

New catalogue search tool coming to library

BiblioCommons is a new search and find tool that allows library users to find what they are looking for in an enhanced and improved environment.

It incorporates web 2.0 and social networking features, which means that library users can contribute information to the catalogue and interact with each other -and it will be available at Windsor Public Library later this Spring.

The application features an extensively-researched interface design, and a thoroughly tested technology platform, that resulted from an 18 month period of multi-library testing and development



Customers will have the ability to:

- Add comments and star-ratings about books and movies;
- Create lists to share with other users about favourite authors, genres or interests;
- Connect and communicate with other users with similar interests in a safe, trusted environment;
- Build networks of favourite reviewers that result in personalized recommendations.
- Explore bestsellers, award winners and newly acquired library materials.

All of these additional discovery features will give library users a new and interesting way to find library materials. This user-generated content is shared by all libraries that use BiblioCommons. This results in a much richer catalogue experience for the user. For example, library users can read comments and lists created by others, as

well as user-generated content from other libraries in Ontario.

BiblioCommons is a project of Knowledge Ontario, which is funded by the Province of Ontario.



MCHAPPINESS: Ronald McDonald was enthusiastically received by adults and kids when he visited Forest Glade Branch in January. Ronald read stories, danced and exercised with the audience and provided an interactive craft. He distributed smiles and autographed activity books.

**FEBRUARY is
Black History Month**

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Family literacy promoted at the library

On January 27, families across Windsor participated in Family Literacy Day, a national initiative promoting the importance of reading and engaging in literacy-related activities as a family. The Windsor Public Library encourages family literacy year round and is always striving to recognize the literacy needs of parents and children and provide an environment conducive to reading.

Families are encouraged to provide children with their very own library cards, and let children select the books they would like to read: find new stories for children to read each week in bookstores, at neighbourhood book swaps or garage sales; and make a regular trip to the library and make time to read as a family. Just 15 minutes a day can impact children's learning skills and improve their chance for success.

The Windsor Public Library offers the following tips and activities to encourage family literacy:

- ◆ It's never too early to read to your children. Even newborns benefit from reading;
- ◆ Ask your kids to help you make a shopping list. Read and make

recipes with them. Help your children make a calendar of their weekly activities;

- ◆ Create a special cozy reading place for your children and their books - their very own library!;
- ◆ Use television to start a discussion with children. Find the books that inspired the movies or shows, and read them with your children;
- ◆ Give your teen's books, newspaper

articles and magazines about things that interest them - music, TV, movies, and computers. Talk with them about their interests;

- ◆ Impress upon children the importance you place on reading and learning;
- ◆ Use the dictionary to look up new words that have come up in conversation, on the radio, or in books you read together.

Sandwich receives a facelift

In summer 2010, the Friends of Sandwich announced they had \$20,000 to spend on the Sandwich Branch of the Windsor Public Library, and approached WPL about renovations to the interior of the branch.

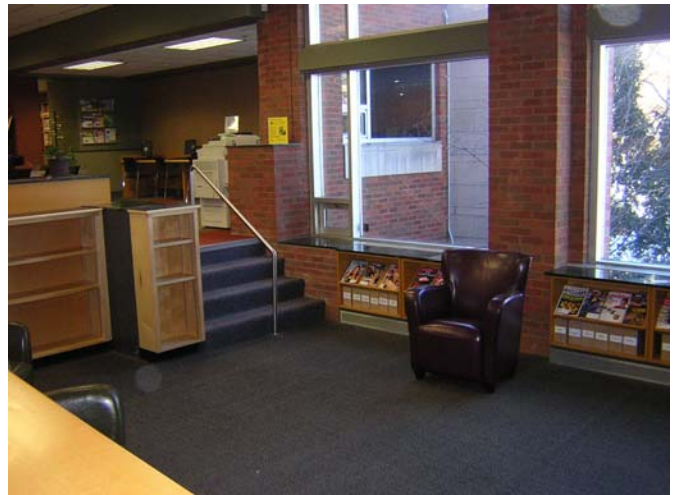
Priorities identified included freshening the interior to make the branch warmer and more welcoming, updating the computers provided for children, and adding additional seating, with electrical outlets, for adults using laptop computers.

Paint and interior carpet were replaced in November and December of 2010. Staff and customers alike have commented on how much more welcoming the library now seems.

New shelving has been installed for paperback books and for DVDs, allowing more inviting displays of books, and for the re-use of a large space for adults. Still to arrive are tables to be provided for individual study.

A large-screen monitor was installed, which will serve a double function of providing scrolling information about programs at the library and also being a place to screen DVDs for children's movie matinees.

Additional enhancements to the branch are scheduled to occur thanks to a very generous donation from the Brighton Beach Power Company. More information will be available later this Spring.





Feed your mind
SPEAKER
SERIES

February 17, 2011 from
12:15 to 1 pm: Rosemary
Nixon will discuss the creative
writing process.
Central Library - Ouellette Lobby

Events scheduled to celebrate Black history

Every February, Windsorites are invited to take part in celebrations and events which honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month.

"It is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today," says WPL CEO Barry Holmes. "It's also an opportunity for the majority of Canadians to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians in our society, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history."

Many sites, persons and events of national significance related to Black history have been formally recognized by the Government of Canada as defining important aspects of Canada's diverse but common heritage and identity.

Throughout February, the following events have been scheduled:

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AMAZING PEOPLE

Tuesday, February 1, 2011 - 5:30 to 6:45 pm

Central Library, 850 Ouellette Avenue.

Children, ages 8-13, learn about amazing people and what they have done.

BLACK HISTORY SCULPTURE DISPLAY

Display available for viewing at Central Library from January 28 – 31, 2011

Memories from the Archives...



DOWNTOWN WINDSOR: Sandwich Street and Ouellette Ave. showing the Ritz and British American Hotels. Photograph taken in late 1940s early 1950s.

Black history month

BLACK HISTORY STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND BOOK DISPLAYS

Various locations throughout the month

KEN STANTON of the Essex County Black Historical Society will speak to the Essex Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society at Central Library on Monday, February 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Fred Israel Auditorium.

KIM SIMMONS will highlight the life of Carolin Quarlls, a 16 year old Missouri plantation slave, who boarded a ferry boat in St. Louis on July 4, 1842 to find freedom in Windsor, Ontario on July 4, 1842. She settled in the Sandwich area. Sessions are scheduled for February 24 at 11 am and again at 1:15 pm at the Sandwich Branch of Windsor Public Library. All are welcome.

Windsor Public Library has prepared a reading list about Black History – geared to all age groups. Some of the titles include:

- Harriet Tubman: Riding the Freedom Train
- I came as a stranger: the Underground Railroad
- Black Canadians achievement: out of the past into the future
- Don't know much about Rosa Parks
- Free at last! The story of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Nelson Mandela: the fight against apartheid

The comprehensive list can be found at www.windsorpubliclibrary.com.

Libraries join together to offer online services

Are you trying to find a comprehensive list of award-winning Canadian authors, career statistics for a long-retired NHL player or a trade association that can help your business expand to Mumbai?

ASK US TODAY...

Fast, expert help is as close as your computer and, best of all, it's free.

Since January 2008, Windsor Public Library, together with many other Ontario libraries, has been collaborating to provide an online inquiry service called askON, along with a similar French-language service called ONdemande. askON and ONdemande are among the five digital services of Knowledge Ontario, a not-for-profit collaborative. A total of 63 libraries across the province are now participating.

63 PARTICIPANTS IN ONTARIO

Here's how it works. You go to the Windsor Public Library website, look for the askON icon and open a live chat session. After you post your question, a real librarian—not an automated search engine—finds the information you need. The service is available 45 hours a week, and most inquiries take about 10 to 15 minutes to answer.

Each library provides two to eight

hours of live chat help each week. As a result, Ontarians in even the smallest and most remote communities can get almost instant answers to their research questions. askON has been particularly popular with students and business people—two groups who might not naturally visit a brick-and-mortar library but who spend a great deal of time online.

ASSISTANCE WITH DATABASES

Once users have made that initial contact, librarians can use the opportunity to help them increase their digital literacy. Many Ontarians, for instance, don't realize that their library cards give them access to a wealth of authoritative databases that can take them far beyond what a simple Google search can offer. In an online chat, librarians can help clients access and navigate these databases.



Librarians are unabashed fans of the service, which helps them develop their technical skills and gives them an opportunity to do what they do best: find information. But perhaps the biggest raves come from askON users themselves, who often leave testimonials on the service's website.

"I really appreciated being able to get library help online from the comfort of my own home," wrote one user. "I don't always have the time to go to the library so this service is very valuable to me.

Keep askON going!"

Windsor's Community Archives Exhibit Schedule 2011

January	Dance Cards
February	Heritage Week
March	Corporate Letterheads
April	Archives Awareness Week
May	We are not Amused: Royalty in the Archives
June	Ford City in pictures
July	Trains, Planes and Automobiles
August	Street scenes of Windsor
September	Back to School
October	Architecture in your Archives
November	Remembrance Day
December	Vintage Holiday Greetings

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**WINDSOR
PUBLIC LIBRARY**