

## Library looseleaf

by Father Taylor  
Saskatchewan-born Max Braithwaite, a Depression teacher on the prairies, served in the navy during the Second World War. One of Canada's most successful authors, Braithwaite writes from first-hand experience in chronicling the misadventures of naval recruit, Robin Evelyn Francis Diespecker (predictably nicknamed "Dink"). The uninhibited prairie lad joined the war to get away from home and the Great Depression. The Canadian navy was probably never the same again, after being exposed to "Dink" on the "ship" Porpoise, a converted garage, used for training of naval recruits.

The Commodore's Barge is Alongside is the title of Braithwaite's latest book, which combines humor and satire, with on-the-button characterization. Anyone who served in the armed forces will recognize some of the personalities who helped to make life interesting on HMS Porpoise. To quote from the cover review: "A riotous romp with a poignant edge, Braithwaite's latest novel makes a mockery of war and finds fathoms of fun in human foibles."

Other Braithwaite books in your library are: The Hungry Thirties; Ontario: A Privilege and a Pleasure; Sick Kids; The Story of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto; Why Shoot the Teacher? Robert Laidlaw's the McGregors: a Novel of and Ontario Pioneer Family could have been set in Halton County instead of the Huron Tract. Actonites with memories of Halton's Scotch Block—second-hand in most cases—may get a sense of déjà vu in reading The McGregors. Many of the descriptions and experiences are familiar, as for example, details about barn raising, growing crops in virgin soil, clearing the land for log cabins, making fences and furniture. Local residents fortunate enough to have heard Scotch Block tales will identify with "Black Jack" McGregor, only a small boy when he arrived with his father, mother, brothers and sisters in Bruce County.

Author Laidlaw, a descendant of pioneers, based his three-generation story, from the 1840's to the 1920's on the memories of his grandparents, as well as his own recollections. The MacGregors invokes pride and nostalgia, pride in the people who successfully challenged the Ontario wilderness; nostalgia for a time that is gone forever when neighbours depended on one another for social contact and help when need arose. Robert Laidlaw is the father of award-winning short story writer, Alice Munroe.

Was there actually a German plot to kidnap the Duke and Duchess of Windsor while they were in Portugal, at Estoril, as guests of Portuguese banker, Dr. Ricardo de Esperito Santo e Silva? The time was July, 1940, with most of Western Europe under Nazi control. According to novelist Harry Patterson, in To Catch a King, it was Hitler's idea to kid-

nap the Duke before Germany invaded Britain. Adolf reasoned, when Britain was defeated, the Duke would be offered the throne by the new rulers.

When the Duke of Windsor's anticipated co-operation was not forthcoming, the plot was hatched to nab the royal couple before they set sail for the Bahamas. Starring in this suspenseful scenario are Hannah Winters, a successful Jewish American singer, whose Uncle Max, and underground conspirator was killed before he could warn the ex-king; Brigadier Walter Schellenberg, German counter-intelligence chief and deputy to Reinhard Heydrich, assigned the task of master-minding the abduction; and Joe Jackson, owner of an American club in Lisbon.

Patterson, whose books have been best-sellers since he wrote The Eagle Has Landed (under the pen monicker of Jack Higgins) scores again in To Catch a King. His treatment of the Windsor is surprisingly sympathetic compared with biographical accounts of the famous lovers. In fact, the Duke is cast in the role of hero at the expense of his would-be-kidnappers. To Catch a King is an engrossing read by a master of suspense craft.

Carl Sagan fans will be fascinated by his latest book Broca's Brain, a late August arrival in the library. It's on the best-seller list.

Critter-loving readers have been asking bird-loving library staffers about four delightful newcomers to Fairy Lake. One is a personality-packed Chinese gander who seems to think he belongs to the Canada Goose family. Nicknamed Gandy. The other trio, halled as Charlie are big black and white-cross-bred ducks who look as if they are wearing white pantsaloons when they run to be fed. The foursome's arrival is a mystery, but Actonites generally are taking a great interest in Gandy and the three Charlies.



Acton and Georgetown Venturers got a chance this week to be in the movie, To Catch an Honest Thief, being shot in Georgetown. Dressed as American Scouters they rehearsed a scene in which their leader

is knocked down by a Volkswagen during a car chase. The scene had to be shot eight times before it was approved.

## Fatalities prompt safeguards

Concern over the number of people losing their lives while climbing the Escarpment, has prompted Halton Region Conservation Authority to post warning signs and to caution climbers. The decision was made at the authority's meeting at Milton town hall Thursday. The authority staff has been authorized to execute a map detailing the physical features and obstacles inherent in the authority's properties for the purpose of assisting rescue operations. Areas of the Escarpment will be studied with the intent of considering the construction of walls in order to prevent people falling. Members of the authority were told its solicitor is considering

the liability of the authority in the advent of it being sued over climbing accidents. General Manager Murray Stephen said many climbers who scale the cliffs enter from private properties. He said the authority doesn't learn about their presence unless there has been an accident. The authority was informed its advisory committee had defeated the idea of banning rock climbing.

Oakville Councillor Terry Munnell said rock climbing has been advertised by rock climbing groups and has been the subject of an extensive article in The Toronto Star. "It is impossible to prohibit the public," he said. Farmers assisted during the last 10 years the Canadian chartered banks' outstanding loans to Canadian farmers have increased four-fold more than \$4.11 billion.

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| <b>GEORGETOWN</b><br>St. George's Anglican Church<br>60 Guelph Street<br>Tues. 7:30 p.m. | <b>ERIN</b><br>All Saints Anglican Church<br>Main Street<br>Wed. 7:30 p.m.   | <b>GUELPH</b><br>Chalmers United Church<br>Hall (back entrance)<br>50 Quebec Street<br>Thurs. 1 & 7:30 p.m. |
| <b>MILTON</b><br>Holy Rosary Parish Hall<br>139 Martin Street<br>Tues. 7:30 p.m.         | <b>ACTON</b><br>St. Alban's Parish Hall<br>Willow Street<br>Thurs. 7:30 p.m. | <b>GUELPH</b><br>YM-YWCA<br>400 Spadina East<br>Mon. 7:30 p.m.  |

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Weight Watchers Head Office, 6610 Turner Valley Road  
Mon. 7:30 p.m., Wed. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**FOR MEETING INFORMATION CALL MISSISSAUGA 826-9200**

## Plan goes ahead

R. V. Anderson Associates Limited has been given approval to prepare a report establishing the policy and criteria for Milton's 650-acre industrial park. Mayor Don Gordon and Halton public works committee chairman Ron Planche were named as the region representatives to work with the consulting firm. The plan, known as the Implementation of Milton's Industrial Official Plan Amendment, will deal with marketing, zoning and servicing.