

Local News

Alnwick-Haldimand

Libraries are the places to be

Alnwick-Haldimand libraries focused on the needs of their patrons during the past holiday season. Story Hours were very successful at the Centreton Branch with the decorating of cookies and the making of a birdhouse.

Future activities may include a knitting club or a reading club. Stop by and ask Tricia, the supervisor and her assistant Tierna what plans they have for the future.

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The Roseneath Branch is a busy location for the Internet.

Story Hour continues to be a highlight with Alexander DiRago on Saturdays at 1 p.m. New faces are always welcome.

Elaine, the supervisor, and her assistant Isabelle are busy planning new activities. These activities include:

- Family Literacy Day was Saturday, January 27. Every member who came into the Roseneath Branch had their names entered into a free draw.

- A book sale will be held Saturday, February 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Roseneath patrons' book choice is *What Came Before He Shot Her* by Elizabeth George.

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The popular new book choices at the Bette LeBarr Branch in Grafton vary from James

Patterson's *Cross* to the novels written by the prolific writer Ian Rankin which are always set in Edinburgh.

Some new titles from the best sellers lists that have just arrived includes: *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. According to the Grafton patrons, this book will make you laugh out loud.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield will be enjoyed by those who find stories about libraries and book stores interesting. For those Stephen King fans, try *Lisey's Story*.

Story Hour continues to be popular and a success, thanks to Lisa Taylor. It runs every other Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. Her program caters to all young children aged five to seven years. Toddlers would also be accepted. Lisa's relaxed approach makes everyone feel comfortable.

Often, Lisa has a craft ready to share with her group. Visit the Bette LeBarr Branch and check with Sandra to see what is happening.

When you are passing by the libraries in Alnwick-Haldimand Township, things may appear calm.

However, feel free to stop, to go inside and see what is really happening behind those closed doors.

— Gail Clark



1984, Toronto Road: John's grandfather, Gerald Fox, cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of the Toronto Street store on April 4, 1984 with George Johnston watching.

Fox IGA

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At one time, the Queen's Hotel was a regular spot to take "lunch".

Darrell remembers one time they had to rescue Don Prentice and bring him back to work.

One boy was convinced the lion (loin) chops were expensive because they were so rare.

At one time, there were bells connected to the cash registers which rang in the back of the store when a carryout boy was needed. Sometimes, the boys in the back would disconnect the bell. When the cashiers asked why they hadn't come, the boys would reply they hadn't heard the bell.

Now retired close to 20 years, Don Prentice has some tales to tell.

There was the time the staff picked up Lyle Williams' car and set it down crossways in front of the drug store. Or the time they tied Daryl Cuthbert's car to a tree. And then there was the time the Dutch cleaning lady left the water running in the flat above the store on the south side of King Street.

Then, there was the mystery of the loaf with a hole in it. Staff set traps, and did everything to find out what was eating a hole in the end loaf of bread. They finally discovered it was the hamster from an upstairs apartment.

It wasn't all fun and games

Don tells of times he and Gerry

that the Foxes gave up to their staff.

The staff has fond memories of the customers they have served over the decades the business has been in Colborne.

Head Cashier Kathy Walker feels like she used to know everyone in town.

Marg Moore remembers babies that once came into the store who are now on staff.

And, for Marilyn Black, the store has always been a shopping experience — a place where staff know the customers well enough they can make suggestions.

Grocery manager Richard Mottley agrees; the store offers a

New beginnings

John and Fran Fox will both look in new directions after Feb. 24, leaving behind the family they have known and cared for many years.

Fran has extensive experience in the store, doing payroll and office work. She also worked for years as a loans officer in Scotia Bank.

John plans to pick up some part-time work, but he wants to slow down and enjoy life more. Hopefully, he'll have an occasional weekend off. There'll be no more six a.m. unloading sessions at the IGA, that much is certain.

Time changes

Life is different now in the grocery business, and those who have been around awhile remember.

Back in the 70s, every box was lugged by hand off the trucks, then piled in the store. Now, they're all skid-loaded with hand jacks.

There are a lot more items on the shelves now and many more pre-packaged products. It is a convenience for the customer.

Signs were once handwritten and products hand-stamped; if prices went up, every price