Editors/Executives of Drama for Broadcast/Specialty Channels at this event presented by DGC-Ontario District Council. Find out from the broadcasters themselves what's hot, what's selling and where current trends are taking Canadian drama. The panel will also discuss access to the current development and production funds offered by the broadcasters. Panelists include representatives from broadcasters who are currently supporting original independent drama in their programming. Preregister via a form available at www.wift.com. Registration for the event begins at 6 p.m. at Metro Hall, 55 John Street (at King St.), Room 309; the session goes from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A Networking event will follow at uP Lounge, 133 John Street, Second Floor. Fee is \$25 plus GST for members, \$35 plus GST for non-members.

April 24 | **How to Write Query Letters, Conduct Interviews and Write Leads.** The Writers and Editors Network presents this event designed to help you develop confident, professional query letters, conduct interviews and get down to the business of writing. Join the group from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for \$54 (\$67 for non-members). www.wenetwork.org/Events/event_registration.php.

May 1 | **PEN Canada Great Literary Face-off.** See a crack squad of Canada's favourite writers and journalists hit the ice against a team of Canadian publishers. Author and *Globe and Mail* columnist Stephen Brunt will be the master of ceremonies. The two teams will be led by honorary captains and PEN Canada-sponsored writers in exile, Goran Simic and Benjamin Santamaria Ochoa. There will be door prizes, draws, rink-side interviews and less defence than an NHL all-star game. Tickets (\$25.00, or \$15.00 for standing room) are on sale at Pages Books and Magazines (256 Queen Street West) and Nicholas Hoare (45 Front Street East). Puck drops at 2 pm.

May 13-16 | **digifest 2004: on the move** at The Design Exchange, Ontario Science Centre and Harbourfront Centre. This year's exposition explores the nomadic qualities of digital culture with over 25 presentations and installations. The festival will feature a keynote presentation by Steve Mann, the first human cyborg; John Maeda, graphic designer and author of *Design by Numbers*; Matt Owens, graphic designer and founder of one9ine.com; Bill Buxton, technology visionary and former chief scientist at Alias/Wavefront and SGI. The festival also includes a business development program designed to increase opportunities for content developers by giving them direct access to business leaders. Other events include the SIMGallery installation, featuring *The Sims* art, a wired scavenger hunt, a robot rock band performance, and an exhibition entitled HOME: SELF: TRIBE running from April 27 to May 19 at The Design Exchange. Festival passes are \$100 until May 1. Visit www.dx.org/digifest or call 416-216-2160 for information.

July 2 | **Ontario International Animation Festival (OIAF)** entry deadline. For entry forms and festival information see www.animationfestival.ca or www.awn.com/ottawa. Inquiries may also be e-mailed to info@animationfestival.ca or call 613-232-8769.

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