

It Takes A Community To Raise A Book



Charlene Jones stands beside a poster promoting her new novel, *The Stain*, which will have its official launch Dec. 7 at Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge. The book's poster and cover were designed by Sue Reynolds.

Charlene Jones is a local poet and author whose recently released novel, *The Stain*, is an engrossing, often harrowing, account of the lives of three women whose stories take readers across time and place, from the 17th to the 21st century, and from a First Nations community to present day Canada.

Like the characters in David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*, the connection that binds them is subtly revealed as the narrative alternates between their individual lives. While each story stands alone, together they encompass themes of reincarnation, karma and release from suffering. The author is not afraid to challenge the reader with the brutal nature of her protagonists' experiences, but the ultimate message is one of cautious hope and redemption.

"It started as about 80 pages of a story, handwritten on yellow foolscap lined paper, which I wrote over a decade ago," said Charlene. The manuscript stayed on her desk until "one day it occurred to me that I should do something with it instead of just dusting around it."

In the meantime she took a course with Sue Reynolds, co-owner with James Dewar of Stone's Throw Publications, on memoir writing. Charlene went on to write *My Impossible Life*,

her own memoir, which will be published next year.

"Then I went back to this book and completed it in about a year. Through that time there were so many people who were so helpful. Sue and James were really wonderful," she said.

Charlene also credits writing guru Brian Henry of the Quick Brown Fox website with helping her every step of the way. "I took a course with him earlier on and he has been very supportive."

This summer, she took Rich Heims's book trailer course at Whitchurch-Stouffville Library, which she found very inspirational. She also expressed gratitude for many people, both inside and outside the community, who helped with various aspects of 'birthing' her book, which will have its official launch on Dec. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge. The book can also be purchased online at amazon.ca.

Charlene will be at the Book-a-palooza book launch and sale which takes place Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre in Oshawa. For details visit bookapalooza.ca.

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Virtual Visits to the Library

By Crystal Budgell

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The library hasn't forgotten about kids when it comes to eResources. TumbleBooks is an interactive system that allows children to follow along with picture books and chapter books. It also offers resources and educational games for other areas including math and language learning. TumbleBooks is popular with children, schools, and daycares alike and is sure to capture the attention of even the most reluctant readers. It's an exciting and fun way to get your kids interacting with books.

If you haven't explored the library's electronic resources and aren't sure where to start, stop by for a visit. Staff is always happy to help.

On Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. there is a free drop-in tech help program where library staff will help you with any technical issues. If you still need more technology-related help, staff will go the extra mile and work with you to book a one hour, one-on-one session with their in-house tech guru.

So what are you waiting for? It's time to start exploring the wonderful world of electronic resources available to you free of charge simply for being a member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. Not a library member yet? Don't worry, staff is also happy to set you up with a free library card too!

Submitted by Crystal Budgell, manager of library services

farmer Jack's GARDENS LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

STOUFFVILLE SENIOR OF THE MONTH

MARION WELLS

Age: 81

NUMBER OF YEARS IN STOUFFVILLE AREA:

Marion was born in Markham, then lived in Belleville for 5 years before moving to Stouffville at the age of 11. Ten years later she married Grant Wells and the couple moved to the Bloomington / McCowan Rd. area, where they have lived ever since.

CAREER: Marion got her teaching certificate after teaching grade 3 for two years in North York. She then became a farmer's wife and Mom to 3 children. "It was cows, crops and kids. It was a lot of work but I wouldn't have traded it for the world."

HOBBIES: "I like to volunteer," said Marion, who was Whitchurch-Stouffville's Citizen of the Year in 2004. She has been the coordinator of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank for almost 9 years. She is very involved with Lemonville United Church. "And I love to do quilts."

FAMILY: Marion and Grant, her husband of 60 years, had three children: Ken, Christine Goren, and Kevin, who died last year. They have 4 grand kids and 5 great grandkids.

FAVOURITE EXPRESSION: "Keep moving."

PET PEEVE: "People who are always growling about something but they've never had it so good."

LIFE HI-LITE: Travelling with her championship ploughman husband Grant to world competitions in Rhodesia, Australia and Denmark, plus a family trip to Western Canada in the early 1970s.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY? "I don't buy lottery tickets but if I won a windfall I'd give it to charity and to my kids."

IF YOU KNOW A SENIOR THAT IS WORTHY OF SENIOR OF THE MONTH GIVE US AN E-MAIL AT FARMERJACKS@ROGERS.COM

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