

Library could become a home away from home

By ESTHER CALDWELL

Whenever I move into a community, I head straight for the local library and become a patron. I know there isn't a better offer anywhere. Where else can I go and have free access to books, audio and video cassettes, magazines, and newspapers?

It always amazes me that there are actually some people who have never walked through the doors of the Milton Public Library. Nonetheless, we are a very literate bunch with over 56 per cent of us being cardholders.

With 57,000 books to talk about, where do I begin? Actually, if our library doesn't have a particular book, the staff can search elsewhere — anywhere in the world for that matter — and get the book we want through interlibrary loan. In most cases, however, our requested book can be located at nearby libraries. So, when you look at it that way, we have access to millions of books. That's a heady thought.

Heavy reading

On the upper floor of our library, you can find the non-fiction books, while the fiction books are shelved on the main floor. Also on the main floor, you will see the large-print books which I prefer, although the books are heavier than the convenient-sized paperbacks.

Most of the books in this collection are novels. Only classics and bestsellers are printed in this format and usually the large-print version of a popular novel lags behind the original book by about a year. You will also find a lot of biographies in large print.

The talking books located on the main floor are prepared by the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) and are restricted to those who are legally blind or physically impaired. This resource is also available to those people who are temporarily unable to cope with regular reading material. A note from your physician will confirm your eligibility.

There's an earful

Everyone can take out any of the more than 1200 audio cassettes that sit on revolving racks near the check-out desk. You can learn a foreign language or listen to plays, novels, and classical and popular music.

A more recent addition to the Milton Public Library has been the popular video cassette collection. Most of these videos are not ones you are likely to find at your neighbourhood video store. They tend to be more educational,

instructional and informational in nature. But that's not to say they won't be fun to watch.

Videos shelved with books

Shelved among the books you'll find videos on nature, travel, cooking, art, exercise and nutrition, sports, photography, home improvement, and gardening. You might be interested in getting along with your computer, training your dog (the Woodhouse way), experimenting with your microwave or playing golf with Jack Nicklaus. And you'll also see in this collection Shakespearean plays and some great movies of our time. You can borrow these videos at no charge for two days.

At your leisure

But let's get back to the books. Browsing up and down the aisles in the library is a terrible temptation for me. It is similar to grocery shopping when I am hungry and have no list to abide by. I always end up with more than I plan to. It is always frustrating just thinking of all the fascinating books that are begging to be read. Let me whet your appetite with some topics and titles.

For starters, any leisure-time activity you may ever consider will have a book written about it: radio control sport flying, electronics projects, antiques and home decorating, sewing and needlecraft, writing, tennis, stamp collecting, square dancing.

Travel guides to anywhere in the world are at your fingertips, and for closer to home, you have RV Parks and Campground Directory.

For mature readers

Gardening in Small Places, Practical Bonsai for Beginners and The Indoor Garden Book offer many tips for avid gardeners.

You may want to check out the following books: *How to Grandparent*, *Managing the Drugs in Your Life*, *Sixty Plus and Fit Again*, *Cooking for One*, and *Old Enough to Feel Better: A Medical Guide for Seniors*.

There are a number of books related to financial and retirement planning, as well as guides on how to sell your home or start a small business.

If you are seeking a specific author, title or subject area, I would suggest you look in the card catalog drawers on the main floor. However, be advised that this old system is on its way out and may not be up-to-date with the most recent book arrivals. In about half a year, these files will be a thing of the past as they

make way for high-tech.

We'll soon be referring to an on-line catalogue to locate books. In the meantime, don't hesitate to get help from the staff at the information counter. They love to be bugged.

For those of you who have an interest in local history, you can view on microfilm *The Canadian Champion of the 1800's*.

Explore local history

Also housed in the library are records that are maintained by the Milton Historical Society which upon request you may look at.

You can make yourself comfortable in one of the armchairs and read the daily and weekly newspapers or one of the over 100 magazine subscriptions. (By the way, back issues of

Consumer's Report, *Time*, *Maclean's* and *Newsweek* are available on microfilm.) Except for current issues, you can borrow the magazines.

Of particular interest are two publications for seniors. *New Choices for the Best Years* is a monthly magazine from the United States. And you can pick up a free copy of *Today's Seniors*, a monthly newspaper published by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing, the company which also owns *The Champion*.

And don't forget that the library offers many varied and interesting evening programs to suit all tastes. Information on upcoming events are displayed at the check-out desk.

So you see, you can make the Milton Public Library your home away from home.

Your family tree

Rooting out long lost relatives on a long-shot

By VERNA CALLAN

The ground I dig never freezes in winter, it's always fertile. I'm searching for my family's roots, a task that has produced some fascinating results. If my first article on digging for roots didn't spark your appetite, perhaps this one will.

My digging has taken me along many paths. Some time ago a cousin sent me a photograph of Jarman's Ranch in Climax, Sask. dated 1968. After discovering the location of this small town on a map, I sent a note to the local postmaster with a self addressed, stamped envelope. I asked that the note be passed to anyone by the name of Jarman.

Within a month I received the most beautifully penned letter from Hilda Jarman, whose maiden name was Harris — the name I was researching. The 89-year-old was thrilled to have contact with the granddaughter of her father's brother. With her computer-like mind, complete with files of information, she has been an excellent source. I'm still amazed that I tracked her down.

Through a book I borrowed from a Sheridan College seminar instructor, I discovered a woman in British Columbia who was researching the same Harris. I corresponded with her until her untimely death in March 1989. We had almost established the fact that the Jane Harris root she had was the same Jane who was my great, great grandfathers' eldest daughter. My fellow root digger did much of her research through the Latter Day Saints Church library.

It was a copy of a wedding invitation that led me to a second cousin I didn't know I had. The name Muxlow was on the invitation and I knew that my great grandfather's family married into Muxlow folk who moved to Michigan. I had access to a Michigan telephone directory and tracked down a Muxlow who steered me to a descendant of a brother of my grandfather. Not only did I discover my cousin Zella Muxlow, I found a fellow root digger.

Researching one's roots is full of surprises. Happy digging.



Jack
TANNERS
TABLE
L.L.B.O.

• the olde Hide House •

Valentine's

Sweetheart

Dinner & Dance

On Friday, February 16, come and treat your special someone to an evening of fun and fine foods. Our chef has prepared a 6 course table D'Hôte menu just for this evening. Dinner begins at 6:30: dancing by disc jockey until 1:30 a.m. There are door prices too. All this for \$28.00 per person.

Reservations Required: 853-3440