

# Henry's bread may rise once again



Ruth and Bill Greenley's storefront — reminiscent of Charles Dickens.

## Make book on Greenley's

Henry Corby once cooked up a storm inside this building at 258 Front St. in Belleville.

It was the home of Corby's bake shop before the entrepreneur began distilling whisky. Today it's home to Greenley's bookstore and has been renovated to match the Victorian style of architecture common to the latter 19th century. The Greenleys received the Belleville Heritage Award for renovation in old-style archi-

itecture.

The basement of Greenley's was once the ground floor of Corby's business and the stone walls and framed windows dating to the 1840s, are still intact. A large hearth where Corby likely baked his goods is clearly visible. There is also a second hearth for the Corby's personal use since the building also contained living quarters. A thick wooden door still hangs

on its hinges and plaster and lath walls are evident in some places.

The building is now part of the Corby-Hambly-Caldwell Block. Owners Ruth and Bill Greenley are in the process of renovating the basement with plans to expand their business. Customers may soon be shopping for books in the exact place Henry Corby once stood and made his bread.

Saturday February 16, 1992 Intelligencer

## There's booze in them thar books

It was dark and a little spooky in the basement of the Corby Public Library and consequently the young woman didn't fancy the job ahead of her. Olive Delaney was supposed to find a stack of *The Intelligencer* newspapers at the end of the recess. What she found was a complete shock to her. The building's custodian and his friends were sitting around a table swigging booze. "They were having some sort of drinking party down there and I just about died."

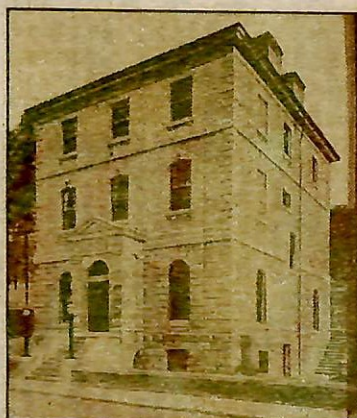
It wasn't the only time the quiet place of knowledge would be used for discreet revelry. Delaney knows this because she worked there from 1934 to 1979. During the 1930s the building served as a temporary shelter for the occasional transient looking for work. They would plod into the library with packs strung over their back, having disembarked from the trains that passed down Pinnacle Street.

Most of the regulars were articulate men and women who chatted with Delaney about common interests. But a



Olive Delaney

few were locals who had fallen on hard times and had no place to go. Many of them drank heavily. Delaney recalls one man used to sit and watch the front desk all day. He was a war veteran who returned home to find his wife had left him for another man. Although normally pleasant, he became offensive one day and was eventually asked to leave. The following day he returned carrying a greasy cardboard box and presented it to Delaney as an apology. Inside was fried chicken that she says, "made



The old Corby Library

you kind of ill to look at." She was in a quandary as to what to do with it. "We ended up giving it to one of the staff members for her cat."

Another man used to hide bottles of alcohol amongst the books. Delaney says the custodian would stumble upon them periodically.

A more erudite patron of the library was poet Al Purdy. Delaney recalls Purdy's excitement at having one of his first books published. She still has the copy he gave her.

### Thurlow Library

1991.

"Never a borrower or lender be", could apply to books but not usually to librarians. The Township of Thurlow has an agreement with the Belleville Public Library whereby the township is provided with books and a librarian for their library in the

Township Recreation Centre.

On September 30, Clerk Gary King advised Thurlow Council that the deadline date for renewal of the agreement was October 1.

King said, "We've been having trouble with the librarian. In her view ... the temperature, the door sticks, and she doesn't have a phone line of her own. Our view was that we spent \$10,000 repairing the air conditioner and she turned off the air conditioner. She (Judy Yome, the borrowed librarian) heard on several occasions over the past year or so that we discussed whether or not we should have our own library. And she apparently posted a notice on the door that as of December 31 the library would be closed. Judy has no business fear mongering with the patrons. I'd like to note my displeasure with Judy's action. All of that has mostly been resolved during a talk with Leona Hendry (Belleville's Chief Librarian). But if Thurlow does renew we should tell Leona Hendry tomorrow."

Deputy-reeve Gerry Masterson said, "I'm upset giving \$40,000 to Belleville. With that money we could have a library here for three days. Why in the name of the Lord should we support Belleville?"

Reeve Beer replied, "If we want a library, we have to put money away for it. Say \$150,000 to get the basics. We should plan for it, start with a reserve. A great number in the community are concerned."

Deputy-reeve Masterson was strongly opposed. He said, "We've got people out here that need work and she comes out here from Belleville!"

Gary King also advised council that Chief Librarian Hendry had written to say, "... pay equity has not yet been resolved for the Belleville Public Library, so no adjustments in pay rates have been made; upon resolution, pay adjustments are retroactive to January 1, 1991 with interest payable."

A motion was passed to notify Belleville Public Library that Thurlow would renew the agreement in 1991, plus the required pay equity.

Thurlow has a small, pleasant library, open two days a week for a total of 11 hours. They receive a \$19,000 grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communication, and contribute \$19,000. The combined sum is paid to Belleville Public Library for the operation.