

One Book, One Community

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They may not all be on the same page but it is hoped that for the month of April, the citizens of Brockville will at least be reading from the same book.

As part of its centennial celebrations in 2004, the Brockville Public Library has chosen *A Violent End* by Eastern Ontario author Maggie Wheeler for its first One Book, One Community project. Since it began in Seattle, Washington in 1998, the One Book, One Community concept has rapidly spread across North America and the United Kingdom. Brockville Public Library's One Book, One Community is the first event in Eastern Ontario.

Everyone is invited to read *A Violent End*, and then join in the discussions and events relating to the novel, the Lost Villages and the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Copies of this psychological mystery are available at the Brockville Public Library and at Leeds County Books, as well as at other area libraries and bookstores.

Margaret Williams, CEO of the Brockville Public Library, says this adult literacy project promotes much more than just a love of reading. One Book, One Community is a community builder that stimulates discussion within the community. "Maggie's novel and our criteria were a perfect match," she comments. "We wanted a living Canadian author who would be available for discussion. This character driven mystery and the history of the Lost Villages during the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway 50 years ago will appeal to both adults and older teenage readers." Maggie Wheeler is honoured to have her novel selected, but is also excited by the dialogue and discussion One Book, One Community is sure to generate. "We are, in this part of Eastern Ontario, very connected to the St. Lawrence River," she explains. "I'm looking forward to learning more about the impact that the construction of the Seaway had, both historically and culturally, in the Brockville area."

On Saturday, April 3rd, 2004, Ms. Wheeler will be available at Leeds County Books in downtown Brockville to sign copies of *A Violent End*.

On Wednesday, April 21st, 2004 she will be at the Brockville Public Library to read from her book, answer readers' questions and share stories about the history behind it. A member of the Lost Villages Historical Society will also be on hand to talk about the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project and the flooding of the Lost Villages. A tour of the Lost Villages area that was flooded 50 years ago is being arranged and there will be a draw for two free tickets on the bus.