Ontario libraries not just by book

Cover to cover

Ontario public libraries are looking to the future.

If you think public libraries are only about books, file that thought under fiction — we're at the forefront of the digital communications age.

That's what Ontario Public Library Week is all about — celebrating the commitment of public libraries to ensuring that their communities can participate fully in our knowledge-based society.

For many years now, public libraries across Ontario have embraced new technologies to expand their leadership role to make information and varying points of view available to everyone.

From large urban centres to smaller communities, Ontario's public libraries offer a wide selection of collections and services. Ontario Public Library Week this year is helping us showcase traditional and electronic products from books and videos to CD-ROM's and Web-based encyclopedias and magazine databases.

While we look to the future we're mindful and proud of our past. In 1855, Milton formed its own Mechanics Institute, a precursor to the modern public library. As well as a collection of books, there was a reading room and program of lectures, generally of a moral or educational nature.

In 1882, an Act of the Ontario legislature provided for the establishment of free libraries supported by a levy to be assessed on the value of personal property. The Carnegie Foundation helped build 125 libraries in Canada between 1901 and 1923 while another burst of library building took place in the 1960s.

The information explosion we have witnessed in the last few years on the Internet has served to underscore the importance of librarians to help people locate the information they need. While the Internet provides a wealth of information, it's no secret that at times finding the specific information you need is daunting. Who

• see LOTS on page 20

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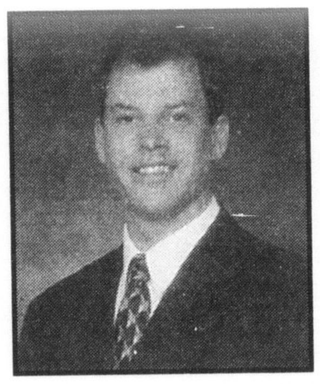

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MILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 1 OPEN HOUSE regarding boundary options for new elementary schools in Milton

The Halton District School Board invites the public to attend an Open House and presentation regarding the proposed boundaries for new elementary schools in Milton

Monday, October 21, 2002
Milton District High School
396 Williams Avenue, Milton (Cafeteria)
Open House: 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Presentation: 6:45 pm (sharp)

Options regarding elementary boundaries for three new elementary schools in Milton will be presented at this Open House. The first new elementary school is scheduled to be built for September 2003, with new schools to follow.

This opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of staff regarding the development of the various boundary options.

Halton District School Board
D.L. Papke, Director of Education
Ethel Gardiner, Chair of the Board
2050 Guelph Line, PO Box 5005, Burlington, ON L7R 3Z2
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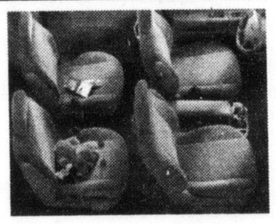

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