

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Once Upon Two Hundred Years**

A Gala Evening  
Celebrating the Bicentennial Year of  
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library  
Saturday, 29th January 2000  
Courthouse Building

[ROW OF 3 IMAGES: QUILL PEN & INK POT, OPEN BOOK, COMPUTER SCREEN]

### ***Symposium***

Music by VanDongen Quartet

### ***Welcome & Call to Victuals***

David Eke, Chair, Board of Trustees

### ***Menu***

Quenelle of fine chicken liver mousse with herbed toasts  
Slow roasted prime rib with Yorkshires  
Roasted cellar vegetables & potatoes  
Winter fruit cobbler with vanilla bean anglaise

### ***Greetings***

David Eke & distinguished guests

### ***Re-enactment of Founding***

Maja Bannerman, Jonathan Earp & Jamie Mainprize

### ***Forthcoming Events & Appreciations***

David Eke

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***History***

"Sensible how much we are at a loss in this new and remote country for every kind of knowledge, and convinced that nothing would be of more use to diffuse knowledge amongst us and our offspring than a library supported by subscription in this town; we whose names are hereunto subscribed hereby associate ourselves together for that purpose..."

On June 8th, 1800, forty-one prominent residents of our community came together to form a subscription library. The Record Book opens with the above quotation. We owe a great debt to these founders whose leadership and foresight paved the way for the establishment of public libraries in Canada.

The remarkable history of Upper Canada's oldest public library makes it an integral part of a region rich in cultural traditions. When the Town was burned during the war of 1812, many library books were destroyed but the Library survived and became a free public library in 1938. Over the past two centuries, from many different locations, the Library has born witness to the events which shaped our contemporary world.

The state-of-the-art facility opening this autumn will enable the Library to continue to grow, prosper, "diffuse knowledge", and serve both present and future generations of our community.

For further details see <http://vaxxine.com/fa/not1p1>

\*\*\*\*\*

***For support this evening***  
The Library warmly thanks  
Vintage Inns  
Mackenzie Heritage Printery  
Stonechurch Winery

\*\*\*\*\*