

Distinguished speaker to attend conference

Canadian journalist and broadcaster, Peter Trueman, heads a list of distinguished international, national and local speakers participating at the "Literacy - Making A Difference" conference, set for Halton and Peel Regions on Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20.

"If you try to perform regular day-to-day activities like shopping, banking or using public transit - without knowing how to read or write - you soon realize how literacy can make a major difference in your life," said Kathy Mills, manager of Adult Basic Education for the Halton Board of Education. Mrs. Mills is co-chairing the conference with Heather Hufton, executive director of the Peel Literacy Guild.

"As we mark International Literacy Day on September 8," explained Mrs. Hufton, "it is worth remembering that almost five million Canadians have limited or no reading skills. The momentum we generate at this conference in October will enable us to continue helping adults in our regions to gain reading, writing and numeracy skills so they can achieve full community participa-

the Starweek supplement of the Toronto Star newspaper.

International educator and literacy expert, Carmen St. John-Hunter heads the agenda on Saturday, when the conference moves to the new Bishop Reding Secondary School in Milton.

Ms. Hunter lives in Brooklyn, New York, and conducts on-site, non-formal educational and community development projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the United States. She is an author, university lecturer and an outstanding speaker, who also designs major conferences on First World interaction with the Third World.

A series of workshops, covering many aspects of literacy, will be held throughout Saturday. The workshop topics include getting started with literacy, tutoring one-on-one versus in small groups, what is LEA or language experience approach, creating innovative learning materials, success with the special needs learner, what's hot in literacy and what's not, how do you assess success, and English as a second language (ESL) literacy.

"Silent Anger," a play about the pressures and pain of teenage il-

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY

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tion and greater satisfaction at home and on the job. We want literacy to make a difference for them."

The conference begins on Friday afternoon at the Peel Board of Education headquarters in Mississauga and focuses on workplace literacy. Ed Godden, planning coordinator of workplace literacy in the Ontario Ministry of Education, serves as facilitator and moderator. The agenda - of special interest to companies and labour groups - includes discussions by local literacy experts about securing financial assistance, strategies for recruiting students, selecting the best program, diagnosing literacy needs in the workplace, monitoring and evaluating a workplace program and identifying workplace materials.

International Literacy Year will be celebrated at Friday evening's reception and dinner. Peter Trueman, one of Canada's leading journalists and broadcasters, will deliver the keynote speech.

Mr. Trueman, perhaps best known for anchoring the Global Television news, is highly regarded for his skillful and thoughtful use of words. At present, he writes a weekly media analysis column in

literacy will be performed by the Mirror Image Players of Oakville during lunch. And also during Saturday, organizations and groups involved in literacy will have a number of displays set up for participants to view.

"Everyone is invited to attend," said Mrs. Mills. "The program offers something for just about everyone - from people fully familiar with literacy, to those who want to get involved for the first time."

More information and registration forms may be obtained by calling Joanne Chlan, conference coordinator, in Milton at (416) 875-3850.

The list of organizations represented on the committee planning the conference include: The Peel Literacy Guild Inc., The North Halton Literacy Guild, The Oakville Literacy Council, The Burlington Literacy Council, The Peel Board of Education, The Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board, The Halton Board of Education, The Halton Roman Catholic School Board, The Mississauga Library System, The Brampton Public Library, The Town of Caledon Public Libraries, The Milton Public Library, Community Living Mississauga and CIBA-GEIGY CANADA LTD.



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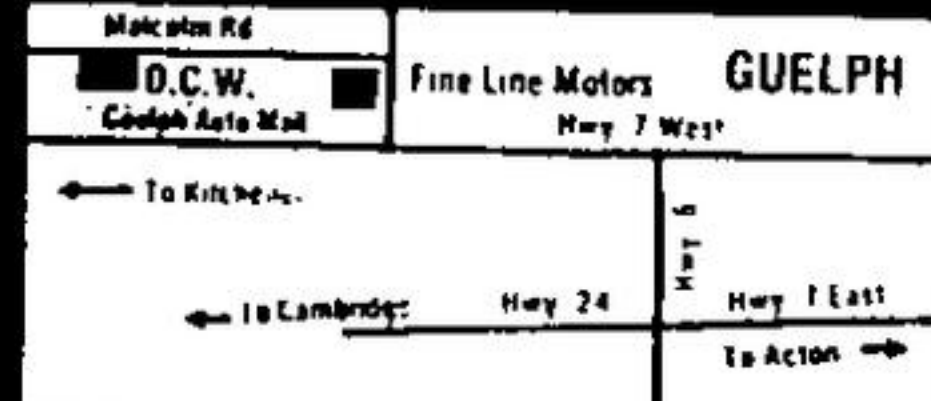
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