



Celebrating 200 Years in Georgina 1818 - 2018

GEORGINA

The English Settlement Librarian

In June of 1860 North Gwillimbury Council added a second library within the township. Libraries at this time were typically in the homes of the person designated “Librarian”, and when a new librarian was appointed, the books had to be transferred. This second library was to be opened in the English Settlement; present-day Mount Pleasant at the intersection of Glenwoods Avenue and Warden Avenue. In 1860 the librarian was John Stephens and by December of his first year in the position he had the unpleasant task of collecting the first fine: 25¢ for damage done to a library book. The man responsible for said damage was Francis Connelly, an Irishman with five children, living in a log house in Jersey.

The librarian, John Stephens, died in 1924 at the age of 89 years. A poem was printed in the newspaper about him and a surviving schoolmate, in 1918:

And when our time shall come, dear John.

And we are called to go.

I hope they'll lay us where we played

Just seventy years ago.