

NORTHUMBERLAND News

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Local writers Ted Staunton, Richard Scrimger and Shane Peacock are featured in an Ontario Library Association 2005 calendar of male children's authors. PEGGY MCCARTHY/NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Writers become Pin-Up Boys

Ontario Library Association 2005 Calendar

BY PEG MCCARTHY
STAFF WRITER

NORTHUMBERLAND — Northumberland County has literary wealth, not the least of which comes in the form of children's authors.

In the Ontario Library Association's 2005 calendar, *The Writers on the Wall*, three of the featured 12 Canadian writers are local boys — Ted Staunton, Richard Scrimger and Shane Peacock.

The idea for the calendar came from children's author Eric Walters, who is also in the calendar, says Mr. Peacock. Mr. Walters wanted to specifically highlight male authors to encourage boys with reading and literacy, and demonstrate that most male authors don't spend their life in corduroy jackets in front of the fire.

To that end, the writers are photographed doing the other things in life they love, which involve sports and other interests. Mr. Peacock (September) is featured walking the high wire (he has written about the circus and especially tight-rope walker Jay

Cochrane), Mr. Staunton (February) with musical instruments (he is a well-known folk singer, and also a runner), and Mr. Scrimger (January) in a squash court, literally squashed against his racket.

All three authors have published several books for young readers. Mr. Scrimger's list includes *The Nose From Jupiter*, *The Way to Schenectady*, *Noses are Red*, *Eugene's Story* and *Princess Bun Bun*, along with adult novels. Mr. Staunton has written *Sounding Off*, *Hope Springs a Leak*, *The Monkey Mountain* series, *Puddleman* and *Simon's Surprise*. Along with his biographies, Mr. Peacock has authored four books in the

Dylan Maples series, and *Unusual Heroes: Canada's Prime Ministers*.

"It turns out girls will read anything, but boys need a hook to get them interested," says Mr. Peacock. "So Eric decided that if he portrayed male authors as real people who do the kinds of things boys are interested in," it might help the cause.

The calendar is available in schools and libraries, and the writers, along with the calendar, will be highlighted this Monday Jan. 3 on Imprint, TVO at 11 p.m. Calendars can be ordered from the Ontario Library Association web site, www.accessola.com.