

We love our Library...

Continued from page 1

"The library is my comfort zone—even when I travel, I seek the library. I can tell a lot about a town by its library. The Halton Hills Library has a great ambience. It is a second home. The staff are extremely helpful."

Library facts
-space standards require expansion of the 3,704-square-foot Acton branch, built in 1967, to be

increased by 60 per cent-circulation - 298,419 items, up 9.6 per cent since 1999-reference transactions - 29,288, up 24 per cent since '99-program attendance - 8,891, up 47 per cent since '99 -electronic library visits 1.2-million -database hits - 136,950-number of unique titles held - 76,700 -total volumes held - 103,931 -45 staff, 25.16 full time equivalents



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Long term planning at Libraries

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

What services should the library focus on for the next three to five years?

That's the main question members of a new library community planning team will debate next month at the request of the Halton Hills Public Library Board.

The library's director of services, Jane Diamanti, said the 1996 library master plan must be updated with the

focus on services.

"We really need to think first about who are the people that we're serving, and what are their particular needs and how can the library uniquely help?" Diamanti said recently, adding the group will "brainstorm about the future vision, objectives and strategies for the library."

Approximately 25 people - all ages, careers, interests, life styles and neighbourhoods - have been invited to two workshops and asked to prepare a draft strategic report.

"We're really wanting to find out from people, from

their various points of view, where they see the community at this point, where are the challenges on the horizon, and what are the ways the library can assist," Diamanti said, adding they want to leverage library assets and make meaningful contributions to a growing and changing community.

While the 1996 library master plan focused more on facilities - and the dire need for more in both Acton and Georgetown - this report will zero in on services, and the expectations of the new people moving into the community.

"We can't be building anything if we don't know what the heck we're really going to be emphasizing in our services," Diamanti said.

She said the library has always prided itself on its excellent local history/genealogy resources, and if the strategic plan process

supports that direction, then a future library should probably have a local history room with improved technology.

The library community planning team is expected to develop a report at its second meeting in March, and that information will be incorporated in the library board's full strategic plan that will be presented to Town Council in June.

The library spent \$1.4-million providing services in Halton Hills last year. This year, the budget request - which will be debated beginning Monday - is 5.9 per cent more, an \$84,400 increase for a total of \$1.5-million.

Diamanti said following budget approval, they would like to hire a facility consultant to take the information about services and enfold it into their report on library expansion, including a new library in Georgetown.

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Impaired driving charge

On Saturday, January 17 at 6:12pm, an officer from the Wellington O.P.P. responded to a report of a single motor vehicle collision on the 9th Line of Erin Township. The officer located a 1998 Chevrolet Lumina in the ditch and the driver had been drinking.

An 18-year-old Erin youth, was arrested and faces charges of Impaired Driving and Driving with More than 80 mgs. He is scheduled to appear in Guelph Court on March 12th, 2004 at 10:00am.

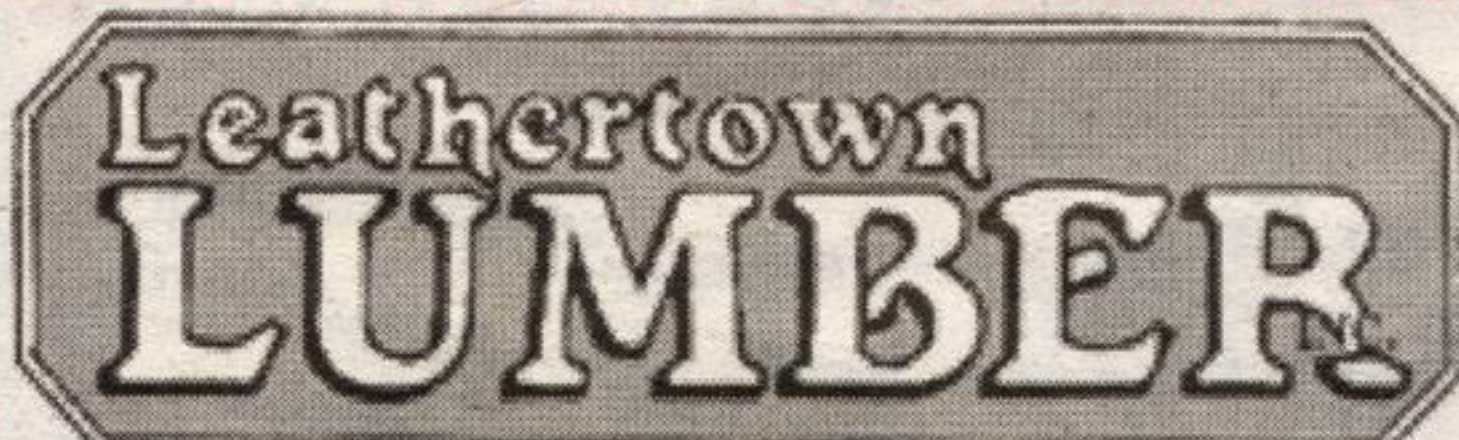
The same day at 7:56pm, an officer from the O.P.P. responded to a report of a possible Impaired Driver on Wellington County Road 52 in Erin Township. The officer located the 1989 Ford van in a parking lot near Charles Street and Main Street in Erin. The driver had been drinking.

A 39-year-old man from Erin, Ontario was arrested and faces charges of Impaired Driving, Driving with More than 80 mgs, No Insurance and No Plates. He is scheduled to appear in Guelph Court on March 12.

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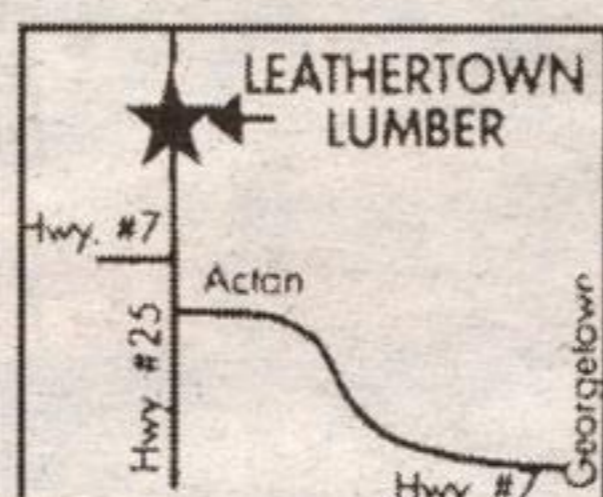
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