

# PAGES

York Region libraries celebrating Canadian Book Week

# Write at home

BY LINDA JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

If you haven't started the Canadian book you got for your birthday, you have a major incentive to get reading this week.

Tuesday is Canada Book Day, a day set aside in schools and libraries across the country to celebrate Canadian authors.

"It's terrific," said Murray McCabe, chief executive officer of King Township Public Libraries.

"Even if the Internet is taking off, kids need to know how to read to understand what they're looking at. Canada Book Day draws attention to the need to be literate and the value that comes from reading. So it's tremendous," he said.

To promote the day, most area libraries have set up displays that showcase posters, brochures and bookmarks distributed by the Writers Trust of Canada, the project's sponsor.

This year, the brochures include new stories about libraries by Canadian writers. There are also two contests, one on copyright and another challenging young readers to design a book cover.

Each bookmark includes a coupon to get \$2 off the price of a Canadian book at participating stores.

Many libraries also have Canadian book displays. Some, such as the Aurora Public Library, are promoting Canada Reads, a contest on CBC Radio hosted by

Mary Walsh that pits five books chosen by well-known Canadians. The winner is to be announced Tuesday.

Some libraries have also planned special events. Richmond Hill Central Library is hosting a reading by Anne Michaels Thurs. April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Ms Michaels is the author of the Trillium Award winning novel *Fugitive Pieces*. The poet and novelist will be reading from a novel in progress.

Cameron Knight, programming librarian, said the reading has created a lot of interest among library patrons.

"I'm always excited," he said, "when our hard work generates a great reaction. It's very gratifying."

After the reading, Ms Michaels

will be available for questions and to chat with visitors.

Tickets for the event, part of the library's Literary Reading series, are \$10. For information, call 905-884-9288.

At Vaughan Public Libraries, book clubs have focused on Canadian books. They're also celebrating Canadian writers on their award-winning on-line book club called Books and Bytes. This month, readers who submit a review of a Canadian book are entered in a draw to win a gift certificate at a book store. There will be two draws in each of the city's six branches.

See **READING**, page 13.

# Avoiding battle of wills

BY JEROME WATT  
Staff Writer

Your final wishes may create ill will among your relatives, warns Les Kotzer, a Thornhill wills and estates lawyer.

Avoiding family fights that result from poorly prepared wills is the subject of *The Family Fight*, a book written by Mr. Kotzer and fellow lawyer Barry Fish.

The duo wrote the book after seeing countless families disintegrate as they battled over wills.

"The book is much more than why you need a will," Mr. Kotzer said. "It's about how what you are doing is going to impact your children."

Mr. Kotzer said he has seen an increase in family feuds over wills as baby boomers' parents begin to die.

The book offers advice on how to prepare a will, including appointing executors and organizing your affairs. It also offers advice on how to avoid common pitfalls when making a will.

Mr. Kotzer said he hopes the book will act as catalyst for discussion between parents and their children on the preparation of a will.

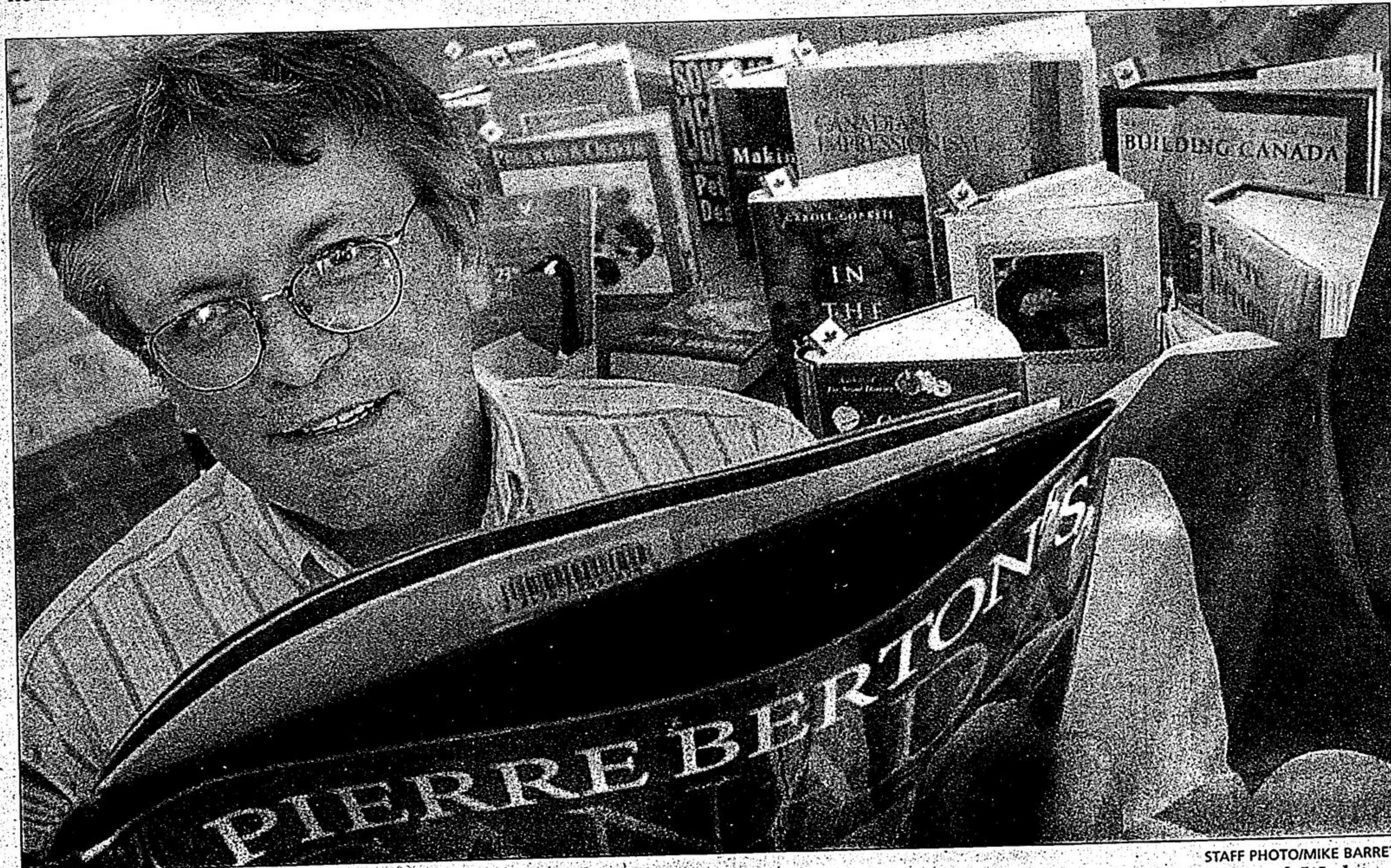
"I have a lot of parents coming in to me and they will say, 'I can't really talk to my kids about this issue,'" he said, adding a lot of adult children come to him with the same problem. "What we're trying to do is create an opportunity to bridge the gap of communication between parents and adult children."

Mr. Kotzer said, in one case, a mother bought a book for each of her six children to avoid conflicts in her family.

"There is a glue that holds a family together and if you don't pay attention to that glue ... it could fall apart," he said of the family dynamics a parent should pay attention to when writing a will.

He's seen many cases where a poorly thought-out will has caused families to collapse.

See **POORLY**, page 13.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

King Township Public Library CEO Murray McCabe has set up displays showcasing Canadian authors to celebrate Canadian Book Week.

## Flyer WATCH Inserts for Saturday April 20, 2002

Lawn Rangers\*  
Mindtech\*  
M&M Meats - Stouffville\*  
Sears\*  
Sears - Sears Days\*  
Dominion\*  
Smart Source\*

The Bay\*  
Real Estate - Builders Section\*  
Walmart\*  
Dr. Green Lawncare\*  
Hometurf\*  
Smart Abacus\*

Zehrs\*  
Stouffville IDA\*  
Main Drug Mart\*  
Home & Rural\*  
Speedy Muffler\*  
Fortinos\*  
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