

Library News

Statistics can be a boon, a bane or a bore

It's unlikely to reach the bestseller lists or challenge Madonna's biography for risqué writing, but it is not-off-the-press and ready for the critics' comments.

We're talking about the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library's Annual Report.

It's a slim publication (one

page and three folds) that manages to capture the essence of budgetary ebb and flow and come to a balanced conclusion.

Copies can be picked up at the library and we're hoping that it will be widely read in the community and that subsequent comments on the

contents will sift back to us.

Any annual report of worth would be loose a loonie if it didn't cite a few pertinent statistics to give it substance and we hope it doesn't spoil the suspense of reading ours if we reveal that the library circulated 128,595 books, magazines, tapes etc., last

year; that it had 10,953 patrons, handled 8,424 reference requests and welcomed 5,293 people to its programs.

Statistics can be a boon, a bane or a bore, depending on the interpretation.

Most of us can't relate to ratios and percentages until we're faced with the grim graphics of the pie cut into wedges — and the wee wedge is ours. To folk with more analytical minds, statistics, like Marley's ghost, point a dramatic digit to what was, what is and what might be.

As a result, the statistical material in the library's reference area is frequently used for research and to substantiate reports and assignments.

Statistics Canada is the wellspring of demographics

and we have columns of StatsCan publications on hand, including a recent Census profile of Whitchurch-Stouffville which gives a plethora of data on population, occupations, incomes and households — right down to the esoteric fact that there is an average 0.4 persons per room in the Town's 6,050 private dwellings.

This being the height of the hockey season, we'll leave the final word on Canadian Statistics to ex-Canadian, Scotty Bowman:

When badgered by the press (prior to a Stanley Cup playoff) about the team's chances of winning in view of unfavourable past statistics, he shot back like a puck on the rebound — "Statistics are for losers!"

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

The Elementary Teachers Association York Region is celebrating its 25th anniversary. For 25 years, ETA YR has worked to improve the education system in York Region, not only for teachers, but for our students.

Included in our Constitution are the following objectives:

- to promote the best possible professional services for the children
- to promote a high standard of professional ethics
- to improve the professional competence of its members

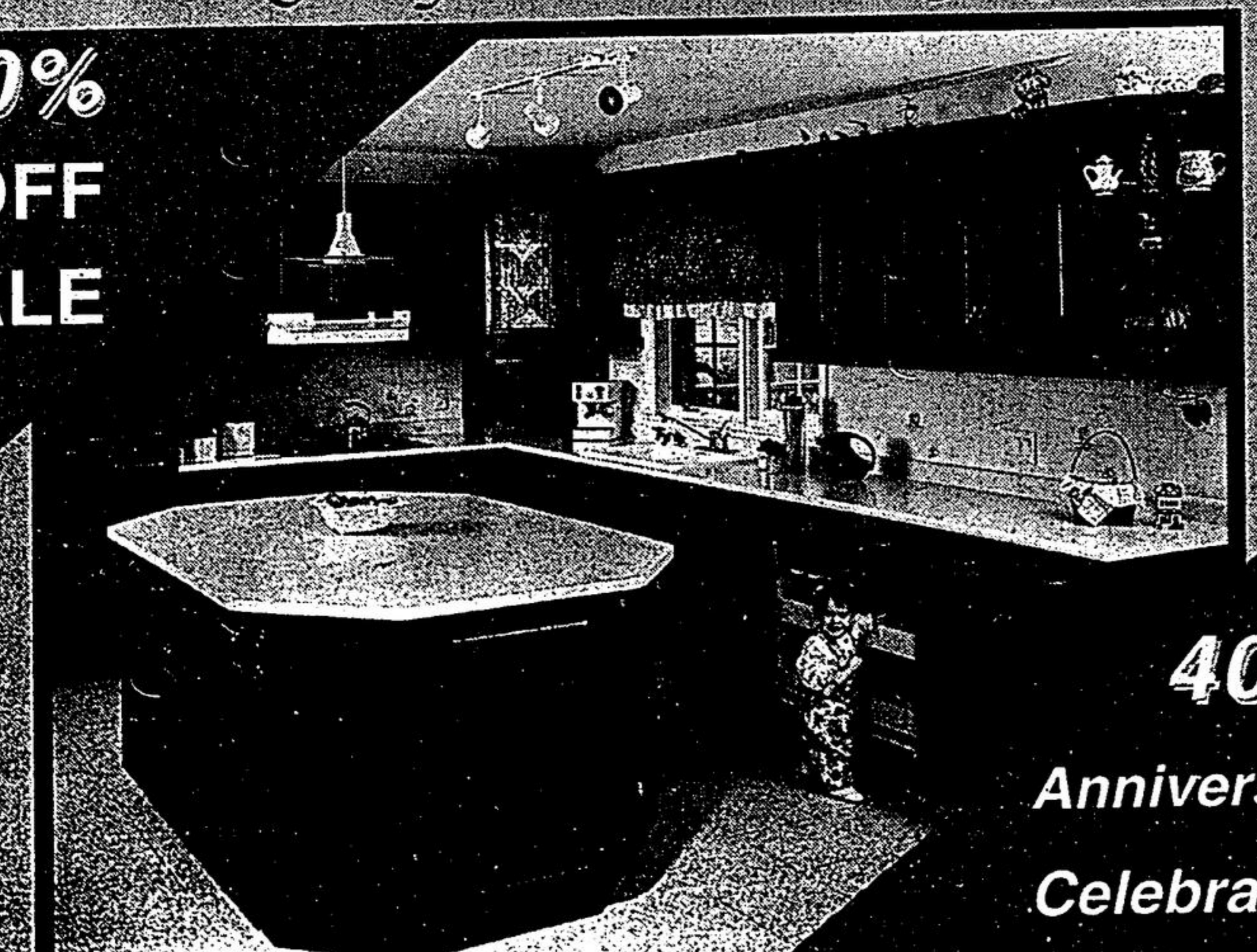
The Association is aware that we have been entrusted with providing the best education possible to those students in our care. ETA YR helps teachers with their professional development. ETA YR works with Board committees to help provide the best education to the students. Financial assistance has been given to multicultural events run in our Board.

Our teachers promote the wonder of learning and promote a positive self-concept in our students. ETA YR is proud to have been able to represent these individuals for the past 25 years.

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