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## Final year for library book sale

**BY SANDRA BOLAN** sbolan@yrmg.com

After 27 years, the annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library book sale will end.

Between the loss of storage and sorting space as well as the post-sale collection service and construction taking place next year, the library board thought "maybe it was time to put it to rest," said Carolyn Nordheimer James, the library's CEO.

"Everything just seemed to come to a head at the same time," she said.

When the town sold the Silver Jubilee building, at Main and Market streets, last year, which is where the donated books are stored and sorted, they had to find a new location.

The nearby Lighthouse Baptist Church lent them its basement, but only until the sale in April.

That's been great, but that is a short-term agreement," Nordheimer James said.

Once the books are sorted, public works staff trucks them up to the Lemonville Community Centre.

Earlier this month, BetterWorldBooks, which picked up all the books not sold for the past couple of years, told Nordheimer James they would no longer provide the service because it was not profitable.

'So we're in a real jam this year," Nordheimer James said, noting she has reached out to the MPP Helena Jaczek's office to see if some of the 10,000 leftover books they typically have could be shipped to First Nations' communities. If that is not possible, they will have to be recycled or put in the trash.

The annual sale started in 1989 as a way to generate money for the construction of a new library — the very one that will be expanded this year.

... to see if some of the 10,000 *leftover books they typically have* could be shipped to First Nations' communities.

Once the project was complete, committee members decided to keep the sale going, with the provision that all money raised go to non-budget items.

The sale generates about \$15,000 annually and sells between 10,000 and 15,000 books, which are priced between 50 cents and \$3. Community members throughout the year donate the books to the library.

After this year, the money, which pays for the summer reading program co-ordinator's salary as well as program prizes, will have to come out of future budgets, according to the CEO.

The loss, she said, is not so much the money but the community event, which encompasses volunteers, students, town staff, the Kinsmen Club and residents who donate and purchase books.

This year's sale runs from April 6 to 10 in the leisure centre's large multipurpose room. The last day to donate books is March 26.

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