

**COMING UP:** Residents set to uncover literary gems next week

# Used-book sale funds library reading events, equipment

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What started out as a fundraiser for a new library, has morphed into an annual book-buying bonanza for residents, which has resulted in equipment, author readings and a summer reading program co-ordinator for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

The 21st annual Giant Book Sale takes place from April 14 to 18 at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, 30 Burkholder St.

The book sale started in 1989 as a way to generate money for a new library.

Once all of the money had been raised and the library was built (2001), there was talk of disbanding the sale. "But because it was so successful, the committee (in charge of the fundraiser) decided to keep it going," said Carolyn Nordheimer James, CEO of the library. "Not for the operating costs, but for the nice-to-haves."

The book sale, which brings in between \$11,000 and \$12,000 annually, according to Ms Nordheimer James, pays for the summer

reading program co-ordinator and participant prizes, the health and wellness and novelist electronic data bases, as well as author visits.

Over the years, writers to have visited the library include Bob Barton, Sean Cassidy, Frieda Wishinsky and Janet Wilson.

A new collection of Chinese books was also brought into the library thanks to this annual fundraiser.

"Often, to start off a new collection, those materials tend to be very expensive," Ms Nordheimer James said.

Throughout the years, thousands of books have been donated by residents to the library for the sale.

"By the time (the books) get to the shelves, they've all been vetted and in pretty good condition," she said.

"They are not discarded library books. ... Some of them are almost like new. (People) read a best-seller once and put it on the shelf and never touch it again."

Volunteers from local service groups have also helped out.

The volunteer firefighters deliver the shelves to and from the Stouffville Arena where they are stored. The Masons install and dismantle the shelving units and the Stouffville Lions deliver the books from storage at the Silver Jubilee and outdoor pool.

Hidden among the hardcovers, children's books, Harlequins, paperbacks, audio books and DVDs are some unique finds.

"We've had people come to the sale looking for a book everywhere and they found it at the sale," Ms Nordheimer James said.

For the third year, the book sale will have one hour of shopping for seniors only.

"Because it's so crowded, we felt maybe some of the seniors were feeling pressured," Ms Nordheimer James said. "It's a small room and hard to manoeuvre (in) ... and it gives them a little more space. They can take their

time and browse."

The books that do not sell are recycled, which Ms Nordheimer James said is only about 10 per cent of the books for sale, because "it's just astoundingly expensive" to ship books.

The Giant Book Sale takes place at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library April 14 - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., April 15 - 9 to 10 a.m. (seniors only), April 15 and 16 - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., April 17 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 18 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Prices: Hard covers, soft covers (non-fiction) and new children's hard covers are \$3 each and Harlequins are \$2 per grocery bag. Audio books, computer games, DVDs, children and young adult hard covers are all \$2 each. Pocketbooks, music CDs, videos and board books are \$1 each. Children's paperbacks are 50 cents.



John Relph, chairperson of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library's board and book sale committee, and library CEO Carolyn Nordheimer James check out boxes of books in preparation for next week's annual Giant Book Sale.

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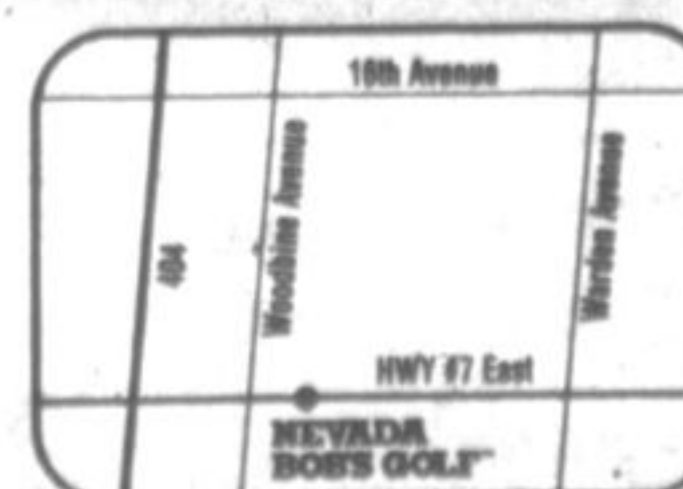
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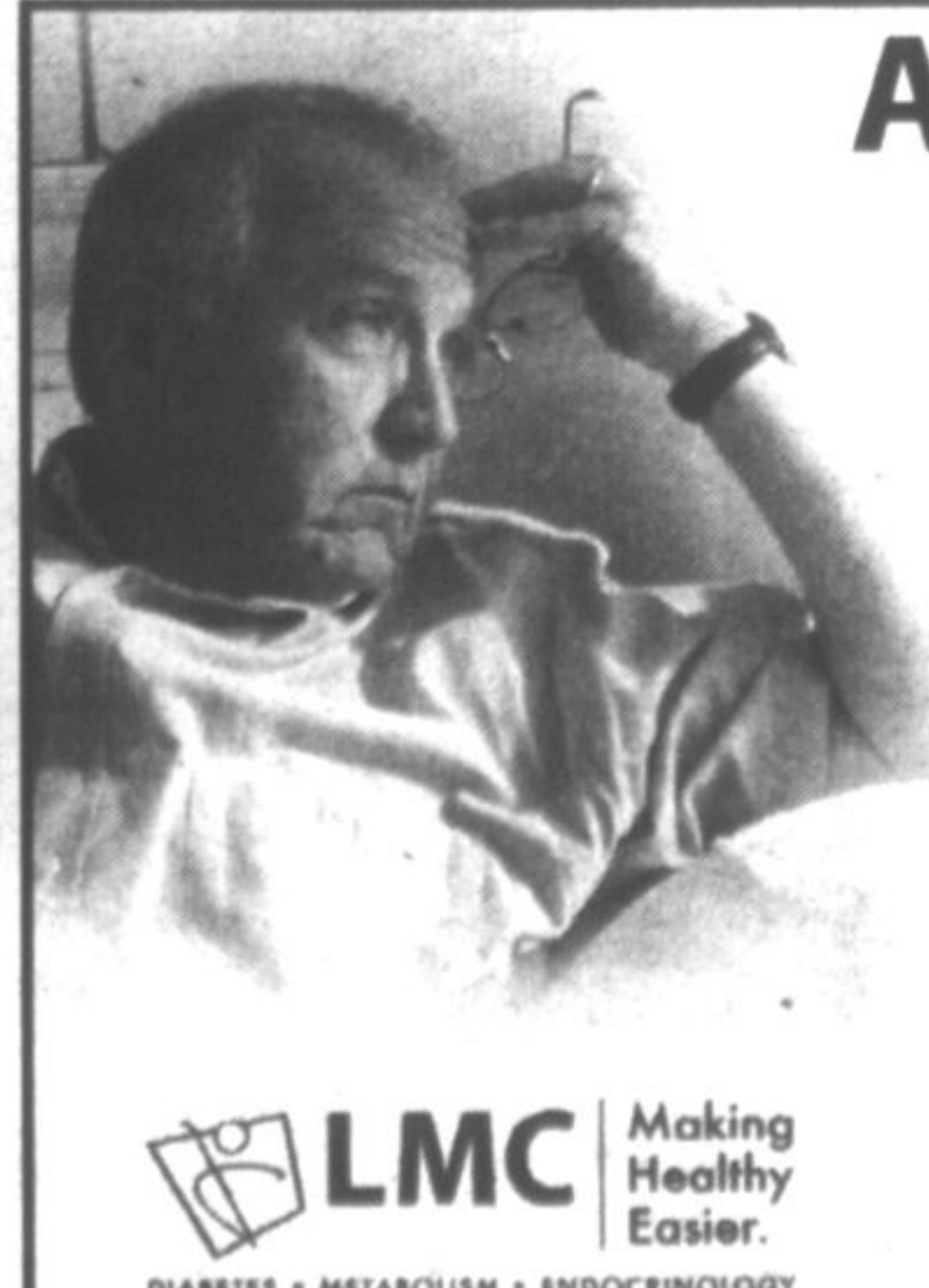
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