

The Canadian Champion

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Second Section.



LIBRARY WEEK COMMITTEE chaired by Mrs. D. G. Nelson, at left, views some posters made by public school children emphasizing the services of Canadian Library Week, April 3-9. Committee members from left are Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. F. McQuat,

Miss Anne Richter, Bob Mackay, librarian Tom Anderson, Mrs. David Thompson, Mrs. G. C. Gowland and Mrs. Paul Jolliffe. They're urging everyone to visit the library next week—or any time—to see how it can help everyone, young and old.

Circulation is 29,525

Milton Library Marks Canadian Library Week

Although Milton's public library circulation saw its biggest increase in history during 1959, there is still not enough local people taking advantage of its varied services, officials declared this week on the eve of Canadian Library Week.

The theme of Library Week, April 3 to 9, is Read for Pleasure, Read for Profit, Read for Progress. Library Board officials in Milton are hoping citizens will take advantage of this special week to get to know their library better and become more active within its book-lined walls. "Right now, the library is only being used by about 1,200 people, and there should be at least twice that many readers," said librarian Tom Anderson.

This week and next, a Library Week Committee of eight is working hard at the gigantic task of drawing more people out to the library. Mrs. D. G. Nelson heads

the committee, assisted by Mrs. F. McQuat, Mrs. David Thompson, Mrs. Paul Jolliffe, Mrs. G. Gowland, Miss Anne Richter, Robert Mackay and the librarian. Their efforts will be seen when membership increases during the next few months.

Circulation hit a new peak in 1958 when 29,525 book issues were recorded. It represented an increase of 4,500 over 1958 and the biggest portion of the increase—3,409 books—was seen in children's books. Non-fiction adult issues saw a fair increase, with 1,090 more issued than in 1958. Reason for this surge in adult reading was the fact the library updated the non-fiction section and spent a lot of money on new books for it. Non-fiction is also up again this year with 238 more issued in 1959's first two months than in 1958.

Fiction increased 26 over the year.

Ten classes of grades six to eight students from the local schools make monthly trips to the library. They took out 17,905 books, compared to 8,353 adult fiction and 3,267 adult non-fiction. Circulation figures for the past nine years indicate the 14,000-book increase in reading locally: 1952, 11,717; 1953, 15,111; 1954, 16,604; 1955, no figures available; 1956, 18,348; 1957, 21,787; 1958, 25,000; 1959, 29,525.

Membership at the library is vague at the moment. The librarian recently began switching memberships to a new card system, and to date, 640 members have been transferred to the new setup. However, it is believed there is a total membership of around 1,200.

There is no reason 3,000 could not be members," said Mr. Anderson. "We even appreciate it if we can help a person with an infor-

mation problem just once in six months. You don't have to be a constant reader to be a member."

Membership cards are available for 10 cents, and assure the reader of many books for three years. Fines for overdue books are only a few cents with a maximum fine of \$1.00. People outside Milton's boundaries may also use the library, by paying a per capita rate corresponding to the rate Miltonians pay through taxation.

This year's per capita rate is \$1.50 and the board will realize \$7,800 by direct taxation. The provincial government adds a grant of \$2,204 for expenditures last year, plus \$300 for having a librarian with a class "B" certificate. Library receipts are \$250.

Expenditures estimated in 1960 are: salaries \$6,185, new books \$2,600, insurance and rent \$720, repairs \$250, supplies \$150, incidentals \$135, postage \$25.

Canada's Libraries Serve Only 80 Per Cent. of Our Population

Some 1,200 libraries — more than 90 of them bilingual in the Province of Quebec—will participate in Canadian Library Week, April 3 to 9.

Purpose of the week, according to Dr. J. Roby Kidd, chairman of the Canadian Library Week Council, is to point up the rapid strides being made by Canadian libraries and the continuing need of greater book distribution for a better-read, better-informed Canada.

Patron is the Right Hon. John G. Diefenbaker.

In most areas, libraries are expanding their services rapidly, but demand is growing ever faster. We still have a long way to go, however, since only 80 per cent. of our population is served by libraries, and services available are not always adequate for the unprecedented demand.

Activity during the first Canadian Library Week in 1959 resulted in a substantially increased borrowing at most libraries, ranging from a few additional volumes to increases of 100 per cent. or more over 1958," he said.

"While some of this is due to the normal annual increase, it indicates the widespread public interest in Canadian Library Week."

Dr. Kidd said a recent survey showed that most libraries are busiest during the months of January, February, March and November. These periods were most often mentioned, but many librarians find April and October periods of great activity.

Libraries also reported increasing numbers of foreign book sections. There are now about 100 libraries with books in languages other than French and English, including German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, Hungarian, Norwegian and Polish. Toronto public libraries report as many as 23 languages on their shelves.

"Librarians also reported a variety of subjects for which there are frequent requests, but on which little or nothing has been published. These include five-pin bowling, hockey, curling, care of tropical fish, hypnotism, figure skating, Canadian folklore and stories of heroes for younger readers, and books by Canadian authors of 10 or 20 years ago."

"Some librarians have found a lack of good books on the Canadian political and economic scene, which they say are often requested by new Canadians. Most subjects, however, are well represented," Dr. Kidd said.

Throughout the next few weeks, libraries participating in the Canadian Library Week program will hold a variety of special events, including open house, discussion groups, contests and book displays. Local publicity also is planned to focus attention on the aims of Library Week.

In addition, a large number of bookstores are taking part in the six-week program.

Canadian Library Week is sponsored by the Canadian Library Week Council, the Canadian Library Association, together with a number of librarians and publishers. Theme this year is "Read for Pleasure, Read for Profit, Read for Progress."

Book Displays In Six Stores

Canadian Library Week displays will not only be seen at the library next week, but in various stores in town. Six local business firms have agreed to place displays of books and posters in their windows.

The stores with displays are Fred Mills, Kerr's Pharmacy, Knight's, Bailey Bros., Robt. Charles Furniture and Milton Pharmacy. Other stores will be displaying posters as well.

YOUR library—and it is yours—can be of immense help, whether you are interested in light reading, comedy, fine literature, history, religion, etiquette, home workshopping, philosophy, modern world developments, comedy, or just plain pictures. Canadian Library Week has, among other motives, been set aside to show people how a library can be of assistance when you need it.

Information File

One new feature in the Milton library this year is an information file, which contains clippings, booklets, and maps—anything not in book form. The file covers many general topics and will be available to anyone wishing to use it. Librarian Tom Anderson hopes to keep it up to date.

Another innovation is a dictionary catalog of books on the shelves. This contains listings for each book under subject, author and title and is cross-referenced under each heading. A standard feature in other libraries, this service was just recently undertaken in Milton and is proving to be of great assistance to many readers. The filing is not yet complete but the librarian and his assistants are working on it in every spare minute.

Many Culled

In sorting out the books for this file, many were culled and thrown out, while others which circulated a little bit were moved to a back storeroom where they are available on request. Hundreds of the books were reclassified and many others were given new covers or jackets.

The 12,000 books in the Milton public library go under many classifications. Most popular, of course, is the fiction which constitutes about 50 per cent. of the stock. About 30 per cent. are children's books, while the re-



NEWEST SERVICE of the library is this bookmobile cart which distributes local library books throughout the new Milton District Hospital. The ladies of the hospital women's auxiliary maintain the cart and keep it filled with new and old issues from the library. Above, Mrs. K. Curbishley of the W.A. assists hospital patient Mrs. Ruby Crites of Milton Heights with a book selection.

Library's Varied Services Available for One and All

To those 10,000-plus citizens of Milton and district who don't use the Milton Public Library — you don't know what you are missing!

Non-Fiction

In the non-fiction line, many subjects can be found. To list a few, there are arts, literature, travel, biography, history, general works, religion, philosophy, social sciences, and so on.

New books just recently purchased also cover a variety of subjects. On one shelf are books on etiquette, mechanics, music, biography, education, communism, carpenter and power tools, and retarded children.

Library Can Borrow

One additional service is rendered by your local library. If you cannot find a book you want, and ask the librarian, he can procure it for you from Provincial Library Services in Toronto. Last year, about 30 books were borrowed through this service, and the librarian would be glad to hear your special requests.

Routine Business

Various other routine business matters were discussed, with the next meeting of the Board scheduled for April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Visit Wholesalers

During his report to the Board, the librarian mentioned he planned to visit the Toronto book wholesalers to make a personal selection of the next major book purchase. Mr. Anderson felt that a better selection could be obtained in this way, rather than from the reviews or lists of book titles.

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Milton Co-Operates With Oakville Board

At the regular meeting of the Library Board held on March 16, the members learned that plans were almost complete for local participation in Library Week and that a meeting of the special committee had been arranged to analyze details.

Co-operate with Oakville

C. S. Lockie gave an interesting report of the meeting held on March 15 of representatives from the Milton and Oakville library boards. The purpose of this meeting had been to discuss various aspects of possible mutual benefits to be derived from closer co-operation between the libraries. Enquiries were also to be made to the Library Branch of the Department of Education for further information in this connection.

Recently the Municipal grant to the Milton Library was increased to \$1.50 per capita and the by-laws of the library state that the annual registration fee applying to non-residents must not be less than the per capita grant. The Board agreed that in keeping with the by-laws the registration fee applying to non-residents should therefore be increased to \$1.50 per adult card, effective April 1, 1960, with no change in the children's rates.

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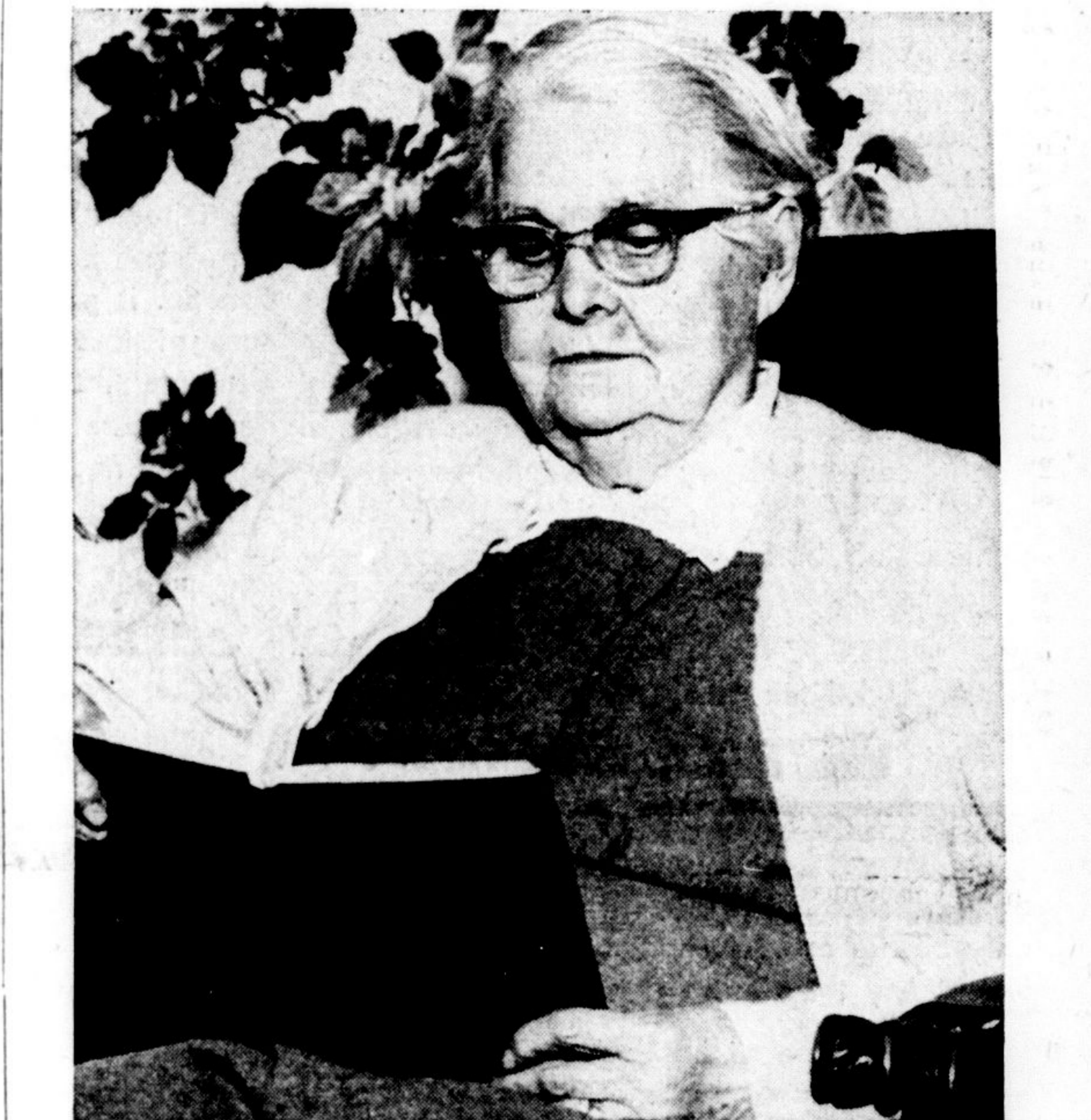
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OLDEST AVID READER at Milton Public Library is Mrs. Ella Thibault, 83, of Mill St. She guesses she can wade through eight books a week and supposes she has read nearly every book in the Milton library. "It is a good place for older people like me," she declared as she settled down to read a good mystery.

Great Grandmother, 83 Reads Eight Books Each Week Heartily Boosts Local Service

While many children and adults take advantage of the Milton public library's services, its oldest reader is probably the most active. She is Mrs. Ella Thibault, an 83-year-old great-grandmother who reads about eight books a week and declares she has read most of the books in the Milton library in the past eight years.

Hale and hearty and the possessor of keen eyesight for her age, Mrs. Thibault reclined in a rocker at her 36 Mill St. home and told a Champion reporter about her love of the Milton library.

Read Every Minute

Mrs. Thibault lived in Kingston until she moved to Milton to take up residence next door to her granddaughter Mrs. George Purdy, eight years ago. Her husband (who is now dead) had been gassed in the war and decorated for his bravery, and found nothing more enjoyable than sitting down with a good mystery magazine or book. At Kingston, library service was good so the couple enjoyed reading in every spare minute.

When they came here Mrs. Thibault admitted, she feared the library service might not be so good. But on her first trip, she was "amazed" at the fine selection of books available here.

"Wonderful Books"

"I expected a basement with a few books in it," she admitted, but when she got inside and saw "all those wonderful books" and received courteous treatment from librarian Miss H. Mockeridge (and recently from her successor, Tom Anderson) she realized how happy she would be in Milton's library.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Thibault carried on the extensive reading and kept going to the library whenever she

could, despite the handicap the steep library stairs gave her. Nowadays she doesn't go so often, but sends her granddaughter to pick up about eight books per week.

Fun in Library

"If I could live next door, I would be reading all the time," she ventured. "People don't realize what fun there is in the library."

While she felt much of the reading was aimed toward the younger generation, the avid reader felt it was a good place for older people too. "They treat me so well there," she declared.

Just No Books

Looking back over a lifetime of reading, Mrs. Thibault told about the worst time of her life. She said she once spent two years in a spot 200 miles north of Singapore, where there were just no books. "I've been making up for it ever since," she concluded.

"When I cannot read any more, I will be happy to die."

School Children Get Books, Lessons

School children don't only get books, they get lessons as well at the Milton Public Library.

Librarian Tom Anderson, a great lover of reading and literature, has been giving senior public school children little talks on their visits to the library, in order to acquaint them with the service available, and methods of learning from books. Older students were given a project of writing an essay, using the book titles catalog and reference books.

Prepare Speeches

"I think it is paying off very well," he said this week. "Quite a few are using the catalog and reference books and some of the children have been preparing speeches in the library."



LIBRARY BOARD CHAIRMAN E. W. Foster seated goes over some new issues at the Milton Public Library with librarian Tom Anderson, left, and board secretary-treasurer George Carruthers. Dozens of new books have been purchased this year and will feature Library Week displays in the library and local stores next week.