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Library book sale starts today

Bookworms and browsers, this is your week. The annual giant book sale at the Whitchurch Stouffville Public Library starts today with a seniors' hour from 9 to 10 a.m. for those aged 60 and older. The sale continues from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and tomorrow, from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission charge. The library is at 30 Burkholder Ave. in the Lebovic Leisure Centre. Call 905-642-7323 for information.



SUSANNE HILTON: Town gallery staff should meet, council member says.

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More cash for road repairs

From page 1.

old municipal building. As well, new parks are coming on board as originally planned and a new arena is in the works.

The budget allows road repairs to be done at a much faster rate, with the town dedicating about \$1.3 million, which is almost twice the 2006 repair budget.

And the town is seeking a substantial provincial grant to help with roads.

On the environmental front, \$10,000 was earmarked for a Musselman's Lake study.

Work on storm water retention ponds and cleanups of lakes such as Preston Lake can take place because of budget support.

The town is in a good financial position this year, Mr. Pourvahidi noted. Borrowing will be unlikely next year but could be in the books in 2009 because of the town's increasing growth.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson proposed the Latham Gallery grant, saying, "We need to support the gallery. It is an important entity in this community. I don't want to lose it."

Once a cultural co-ordinator is hired this fall, however, he wants a report on the gallery and its operations.

Gallery chairperson Doug Alles was surprised by the grant, even though the gallery's original request was for \$65,000.

The cash means the gallery doesn't have to reduce its programs, Mr. Alles said. "This is significant to a lot of people in the community. They have given us some life."

Mrs. Hilton would like to see meetings between the gallery and town beginning as early as this spring to work out a relationship and have the gallery devise a long-term survival strategy.

During the council meeting, Councillor Phil Bannon noted the gallery already receives the equivalent of \$15,000 in rent-free space.

The gallery has said the town is responsible for success and must make up any short fall in funds.

"I don't like the way that has evolved," he added.

The town asked the gallery for a better business plan some time ago, Mr. Smith said, "but the gallery has not submitted anything regarding how they want to partner with us".

If the town does contribute more money, how much control it might have over staffing and programming would have to be addressed.

"We have to support culture here 100 per cent," Councillor Rob Hargrave stated.

But because the gallery is receiving public money, he wanted its financial statements made public, in local newspapers. Those statements are public, Mr. Alles said, and are available for scrutiny at the gallery.