

New children's librarian thrilled to be part of town

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Melanie Dustow, who joined Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library in December as co-ordinator of children's services, is delighted both with her new position and the

community she now calls home. "My home town is Goderich and I moved to Stouffville because I wanted to be part of the community where I worked, rather than living outside it. I came down for an interview and was impressed with the town and the philosophy of the library."

COMMUNITY

Dustow is a library school graduate, with a teaching certificate, who has also studied special education. "I enjoy working with kids because they have so much energy."



New children's librarian Melanie Dustow reads to Jeremy and Emily Bertrand (two and five years old respectively) on Tuesday at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library.

Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

explained Dustow.

One thing that impressed her when she came to Stouffville was the scope of available reading materials and the enthusiasm of both patrons and staff for the facility.

"I looked through the collection and some of the best sellers and what I felt were great books for children were here. We're going to continue to try and work on collection development and we're very interested in people's input and comments. I've already had some excellent suggestions which I'm going to try and implement."

Her background also includes working in newspapers and she has trained as a graphic artist, so when she discovered that the library was adjacent to the Latham Gallery, she felt even more at home.

"With my love of books and my art background, I thought this (job) had my name written all over it and I find the patrons here stimulate my interest in books."

Pre-school and music programs for children are starting up in mid-January and plans for March Break are well under way.

This year's lineup includes magician Owen Anderson, a presentation by the Really Little Theatre and a puppet show.

"I am really excited," said Dustow.

"I've never worked in a public library before - I've always been in an academic setting and I'm very pleased to be here. There's a strong sense of community in Stouffville and I really enjoyed the (New Year's Eve) fireworks."

A few months ago, before she saw the job advertised on the Internet, "I had never even heard of Stouffville."

Now she is looking forward to getting to know as many people as possible and to helping them make the most of their public library.



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