

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHERE TO GO & WHAT TO DO IN HALTON



16 Mile Creek Valley Run/Walk to support Oakville charities

The Community Foundation of Oakville (CFO) is hosting its inaugural Heritage Trails "Trek or Treat" Run/Walk on Sunday, October 30th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lion's Valley Park in Oakville. This event has two goals in sight: to raise funds for the Foundation's work in the community and to promote Oakville's beautiful Heritage Trails.

The main 6.5 kilometre course travels along the Heritage Trails, a network of over 50 kilometres of Oakville's scenic and historical trails. In addition, there will be a special "Trek or Treat" path for kids, which includes special activities and encounters with entertainers and other surprise guests. Kids are encouraged to come in costume and receive treats along the path. Medals will be awarded to participants with the

fastest times, as well as prizes for runners and run teams who raise the highest pledges. All proceeds raised will help The Community Foundation of Oakville continue to support charities in and around Oakville.

Says Run Coordinator Melissa Niziol, "This is a special opportunity for all those who enjoy our scenic trails to have a great outdoors experience and support the organizations that do so much for our Town."

Registration for the Run/Walk takes place at 9 a.m. Registration fee is \$25 per person or \$35 per family for the Trek or Treat walk. Registration/Pledge forms can be downloaded from www.thecfo.org.

For additional information, please contact Melissa Niziol, Special Events Manager for the Community Foundation of Oakville at 905.845.5547.

Finding the fun in reading

By DONNA DANIELLI

Literacy is an important cornerstone in any child's education, opening a gateway to knowledge and adventure. The ninth annual "I Love To Read" Children's Book Festival is coming to Milton once again, promoting literacy in a fun and fanciful atmosphere that has been a proven hit with children and parents alike.

To be held at Chris Hadfield Public School, 114 Woodward Ave on Sunday November 6, the festival will feature renowned children's author Jean Little. Legally blind since birth, Jean Little is recognized for her candid and unsentimental portrayals of the lives of children, most notably in her recent work featured in the very popular Dear Canada series. As well, her picture book, "Pippin the Christmas Pig" has become a treasured and beloved seasonal favourite. She is a shining example to youth on overcoming disabilities to pursue a goal, she

writes with a talking computer and travels everywhere with her seeing eye dog Pippa.

Joining Miss Little at the festival will be Ruth Ohi, illustrator of over 40 picture books and novels. She is known for propensity for showcasing materials used in the production of her books, outlining the stages from original idea to finished work.

Also featured throughout the festival will be Natalie Ghent, a Silver Birch Award nominee, Hugh Brewster, a Silver Birch Award winner, Sonja Dunn and Hildy Stollery. Music and entertainment will be provided by the Didjeri Duo and Applefun Puppetry.

The festival will also include readings, displays, book signings, door prizes and more.

Admission costs for the Festival are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children and the hours of operation are from noon to 4 pm. Visit www.bookfestival.mpl.on.ca to find out more.

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from the bookshelf

A REVIEW BY DIANE DINEEN

For all those who love informative trivia **Clara's Grand Tour**

Travels with a Rhinoceros in Eighteenth Century Europe
Glynis Ridley, *Atlantic Monthly Press, 2004, hardcover, 222 pages*

Yes, the book really is about the topic mentioned in the title and a wonderful, quirky, entertaining book it is.

In 1741 A Dutch sea captain, Douwemout Van der Meer, adopted an orphaned Indian rhinoceros with the idea that he would bring her back to Europe and exhibit her. At the time Europe had pot-holed dirt roads, wagons had wheels made of wood and many Europeans thought a rhinoceros was an imaginary animal.

As a full-grown rhino weighs at least 5000 pounds, is 12 feet long and six feet high and eats one hundred and fifty pounds of food a day, transportation and feeding are major issues. In spite of the challenges Van der Meer and Clara the rhino travelled through Europe for almost twenty years. It may seem strange to us now but Europeans were mad about the rhinoceros. Clara met

Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, spent a month at Versailles with Louis XV, met Casanova and visited the Carnival in Venice and met the British royal family. Commemorative medals were struck, bronze statues made, elaborate clocks constructed, and even Meissen dinner plates featured the famous rhinoceros.

Van der Meer cared for Clara and the huge animal trusted him; one observer noted Clara delicately taking oranges, a favourite treat, from Van der Meer's hand. Clara proved to Europeans that rhinoceros did exist and her loving owner was rewarded by being named a Baron.

This is a well-researched and very well written book containing bits of biology, transportation, social history, art and more. It is light and entertaining, funny and informative and above all, highly recommended.

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