

2013 proves a good year for library

2013 was a banner year for Halton Hills Public Library.

Frank Loreto, Vice Chair of the Halton Hills Public Library (HHPL) Board, told council members at a recent meeting that patrons borrowed 75,000 more print materials, downloaded 10,000 more eBooks and asked 16,500 more questions than the previous year.

“What was particularly remarkable this year was the number of people who attended programs,” said Loreto. “We were fortunate to be able to offer twice as many adult programs in 2013.”

Loreto said 2,037 adults attended programs last year and a record-breaking 15,150 children attended 667 programs.

“Since its official opening, new patron registration has increased at the Georgetown branch by 47 per cent,” said Loreto.

He said the number of visitors to the branch increased by 23 per cent, representing an average of 3,300 visitors per week. The total number of visitors for the year was just under 170,000.

Loreto said the Lions Club of Georgetown generously donated \$25,000 to create the Lions Club of Georgetown Children’s Programming Rooms.

“Preservation of local history remains a key focus of the library in 2013, we celebrated two major events — the opening of the new Local History Room at the Georgetown Branch and the unveiling of the Founding of Georgetown plaque.”

“Our children’s programming con-

tinued to soar in popularity with program attendance increasing by 31 per cent in 2013,” said Loreto.

He said last year the libraries provided private office space for the Adult Learning Centre, the Halton Region Small Business Centre, the Centre for Skills Development and Training, vpi inc. and Settlement Services to meet with over 400 clients in the Georgetown and Acton branches.

Loreto said last September HHPL launched the On Screen TIFF Film Festival in Halton Hills in partnership with the Cultural Centre and the Acton Branch kicked off a new Astronomy program.

In total 561,367 items were checked out from the library last year— an increase of five per cent from the previous year.

“Other significant increases were seen in public internet station use, video game borrowing, new patron registration, questions answered and eBook borrowing.

He said program attendance for children and teens increased by 23 per cent and for adults by 15 per cent last year.

Loreto said there were many people to thank for such a successful year including Council, library staff and Library board members.

“The numbers have proven libraries are not what they used to be. It’s not a place you go to get a book and then go back three weeks later to take it back,” said Councillor Moya Johnson, a member of the Halton Hills Library Board.

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