# E-books big at library

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was up 27 per cent this past summer, according to the Ontario Library Association.

Locally, circulation has increased eight per cent from 104,802 in 2008 (January to August) to 114,038 during the same time span this year. Participation in the summer reading program jumped by 13.4 per cent.

"In bad economic times, library use increases," Ms Sword said. "The bad times may have brought them in, but when times get better we don't lose them because they realize what a good thing we have."

Yes, there are lots of printed books to be found in the library, but they are not just the out-of-date-theminute-they-are-written reference books, there are current best sellers and oldies but goodies — fiction and non-fiction.

There are also a lot of electronically-based offerings such as ebooks, which are electronic textbased books read on a computer or handheld device. When they were introduced a few years back, they were lamented as a major blow to the library system.

However, instead of fearing the e-book, libraries, including Whitchurch-Stouffville, embraced them and provide them alongside the old-school paperbacks.

The library also offers books on CD and some titles can be downloaded to an MP3 player.

The willingness to offer more than just printed books enables the library to broaden its reach. For example, visually impaired residents can enjoy the latest Stephen King release right along with sighted people because it is also available in an audio format, while people who are not that mobile, don't have to worry about getting to the library to borrow a book because they can download it for free onto their computer through the net-library.

Other electronic offerings include everything from the catalogue to auto repair manuals, career information and consumer reports.

"People hear electronic and think Internet," Ms Sword said. "And what people don't realize is that I'm talking about credible sources all packaged together so you don't have to do the Wild West search."

For example, Career Cruising provides information on potential careers via a questionnaire and has jobsearching capabilities across Canada.

The consumer health portal has information on more than 1,000 drug journals and 2,700 patient fact sheets.

For people who still love the sound of a book's spine cracking open for the first time, the library still has those, as well as an e-mail alert program called Next Reads.

a month and if you (find a book you like, based on inputted data) click on the library link and see if it's available," Ms Sword said.

### Reading celebrated

Library Month and Oct. 19 to 25 is

Ontario Public Library Week.

Whitchurch-Stouffville October is Canadian Public Public Library is at 30 Burkholder St., Stouffville. Call 905-642-

READ(7323) or go to whitchurchlibrary.on.ca

Events include: **Food for Fines** 

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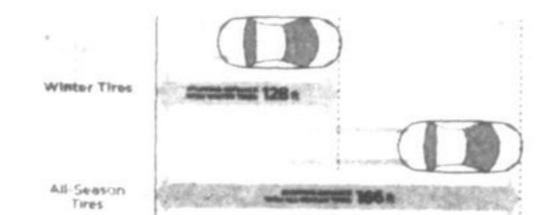
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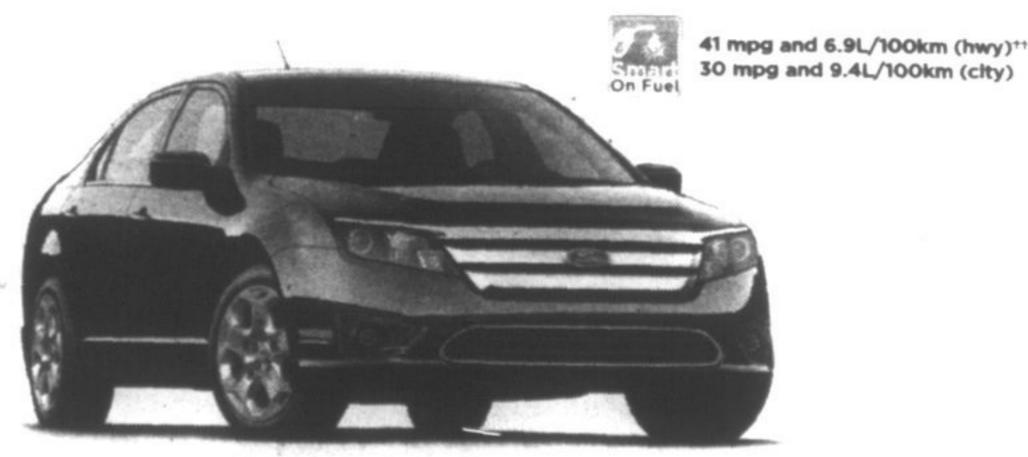






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