

# Public Libraries Week offers extra

Regular users of and visitors to the Midland Public Library during Public Libraries Week should not be surprised to be offered refrigerator magnets, buttons, plastic bags promoting Library Week and the public libraries Sept. 23 through Sept. 29 is Public Libraries Week in Ontario.

Imagine rollicking puppet shows, dazzling magic acts, practical and useful demonstrations, or maybe just a quiet reading by a well-known author. Imagine all this -- and much, much more -- and you'll be well on your way to discovering the many activities at your local library during Ontario Public Library Week.

Hundreds of events are planned in public libraries throughout the province from Sept. 23 through 29 -- all of them designed to delight, to stimulate, to animate and to be enjoyed, whether you're three or 93.

"This is a time to celebrate the heritage of our public library system in Ontario," says Lily Munro, minister of citizenship and culture. "And it's a time for all Ontarians to rediscover the joy and excitement that public libraries bring to all communities."

It's the first year for Ontario Public Library Week, and according to Grace Buller, manager of the public library service unit at the Ministry of citizenship and culture in Toronto, this year's celebrations are aimed at bringing libraries to people and people to libraries.

"Library staff have responded eagerly and enthusiastically to the challenge of Public Library Week. That's evident in the imagination of the programs and events they have planned," says Buller.

To list all of the happenings in libraries during the last week of September would require a small book. But a quick tour around the province will give you a good indication of the kinds of events you're likely to find right around your corner.

At the Atikokan Public Library, staff have planned special events for all ages. A senior citizen's tea will open the week, followed by an open house and a coffee party to honor library volunteers. For the children there will be a puppet show, and for history buffs, old photographs and memorabilia tracing the library's history.

The library is also sponsoring a Libraries are People Places photography contest for local shutterbugs.

At the London Public Library branches, children and adults alike will enjoy readings and writing workshops by Gord Corman, Public Library Week writer-in-residence. Corman, the author of several popular children's and

young adult novels, will also answer questions for visitors to the many open houses planned during the week.

In Lindsay, public library staff will have local playwright Beth McMaster read from her works and offer advice to budding wordsmiths, or answer questions from in-

terested observers.

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Lindsay is also taking its message to the streets with a video program that details local library services. Staff will set up a booth in a local mall to answer questions, and a magical wizard will enchant children.  
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Staff have also invited the local town council to hold its regular council meeting in the library on Monday evening.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the theme of Public Library Week is Ideas start at Public Libraries.

To demonstrate that, members of the prestigious Shaw

Festival will show how they use the library facilities to create their world-renowned theatrical productions.

A costume maker, a set designer, a wig designer and an actor will demonstrate how they research and work with the information at the library to re-create life as it was in the 18th

and 19th centuries. In addition, local craftsmakers and hobbyists will show how they use the library to create their works.

A professional storyteller will also delight children and adults with tales of fantasy and fiction, and a chamber music ensemble will perform

several classical works for those with more discriminating tastes.

This is just a brief rundown of the many activities and events that will be happening in communities all over Ontario during Public Library Week. Why not drop into your local library and see what's going on?

## Thickness of paper may add to stamps' value

by LARRY MCINNIS  
How thick is thick and how thin is thin?

It could be like a childhood conundrum, "How high is up?" or "How long is a piece of string?"

During my childhood, a favorite unanswerable was "What makes the sky blue?" Now we know: It's junk or lack of it in the atmosphere and the reflection of the sun off it.

But back to thick and thin, which is important to models, and to philately, because in some cases, thick stamps are worth a lot more than thin stamps. Possibly there are situations where the reverse is true, although I don't know of any offhand.

If you have a Scott

catalogue handy, look up the first issues of the Dominion of Canada, commencing in 1869. They are commonly known as the Small Queens and the Large Queens, and both are the subject of some highly specialized research.

Let's take one at random, the one-cent brown red (Scott No. 22) of 1868. A fine copy used on thin paper catalogues at \$50, on thick white paper, \$150.

Paper thickness is a judgement call, with a lot of money riding on the call.

Ira G. Wilson, a stamp collector and retired Bell Laboratories engineer in the U.S., measured thickness with a micrometer, something not everyone carries to a stamp

dealer or auction.

Wilson's finding led two modern-day scientists who are also collectors to do a study on why some stamps of an issue are on thicker paper than the average, and why they should be worth more.

Alan J. Izenman, associate professor of statistics at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA., and Charles J. Sommer, assistant professor of mathematics at University of New York at Brockport, N.Y., combined to produce "Philatelic Mixtures and Multimodel Densities."

Izenman and Sommer said that a century ago or so, printers were printing stamps without giving a thought to philatelists. Almost any

paper available was used.

There was little or no quality control then, they surmised, and so an "uncontrollable variation in paper thickness from sheet to sheet."

In those days, paper was sold by the ream by weight, at the time equivalent to 480 sheets (today a ream is 500 to 516 sheets.)

To meet the number/weight requirement, manufacturers would put thicker paper in a ream to compensate for thinner sheets. There would be fewer thick sheets than thin, and that's why there are fewer stamps on thick than thin paper and why they should command a premium, according to the authors-scientists.

Izenman and Sommer use the Canada Queens issues as an example of thick and thin paper.

"Since the price of any stamp depends on its relative scarcity," they wrote, "printing a stamp on a specific paper type often leads to a discriminating price for that stamp, especially if the paper type used is rare, or if very few sheets of that paper type are used in that printing."

The problem for the average collector who may have a few of the Queen's in a general

collection is to identify which might be a thick paper.

There is no definition of thick, or, for that matter, thin. And to complicate it, some specialists catalogues have inserted a "medium" thickness category. Perhaps that's why Wilson used his micrometer.

### LETTERS

Letters are invited. Please send enquiries to the writer at P.O. Box 40, Beauharnois, Que., J6N 3C1.



## The Inn at Bay Moorings

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*Appearing Sept. 20, 21*

Jazz fans have a treat in store for them Sept. 20, 21, with the arrival of "The Swing Sisters", an all women quintet fresh from club appearances and the Harbourfront in Toronto. Hailed by the Toronto Globe & Mail as the "surprise hit of the year", the Swing Sisters hit top form with their high grade programme of main stream and bebop music. Not related, the sisters include Stacey Rowles on Flugel horn and trumpet, Jane Fair on reeds, Jo Sargeant pianist, Rosemary Galloway on bass and Norma Thompson on drums.

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Sept. 20, 21

## MOVIE GUIDE

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**ROXY 1** Starts Fri., Sept. 20

7 p.m. **TEACHERS** ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT 9 p.m. **YEAR OF THE DRAGON**  
Violence

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**ROXY 2** Starts Fri., Sept. 20

7 p.m. **THE GOONIES** PARENTAL GUIDANCE 9 p.m. **CLINT EASTWOOD PALE RIDER**

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PEN TWIN PENETANG 549-2953

**PEN 1**

*Our next Attraction*

### TO BE ANNOUNCED

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**PEN 2** Starts Fri., Sept. 20

7:15 **HOT MOVIES** RESTRICTED TO 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER Violence **CREATURE**  
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Midland Drive In Theatre 526-2411  
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