

Libraries Act offers some good news, some bad

by Paul Dorsey

The possibility that an increased number of politicians appointed to library boards could lead to censorship will be among the concerns addressed at a fall conference being organized by Halton Hills chief librarian Betsy Cornwell.

Cornwell, as secretary of the Association of Public Library Boards of Ontario, is arranging the one-day conference between her organization and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in response to the province's proposed Public Libraries Act, slated for consideration by the Legislature next October.

The conference will take place about the same time, most likely in Barrie, giving library and municipal officials a chance to reach some form of consensus on the Act, which would replace legislation passed in 1982.

While Cornwell says her major concern about the new Act is its changes to the method of appointing library board members, other librarians are more worried about the increased power given municipal councils to dictate how the boards spend their money.

Such extended jurisdiction, North York Libraries director Jean Orpwood said

recently, could lead to censorship by politicians who feel compelled to follow constituents' wishes by banning certain library materials.

The concern is directly tied in with what Cornwell sees as the new Act's biggest change: the method used in appointing new library board members.

Under current legislation, town council appoints one of its members to the library board, in Halton Hills' case currently Councillor Pam Sheldon. The new Act would see more council members on the board, up to one member short of a majority. The ramifications of the change, par-

ticularly as it relates to school board appointees to the library board, will be a major topic of discussion at the fall conference.

Cornwell acknowledges that the more politicians on the library board, the more accountable the board would be to taxpayers, but even though she's seen no "significant" problem with politicians seeking to censor library books, she's "sure the potential exists."

In Halton Hills, Cornwell said, there has been no council directive about the nature of materials in the library in the ten years she has been here. Nor has she ever heard of school boards complaining about locally-available material.

"I was never aware of the school board contacting any library board member about any such concern," she said. "The divorce is almost total."

As for councillors, though, Cornwell noted that elected officials do feel they must respond to any constituents' complaints, even though the complaint may not represent the view of a majority of residents. Thus, special interest groups could gain some leverage over the kind of books and films the library buys.

"It's an unfortunate position to put a councillor in," Cornwell said. "That's why a large number of councillors shouldn't sit on the board."

"We have had complaints from individuals less than a hundred in the last ten years. It's mostly the children's material that provokes the concern. Parents worry about certain books, especially fiction, involve too much stereotyping or depressing topics. It's our contention that the parents are responsible for what their own children read. Some parents want their children exposed to a wide variety of material."

Cornwell said she's hoping the conference will prompt the library and municipal associations to recognize that there are times when a town council should be "heavily involved" with library planning and operations and other times when they should keep clear.

Concern over the means of appointing library board members also extends to the frequency and duration of appointments. Currently councils and public school boards make three-year, overlapping appointments and the separate school boards a two-year appointment in such a way that a different member's term expires each year.

"It's hoped that the appointee will stay on for two terms, since it takes at least one term just to learn the ropes," Cornwell said.

Under the new Act, however, library board appointments would have exactly the same duration as elected officials' terms, so that each new municipal election could make a clean sweep of the library board and inhibit continuity and efficiency.

It's difficult enough finding volunteers for the library board, she added, since they receive no remuneration save expenses.

The tabling of the new Act in the last session at Queen's Park raised enough concerns that Cornwell and other librarians were hoping it wouldn't be passed until after the summer recess so that they could study its contents. The news is not all bad by any means, she said.

Once concerns are resolved, most librarians will be hoping for swift passage of the Act so that its benefits can be enjoyed. Chief among those is its streamlining effect on Ontario's library network. Money will be allocated and tardy library boards spurred on to meet standards being set in centres like Halton Hills. Until that happens, Cornwell said, the more backward libraries will be weak links in the chain.

"Ontario libraries have suffered badly over the years," she said. "The lack of proper business methods have hurt many of them. They are not little, private fiefdoms, although many are still being operated as though they're little, private fiefdoms. But we have no basic tenets concerning labor conditions and human rights. It's pretty bad. It's not nearly as good as it should be for the amount of money being spent on it."

Apart from several outstanding concerns, Cornwell said she is confident the new Act will improve libraries overall. She praises ministry staff for working closely with library administrators to raise the profile of public libraries and "bring them into the 20th century."

"They're moving fairly gently to start with, but they mean business and I think it's a good thing," she commented.

"I believe strongly that the library is an important part of our access to good education. Many parts of the province pay lip service to this but they're not working as hard as they should be. Now at least we have a new level of commitment at the provincial level."

AUTOMASTER TRANSMISSION

AUGUST TUNE-UP SPECIAL

\$15⁹⁵ ONLY

Includes:

- Clean sump and pan
- New part gasket
- New trans. filter
- New fluid
- Adjust band if necessary
- Road test

WE ALSO DO DIFFERENTIALS, U-JOINTS AND BRAKES

OFFER EXPIRES AUGUST 31, 1984

FREE TOWING SERVICE

CALL 877-6904

"We'll Pay 1/2 Your Deductible On Any Windshield Insurance Claim!"

Just Mention This Ad
Offer expires August 31, 1984.

- Vinyl Roofs
- Windshields Replaced
- Sunroofs
- P.U. Sliders

CALL US AND COMPARE PRICES!

Georgetown AUTO-GLASS
877-7433

We're Both Located at **315 ARMSTRONG AVE., GEORGETOWN**



Grrrrizzly.

Oh boy, new Grizzly Beer is here. It's a smooth, refreshing-tasting beer we've been selling with such success in the U.S.

Here at home, Grizzly Beer comes in a big brown bottle and goes at regular beer prices. Get your paws on some soon.

You can encounter a Grizzly in all your local beer stores. It's one roaring good beer. **Grizzly. A roaring good beer.**

Simon Fraser

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

877-0109

877-0100

5 Wesleyan Street
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 2E2

LOOK!!

Wood's Freezers

- * 8.9 cu. ft. \$316.00
- * 12.2 cu. ft. \$351.00
- * 18.5 cu. ft. \$392.00

Limited Time Only

MacMillan's

Hwy. No. 7 - 1 Mile West of Acton

Open 7 Days A Week (519) 853-0311
Mon.-Fri. 9-9 (416) 463-3207
Sat. Sun. Holidays 9-6

GEORGETOWN		HAILTON Phone (416) 877-2759 Georgetown on Hwy. 7		
<p>Combined Summer Services</p> <p>KNOX AND LIMEHOUSE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES and</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN AND GLEN WILLIAMS</p> <p>Rev. Jeff Davison conducting</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Limehouse Church (Nursery Services Available)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. St. John's United Church, Georgetown</p> <p>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH 177 Maple Avenue Pastors Edwin H. Mitchell 877-0320 / 6665 Gordon E. Mann 853-3383</p> <p>EVERY SUNDAY 9:45 a.m. - Family Bible School 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Biblical Preaching Worship Praise</p> <p>WEEKDAYS Prayer & Bible Study Youth Recreation Boys - Girls Clubs Little Cherub Nursery Ladies' Coffee Hour</p> <p>MONTHLY Senior Adults</p> <p>CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH 7th Line SERVICES 10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Pastors Rev. J. DeJong Rev. B. Siostra</p> <p>Listen every Sunday to THE BACK TO GOD HOUR 7:30 a.m. - Hamilton CHAM 1280 9:30 a.m. - Global TV Channel 6/22 9:00 p.m. - Guelph CJOY 1460</p> <p>ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 60 Guelph St. 877-8044 Rev. Jim Boyles</p> <p>Sunday, August 19 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Prayer Book) 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (New Rite)</p>	<p>ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH</p> <p>Minister: Rev. Dr. T.G. Bandy B.A., M.Div., Th.D.</p> <p>89 Mountainview 877-4482</p> <p>10 a.m. - Morning Worship - Sunday School - Nursery Facilities</p> <p>"Building Tomorrow's Church Today"</p> <p>BALLINAFAD UNITED CHURCH</p> <p>Minister: Rev. Dr. T.G. Bandy B.A., M.Div., Th.D.</p> <p>Morning Worship 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>"A Hundred Years of Worship" "A Century of Service"</p> <p>MOUNTAINVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH 102 Mountainview 877-5854</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Dean Tate</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p> <p>Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m. All Are Welcome Nursery Facilities Available</p> <p>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH</p> <p>Temporarily meeting in Cedarvale Community Centre Mailing address: P.O. Box 26, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4T1</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Peter Ralph B.A., M.Div.</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 p.m. 877 9816 853 3923</p> <p>NORVAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Rev. Angus Sutherland Time: 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School during Church Nursery Available</p>	<p>Gospel Temple</p> <p>West of Trafalgar Rd.</p> <p>REV. D. MURRAY GRIFFIN, Pastor Jaye Torley, Youth Leader</p> <p>SUNDAYS 9:45 a.m. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Phone the Church for Bus Pick-up 11:00 a.m. - FAMILY WORSHIP Children's Church 7:00 p.m. - EVANGELISTIC SERVICE Wee Care available at both services.</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer</p> <p>FRIDAYS 7:30 p.m. - YOUTH ALIVE! with Jayo Torley A Pentecostal Assembly of Canada Church EVERYBODY WELCOME</p>	<p>ACTON</p> <p>THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR</p> <p>Rev. Arthur Tribe B.A., M.Div. Mrs. Betty Oakes Organist</p> <p>Sunday, August 19 9:00 a.m. - Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. - Holy Communion Please note 10:00 a.m. service will continue until Sunday, Sept. 9, 1984.</p> <p>CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>Rev. E. M. Jenkins, Minister Rev. Craig Rumble Pastoral Assistant</p> <p>Sunday, August 19 10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>SALVATION ARMY 114 Mill St. E. 853-1140, 853-1435</p> <p>Sunday, August 19 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (Transportation is available. Call 853-0945) 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>All are welcome Captain & Mrs. Wilson Perrin, Corps Officers</p>	<p>Combined Summer Service TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA & PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH ACTON</p> <p>Rev. Don Matheson Organist & Choir Director Dr. George Elliott 10:00 a.m. Service at Trinity Everyone Welcome</p> <p>ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>80 Mill St. E. 853-0690</p> <p>Rev. M. Jean Stairs Sundays 10 a.m.</p> <p>Family Worship & Church School Nursery & Crib Care</p> <p>EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE 33 Churchill Rd. N., Acton</p> <p>PASTOR: Rev. Paul Johnson 853-2715... Res. 853-0481</p> <p>Pentecostal SERVICE TIMES Sunday - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Service 7:00 p.m. Evening Service</p> <p>WEEKLY SERVICES TUESDAY: 10 a.m. Hour of POWER (Interdenominational prayer time) WEDNESDAY: 7 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study THURSDAY: 7:30 p.m. Youth Service FRIDAY: 7:30 p.m. College & Careers</p>
COME TO CHURCH				