

Gala hears message of belief and passion

The Windsor Public Library Adult Literacy Program celebrated 30 years of service last month at the Hilton Windsor with a dinner, silent auction, dancing and Guest Speaker, the Hon. Jacques Demers.

The evening proved to be a tremendous success, with the guest of honour outlining the adversity he has faced, from his early days on the streets of Montreal, through to his NHL coaching appointments. The message he left with those in attendance was that you have to believe in yourself and that to succeed in life you need passion.

For many years, Mr. Demers hid the fact that he was illiterate, choosing to surround himself with individuals to assist and help him cover up his limitation. He now urges anyone with problems reading and comprehending the written word to ask for help – and praised the Adult Literacy Program for the many people it has helped and the success stories associated with it.

The Adult Literacy Program, through the contribution of trained volunteer tutors, provides free one-on-one tutoring at WPL branches convenient to both the tutor and learner. Presently, there are 115 learners and 50 volunteer tutors in the program.

Since 1980, there have been 75 tutor training workshops held; more than 1,500 tutors trained; and more than 175,000 hours devoted to improving literacy in the Windsor community. Over 3,000 learners have benefited from the Adult Literacy Program.



GALA: *The Hon. Jacques Demers praised the Adult Literacy Program for 30 years of community involvement. Photo courtesy of The Windsor Star.*

Library Strategic Plan provides direction for the future

Public libraries, much like the corporate business world, must look ahead, anticipate change and develop accompanying strategies to be successful. Consequently in the Fall of 2008, a consultant was commissioned to create a Strategic Plan for Windsor Public Library. Throughout 2009, the local community, staff and stakeholders were consulted and earlier this year a comprehensive document was

delivered to the Windsor Public Library Board. Since that time, it has been debated and in November, the Board and Administration will meet to finalize the content before it goes to the Board for adoption.

For Windsor Public Library to be relevant to the community, it needs to know who its customers are, where they are coming from and what they expect from a public library. Without a strategic plan in

place, companies and organizations find themselves reacting to events and circumstances – rather than proactively moving ahead. A

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Culture Days featured South Asian art

Culture Days at the Windsor Public Library was a resounding success. On Saturday September 25 approximately over two hundred Windsorites participated in various activities held at the Central Branch. Culture Days is a free cross-Canada annual event that invites everyone to celebrate and explore arts and culture in their local communities. The WPL Culture Days event called "The Colours of South Asia," was undertaken in conjunction with the Windsor Communities series of websites focusing this year on the South Asian community.

Events ran simultaneously on September 25. There were two children's activities, a holistic yoga presentation and an art exhibition.

The children's activities involved colouring for all ages and a notebook decorating exercise that allowed the children's creativity to shine through. The younger children enjoyed colouring images of tigers, peacocks and elephants. Adults who were accompanying their children decided to make their own notebooks when they saw how much fun and what a unique product you could end up with. The children colouring received crayons and the older children decorating the notebooks, took home their colourful and individualized art.

The holistic yoga presentation was instructed by Harendra Raval who has over thirty years experience in the areas of holistic yoga and yoga psychology. Some topics discussed were: holistic yoga methods to help with your everyday life; what yoga psychology is; sharpening your memory; how to stop excessive thinking and walking meditation. Demonstrations of chanting,



CULTURE DAYS: Activities geared to children proved to be popular during the weekend, with sessions full of attentive and interested participants.

breathing and relaxation also took place.

Running throughout the weekend was a mini-art exhibition showcasing the work of local artists. The modernist paintings of Jeet Aulakh; the photography of Jayant Coty Patel; the stained glass sculptures and jewelry of Rashmi Dadwal; a

meditative piece from Joshua Babcock; Warli and Madhubari style paintings of Shitala Patki; artifacts from the collection of Timpy Aulakh; and some pieces from Vivasvat and Parvati Dadwal.

A feast for the eyes and senses for all who attended the Windsor Public Library during Culture Days!

Community Art Wall

Local artistic creativity is important to Windsor Public Library. If you're an artist looking for a venue to display your work...considering using our new **COMMUNITY ART WALL!**

Simply contact us at 519.255.6770, Ext. 4421 and set up an appointment to preview your work. If selected, you will have the opportunity to display your work, together with biographical and contact information.

Please note that Windsor Public Library is the final arbiter of whether the artwork is appropriate for community display and that it cannot be sold when on the premises. The COMMUNITY ART WALL is equipped with a professional picture hanging system to ensure easy installation. The area in question measures 8 metres (horizontal) by 1.8 metres (vertical).

Windsor Public Library is not responsible for damage to or theft of any displayed art. All artists will be required to sign a waiver.

Researching your house at the Archives

Many homeowners, who own older homes whether they have just bought or have lived there for many years, want to learn more about the history of their place of residence. This drive to want to know more about their home could be for purely personal reasons or they may want to have their home designated a heritage home by the city. This is where Windsor's Community Archives maybe able to help.



This photograph was taken in 1925 by A. W. Spurgeon. The house belonged to Charles S. King, Walkerville town Councillor in 1916, 1917 and 1918 and mayor of Walkerville in 1919 and 1920. The house exterior is brick and stacco, a 3 storey Georgian home located at the corner of Devonshire and Willistead Crescents. The architects were Nichols, Sheppard and Masson.

The archive's has a number of resources for the house history hunter. One of the first pieces of information that most home owners want to know is, when was their house built? There are several sources available to find out that information. The first source that an archivist would use are "assessment cards", created by the City of Windsor in the 1930s. The cards contain such information as when

the structure was built, the size of the building, what materials were used in the construction of the house, the value of the property, any additions or alterations made to the house. The cards contain a wealth of information for the home owner.

The second source for the house researcher are assessment rolls, also known as tax rolls. The rolls would show when a house was built, the size of the lot, the owner of the property, the number of individuals living at that residence and value of the property and buildings of a particular lot. Assessment rolls are completed yearly and date back to 1854.

Other resources for the home history hunter include fire insurance plans, which are a series of very detailed maps of Windsor and predecessor communities. The archive has three sets of fire insurance plans, 1924, 1937 and 1952. These maps provide the address of the home, the foot print of the structure and through colour coding whether the house is made of wood, brick or both. A wealth of information can be found within the fire insurance plans.

Many home owners are curious about the people who lived in their house prior to their arrival. The archives cannot provide a biography of each individual who lived in your house, but through the use of city directories (found on the second floor at Central Library) and assessment rolls can provide the names of individuals who lived in the house and their occupations.

For those individuals doing research on their homes it is necessary to remember that through Windsor's

history and that of its predecessor communities, street names and address have changed many times. The staff at Central Library second floor reference desk and in the archives can help you determine what those changes are and how they might affect your research. Good luck on hunting down the history of your house.

Windsor's Community Archives is located in the lower level of Central Library at 850 Ouellette Ave. The archives contains maps, over 20,000 photographic images, 10,000 architectural drawings, historical posters, and over a kilometre of textual records of both the city of Windsor and private individuals. The public service hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 and Saturdays 9 to 1 and 2 to 5. Appointments can be made for Thursdays and Fridays by contacting the archivist directly. The archives can be reached by phone at 519/255-6770 x 4414 or email at archives@windsorpubliclibrary.com.



Taken in 1928, this photograph by A. W. Spurgeon of Dr. Charles W. Hoare's Tudor style brick residence was located on Willistead Crescent. Dr. Hoare was Mayor of the Town of Walkerville in 1917 and 1918. The architects for this home were Nichols, Sheppard and Masson.

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Library Strategic Plan provides direction for the future

successful strategic plan should challenge the status quo, change expectations and look at issues in new and innovative ways.

And that's exactly what the WPL Strategic Plan accomplishes. It sets out a number of directions, that when implemented, will build an environment which sustains its strengths and redirects and grows resources which respond to the information needs of the community. The Plan is comprised of four Strategic Directions.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:
Adopt a strong, forward-looking governance model and management framework.**

This calls for WPL to review and revise the current model of governance and interaction that respects its legislative obligations, its staff and work towards a more collaborative relationship with City of Windsor departments. Also, the Library administrative framework needs to be rebuilt in order to sustain current operations, implement new strategic directions and create organizational stability. Strategic Direction 1 also suggests the adoption of policies that endorse standards and benchmarks for

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funding, collection development and services. Inherent in all of this in the initiation of a Master Plan which will examine future library facilities.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:
Review, redirect and focus current services and resources towards both sustainability and strategic growth.**

Initiate a collection development process and responsiveness study.

Review the sustainability and strategic importance of current partnerships.

Develop mechanisms to effectively measure the value of current and future partnerships.

Exploit technology fully to improve internal efficiencies, to develop and deliver exceptional library products and services, and where possible, realize some further cost containment and savings.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:
Reinforce its service development model that will enable the Library to move and respond quickly to changing community-driven priorities and demographic patterns.**

Augment staff training in community development skills, computer training and public instruction for the use of technologies.

Align select service priorities to those reflected in City plans and demographic trends.

Research, prepare, coordinate and implement detailed service and collection plans that focus on the

following priority communities, for the next five years:

- o Older adults
- o Youth
- o Disadvantaged communities such as the unemployed and the homeless.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:
Create and launch a dynamic marketing strategy that prioritizes key community groups and that maximizes uptake of services by the Library's core clientele.**

Market library services to the community

- o Older adults
- o Youth
- o Disadvantaged communities such as the unemployed and the homeless
- o Core clientele.

When adopted, the Strategic Plan will provide a fiscally responsible series of initiatives addressing Library services and programs, and the underlying technological and facility infrastructure. The Library Strategic Plan will provide the Windsor Public Library with:

A clear understanding of future library service, program and facility needs;

A vision of future library services and facilities for the next 5 years, tied to the vision of both the City and the Library Board; and

Practical, actionable plans and strategies to achieve them.