

In Praise Of Public Libraries

By Carolyn Nordheimer James

Ontario Public Library Week will be celebrated across the province from Oct. 20-26. This year's theme "Libraries Connect" highlights the important role that libraries play in forming links with people and information, people and programs, and people and people, and in supporting formal and informal learning and high literacy levels.

Investing in our library is one of the best ways to ensure a bright future for all citizens. Literacy skills allow people to participate successfully in the labour market and to create a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Ontario Public Library Week is organized by the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) to raise awareness of libraries and their services and to promote literacy and cultural awareness. This year's theme speaks to the central role of libraries in our lives: for preschoolers and seniors, students and employees, researchers and business owners, local artists and local readers.

Our library will offer its annual Food for Fines program from Oct. 20-26. Users returning overdue items may "pay" overdue fines with non-perishable food items that will be given to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. This initiative applies only to overdue items being returned during Library

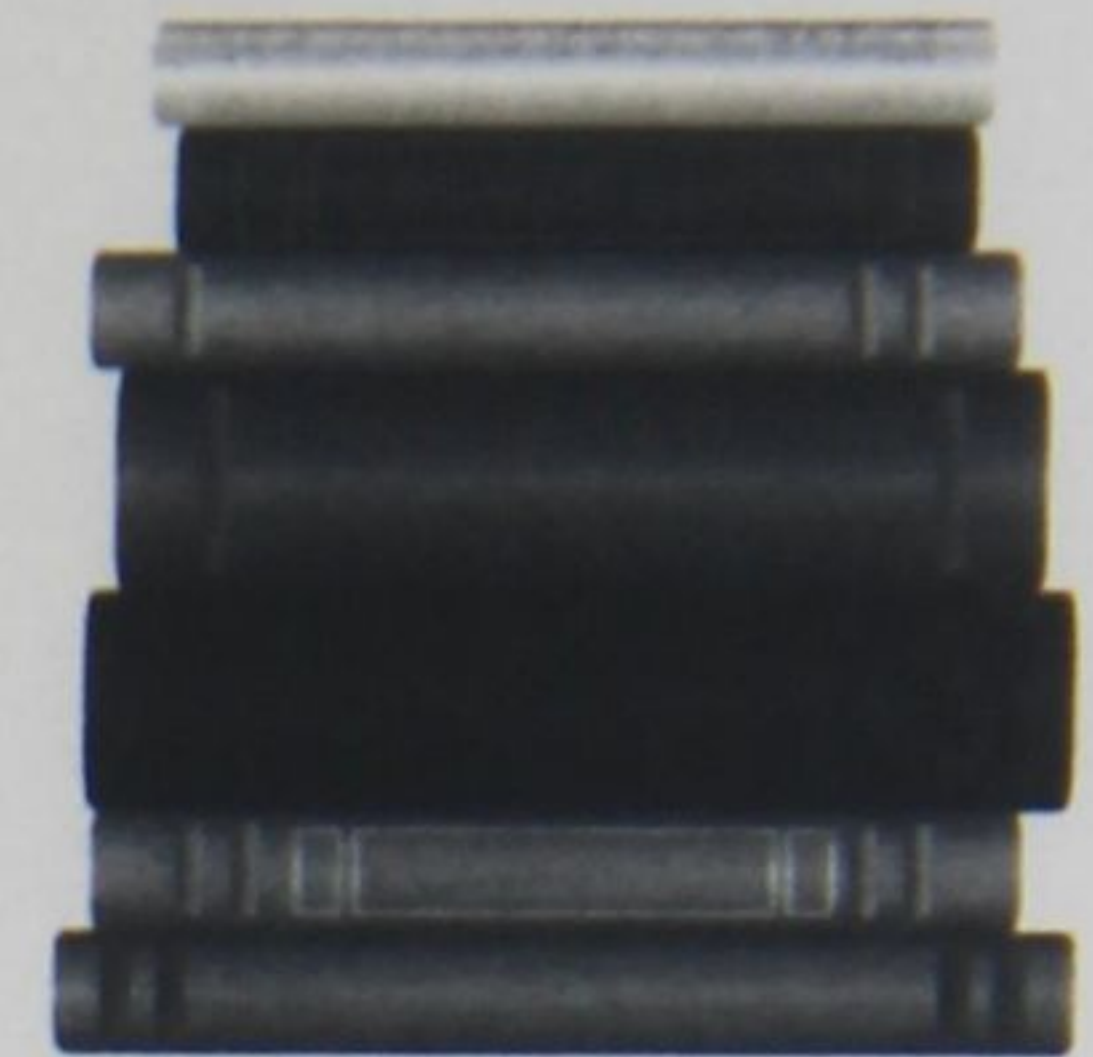
Week and not to previously incurred fines. Visitors can also enjoy puzzles and brain teasers for all ages and interests that will be offered as part of the week's activities.

Check out our language learning software, Mango, via our website at www.whitchurch-library.on.ca. Mango offers more than 40 different languages, including English. Website users can check out the library's database of back issues of local newspapers, which are a valuable and fun resource for genealogists, researchers and the general public. You can also download e-books for your e-reader, mobile device, or tablet from the site at no charge.

This October, visit the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library often and help us

celebrate!

Carolyn Nordheimer James is CEO of Whitchurch-Stouffville Library



Treeless in Stouffville



Less than two years ago, our man on the inside, the Whistler, identified this majestic tree at Ninth Line north of Main St. as an American sycamore – a species that rarely grows this far north. In our Dec. 2011 issue the Whistler wrote, "If you've never seen this magnificent tree, you might want to stop by. It may be a case of hello and goodbye." Turns out he was right and the tree recently met its demise to the forces of progress.

Land Over Landings To Host Meeting

On Oct. 22, Land Over Landings will host a public information meeting on the proposed Pickering Airport.

Organizers promise an entertaining and informative evening. The featured speaker is Carl Cosack, who led the successful fight against the mega quarry and who now heads up Food & Water First.

The meeting takes place at Claremont Community Centre, 4941 Old Brock Road in Claremont. Doors open at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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