

Future of Stouffville library's Giant Book Sale in doubt

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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This could be the last year for Stouffville's annual Giant Book Sale.

The fate of the Silver Jubilee Club, which is owned by the town, is currently up in the air as it no longer houses the 55+ Club. The former Stouffville post office building at Main and Market streets is where thousands of donated books are sorted by volunteers throughout the year, said Carolyn Nordheimer James, the library's CEO.

"It's complicated. I don't know what the future holds," she said.

This year's sale, which is the 24th annual, runs from April 10 to 14 in the large multi-purpose room of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre, 30 Burkholder St., in the library complex.

Last year's sale brought in more than \$14,000, which was used to pay for the summer reading program co-ordinator and the program's prizes, as well as author visits.

"We can't run the summer reading program without the co-ordi-

nator and the prizes," Ms Nordheimer James said.

Over the years, the sale has also paid for new titles for the Playaways Views collection, book carts, bean bag chairs for the children's area and the sale's Main Street banner.

Not only does it help the library financially, but there's also the community engagement aspect, which starts with the volunteers and goes all the way to those who attend the sale.

"It's just part of (the volunteers') yearly calendar... and they feel

they're making a contribution to the library and the community by extension. ... That would be a real loss," Ms Nordheimer James said.

Book prices range from 50 cents for children's paperbacks to \$2 for a grocery bag full of Harlequins and \$3 for hardcovers and coffee table books.

Books not sold will once again be given to Better World Books, which sells them online. That money is then used to fund literacy programs. The organization also sends books to underdeveloped

countries.

The sale starts Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. The remaining hours are: April 11 and 12 - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 13 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; April 14 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A special hour April 11 between 9 and 10 a.m. is for those 60 years and older only.

Payment for books is by cash or cheque only.

Books for this year's sale are no longer being accepted. The library will start accepting donations for the 2014 sale next month.

Author hopes to outsell Cusack movie character

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Conspiracy theorists have one more weapon in their arsenal.

Steve Bull's recently self-published work of fiction, *Olduvai*, explores the world's social collapse based on the economy, energy and environment.

"A natural consequence of our own kind of behaviour," the 51-year-old Stouffville resident said.

The title comes from the Olduvai theory, which suggests the return to a stone-age way of life due to the electrical grid's failure.

Mr. Bull, a vice-principal at Markham's Legacy Public School, wove current events into a story that deals with geopolitical tension in the Middle East, rise of the police state and unmanned drones flying over Canada.

"There's enough in there you know is true. You can suspend your belief for some of the other things that happen in it," he said.

Mr. Bull did his university graduate work in anthropology and archeology, so he has managed to tie some of his masters' work into the book.

Depending on sales, Mr. Bull is hoping to turn this into a series.



STEVE BULL: Stouffville vice-principal put his education to work in new self-published book.

And when it comes to sales, Mr. Bull wants to sell 474 copies, which is one more than John Cusack's character, struggling sci-fi writer Jackson Curtis, sold in the movie *2012*.

The book is available at www.friesenpress.com/bookstore/title/119734000008531003

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