

Holiday Treats @ Your Library

By Carolyn Nordheimer James

The staff at Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library has suggestions for books and DVDs to enjoy during the holiday season.

For fans of historical fiction, Gabrielle recommends *Sacred Hearts* by Sarah Dunant, an interesting glimpse inside an Italian convent in the 1500's. Kim's choice is *Galore*, a novel by Michael Crummey, a fascinating tale of people living in Newfoundland between the 1500's and the early 1900's. She also recommends the DVD *Sugar*, in which a young man from the Dominican Republic moves to Iowa hoping to gain a spot on a major league baseball team. Although a work of fiction, the story is very true-to-life and engaging.

Cathy recommends the writings of Angela Hunt for her humour and interesting plot twists. A writer of inspirational Christian fiction, Hunt's newest series *The Enliven Trilogy* is a particular favourite.

Catherine's pick is *Gargoyle* by Andrew Davidson. On a busy ward, a man lies suspended between life and death, so disfigured that he is unrecognizable. A wild-haired, schizophrenic sculptor on the lam from the psych ward upstairs walks into his hospital room, insisting that she has known him for 700 years. Davidson blends historical detail with deeply felt emotion to create an intense tale of unconventional romance that readers will find hard to put down.

Anne's selection is *Why Your World is about to get a Whole Lot Smaller* by Jeff Rubin. According to the

maverick economist, there will be no energy bailout. The global economy has suffered oil crises in the past, but this time the rules have changed, and whether we like it or not, our world is about to get a whole lot smaller, which also means local economies will be revitalized, as will our cities and neighbourhoods.

On a very different note, Kathy's pick is the DVD *2005-2009 U Tours: Video Tours of Canadian Universities*, which offers a sneak peek at universities across Canada. The DVD provides invaluable help in making that all-important decision, "Where do I go next year?"

Time travel is front and centre in Carolyn's choice, Diana Gabaldon's *An Echo in the Bone*. The author's brilliant storytelling has captivated millions of readers in her award-winning *Outlander* saga. In the eagerly anticipated seventh volume, Gabaldon continues the extraordinary story of the 18th century Scotsman Jamie Fraser and his 20th century time-travelling wife, Claire Randall.

With stunning cameos of historical characters, from Benedict Arnold to Benjamin Franklin, *An Echo in the Bone* is a soaring masterpiece of imagination, insight, character and adventure which echoes in the mind long after the last page is turned.

All the items mentioned above are available at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. Visit us over the holidays for these staff choices or to have staff recommend others!

Carolyn Nordheimer James is CEO of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

A Beautiful Gathering



The Gathering Place, a beautiful gazebo on Weldon Rd. was officially opened Dec. 2, for residents of Parkview Home and Parkview Village. The late Elwood Foskett left a generous bequest to Parkview which was used to build the gazebo. Mr. Foskett's nieces, Linda Lewis (left) and Elaine Clendenning, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony, and residents, along with their families and friends, took part in a Christmas carol sing.

Whitchurch-Highlands Hits The Airwaves

By Jim Friebe

The students at Whitchurch-Highlands Public School are launching *The Howl Hour* on WhiStle Radio.

Under the direction of teachers Ms Rankel-Ellis and Ms Foran, and with the energizing support of school council member Ms Amelard, grade 7 and 8 students and members of the radio club are producing an hour long weekly show, *The Howl Hour*.

The show airs Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. You can learn more about *The Howl Hour* or listen on demand and online at www.whps.whistleradio.com.

How lucky we are to have such dedicated teachers and a supportive school council. And how lucky we are to have students here in Stouffville willing to go that extra mile to produce a radio show so that they can contribute to their community and have fun at the same time.

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Wishing you all the very best of the season!

Happy Holidays!



Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP

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