

# Whitchurch-Stouffville library CEO checks out

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

As Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library's chief executive officer, Marilyn Ferguson has swept sand out of the lobby, set policy and guided the move to the library's new home in the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

After 33 years with the library, she retired Friday. The April Fool's date didn't bother her at all, she said, since she was also hired on April 1, as a part-time secretary-treasurer of the library board. Later, she became an administrative assistant and was promoted to CEO in 1988.

Mrs. Ferguson started at the library because it was something she could do while looking after her two children, who were preschoolers at the time.

"I have always loved libraries," she said.

She's been there from the time the library was unautomated and the card catalogue was the only way to access books. It was taken out of service in 1988, complete with a ceremony that saw the card catalogue draped in black crepe.

Many library patrons were upset about the change to computers, Mrs. Ferguson recalled.

Then there were only two computers. Now the library has 27 with internet access.

"Fifty two per cent of our services are computer-related," Mrs. Ferguson said.

The sand she swept up more than once flew out of sandboxes brought in for March break events led by former staffer Sheila McLeod. Mrs. Ferguson has also taken her turn comforting children when their first visit to preschool story or music hours proved overwhelming.

Mrs. Ferguson remembers the occasional cross dresser and flasher coming into the library — and a cat who thought the library would make a good home. Staff members would come to work in the morning to find the tabby napping on a chair.

She recalled the woman who tried to drive through the fence near the library when it was still at its Main Street location.

But the memory that stands out most strongly is a girl who brought her dad to the library to show him the books she could borrow and the marvelous things she could do now that she had a library card.

The girl had visited the library earlier in the day with her kindergarten class.

Mrs. Ferguson is proud of her role in making the new library a

reality. She made a presentation to council in 1989 for a new space, but it took 12 more years before the library opened in 2001.

Under her direction, the Building Our Future campaign was able to raise \$389,000 for construction.

"Marilyn hired me almost 17 years ago and told me then the main project was to be a library expansion," said Catherine Sword, the library's co-ordinator of public services.

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Marilyn Ferguson, CEO of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, checks out the magazines. She retired yesterday after 33 years.

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This product is not \$449.99 as advertised on p. 19 of our Apr. 1st flyer but \$579.99.

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### BEST BUY CORRECTION NOTICE

To our valued customers: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by an error in our flyer dated: April 1-7.

Product: Sony RB30 Computer Package. This package does not come with Microsoft Windows XP Media Center as advertised on p. 17 of our April 1st flyer. It comes with Windows XP Home Edition. All other software is included as advertised. SKU: 10056118

### FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

Hoover Deluxe Bagless Upright Vacuum, U5720-950: 10001488. On p. 27 of our Apr. 1st flyer, the \$100 savings advertised on this product is due to a \$70 Price Drop and \$30 Instant Savings offer.

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