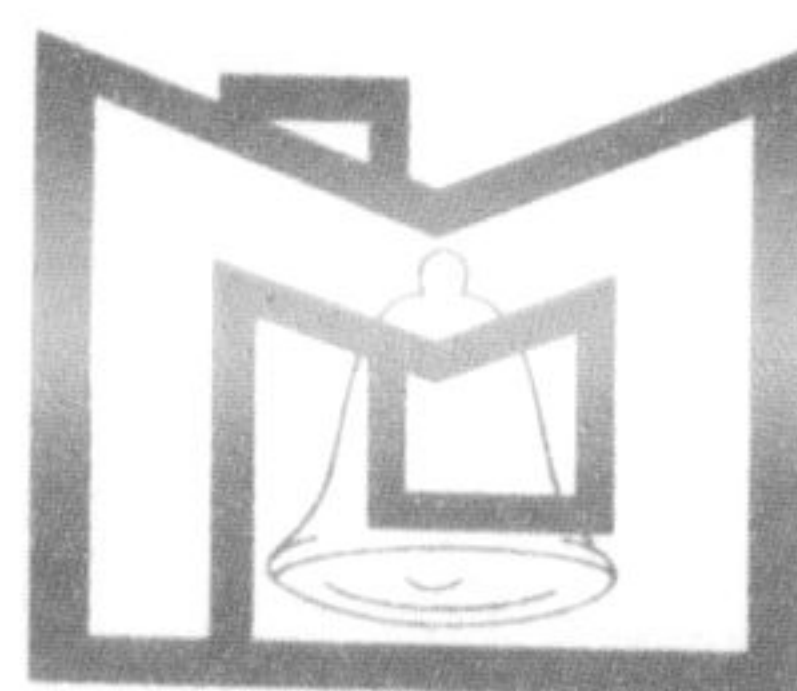




Seniors at your library



SENIORS' TEA

Please Join Us
At The Library
FRIDAY JUNE 30TH
10:00 AM UNTIL NOON

Visit Our New
COFFEE BAR
in the Newspaper
Nook. Enjoy!



LESLIE FITCH
Chief Librarian

Seniors Month JUNE 2006

June is a favourite month at the Milton Public Library since it marks two important occasions: It is Seniors' Month (for which we will be holding our Seniors' Tea on Friday, June 30), and it is the month we gear up for our Children's Summer Programs.

While elsewhere on the page, we make reference to some of the services available for Seniors, we know that being a Senior means being part of an exceptionally diverse and busy group of people with many hobbies, interests and activities. If you are a gardener, we have resources. If you are a traveller, we can help you plan. If you are going to sail around the world, we can help you learn your navigation and knots. If you want to explore your family history, become a scrapbooking expert, a dog owner, or a poker ace, we can point you in the right direction. If you want to read the great authors of literature, the latest hard-boiled detective story, listen to *Beethoven's 9th Symphony* or the *Dixie Chicks*, watch *Monsoon*

Wedding or Casablanca on DVD, Milton Library is the place for you.

However, this year it is also a bittersweet month, since we will say farewell to long-time staff member Lee Wood, who is retiring after working for 34 years with us. Lee has meant so much to the organization and her absence will be keenly felt. In so many ways she has been key to the ongoing success of the Library. When she started working at the Library, it was with the [long closed] Campbellville Library, and since that time she has performed a number of different jobs. For the past twenty years, Lee has been the Circulation Co-ordinator, a position she has filled with skill, tact and great ability. She is an exceptional trainer and a wonderful mentor. I often think of the motto she has shared with all her staff: "When in doubt, be kind", since it speaks to her fundamental calm, cheerful and positive attitude to life in general. Thank you, Lee. We will miss you.

Leslie Fitch
Chief Librarian

SENIOR'S SERVICES

We have several collections and services of particular interest to seniors. Books in Large Print are a wonderful invention and we have recently doubled the budget for this collection. If you do not find the title you want we will reserve it for you or borrow it from another library.

Audiobooks are also available. We are currently moving from tape cassette to CD so you will have the widest selection if you can play both. The fiction audiobooks have their own section, but the non-fiction is housed upstairs with its corresponding subject area. Remember to look there for biographies, history, humour and so on. Ask us for help if you are uncertain where to look.

Magazines such as *Good Times*,

Elderhostel Catalogue, *Roots to Learning Canada* and *Today's Senior* (newspaper) are especially for seniors, but dozens of our other magazines will also be of interest to you.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

The library has a special service for its homebound patrons. To register you only need to fill out a special form. This tells the librarian your favourite authors, genres and subjects as well as what formats you would like - large print, regular print, audiobook, etc., how many books you would like, and how often. Based on this information, we will select and check out your books for you. You must make your own arrangements for pick up and delivery but we will have your materials

waiting for your caregiver or volunteer to pick up and deliver to you.

As part of our outreach programme we also have a rotating deposit in the Special Care Unit at the Milton District Hospital.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED RESOURCES

For the visually impaired we have books in Large print and books in audio. We will also help you contact the CNIB for access to their Talking Book library.

Ask at the Information Desk if you are looking for something in particular. If we don't have it, we'll try to get it from another library.



MILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://www.mpl.on.ca>

THE IMPORTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL CARE

When my elderly mother's sciatica began to limit her mobility in the mid-1990's, we equipped her bathroom with a shower seat and hand grips, and installed hand rails around her house. After she was no longer able to drive, we arranged for home care assistance and meal deliveries. Little did my brothers and I realize that we were embarking with Mom on a long journey of intertwined health, financial, housing and legal issues. I am thankful that I joined the Elder Law section of the Canadian Bar Association along the way.

When Mom decided to move to a seniors' residence, I negotiated changes to the housing contract, and made arrangements to maintain her home in case she decided to return (which she eventually did). When she later went through successful colon cancer surgery, I was able to secure government benefits for rehabilitative services that were initially denied. Before she suffered a stroke that left her without the capacity to manage finances, I worked with her to structure a power of attorney for property, which ultimately allowed my brothers and me to preserve most of her assets on her behalf.

Unfortunately, Mom never signed a power of attorney for personal care, and after the stroke it was too late to do so. The decision concerning nursing home care defaulted to my brother who lived in the same jurisdiction as her, not to her personally appointed decision-maker. Two years later, she had a second stroke that left her unable to swallow food, and one of my brothers would not consent to the insertion of a feeding tube. The last thing Mom would have wanted was to conflict on this decision. We lost Mom to a third and final stroke before any legal action ensued, but soon thereafter the Terri Schiavo case brought international prominence to the life-and-death importance of appointing a substitute decision-maker.

I made a promise to Mom (or at least to her memory) the first time I visited her grave: that I would use my experiences as a son to bring compassion and competence to my practice as a lawyer in helping others with some of these same "decisions that matter."

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**Ben Marshall, B.A.(Hons.), LL.B., M.Div.
Barrister & Solicitor**

ASSISTING SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH
A VARIETY OF LEGAL NEEDS:

Wills, Powers Of Attorney For Property
Or Personal Care, Trusts, Tax Planning,
Notary Services, Guardianships, Housing
And Service Contract Review, Insurance
And Pension Matters,
Family Mediations, Government
Programs And More