

Renovated library opens Tuesday

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The movers are moving and the builders are building, finishing up the long-awaited renovations to the Milton Public Library just in time for Tuesday's re-opening.

For the past week the library, located at 45 Bruce St., has been closed for the facelift, and chief librarian Leslie Fitch said she's excited for people to come in and see the changes for themselves.

"I think people should come in a take a look," Fitch said, adding, "I hope people will be as deeply pleased with the process as the staff has been as they watched the process transform before their eyes."

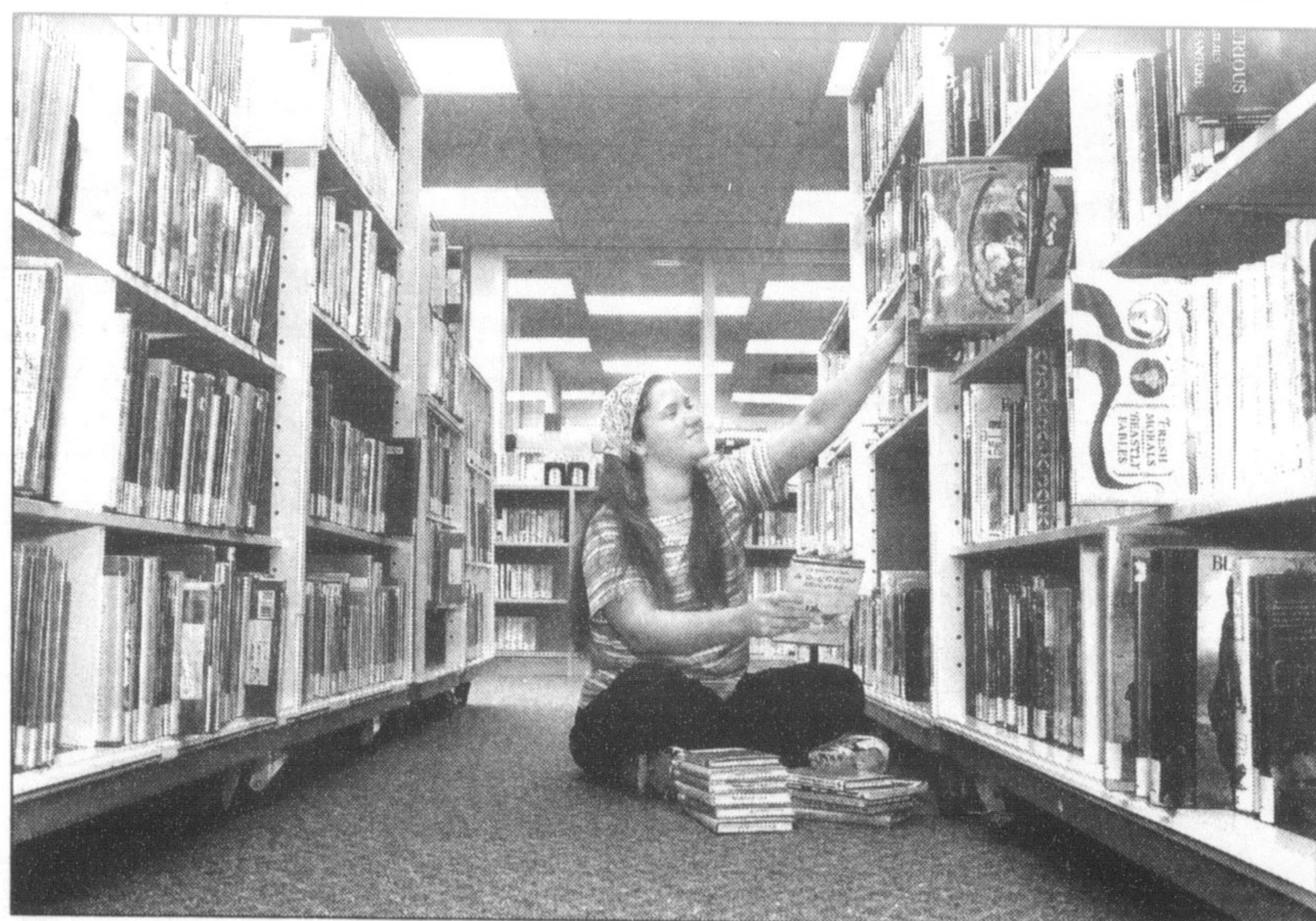
In a town growing as quickly as Milton, the key was to maximize the existing space, Fitch said. So the staff office space, which was in the basement level of the library, was moved next door to the former Safe and Sound day-care centre.

The lower level was then transformed into a bright and colourful children's library, Fitch said.

There's also a larger teen section and a newspaper reading nook — something for everyone, she said.

"I love the change to the main level reading nook — it's more light and airy. I'm just pleased that all of the changes are going to benefit every user of the library," she said.

The approximate \$600,000 renovation also included new carpeting and furniture.



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SNEAK PEAK: Among the changes to the renovated library is a relocated children's area.

"It's going to feel less crowded than it has been," Fitch said. "It's going to feel more open and expansive."

Fitch was quick to point out the library isn't just about books. There are also magazines, DVDs, CDs and videos available for loan. The collections are worth a combined total of more than \$5 million. "We've got the exciting and new, but also the tried and true."

A grand opening will be held sometime in April for the transformed library, which was originally built in 1974.

The current renovations are part of the interim solution until a completely

new central library is built — something that's expected in the next five or six years, Fitch said.

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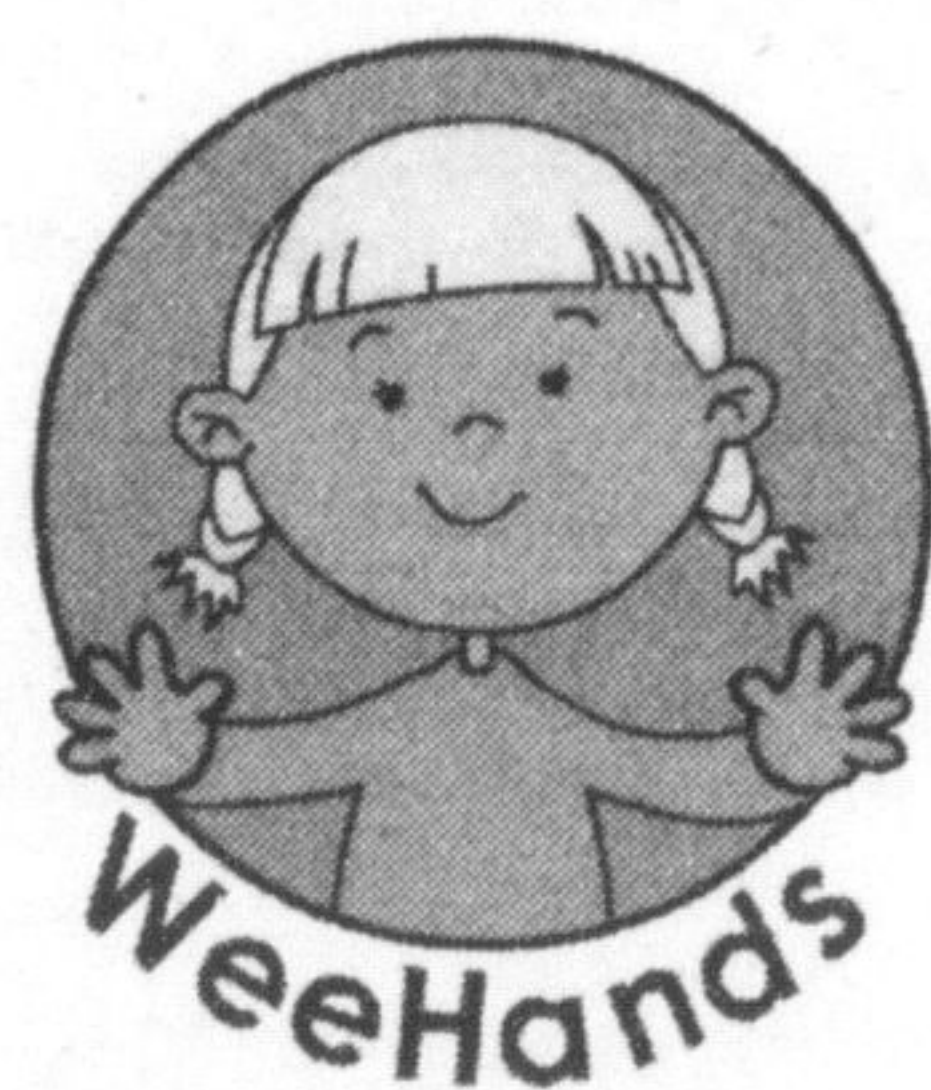


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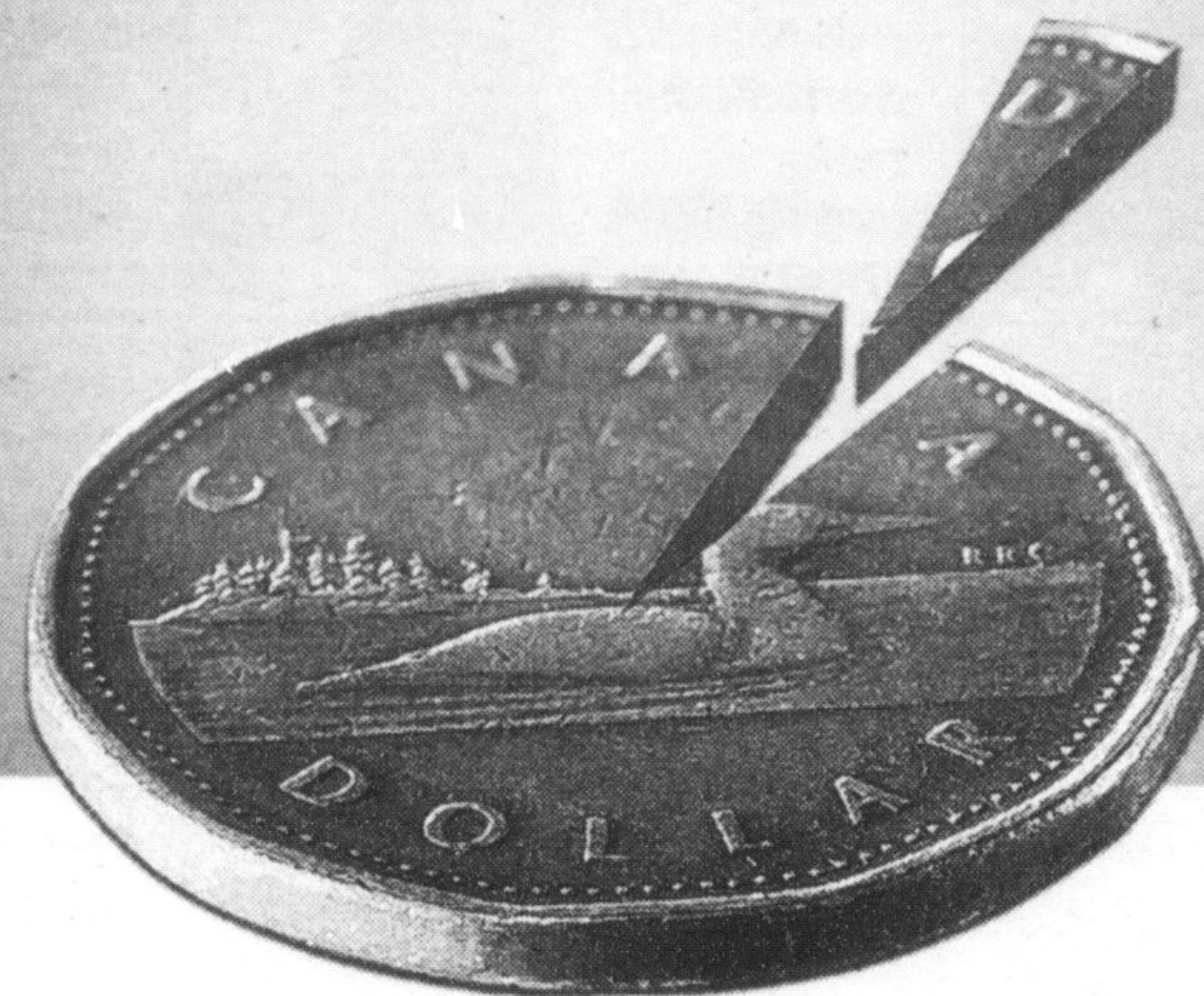
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