

# Spreading the word

**Cobourg library bringing books to people confined at home**

**COBOURG** - If you're laid up at home, volunteers with the Cobourg Public Library will soon be ready to deliver books and other reading material to your door.

Home Services is a new and free monthly program run by the library that is available to any Cobourg or Hamilton Township resident who is or will be confined to home or a health-care institution for more than three months, says Sheila Blainey, volunteer extension services supervisor with the library.

You can borrow regular or large-print books, talking books, videos and DVDs and magazines.

"I wish I had thought of this," says Ms. Blainey, "because it is a real service to the community. When I was 10 years old, I would ride my bike to get books for my grandmother, and I know how much it meant to her. And I love books."

Even though it's not her idea this time around, Ms. Blainey has put a tremendous amount of effort into the new program, and in the past month, has organized 17 volunteers and created a brochure that she will take to seniors' homes, community care offices and other places to



PEG MCCARTHY/NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Sheila Blainey is busy organizing a home delivery program for books, videos, CDs and magazines from the Cobourg Public Library for those who are house-bound.

spread the word.

The Town of Cobourg will also include the brochure in its next newsletter.

The program will offer carefully screened and trained volunteers to help select and deliver materials to your door. Each vol-

unteer will be matched with someone with similar taste in reading material.

For example, says Ms. Blainey, the library might pair people who both like murder mysteries - so when the person has read through Agatha Christie, the volunteer might be able to suggest another author. Volunteers must agree to a police check and to a one-year minimum with the program, and donate approximately three to four hours a month, including pick-up and delivery.

Ms. Blainey will also interview prospective clients, and she hopes to launch the program in September, after creating matches, training volunteers and making schedules that work for everyone.

Cobourg Chief Librarian Donna Bright says many libraries have similar programs, in their efforts to be fully accessible.

A \$15,000 grant from the Trillium foundation has financed the advertising and printed bags for the home-service program, as well as other accessibility tools in the library building.

Those include emergency strobe lighting for the hearing impaired in the washrooms should there be an emergency, alert buttons in the washrooms, and for the visually impaired - large print keyboards, forms in Braille, software to magnify screens and a close-

circuit TV also used for magnification.

Ms. Bright is also hoping to purchase software called Home Bound, which will create a history of borrowed materials for those who are using the Home Service.

Through a community ventures grant from the Northumberland United Way, Ms. Bright has pur-

chased software that provides a speech synthesizer so the blind can navigate the Internet.

Anyone who would like to apply for the Home Service programs can either visit the library's website at [www.cobourg.library.on.ca](http://www.cobourg.library.on.ca), or call 905-372-9271. Application forms can be faxed to 905-372-4538.

CHRONICLE AUG 12/04

## Long Lunch to relaunch Warkworth Main Street

On August 22, the Warkworth Business Association will officially open the newly revitalized Main Street of Warkworth. The Main Street development project is part of the Municipality of Trent Hills' Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program. Over the past couple of years, the business association has dedicated countless volunteer hours to oversee the planning, fundraising, and construction of the street.

With the objective of creating an attractive business area for residents and visitors to enjoy, the project included installation of interlocking brick sidewalks, trees, benches, light posts, and garbage receptacles. The \$440,000 project included 60% of the funds originating from within Warkworth.

"August 22 will be an opportunity for the community to celebrate the success of our efforts," remarks Bryce Allen, Chair of the Warkworth Business Association

At 11:30am August 22, the Warkworth Business Association welcomes everyone to join them on the steps of the Town Hall Centre for the Arts to acknowledge the numerous partners and contributions to the Main Street Development Project. Following the ribbon cutting, stroll through Warkworth, shop the unique businesses that line the Main Street, and enjoy the Long Lunch. Tables and chairs stretching the length of the street will be filled with guests enjoying excellent home cooked food, entertainment, and great company from 11:30am to 3:00pm.

Tickets for the lunch are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and are available from Warkworth businesses or by calling 705-924-3949.

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5