

ARTS & CULTURE

Grafton teens advise on library books, software

Students rely on library for polishing their research skills

by Ray Yurkowski
THE INDEPENDENT

NEW RESOURCES for Alnwick/Haldimand libraries to help support educational and vocational needs of students and young adults took the spotlight at the Bette LeBarr branch in Grafton on Saturday.

Thanks to a \$14,800 one-

year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), new books and computer software were purchased with advice from a teen advisory group made up of seven students from all branches of the library system.

"We think supporting students is a really strategic investment," said Jon

Tondeur, of the OTF grant review team. "It helps their research skills but it also helps to make a more healthy and vibrant community."

"Before we put in the grant application, one of the concerns we had was all of our young people, once they reached high school age, are bused out of Alnwick/Haldimand to a regional high school," said Carol Dempsey, chief executive officer of the library system. "We realized we are the ones responsible for supporting them when they came back into (the township) to do their research and homework. (The students) were relying on the library and the staff was saying we don't really have enough (resources) to be effective for them."

"And they are, according to some statistics, the real supporters of the library because they realize that some of the online resources we can give them, they won't have access to at home. And if they are bused to their school, they don't have enough time to use the school resources."

Ms. Dempsey has high praise for the teen advisory

group.

"They were just wonderful," she said. "They got involved and they want to keep going."

Is the Trillium grant enough?

"It's never enough," Ms. Dempsey said. "It's a good start. (The students) will tell us more needs to be done and we'll have to listen to our teen group."

Tasha Chamberlain, a Grade 12 student and member of the advisory group, explained how she tried to find information to complete a project on different artists while in Grade 11.

"I couldn't find any books anywhere," she said. "One of the things I asked for was books on art. Now we have them and in years to come people are going to be able to find artists that I couldn't."

The Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Traditionally, the foundation has a budget of \$100 million for grants to community groups but, this year, an additional \$20 million has been added.

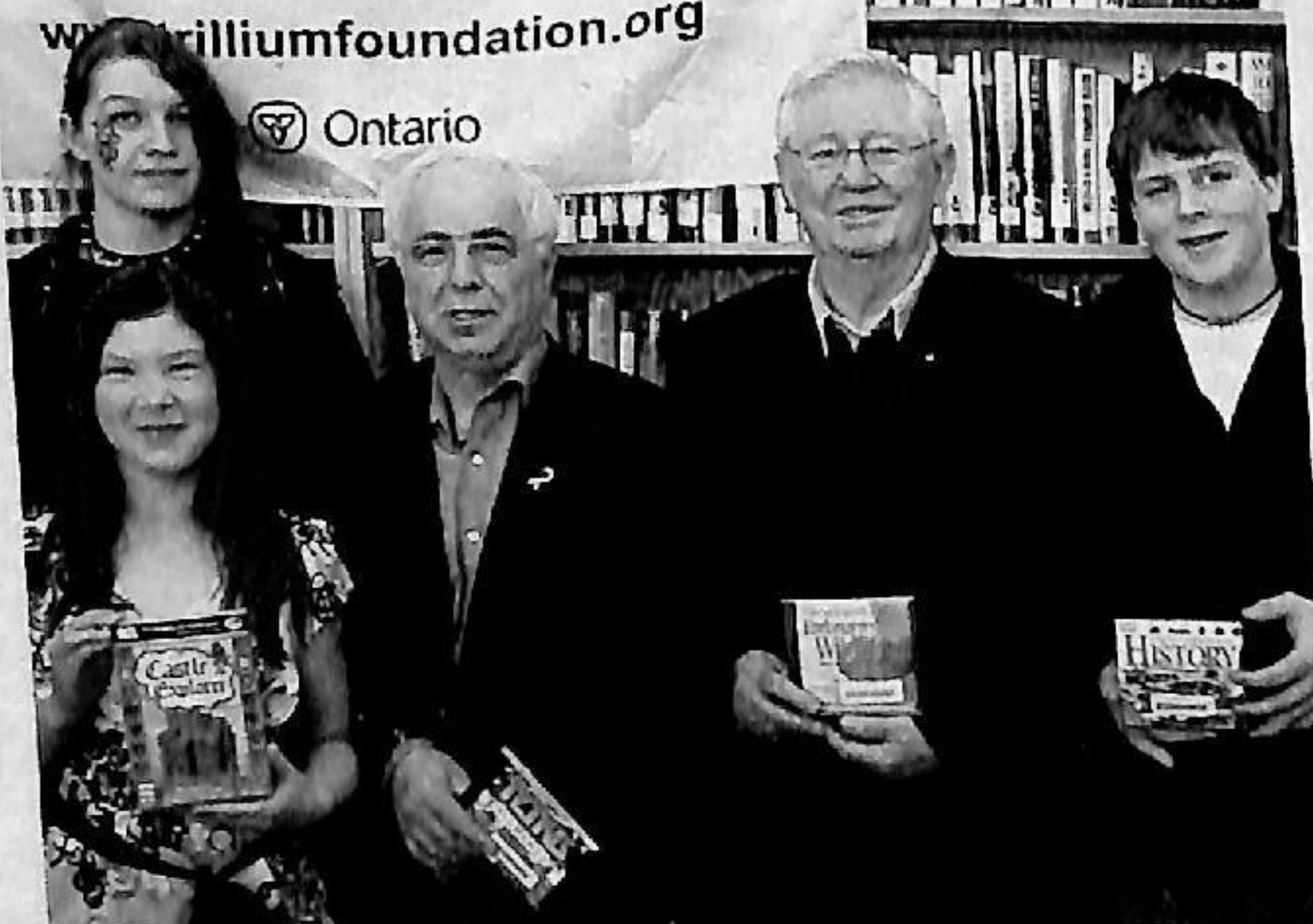
ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION



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www.trilliumfoundation.org

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Alnwick/Haldimand public libraries showcased new resources designed to support the needs of students at the Bette LeBarr branch in Grafton on Saturday. L-r: Grade 12 student Tasha Chamberlain, Grade 7 student Marianne Anthony, Northumberland MPP Lou Rinaldi, Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Jon Tondeur and Grade 11 student Alexander DiRago.

LAUGHS AT THE BARN



Left to right: Beth Vreugdenhil, Shasta Morey and Ann Goulding perform in the Brighton Barn Theatre production, *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery*. The hilarious comedy by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr., is a play within a play about a theatre company that puts on a very bad production of a murder mystery. Everything that can go wrong does, from forgotten lines and wrong props to incorrect sound effects and more. Evening performances at 8 p.m. are on April 20, 21, 27, 28, May 3, 4 and 5. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. are on April 22 and 29. Call 613-475-2144 for tickets.