

Imaginations Welcome @your library™



Winter 2008 Newsletter

The library is a temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history.

--Carl T. Roman

Local History Resources in the C. Gordon King Centre

Major changes have occurred with the local history resources of the Cobourg Public Library and the Cobourg and District Historical Society (CDHS) Archives. While in the past assorted materials of all kinds were housed in both locations, library and archives staff have been diligently working towards achieving the Model partnership outlined by the Archives Association of Ontario.

The CDHS Archives' primary purpose is to preserve, in a systematic manner, all primary (original) materials that document the history of Cobourg and the surrounding area. Because of their uniqueness, age and physical condition, archival materials are often irreplaceable. They therefore must be systematically arranged and stored away from an open air circulation system. Major goals of the archives are to promote the intelligent use of archival materials for research and documentary purposes and to assist in supplying information relating to the materials in the archives collection.

The Library has a slightly different goal. Its purpose is to collect secondary (non-original) materials that are to be used in the research of the history of Cobourg and the surrounding area. These materials, although they focus on the immediate area, also include invaluable research tools that access

international sources. The Library also works hard to obtain all written works about Cobourg and the surrounding area, including census, birth, marriage and death information, family histories, directories and rare books written about Cobourg and/or by local authors. The major goal of the Library is to demonstrate the proper use and techniques for historical research and to assist in supplying the correct resources from our collection to the researcher.

These two collections are intended to be complementary. During the past year staff of both organizations have very effectively made them so. For example - a researcher should start work in the Local History room of the Cobourg Public Library, hopefully locating and verifying that his/her ancestors did indeed live in our area. When all the Library's research tools have been used, the researcher can then move on to the Archives' collection and experience the thrill of possibly handling actual original correspondence, notices, photographs and diaries that their ancestors owned.

The ability of the two institutions to work together allows patrons to have the most effective and productive service possible researching the historical life and times of the area and of their ancestors.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Jan 27** Family Literacy Day
 - Feb 1** PA Day Program 10:30am
Ages 7 – 10 Fun with creative writing
 - Feb 12** Join Susan Connor at 7pm
as she shares her year of discovery
in Ghana with Volunteer Service
Overseas
 - Feb 16** Cobourg Winterfest
11am – 1pm Family Movie
2pm Randy Mills & bell ringers
Light refreshments provided.
 - Feb 21** Phoenix Mars Lander
Family activity 2 – 3.30 pm
 - Feb 21** Lock-In @ your library™
Evening workshop on our Ancestry
database
 - Feb 28** Take a trip around the world
with Goliger's Travel Plus. Jim Knight
and staff will showcase four tours
including England, Australia, New
York and Chicago. 1-5pm
 - Feb 24 – Mar 1**
Freedom to Read Week
 - Mar 7 – 14**
March Break Activities
See Youth Services for details
 - Mar 14** Customer Appreciation Day
Join us for cake and coffee and let us
say "thank-you"
 - Mar 30** Cobourg Public Library Board
Town Hall from 1-4pm
Join Trustees at the Cobourg Branch to
bring questions and concerns to their
attention.
 - Monday and Friday afternoons**
at 2pm are always free adult movie
days in the Rotary Room.
- Check the Library website at
www.cobourg.library.on.ca to receive
complete monthly calendars of events.**

Cobourg Public Library

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Message from the CEO

Yesterday I was very pleased to receive a monetary donation from members of the CNIB Coffee Club, a group of community members who use the Library's meeting room to hold monthly social gatherings. The members had taken up a collection to donate as thanks for the use of the space. We will use their donation to add to the Library's collection of audio books. As I was writing a thank you note, I reflected on the partnership that the Library shares with this group. While we give them meeting space, they have helped us to enhance services in the community, by providing valuable information to help the Library improve its accessibility to patrons with visual challenges.

Looking through the copy for this

very newsletter I was further struck by the partnerships mentioned in the different articles. The Library has partnered with the Northumberland United Way to provide information to local not for profits. Currently the Library is running its Christmas "Food for Fines" campaign in support of the United Way's Food 4 All Warehouse. We have also been fortunate to partner with the Rotary Club of Cobourg and the Archives of the Cobourg & District Historical Society to enhance access to local historical information. The government of Ontario's Trillium Foundation has provided funding that will also benefit historians, genealogists, authors and students. The Library is very fortunate to receive the support of many, many local businesses, government

agencies, not for profit organizations and individuals who donate their time, their money, and their ideas to support Library services. Their generosity allows the Library to enhance our ability to achieve our mission to "provide open access to superior resources and quality customer service to promote and support personal and community growth for the residents of Cobourg and Hamilton Township". Their sacrifices ultimately benefit the communities that we serve.

On behalf of the staff and trustees of the Cobourg Public Library I would like to thank all of our partners for their past, present and future support. We will continue to work hard to deserve it as we would not be able to be as effective without it.

Donna Bright

C.E.O. - Cobourg Public Library

Music CDs Now Available

In December the Library debuted a new collection – music compact disks (CDs) for adults. We have loaned CDs for children for two years. The popularity of this collection, along with requests from patrons, and information gleaned from a 2005 survey of the community, indicated community interest in CDs for adults.

Money raised through a fall fundraiser and patron donations assisted with the purchase of the CDs. A donation permitted the purchase of the furnishings to store them.

Although collection development is still recent, we have already acquired music of various genres including: instrumental; pop/rock; folk; jazz; opera; classical; soundtracks, and New Age.

It is always exciting to offer a new service to the community. We hope you enjoy the music @ your Library.

Community Ventures and the Northumberland United Way



A recent donation of \$2,800 provided by the Northumberland United Way, through its Community Ventures program, will support local not for profit organizations by providing them information they need to survive and thrive.

This grant has enabled the Library to add more than sixty new books that focus on the strategic needs of non-profits. Topics include: the many aspects of fundraising – special events, direct mail, capital campaigns, major gift solicitation, etc.; Board development and governance; volunteer recruitment and management; membership

development; strategic planning; bookkeeping and financial reporting; and, marketing and communications.

These useful titles are available to all Library patrons. For assistance in locating materials of interest, please ask Library staff for assistance.

Thanks to the Northumberland United Way for its continued support of the Cobourg Public Library. This support will enhance the Library's efforts to provide the resources necessary to meet the informational needs of the special communities it serves.

Join us for Movies

MONDAY MOVIES

Jan 28 - King Kong
Feb 4 - High Noon
Feb 11 - Das Boot
Feb 25 - Dr. No
Mar 3 - The Day the Earth Caught Fire

FRIDAY MOVIES

Jan 25 - Sweet Smell of Success
Feb 1 - The Spy Who Came in From the Cold
Feb 8 - Big Deal on Madonna Street
Feb 15 - Citizen Kane
Feb 22 - The Big Clock
Feb 29 - Whisky Galore

Trillium Grant Supports Local Research



The Cobourg Public Library has identified access to local history information as a community service priority.

In order to emphasize information regarding local history the staff, over the last two years, has:

- Developed, and maintained an online index to the content of the local newspapers <http://cobourg.news.halinet.on.ca/>
- Developed, and maintained an indexed online database of historical photographs <http://images.ourontario.ca/Cobourg/>
- Reorganized the Local History Room in order to optimize patron use
- Acquired a second non-digital microfilm reader printer
- Updated the Library's collection of finding aids for genealogy research
- Reorganized/weeded the collection of hard copy Local History material
- Acquired a license to the Ancestry.com online service - the world's premier collection of genealogy databases.
- Transferred fragile materials to the Archives of the Cobourg & District Historical Society in order to preserve them for posterity.

Developed a permanent collection of books by local authors

The Library has had partners to support these initiatives. Funds from the Rotary Club of Cobourg, Industry Canada's CAP program and, from the federal government's Young Canada Works program, have allowed the acquisition of new technology and the deployment of temporary staffing to undertake indexing or digitization projects.

However, we realized, through an analysis of our collections and services, and through patron requests/comments, that we were still lacking secondary information resources critical to researchers and that we had been unable to keep up with the changing technologies to permit improved patron access to, and manipulation of, local history information.

Through a successful application to the Ontario Government's Trillium Foundation we have been able to address these needs. In December we were notified that we had received \$14,500 for the purchase of a microfilm viewer and scanner-to-PC. While the Library owns two non-digital microfilm reader/printers, the enhanced capability

of the new technology permits the scanning and digitization of text and images. This functionality, combined with the functionality of our computers and networks, allows researchers to save desired information to a computer file that can be further manipulated, and saved to a network or other media, or emailed off-site. This option ultimately provides patrons with high quality, high resolution digital files, that can be printed, or saved, in colour, or captured electronically for further use in publications, documents or websites. This level of service is useful for students and researchers who wish to include copyright free materials in their own documents.

The grant also enabled the library to purchase sixty-five, sixteen mm microfilm reels of Ontario's Vital Statistics (Indexes to Births and Stillbirths 1869-1909; Index to Marriages 1873-1924; Index to Deaths 1869-1934; and, Index to BMD July-December 1869), and the cabinet to house the reels as well as other film and local history materials in alternate media - DVDs, CDs, and videotapes.

The Library is very pleased to enhance services through the receipt of this funding. We thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its ongoing support.

Celebrating Heritage

The Cobourg Public Library will participate in two exciting events in February to celebrate individual and community heritage. First we will be present at the Heritage Days 2008 display at the Northumberland Mall on February 1 and 2. There we will feature a number of our local history resources, including several unidentified local photographs. We are hopeful that some community member can help us identify the photos' subject matter. We will also illustrate the Our Ontario Archival photograph database, located on our website and shared with the

Cobourg and District Historical Society's (CDHS) Archives, that houses over one thousand of the Library's historical photographs.

Our second program will be our "Lock-In at the Library event". On February 21 we will be offering a short in-house workshop on our very popular Ancestry database and when the library locks its doors at 8pm, those in attendance will be able to access all 14 of our computers, our microreaders and all of our Local History resources until 10pm. Staff will be on hand to give one-on-one attention to local researchers, historians, genealogists

and students during this event. At the same time, the CDHS Archives will open its doors in the C. Gordon King Centre and allow full access to its own resources. Staff will also be available in the Archives to help researchers.

Imagine having the resources and computers all to yourself - being able to chat with fellow researchers and having the undivided attention of the librarians and archivist at your beck and call! It truly promises to be an exciting event. Since space will be limited, watch for notices and sign-up sheets in the new year.

Mystery of Mysteries

Many of us love a great detective story – and the Cobourg Public Library has lots of these for your enjoyment. If you think about it for a minute, one of the greatest mysteries of all is not the latest who-done-it but that complex space that lies between our ears. How the brain works, and how and why it sometimes won't respond to our commands, are compelling questions.

Two authors whose works offer gripping, readable perspectives on our brains are Oliver Sacks, a prominent neurologist, and Howard Engel, a Canadian author best known for his Benny Cooperman mysteries. In his recent novel, *Memory Book* (2005), Engel gives the reader two mysteries for the price of one. While he sets Benny a new murder mystery to solve, he also depicts his hero as suffering from a major injury to his brain. Benny can no longer read. His familiar newspaper now looks as though it has been written in Serbo-Croatian. He can't recall names or dates, has trouble negotiating his way from the elevator to his room, confuses oranges with apples, and finds signs and other everyday symbols a frustrating puzzle.

Benny's anguish, alexia sine graphia, or word-blindness, is one which his creator knows first hand. That *Memory Book* was ever written

is a tribute to the human spirit and to the courage and determination of its author, for Engel himself fell victim to this disorder and writes about it in his 2007 memoir, *The Man Who Forgot How to Read*. A consequence of his illness was that, while he could still write, he actually lost the ability to read what he had written.

Oliver Sacks, who has written illuminating afterwords to both of Engel's books, presents other absorbing profiles of neurological disorder and creativity (for example, *An Anthropologist on Mars* (1995): an artist who loses the ability to see colour; a surgeon who performs delicate surgery despite the compulsive tics of Tourette's Syndrome; and an autistic professor with a PhD in animal science who is nonetheless bewildered by the complexity of human emotion.

Engel and Sacks help us to appreciate better the mysteries of our minds and the complexities of our power to understand, act, and imagine. They also underscore the crucial role of language in our lives. To lose language in any way is a terrible disaster.

(A person who can't read easily can find the Cooperman mystery in audio-book format.)

— Patricia Malcolmson

Patricia Malcolmson is a historical editor and social historian.

YOUTH SERVICES

The March Break Program @your library is the coolest, and has something new and exciting every day. We've partnered with a few organizations to bring you some interesting programs. Back with us this year are the Ganaraska Forest Centre and the Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit. Here are the highlights.

March 7 Lunch at the movies

March 8 Doll's tea party

March 10 Game day – bring a friend Bubble painting

March 11 Cooking class – the nuts and bolts of snacking

March 12 Olympic enchanted Science magic - Bewdley branch

March 13 Knitting Workshop Visit from local veterinarian

March 14 In Library Drive in Movie Creative sketching with Barb Smith

Watch for special programs for the 13 – 18 crowd.

On February 16, as part of the Cobourg Winterfest, the Cobourg Public Library will be showing the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia* from 11 – 1pm. Light refreshments will be provided. At 2pm Randy Mills and his bell ringers create beautiful sounds.

A member of the Canadian Space Agency, Grant Elliott will give a family presentation February 21 from 2 – 3:30pm on the Phoenix Mars Lander. Grant was chosen from only two educators across Canada to partake in training in Alaska, and has an exciting story.

Can You Help?

Our Library depends on the financial support of people like you in order to continue offering our services to the community. Please donate now.

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Yes, I wish to help!

I cannot donate right now, but please include me in future appeals

I would like to donate: _____

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Please process my:

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CARD NUMBER: _____

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Please clip and mail this form, or call Donna Bright at 905 372-9271 x 6200