

# Residents cautioned about coyotes

Halton Hills residents are reminded to be aware of potential coyote sightings and to exercise caution, especially in natural areas like Hungry Hollow or along the Bruce Trail.

There are steps that can be taken to avoid potential conflicts such as don't turn your back and run from a coyote, but be loud, wave your arms and scare it away. Homeowners should not leave their dog or cat unattended in their yards, especially at night.

Residents are reminded to never feed coyotes and to watch for any instances of this behaviour that they may observe in their neighbourhood. To report a coyote sighting or if a resident observes an overflowing trash container in a park or along a trail, which could be a

potential food source for the animals, residents are encouraged to advise the Town at 905-873-2601, ext. 2603.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "We are aware of the changes observed in coyote behaviour in other municipalities and I urge residents to report any unusual sightings".

If a coyote, coywolf or other similar animal poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911. Residents may also call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Aurora District Office at (905) 713-7400 to report sightings or seek more information on wildlife issues. Residents are encouraged to visit the "Living with Coyotes" site at [www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-forestry](http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-forestry).



**METRO/FIREFIGHTERS FOOD DRIVE:** It was a successful Metro/Firefighters Food Drive at the Metro grocery store on Saturday. The Georgetown Bread Basket received 5,500 pounds of food and more than \$2,000 in cash donations. Helping out on Saturday, were (from left, Halton Hills Fire Dept. Lt. Trevor Williams, Georgetown Bread Basket volunteer Dave Guess, Firefighter Mark Lamont, food bank volunteers Nicolas Bandt, Dave Reimanis, Colleen McCloy and Karen Lafferty.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

# Modernization of the library bearing results

By Lisa Tallyn  
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One of Halton Hills Public Library's significant accomplishments in 2014 was to receive Silver LEED certification for the Georgetown Branch.

"Our Gold LEED certified Acton Branch and our Georgetown Branch work to sustain our environment through water and energy conservation, reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality," said Sheila Taylor, Chair, of the Halton Hills Public Library Board during a recent presentation to Council.

She said the Library is committed to public education on environmental issues through its monthly green tours and throughout its collections.

Taylor said in his annual message previous Board Chair Jay Jackson stated, "the Library continues to have a major impact on our community through its environmental leadership,

impressive economic benefits and ongoing service improvements, particularly in the area of eResources."

Last year the Library's economic impact was assessed at \$18 million using a formula developed by the Rotman School of Business and Toronto Public Library, said Taylor.

"The economic benefits equate to \$892 per household with the value of a library card at \$590. In other words, for every \$1 invested in the library, residents receive over \$4 in benefits."

She said the community is still enjoying the benefits of the upgraded facilities in both Acton and Georgetown.

"As some may question the need for a library in the age of Google and Amazon Prime — our numbers show a different story."

There were 160,000 visits to Georgetown Library in 2014, and more than 56,000 to the Acton branch. Taylor said internet and Wifi usage increased by 100 per cent in the branches, there was



SHEILA TAYLOR

a 92 per cent increase in adult program attendance, 50 per cent increase in eBook and eAudiobook use and 35 per cent increase in children and teen program attendance.

"Residents love having this third place to go to — a place that is not home and not work, but a third place where they can relax, research, meet with clients or hang out with friends," said Taylor.

She added Staples Business Interiors featured the Georgetown branch as one of its recent case studies of an interior design success story.

Taylor said last year the Library was able to capture what was happening in the community with its local history project — a Facebook page dedicated to the 2013 ice storm. The page featured local photographs and stories from library patrons and had more than 15,000 visits from across Canada and the world including Ukraine, Brazil and Argentina.

A survey conducted last May on library hours confirmed the need for Monday hours and Georgetown and Sunday hours at the Acton branch. Taylor said in March, Monday afternoon opening hours were added in Georgetown and Sunday afternoon hours during the school year in Acton.

"Since the first opening Monday in March the Georgetown circulation on Mondays has tripled," said Taylor, adding it's the same situation in Acton with the new Sunday hours.

The survey also revealed that 51 per cent of Halton Hills residents are library

users, 85 per cent use the library to borrow books and magazines, and 41 per cent use it for reasons not related to borrowing such as attending programs, or using public internet stations or study rooms. Taylor credited the Library's high quality programming for keeping patrons coming back. She said the two most popular programs are the Onscreen Film Series run in partnership with John Elliott Theatre and the One Book, One Halton Hills program.

She said last year the Library launched two new popular online platforms — Hoopla and Freegal. Hoopla features online movies and television series, which can be streamed to computers or mobile devices, and Freegal offers free downloadable music.

Taylor also recognized Jay Jackson and Frank Loreto, who both retired from the Library Board for their many years of service. Jackson served 29 years (26 as Chair) and Loreto 28 years (20 as Vice-Chair).

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