

Dig into our archives to research your past

One of the best used pieces of equipment in the library is not the computer. The photocopier is well used but there's only one machine that people willingly sit in front of for hours at a time. No, we don't have a TV. During a school visit, the students were politely interested in the OPACs, the CD-ROM encyclopedia may have bells and whistles but there was one machine they really wanted to know about. No, we don't have Nintendo.

"What's that thing the lady is looking at?"

That "thing" is the microfilm reader and it's used to read microfilm (obviously), and for 50 cents per page, you can make copies of articles from past issues of our local newspapers.

The story goes that with *The Tribune* there was a fire which destroyed some of their own collection. This spurred an interest in having the surviving issues microfilmed.

The library was a natural source for genealogical research. Even after a fire, the community is fortunate to have an impressive run of *The Tribune*. The library houses *The*

LIBRARY NEWS

Tribune from the year 1888 to present, with approximately 15 years missing.

This past autumn, the local Historical Society donated a reel of microfilm with a hodgepodge of early Stouffville newspapers such as the *Stouffville Advance*, *Stouffville Alert*, and the *Stouffville Free Press*. We have the *Stouffville Sun* from its inception in October 1982.

You never know where you'll find that marriage announcement for your grandparents which may give you a clue as to where your grandmother's family lived, or at the very least, her maiden name, or the names of their parents.

It's for important clues like these that people will sit for hours at the microfilm reader, because as yet, most of the newspapers are not indexed.

The indexing of these papers is a slow process but a few volunteers have finished four reels, each representing at least an entire year's worth of issues.

If you have an hour or so to volunteer each week, and if you'd enjoy reading old newspapers, tracking down birth, death, and marriage announcements, drop in to the library or phone 640-2395, and ask for Catherine.

Baby health classes offered

York Region Health Services, Public Health offers a number of groups to people in the community.

The classes include Prenatal Education, Postnatal Classes, For You and Your Baby, Postpartum Depression Support, The Baby Place, Kidbits for children one to five years of age, and Teens N' Babes Timeout.

Call for further information and to register for workshops at 905-773-3230.

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