

Library contest honours local teachers

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Suzanne Kernaghan, Michelle Broomfield died in car accident

BY JENNIFER O'MEARA
jomeara@northumberlandnews.com

COBOURG — The Cobourg Public Library's sixth annual 'Share Your Stories' writing contest will honour two dedicated local teachers who died tragically last year.

The library has created the Broomfield-Kernaghan Award, in memory of Michelle Broomfield, a Grade 2/3 teacher at Baltimore Public School, and Suzanne Kernaghan, a Grade 2 teacher at Cobourg's Terry Fox Public School, who both died in a car accident on Jan. 13, 2009. The award will go to a Grade 1 to 3 student who shows great passion and creativity.

"It's for best personal effort, to encourage students who may be finding their introduction to reading and writing especially challenging," said Rhonda Perry, youth services coordinator for the library.

The new award has the blessing of the teachers' families. Ms. Kernaghan was frequently in the Cobourg library with her two young children, Ms. Perry said.

"She was really passionate about making sure her class participated in the writing contest. We decided this would be a fitting tribute, sort of a legacy for those two teachers who gave so much," said Ms. Perry.

"I'm excited by it... I'd rather Suzanne walked through the doors of the library, but it's a fitting tribute."

Share Your Stories began with a grant from the Coca-Cola company and was run as a reading group and book club. Since then it has evolved into a writing contest for local students, judged by well-known local authors. This year Shane Peacock and Ted Staunton have that difficult task.

The local authors have been visiting schools, talking to English teachers and distributing flyers to spread the word about the contest.

"It's a way to promote writing and promote literacy. We've been very fortunate. A number of teachers have taken it on as a class project," said Ms. Perry.

Students are invited to submit an original, unpublished, neatly hand-written or printed story by Saturday, Jan. 23, at 5 p.m. The 'Munschies', Grades 1 to 3, are asked for stories of 100 words or more. Stories by the 'Mowats', Grades 4 to 6, can be 400 words or more. Stories from the 'Mont-

gomerics', Grades 7 to 8, should be 500 words or longer.

High school students, Grades 9 to 12, must submit stories with a 750 word count or more.

Three entries in each category will win Share Your Stories Prizes of movie passes, books and cash.

The contest is sponsored by the Cobourg Cougars, The Avid Reader, Furby House Books, Northumberland Mall Cinemas, Tundra Books and various community donors.

An awards presentation will be on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to the library for the awards presentation, refreshments and readings with the Cobourg Cougars and celebrity authors.

To enter the contest, submit your story with your name, phone number and grade attached to your entry on a separate page. Stories can be dropped off at main branch of the Cobourg Public Library, faxed to 905-372-4538, emailed to rperry@cobourg.library.on.ca or mailed to Share Your Stories Contest, c/o Rhonda Perry, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg, ON, K9A 5P4.

For more information:

CALL 905-372-9271 ext. 6130

EMAIL rperry@cobourglibrary.on.ca

on.ca

VISIT cobourg.library.on.ca

EDUCATION: New classes to be announced today

23 full-time Kindergartens expected in local public schools

VALERIE MACDONALD

Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND — Northumberland's public school system is expecting to have 23 full-time Kindergarten classes operating this fall, says Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board chair Diane Lloyd.

The final list of schools was not to be announced by the provincial government until today, she said. Schools in which the space already exists are among the group because no money was available for capital building, Lloyd said.

Last fall the board applied for 23 classes and some schools have more than one

class, she said.

Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi was to make an announcement about the local full-time Kindergarten classes during a media conference planned for Grant Sine Public School in Cobourg this afternoon. The schools which will be participating in this first phase in will be named at that time, he said.

Across the province, a total of 600 elementary schools will introduce full-time Kindergarten this fall. This first phase will accommodate 25% to 30% of Kindergartners, he said.

The overall program, which

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KINDERGARTEN

Full-time classes coming

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will ultimately provide full-time Kindergarten instead of half days for four- and five-year-olds, together with care before and after the regular school day, will remove the direct cost of day care for working parents. It's anticipated to cost \$1.5-billion and be phased in over five years.

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board spokesperson Nancy Sharpe said the Catholic board would make no comment until today's announcement. Like the public board, the Catholic board submitted an application to the Ministry of Education but she didn't have details.

Youngsters who are four years of age by Dec. 31, 2010 can participate in the full-day Kindergarten program starting this fall.

localnews

■ CENTRETON LIBRARY: Groundbreaking expected to take place in spring

New monthly fundraisers will enrich children's programming

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

CENTRETON — Friends of the Centreton Library are delighted that they can expect a groundbreaking on their addition in the spring.

They are also buckling down to some serious fundraising, starting Jan. 16, when they premiere their monthly Centreton Flea Markets.

Held the third Saturday of most months (weather permitting), they will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to showcase the typical flea-market variety of finds, from new (gourmet foods, health and beauty products, jewelry, crafts, garden goods) to collectably vintage (vinyl records, china, glassware, bottles, furniture, knick-knacks). Just to add to the fun, there will be a make-me-an-offer table.

Located in a former church, with the Centreton Town Hall occupying the ground floor, the library has been relegated to the basement. With this addition to the south side of the building, said volunteer Lorraine Dmitrovic,

"We are trying to bring the library out in the sunlight,

with more space to make it more accessible to the community."

They hope to have a fundraising-thermometer display in place by groundbreaking, so the community can track the progress. Significant donations will be acknowledged on a donor wall, with brass plaques designed to look like bookplates.

"Funding is in place, but there are still four or five items that have to be fundraised for," Dmitrovic added.

The list includes children's-area furnishings, an early-literacy station, a lounge area with furniture and a gas fireplace (to encourage reading) and a computer area designed for young people to access.

Donna Reeves, a retired speech-and-language teacher who is now a children's volunteer, said the extra room and sunny exposure will make a difference in their programming.

"We can work on plants, putting the seeds there to grow. We might make sun-catchers. I think this is going to be awesome for the children."

"My goal in my head, my

"I really love the children. They are our future, so whatever we teach them out here is going to make a difference. You can help make that difference by visiting the monthly flea markets, where proceeds from table rentals, gift draws and other items go to the library-addition fund.

For more information, call Reeves at 905-349-2979 or email Dmitrovic at lorraine@sympatico.ca.

cnasmith@northumberlandtoday.com

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