

## Acton library looseleaf



by Esther Taylor  
Kathleen Tynan's Agatha is an absorbing story about a famous mystery writer. On December 4, 1926, Agatha Christie, later to be known as the Mystery Queen, vanished from her home without warning. She was gone for 11 days. There was no convincing explanation after she returned. To this day, probably no one knows for sure (the writer died last year) what happened or why Agatha left home.

Two afternotes provide clues of a kind. In 1928, Agatha and her husband Colonel Archibald Christie were divorced, the latter marrying a younger woman with whom he had been having an affair. Four years later, Agatha Christie married Max Mallowan and "lived happily ever after."

For readers who enjoy authentic whodunits, Ronald Hambleton had written "a complete account of the sensational Kinnear murder that shocked the solid citizens of Upper Canada in the summer of 1843." The foregoing quotation is cribbed from the dust jacket of Master Killing, Hambleton's reconstruction of the crime is a January arrival at the library.

Also, January-fresh are: The Last Sherlock Holmes Story, by Michael Diddin; Celeste De Blasis' The Proud Breed; Modern Painting in Canada by Terry Fenton and Karen Wilkin; a Picture History of Ontario, Roger Hall and Gordon Dodds, and Speaking Well by Loren Reid.

Arthur Hailey has turned his research talents to an energy crisis, which perhaps was inevitable after his formula success with Wheels, Airport, The Money Changers and in High Places. Overload is a timely novel of an electric power shortage.

"The story of people and events leading to such a crisis," Hailey knows his business when it comes to turning out a bestseller. Overload is a good read whether or not one is a Hailey fan. Incidentally, this book reached the library on the coldest day (to date) of frigid 1979.

Nothing pressing to do on a Sunday afternoon? Library staffers recommend Endangered by Barnaby Conrad and Nils Mortensen. This is a high adventure tale of a nature photographer, his lady boss, some vicious killers and America's last condors in a California sanctuary.

Your library has a beautiful new art book, Landmarks of Canadian Art by Peter Mellen, thanks to the Mowat family who donated it for the benefit of Acton artists. John Mowat made the presentation on behalf of his family.

Nature Canada is worth a second look if only for the cover, a delightful color shot of a raccoon. This cover caught the eye of more than one local staffer, including a veteran booktender who kept open house during two summers for a nocturnal visitor dubbed Bad Bobby, without regard for originality. Bad Bobby having discovered a back door left open for household felines, took to calling regularly. He became tame enough to accept handouts of bread, cookies, fish and anything else he could flitch with his educated con hands.

One of the cats, Meanie by name and nature, used to wait by Bobby's special bread box to swipe the con as he dug in for tucker. Bobby took it all in good part. One night his hostess neglected to unpack a grocery order. Next morning she beheld a rib-ticking sight. Bad Bobby had carefully decanted a carton of eggs, lining them in a neat row against the grocery box. Not one egg was broken.

Acton library boasts a heartening number of animal-loving readers who report their adventures from time to time. The latest report comes from a young mother whose rural home is a haven for stray dogs and cats. She confesses the current cold spell is adding to her daily chores. She has to keep a hot water bottle replenished for a stray pussy occupying the porch. Homeless Tom couldn't go into the barn, because the other males would gang up on him. Inside with the house cats was out of the question because this group includes some unneutered females. So the porch it is, with boxes, blankets and a hot water bottle refilled three or four times a day. Stories like this help to balance the animal treatment ledger.

**BREAKFAST**  
Nutritionists tell us that skipping breakfast is not a wise habit because the body needs to be refuelled for the day's activities. Studies have shown that people who skip breakfast are less efficient and have a poorer attitude towards work.

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The latest issue of

# Librarians press minister on reasons for film ban

Halton Board of Education is not joining provincial librarians to press Ontario Education Minister Bette Stephenson into revealing reasons for discouraging the use of The Jesus Trial film schools.

Director of Education Em Lavender told trustees the minister may select and approve books and other learning materials. By not picking The Jesus Trial, Lavender said Thursday at Burlington, he interpreted the minister as

also exercising her prerogative. The minister's decision was based on the findings of an interfaith committee, Lavender told trustees. There really was no rationale given by the minister when she asked all boards in November



Ken Ellis of the library association.

to ensure the film is not shown in any schools. Acton and Esqueping trustee Betty Fisher asked about a rationale. The Ontario School Library Association (OSLA) through its Intellectual Freedom Committee urged the Halton board, and all others in the province, to pressure Stephenson for her reasons. Stephenson's stand

concerning the film is seen by the OSLA's committee as a triple-barrelled threat: to intellectual freedom, the integrity of local boards and to "the teacher-learner relationship." Hamilton, London public school boards lined up with Halton as did the separate school boards of Wellington and Hamilton-Wentworth, according to OSLA Intellectual Freedom Committee chairman Ken Ellis.

The Hamilton-Wentworth separate school board is supporting the education minister's decision.

However, said Mr. Ellis, Toronto, Scarborough and York school boards objected to the minister's decision to ban The Jesus Trial prior to encouragement from the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

The OSLA's definition of intellectual freedom, said Mr. Ellis, "in a school sense it's having

the freedom to provide the right material in the right hands at the right time.

The OSLA takes the position, in its letter to chairmen of school boards, the minister's request for co-operation "in ensuring that 'The Jesus Trial' not be shown in any schools within your jurisdiction" is a ban. The Toronto board called Stephenson's decision as "high-handed censorship."

Before asking the province's school boards for a reaction the OSLA wrote Stephenson for her reasons. The reply reads in part: "Given the concern this program and my own firm belief that young people should have the opportunity to view it in the company of their parents, as Minister of Education, I have requested that 'The Jesus Trial' not be shown in the elementary and secondary schools." Mr. Ellis, 37, is chair-

man of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. He has succeeded in obtaining part of the film for show at the OSLA 'idea shop' conference this weekend at Toronto. Mr. Ellis is the librarian at Acton High School.

A school board may censor books from one course in a school, but that school's library must serve the whole school rather than a particular course, Mr. Ellis said in an interview.

"We are saying the local teachers would decide whether this

material would benefit the students in his charge. That's the whole point. They (the ministry) are saying the film is bad for everyone," Mr. Ellis said.

The OSLA is a subsidiary of the Ontario Library Association which is made up of school libraries, universities, colleges, public libraries, special libraries and the Library Trustees Association.

The Jesus Trial was produced by the Ontario Education Communications Authority.

## Library board goals

After several weeks of discussion, Halton Hills Library Board has drawn up a statement of purpose.

At a special meeting in Acton library last Thursday, the board and Bill Kriesel, of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation were able to come up with some goals, which they submitted to Halton Hills council the following Monday evening.

The two and a half hour meeting was able to come up with the following objectives:

To establish public resource centres for information and to encourage and stimulate recreational and cultural activities in the community.

To provide access to information both locally and through library networks to promote knowledge of library systems.

To conduct programs to stimulate intellectual and creative processes in the community.

Catalyze interaction between groups and individuals.

To be responsive to the intellectual, cultural and creative needs of the community.

## Road reports available

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications Winter Road Reporting Service has been in operation since November 6.

The Road Information Centre at Toronto and the Ministry's 18 district offices throughout the province have up-to-date information on the condition of all provincial and secondary highways 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the winter months.

community. To participate in the co-ordination of local agencies that generate, preserve, perceive and disseminate information.

To provide adequate physical facilities and resource staff to accommodate and administer

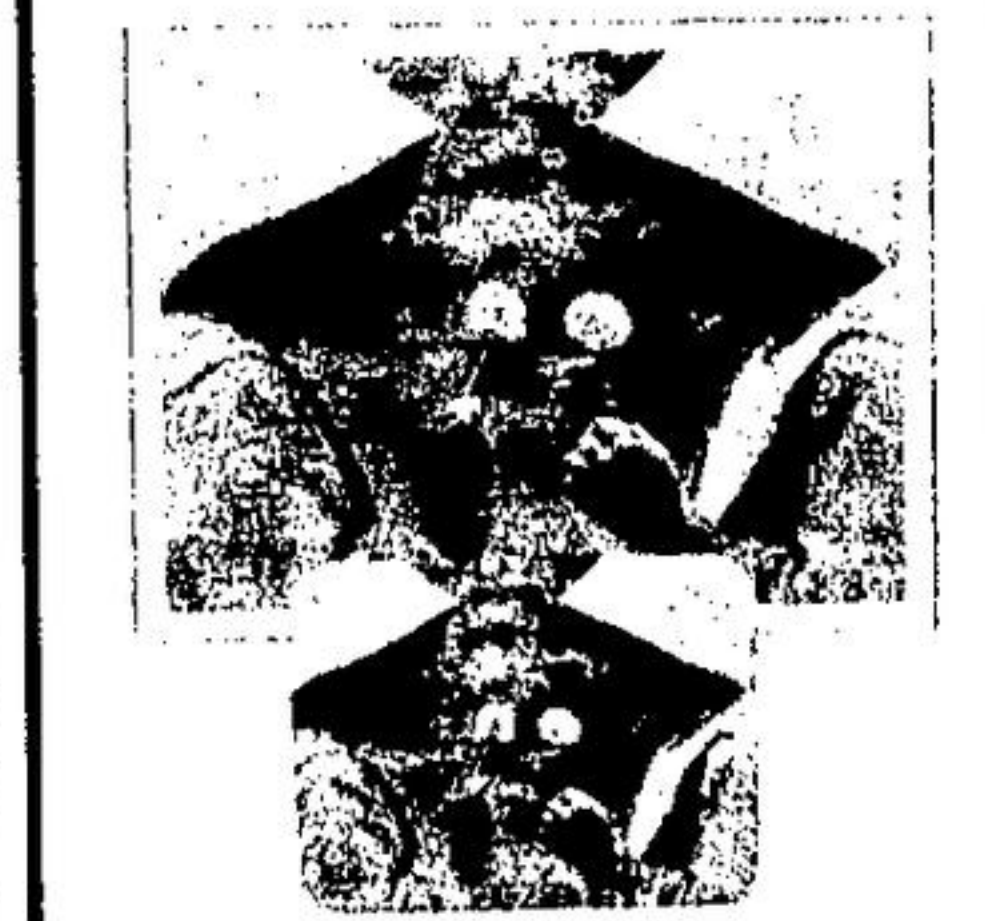
library services in the community.

The group next meets on February 14 for a tour of the Georgetown library before heading to the town council chambers in Stewarttown to further discuss the future of Halton Hills libraries.



Clear the tracks! Here come's a CN snow plow. The plow mounted engine and caboose zips passed a 33-car freight train which was parked for most of Monday, on the north siding. CN officials said the standing freight was part of normal train operations.

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5:30 - Bible's View  
6:00 - Ontario Outdoors  
6:30 - The Abused Woman  
7:00 - Magazine

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1  
6:00 - Hockey - Milton Tridents vs. Rockton

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
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6:30 - Magazine  
7:00 - Beyond Belief

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