

Change library image to reach more people

by SHERI CRAIG
Style Editor

Noel Ryan doesn't say it in so many words but he'd like the atmosphere in the Mississauga library system to be friendly, relaxed, convivial... like an old English pub? Well, not exactly, but now that you mention it...

Matter of fact, Ryan could probably pass for quite a plausible pub keeper. Rather portly and jovial, a big man with a broad grin. Not at all your stereotyped image of a skinny dried-up librarian. And of course, that's just the image Ryan, as Mississauga's chief librarian, wants to change

"We're only reaching about 20 per cent of the population now," he says. "People are afraid to go to libraries."

"Often they've had a bad experience with an old type librarian. They've had to keep quiet or they were scolded for getting a book dirty or they weren't allowed to take out a certain kind of book."

"The atmosphere in an old type library was that if you could prove you deserved a book, then after careful consideration, you were maybe allowed to take it out."

"That kind of attitude has never existed around here. I hope. Our libraries have always been pretty open."

He leans back in his chair. "I don't think people really are aware of how libraries can help them. We supply information. In fact, that's our main function. We are a community resource and will become more and more important as the community

develops and changes. "Even now we deal with thousands of questions — everything from business problems to the lady who thought her canary was pregnant and wanted to know what to do. In the last case, we probably weren't much help."

"I don't think that canary really was pregnant," he chuckles.

"And," he continues getting back to the subject, "we'll become more and more necessary as more people become concerned with upgrading their potential."

"We're connected, through a teleprinter, with five other libraries and through the Central Ontario Regional Library System with 30 libraries. There's a five day a week delivery service for books we don't carry right here. If the region doesn't have a certain book and if Toronto doesn't have it, then we ask Ottawa."

"We have access to books anywhere in Canada. And there's no charge for this service. We do it every day, it's part of our job. People shouldn't think this is putting us out."

What will he say if, after this article, his libraries are inundated with hundreds of requests for books?

"I only hope it happens. People don't use our services enough. And it's partly our fault. We haven't publicized ourselves before this."

Of course, that was in the past. Now the library is trying to reach the people by moving into different fields. Music, for example...

The Mississauga library system held its first Sunday

afternoon concert on Nov. 14 at Hurontario Park Theater off Stavebank Road.

"The concerts are designed to attract whole families to a musical experience," Ryan explains. "We charge 50 cents admission for an individual or a whole family and hold them at a time when it's possible for the whole family to come."

"There were 71 people at the first concert and 115 at the second in December. It would be nice if we could attract more to our third one Feb. 27. A group of students from York University will be performing early music on early instruments like harpsichords, Irish harps, viola de gambas, six string cellos recorders, flutes and a crum horn. When you play that last one," he smiles, "it looks as if you're blowing into the other end of a cane."

"We hope to present a concert by the Metro Stompers in the spring maybe March and then after that there will be at least one more concert."

But that's just the beginning. Next fall, Ryan expects to have a small auditorium that will seat about 60. He's talking about presenting different films, art shows and displays. There will also be a smaller room that can be used for meetings, he says.

"And maybe we'll do some live programming," he adds. "There's all kinds of local talent. We might be able to sponsor a rock group and a young singer has already offered to do a concert for us."

Now Ryan is just getting started. "We're also interested in writing and poetry. It would be nice if the



Mississauga's chief librarian, Noel Ryan, wants to maintain a friendly atmosphere in Mississauga's libraries.

library had a poetry publication put out to sell at a very low price.

"I feel the library should present facilities to further artistic expression in the community. I'm interested in doing things on a community level. It would be nice to see the community develop along artistic lines."

"If there's any place in Canada where the arts can flourish it's Mississauga. People here are pretty well off and appear to have more leisure time."

"I think an appreciation for the arts is something learned. And while the library is not a teaching institution, our responsibility is to present some learning situations. I've been in discussion with people at Erindale College, we might do some joint sponsoring. There's lots we can do..."

His voice trails off thinking of future plans and projects. Meanwhile the most obvious library undertaking is an addition to the central branch, on Dundas Street West, started Nov. 25. The addition will be a one storey

building erected 12 feet off the ground, with parking space beneath. It will be joined to the present library by a three-level tower with level one being a lobby, level two, the library itself and level three, a mechanical room for heating and air conditioning units.

With the addition, Ryan is talking about 12,000 square feet of space on the library floor and a book collection expanded two and one half times its present size. Construction will cost \$400,000.

"But," says Ryan, "Mississauga is a big town. We've got to get away from small town ideas."

"We're growing fast. And we're well on our way to developing a very good library system."

Big talk, not what a quiet librarian might say. But then Ryan isn't quiet and as a matter of fact, he's only recently a librarian.

Ryan graduated from McGill University, Montreal, in 1947 as an industrial engineer. He practised his profession until 1957 until, as

he says, "I ran into a dead end and needed a change."

From 1957 to 1967 he was a photographer and running his own photo refinishing company in Montreal. Then he decided to take his master's degree in library science.

"I had business and artistic experience and it seemed the library profession required people with my background," he explains.

So from 1965 to 1967, still in the photography business, — Ryan was back studying at McGill. He graduated in 1967, spent two years as chief librarian in Dorval, outside Montreal, moved to Brampton and was chief librarian there until June 1 when he joined the Mississauga library system.

"And I've never been happier," he says beaming. "We've got a lot of ideas. We want to get people involved in our libraries, make them friendly places..."

...relaxed, convivial... like an old English pub? Well, not exactly. But Ryan does have ideas.

Holiday party ends year for Cubs and Scouts

Forest Glen

Aileen Blears 625-4458

A party, bringing an end to activities until Jan. 6 was held last week by 1st Forest Glen Cubs and Scouts. Mothers of boys in the group, were pleased to receive some fine table center decorations made by their sons. The artistic effects achieved from pine cones, pipe cleaners and other trimmings were quite beautiful.

The pack welcomed Allan Steele, from Oshawa, and several of the boys received badges: David Morgan, reader's badge; Simon Dabbs, woodman's badge; Tommy Wilson and Martin Gilbert both received their collector badges. David Morgan also received his red star for athletics.

The five stars obtainable are red for athletics, black for gardening, green for scouting, tawny for drama and blue for citizenship. The winning of all five is a great achievement and they are worn with pride.

SKATING

Forest Glen Community Association is maintaining three ice rinks this year — two in Forest Glen Park and one directly behind Gulledden Public School. In

Forest Glen Park, there will be one for hockey and one for pleasure skating. The Gulledden rink will be for pleasure skating on week days from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and hockey from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. On weekends, pleasure skating only. It would be most helpful if you would remind your children of the regulations.

Rink cleaning and flooding

is in the hands of volunteers, under the direction of Ron Robinson 625-6322. He could use your help!

GIRL GUIDES

A large part of being a Girl Guide is taking a responsible role in the life of the community. The girls of the Mississauga Troop are anxious to do just that. If you need, or know of anyone who needs help with shopping,

book pick-ups and returns to the library, pet walking, or other errands please call 625-2517.

At present, there are six Brownie and two Guide Groups, and many are on the waiting lists to become members. One Brown Owl is needed and two able assistants. If you can help, please call the above number.

POT LUCK

All the ladies of the parish of St. Martha & Mary Church are invited to come and bring their friends to a pot luck supper to be held at the church on Burnhamthorpe Road East, Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

This annual affair is sponsored by the Martha Guild. Guild president, Mrs. Anne Gervin, is trying to

secure a speaker on interior decorating for the evening. The buffet will be both hot and cold and any type of food may be brought, salads, desserts or main dishes.

HOCKEY

Hockey is again with us! This year the Dixie Hockey Association, of which Forest Glen is a part, had a record registration of boys. This meant that another eight teams had to be formed and increased the total of teams to 62. There are now more than 1000 boys playing in the Dixie paperweight and tyke house leagues, the Mississauga Hockey League and the Metro Toronto Hockey League.

The Forest Glen area is well represented by coaches, managers, trainees and enthusiastic parents. In addition, the following area residents are on the Dixie hockey executive: Ernie Smelgalski, Roy Sloan, Graham Hunt, Keith Bradley, Ted Jacobs, Bob McCrimmon and Bill MacHutchon.

PAPER

The next Boy Scout paper drive will take place Saturday, Jan. 15. Residents of the Forest Glen area are asked to have papers in bundles, securely tied and on the boulevard by 9:30 a.m. Future pickups will be on Feb. 26 and April 15.

Saturday movie time at school

Lorne Park

Doris Angus 278-0982

Young people — remember that this Saturday is movie time at Tecumseh Public School. The feature film will be H.R. Puff'n Stuff and there will be an added National Geographic short film. The show starts at 2 p.m., doors will open at 1:45 p.m. The program is under the sponsorship of the new Tecumseh Community School Association. A charge of 25 cents per person will be made.

BABY-SITTING

A course of instruction for baby-sitters will be offered at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Lorne Park Road

Wednesday evenings starting Jan. 19 and ending Mar. 8.

The leader each week will be an expert in a different area of child care. A certificate will be awarded on the successful completion of an examination to be given Wednesday, March 15.

Registration will be held at the church Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m., and there is a fee of \$2. For further information call 278-6981 or 274-2648.

RECREATION

The Lorne Park Recreation Association is holding a meeting to discuss the spring season recreation program Thursday, Jan. 6, at 8 p.m. in the Community Hall, Lorne Park Road. All residents of Lorne Park are invited to attend and express

their views and preferences.

PRINCIPAL

John Amon, vice-principal at Tecumseh Public School, will continue as acting principal until the end of the school year. The former principal, Jack Smythe, died suddenly last year.

DINNER

Several friends got together last week for a progressive dinner to celebrate the holiday season. A different course was served at each house, starting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Gilson, Tecumseh Park Drive, and then on to the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Elford, Gregwood Road and Mr. and Mrs. James Kraft, Chriseden Drive. The evening ended with desserts

and coffee at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Connors, Tecumseh Park Drive.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes will commence for the new year on Jan. 9 at St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church, with children up to eight years attending at 11 a.m. and young people nine years and older meeting at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. Classes were not held during the Christmas season so that young people could attend church with their parents.

Rev. J. Gordon Jones will present a series of talks on the religions of the world at Lorne Park Baptist Church each Wednesday evening beginning Jan. 5 at 8 p.m. His talks will be illustrated with color slides.