

Lewis wants the status quo for library hours of operation

Councillor Bryan Lewis served notice to the Halton Hills Library Board to get ready for a debate on additional library hours when budget discussions begin Jan. 14.

At the last council meeting of 2012, a Halton Hills Library Board report outlined a request for more open hours at the new Georgetown branch, which opens this month.

In a fall survey of 462 users, respondents preferred year-round Sunday openings, followed by Monday openings, extended Friday evening openings and Saturday openings on long weekends.

The Board proposed four options for extended hours at the Georgetown branch:

1. Opening on five Saturdays of long weekends (\$10,400).
2. Extend Sunday openings to 10 months, September to June, (\$11,200).
3. Provide year-round Sunday openings (\$18,100)



BRYAN LEWIS

4. Combine option 1 and 2 (\$21,600) or combine option 1 and 3 (\$28,500)
- But Lewis didn't like any option stating the status quo is his preferred option.

He said the survey also showed the majority of respondents appeared satisfied with the current hours.

"That speaks to the fact that perhaps this is not even needed, so a little bit of forewarning," said Lewis.

Councillor Moya Johnson, a council rep on the Halton Hills Library Board, motioned to have the report referred to budget committee during the 2013 operating budget debate.

"We need to have a wholesome discussion... in the context of the entire budget," said Johnson.

Lewis reminded his colleagues of a mayor's memo, stating anyone wishing to include any additional items into the 2013 budget, must take a similar amount out.



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