

Council looking at uses for Carnegie Library

BY DAN SCHWAB

Council is looking to Heritage Essex to find possible uses for the abandoned library on Gordon Street.

"When you have a building sitting idle, it leads to

its devastation," said Deputy Mayor Richard Meloche. "It's better to have a recreation activity in it or community events."

Council agreed to have the town's parks and recreation department draft a "back-up" proposal for

possible uses for the former library.

But Bill Gay, president of Heritage Essex, said his group toured the facility Feb. 21 and is expecting to provide council with a report on potential future uses next month.

"We're optimistic," Gay said. "Things are starting to roll."

Gay said although he expects the library to need some maintenance work, the 1914 building is still structurally in good shape.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

David Suzuki touches on local wind power debate

Those who braved the snowstorm last Tuesday night were fortunate to hear Dr. David Suzuki speak at Walkerville Collegiate about environmental and energy issues. He also touched upon the local wind power debate.

It was comforting to hear from such a respected, responsible and unbiased source that wind power along with other renewable energy sources are the way to go in our search for alternative energy generation.

Dr. Suzuki stressed that most of the information out there slamming wind power and other renewables is often supported by special interest groups. Through research I

have found this negative information has very little basis in fact, and typically consists of fear, doom and gloom scenarios.

It is obvious at this time wind power cannot replace fossil fuel generation for its reliability but we must accept wind power and other renewables as a complement to our overall energy generation. It is no secret that well over 100 large-scale wind turbines are operating just two or three hours north and west of Windsor and offer a wealth of information when visited.

After researching this topic for some time, making numerous visits to actual operating wind generation facilities in Ontario, and getting first-hand knowledge of

a large-scale turbine inside and out, I can say not only that I support responsible wind power developments, but I'm also considering my own project.

This is no tax avoidance scheme. The bottom line is the developer only gets paid for power that is delivered and nothing more, despite what others want us to think. Zero tax money is spent upgrading lines as the developer must carry 100 per cent of these costs.

The "Energy Probe" report that was done is incomplete and does not even have a full year's worth of data to go on. The readings that were taken to support their claims were mostly in the summer months and this is when the lowest production numbers

are produced.

I know for a fact that a large-scale turbine has been producing well over 30 per cent this past winter up on the Bruce Peninsula. To claim that Germany, Spain and other European countries have cancelled wind projects is misleading. Germany had a record year in 2006 for

wind power developments and this trend continues on in 2007.

A local radio station just completed a survey and asked the people of Essex County if they think a wind farm would have a negative

impact on the landscape of Essex County. Over 700 responses came in and 87 per cent said it would not pose a negative effect on the landscape.

G. Mardegan
Windsor

Driver examinations now offered in Leamington

Select driver examination services will be available in Leamington in April 2007, offering access to key services for new and senior drivers in the area.

The testing services will be available at a new travel point; an examination centre open for customers in regional locations across the province and services are scheduled in advance. Information on hours of operation are listed on the DriveTest Web Site at www.drivetest.ca.

Serco DEC Inc., which provides driver examination services on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation, will offer vision, knowledge and road tests at the travel point for class G1 applicants and G1 road tests for senior drivers, (aged 80 years and over) who are referred to Serco from the Ministry of Transportation group education session. Under the Senior Driver Renewal Program, senior drivers must complete a vision and knowledge test and take part

in a group education session every two years, and may be referred for a road test.

Ministry of Transportation staff will continue to provide group education sessions in Leamington at the Half Century Club Senior Centre.

The full suite of driver examination services continue to be available to residents of Leamington through driver examination centres located in Windsor and Chatham.

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