

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OFFERS askON, A FREE INTERACTIVE CHAT INFORMATION SERVICE AND RESOURCEFUL STUDY TOOL FOR STUDENTS WORKING ON SCHOOL PROJECTS.

VAUGHAN, Ontario – Need help with your homework? Looking for valuable resources for your school project and facing a tight deadline? Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) in partnership with Ask Ontario offers **askON** - a *FREE*, chat-based, interactive information and research service accessible via VPL's website! Visit www.vaughanpl.info and click on the askON button to chat in real time with knowledgeable staff that can help you find the information you need.

"The askON service is a resourceful study tool that delivers value to students quickly and efficiently," says Margie Singleton, Chief Executive Officer, Vaughan Public Libraries. "Students are able to immediately connect to a librarian or subject specialist, located in an Ontario library, and receive guidance on their research-related inquiries."

askON staff can also help students and information-seekers explore research topics online, find relevant articles and discover links to authoritative sources for their projects.

The service is available in both English and French. English service is accessible Monday through Thursday – 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday – 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The hours of operation for French service are Monday – 2:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday – 1:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday – 2:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday – 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday – 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

askON is a free chat-based interactive research and information service developed by Knowledge Ontario in collaboration with Ontario Libraries. The service, which launched on January 7, 2008, currently includes 22 public libraries, 9 college libraries and 5 university libraries located in Ontario. The service is not available on holidays and hours are subject to change without notice.

For more information, please visit www.vaughanpl.info or call 905-653-READ (7323).

About askON

askON is a real-time chat information service that offers immediate, interactive, and knowledgeable research and reference assistance online. Using chat, askON staff provide research guidance and can help you navigate the Internet, your library's services, and other online resources; including several significant, full text magazine

and newspaper resources licensed for the use of Ontarians by Knowledge Ontario (www.knowledgeontario.ca). Participating libraries contribute staff resources to support askON's online schedule. For more information, visit www.askon.ca.

About Ask Ontario

Ask Ontario is the project of Knowledge Ontario focused on planning, delivering and managing province-wide, real-time library information and research services. Knowledge Ontario is the first ever province-wide collaboration of libraries (public, school, college and university) working together to create an integrated and interactive digital environment about and for Ontarians. The Knowledge Ontario initiative is supported by the Province of Ontario. For more information, please visit: www.knowledgeontario.ca/askontario or <http://askon.ca>.

Vaughan Public Libraries

Vaughan Public Libraries contributes to the success of our growing diverse community; serving its information, learning, leisure and cultural needs in a welcoming and safe environment. In 2008, VPL welcomed over 1.5 million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. For more information on all of VPL's programs and services call 905-653-READ (7323); pick up a copy of *@ The Library, Your Guide to Programs, Special Events and Using Your Library* at your local library or visit the website at www.vaughanpl.info.

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