

## 2. Welcome Letter from Library and Archives Canada

Get ready to *Laugh out Loud* with the TD Summer Reading Club in 2008. TD Bank Financial Group, Library and Archives Canada and the Toronto Public Library are proud to present Canadian children with a fun and educational way to spend the summer. Cartoonist Patricia Storms is this year's illustrator of the activity booklet and poster. We anticipate children will be laughing their way through even more books than last year!

Thanks to the efforts of the 2,000 local libraries who contributed to literacy by delivering the TD Summer Reading Club, Canadian children read almost 2 million books last summer. Statistics collected in 2007 indicate that over 248,000 children registered for the program while over 433,000 participated. Librarians planned and delivered over 21,000 library programs and activities for the *Lost Worlds* theme. For more information on the 2007 evaluation results, please see: <http://www.td-club-td.ca/009003-140-e.html>

The TD Summer Reading Club's objective is simple: to develop a taste for reading in children in order to consolidate what they learn in school, strengthen their reading skills, foster new reading habits, and encourage children to visit their library regularly. It is recognized that children who read during the summer are better prepared for school in the fall. Summer reading clubs have existed in all parts of the world, bringing children undeniable benefits. Studies are unanimous that summer reading clubs help children do well in school and extracurricular activities. Summer reading clubs make it possible for a variety of children's skills to flourish: oral, written, artistic, and dramatic.

On behalf of Library and Archives Canada, let's continue to work together to promote this highly successful program to young Canadians and give them something to laugh out loud about!

Ian E. Wilson  
Librarian and Archivist of Canada