



BOXED BONANZA: Acton Library is now offering four different Theme Boxes to local schools and day cares. Shown here with the dinosaur theme box is deputy branch manager Marie Vickery who said the boxes will provide teachers with one stop shopping. (Frances Niblock photo)

C.L.E.A.N. wants new members

Fighting plans for a dump in the Acton quarry remains job-one for the Acton environment group C.L.E.A.N. — Citizens Looking Ecologically Ahead Now.

C.L.E.A.N. president, Acton High School student Jennifer Flesch, said the fight to stop the dump has been won but the war is not over.

"The Ontario Court has been asked to rule on the Acton Joint Board decision that it did not have jurisdiction to hear the application by Reclamation Systems Incorporated. If it overturns that ruling you can bet C.L.E.A.N. will do all it can to prevent a dump from opening. My senior vice-president Laura Henry said she'll chain herself to the gates of the quarry to stop the dump," Flesch said.

Flesch is critical of some other environmental groups, especially the Toronto branch of singer John

Denver's Windstar.

"We've got a whole bunch of environmental groups that are doing a lot of talking but not doing much to clean up the earth. The north Halton anti-dump group P.O.W.E.R. — Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources — is very active but there needs to be more work done on things like recycling and resource management."

Flesch noted that their group was not just directed at high school kids, but that's the group that has taken up the environmental banner. "Older people seem to be burned out on the environment, at least some of them. If we are going to have a world that's worth living in, it's the young people that will have to force change."

When C.L.E.A.N. members are not fighting to clean up the environment they are working to protect and save animals.

"We've helped nurse back to health a number of injured birds that people have found. We treat them if we can and then release them. We want to do whatever we can to clean up our small part of the world."

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Innovative theme box program at library

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Acton educators have a new, innovative teaching tool at their fingertips. The Acton Library has launched its Theme Box program.

Each box is full of materials pertaining to specific themes, including transportation, seasons, dinosaurs and fairy tales-nursery rhymes. The boxes include books, crafts, props, puppets and bulletin board displays and are available to local schools, nursery schools, daycare centres and junior and senior kindergarten classes.

The theme box program originated with the library's deputy-manager Marie Vickery.

"We already have nursery school boxes which contain 20

books on different subjects but we were getting requests from teachers and care-givers for numerous books on one subject," Vickery explained. "We couldn't help them until now because you can only take out two books on any one subject. Now with these boxes a teacher will have enough information to do an entire week, if they wanted, on something like dinosaurs."

For example, the dinosaur box includes six books, a flannel board with 25 cutout shapes, six plastic dinosaurs, stamps, templates for tracing and a bulletin board with 16 pictures and an activity binder. That binder includes craft ideas, colouring sheets, poems, songs and

activity sheets.

Vickery said the theme boxes are designed to supplement existing information for teachers.

"Most of the nursery schools and kindergartens use the same themes every year and this will give them some fresh new materials to use. The idea is that they wouldn't need to have a whole bunch of stock on any one area at the school. We can give them enough information that they wouldn't have to spend a lot of time looking for materials to do a whole week on something like dinosaurs."

Vickery said the boxes will be loaned free of charge for a two-week period. For more information call the Acton Library at 853-0301.

Acton students "shadow" workers

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Ninety students at Acton's McKenzie-Smith Middle School will get an up-close and personal look at the working world this week.

The students are taking part in a job shadowing program. For one day they will dog the steps and pick the brains of a person who has a job they are interested in.

Students will work alongside local veterinarians, police and businesspeople and one, Jamie Birrell, spent the day being me, Frances Niblock, Tanner reporter.

Jamie started the day dropping off film for processing, checking for news at the local variety store and sorting messages and mail at the Tanner office.

After some quick sports writing

it was off to the Georgetown Police station for what is known as 'fuzz and was' (cops and dead people) or the Monday morning police checks.

"I didn't think you'd be able to look at the police reports; that surprised me," Jamie said at the end of the day. When asked what he liked best about the day Jamie quickly joked "lunch" but then explained the process of putting the paper together was interesting.

"I thought it was great. I would like to report because I like writing stories and knowing the information about the town would be good. I think the job shadowing was a good start at finding out if I like reporting."

Jamie proved an able reporter working on this week's House

League hockey report and he will try his hand at reporting on McKenzie-Smith sports for the Tanner.

School spokesperson Ena Gibson said the Board of Education is initiating plans for Grades 6, 7 and 8 students to take part in annual career days that until now have been aimed at high school students. "By the time these kids are at the end of Grade 8 they will be picking their high school options. It's not too soon for them to be learning about the work world," Gibson said Thursday.

Three classes of Grade 8 will also head to the Board's Career Centre in south Halton to do an "interest inventory" and research a career of their choice.

New career for former Halton sheriff

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

When Acton's Mac Sprowl turned in his sheriff's badge he decided to pick up a pen to write about the rich history of the job.

After 28 years as Halton's sheriff, Sprowl retired last March and is now preparing to write a history of the sheriff's office, which this year is celebrating its 200th anniversary in Ontario and its 1,000th anniversary in the Commonwealth.

"The first recorded mention of a sheriff is 2,000 years ago in the Bible's Book of Daniel, Chapter 3," Sprowl said in an interview last Wednesday.

"Two hundred years ago the first sheriff was appointed in Upper Canada and there was a sheriff in Halton for 137 years. There isn't a sheriff any more in Halton but I'm glad I was part of a wonderful tradition," Sprowl said.

Robert (Mac) Sprowl served seven years as a deputy sheriff and 21 years as sheriff. His main job was to oversee the sheriff's office which summoned people for jury duty, processed writs, divorce petitions and subpoenas and seized and sold people's property to pay off debts.

The sheriff's office has been replaced with the Civil Enforcement Office following a major reform in the provincial court system. As the 18 remaining Ontario sheriffs retire, they are being replaced with managers of the Civil Enforcement Office.

When asked for career highlights Sprowl laughed and remembered when the name of the most famous sheriff of all was raised.

"I was travelling with a guard to the old Hamilton jail with a woman who had been found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity. It was visiting hours and there was a long line-up so I decided to go to the head of the queue. I knocked on this huge steel door and told the guard who I was. The guard said sure and that he was the Sheriff of Nottingham and told me to get to the end of the line. I pulled my badge and they finally let me in."

Although Sprowl quickly remembers funny situations when asked to look back over his career, he also said it was a very stressful job.

"It was a very difficult job. I'm glad to be away from the pressure but there are many things I miss. I had three death threats against me

from people who were upset when I seized their property to pay their debts. I had a woman pull a knife once when I went to her apartment to evict her family. It was a very stressful job and it got worse as the economy did, but I loved it."

Sprowl will detail more of the history of the sheriff's office tonight (Wednesday) as guest speaker at the Esquesing Historical Society's meeting at Knox Church.



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