

FORMER CITIZENS OF THE YEAR congratulate the Legion Terrace Committee members at the Rotary Club Citizen of the Year dinner at the Acton Legion this past Friday. – Angela Tyler photo

Library will not censor access to the Internet

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The current Halton Hills library policy of intellectual freedom will allow open and unrestricted access to Internet terminals in the Acton and Georgetown libraries, despite concerns that inappropriate material may be left on the screen for the next unsuspecting user.

The issue arose when a parent complained that their child was exposed to a pornographic web site when they logged onto the public access computer at the Burlington

Although the library's policy of intellectual freedom will remain unchanged, the Halton Hills Library Board did beef up a section of its general rules of conduct so anyone who harasses other library patrons or staff can be asked to leave. The definition of harassment now includes anyone who deliberately exposes others to obscene, pornographic or hate information

Halton Hills chief librarian Betsy Cornwell said they have had only a few problems with "hormonally driven adolescents," out to shock users of the computer terminals in the local libraries by leaving inappropriate material on the screen.

"All of our terminals are in full public view and if somebody has the jam to access one of those Triple XXX sites in front of everyone then they can expect to get the kind of raspberries they will get from library staff," Cornwell said in an interview on Friday. The library will

place signs at each terminal warning that accessing inappropriate sites is not permitted.

Although there is Canadian legislation on both obscene and pornographic material and hate literature, Cornwell said that there's been some discussion on how responsible libraries would be for providing access to these sites which might be-

ing in contravention of the law.

"We're providing access but we're not hosting the Internet site and the betting is that the legal definition is that if you're hosting the site you're distributing the information, but if you simply access the site you're not distributing it," Cornwell explained.

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Thank You Firefighters!

During this week's major fire at the Beardmore tannery our mostly volunteer firefighters again demonstrated their high degree of professionalism and dedication.

On a sweltering day they successfully contained the blaze which, if it had spread, could have caused severe problems in our community. Fighting fires is always dangerous work but this event had the added risk of chemicals which may have been in the building. In spite of the personal danger, our firefighters donned the heavy and hot safety gear and successfully extinguished the conflagration. Firefighters from Georgetown and Milton were also called in to help battle the fire.

Our town is especially fortunate to have such a committed group of volunteers. They are so professional, in fact, that due to their excellent response times through training and well maintained equipment our town has been given a "preferred territory rating" by some insurance companies. In addition, our firefighters are also involved in other community activities. The annual Santa Claus Parade and the Canada Day Fireworks display are but two of their more visible efforts.

The Beardmore fire only highlighted the excellent work our fire department performs week in and week out. We, the members of **St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus**, thank our firefighters for their efforts in our town. We invite all residents to join us in saluting them on a job well done.

Fate unknown

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building to keep the building in place?" Elliott asked, adding that the Agricultural Society wouldn't have a strong argument to save the building if it were just going to be used one week-end a year for the fair.

"The Society has to present a management plan that would envision year-round or regular, consistent use of the building. The structural integrity of the building is one issue and the other issue is what is feasible for that building," Elliott said.

"I hope we don't have to



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