

What's New?

SEPTEMBER 2010

WINDSOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer BBQ benefits Unemployed Help Centre

Representatives from the Unemployed Help Centre Food Bank were at Windsor Public Library last month to accept a donation of \$690. The donation represents the proceeds from a Summer BBQ organized and staffed by the Windsor Public Library Board and Administration in August and monies donated by staff during the month of August for the privilege of dressing casually on Fridays. Library users and other members of the Windsor community took advantage of the Summer BBQ to enjoy a hot dog and some ice cream on the front lawn of Central Library. There was a small charge for the menu items with the Food Bank selected as the beneficiary of the proceeds.

"The BBQ provided us with an opportunity to thank everyone for their support and encourage customers who haven't visited a library in a while to do so. We hope that participants were pleasantly surprised by what they found. It also gave the Board and myself a chance to thank staff for their dedication and commitment," said Windsor Public Library CEO Barry Holmes. "The event was a great hit and plans are underway to make the BBQ bigger and better next year."

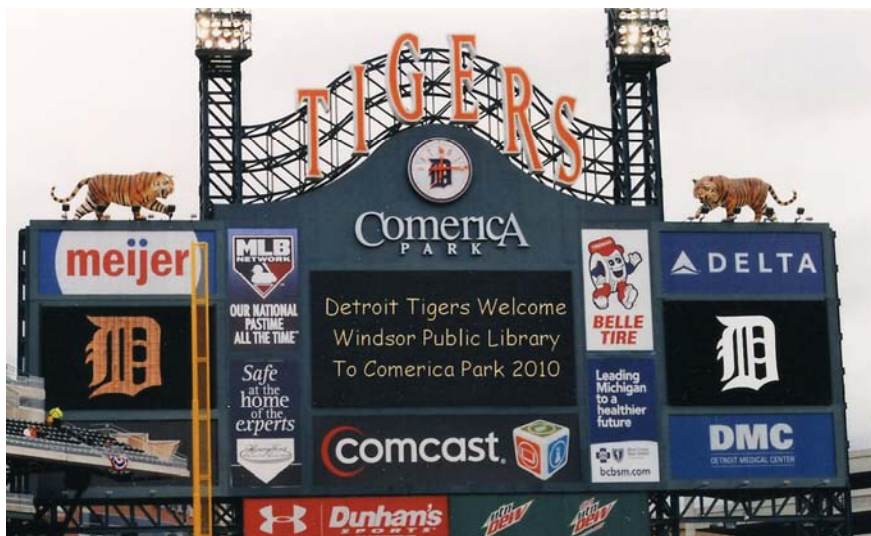
The Unemployed Help Centre is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the



MONIES RAISED: WPL Board Member Lorena Shepley (left) and Unemployed Help Centre representatives June Muir (centre) and Debbie Desjardins (right) enjoy the Summer BBQ.

unemployed & economically challenged in the Windsor & Essex County area. The Food Bank services are available to those in need of emergency food assistance and are based on need. Service is provided on a walk-in basis, as available.

Comerica Park welcomes Windsor Public Library!



In July, a group of WPL staff and family members travelled to Comerica Park to cheer on the Blue Jays – or the Tigers – depending on your loyalties. The occasion was marked with a welcome on the scoreboard and an accompanying announcement. Those supporting Toronto left happy at the end of the game!

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Page 2 Raise-a-Reader
- Page 3 Renovations
- Page 3 Archives
- Page 4 Adult Literacy

Postmedia Network RAR donates to Book Buddies

The 2009-2010 Windsor/Essex County Raise-A-Reader campaign was a resounding success resulting in over \$7,500 being donated to Windsor Public Library programs and \$54,000 raised for local literacy initiatives.

Raise-A-Reader is a nationwide initiative of the **Postmedia Network** to increase awareness and raise money for children's literacy programs throughout Canada. Locally, The Windsor Star coordinated the campaign with over 100 local volunteers, including staff from the library and The Windsor Star, canvassing various locations throughout the city, seeking donations in exchange for a special edition of The Windsor Star.

The 2009-2010 Windsor Star Raise-A-Reader campaign donated \$7,500 to

the **WPL Book Buddies** program which will be used to fund learning activities such as workbooks, worksheets and educational website subscriptions to provide a wealth of resources for the volunteers to use in their sessions with local children.

"The largest challenge facing the Book Buddies Program is attracting sufficient volunteers to match with participants. With so many different avenues available to individuals wanting to volunteer their time and skills, it's important for the Book Buddies Program to attract new volunteers; make the volunteer experience meaningful; and provide resources utilizing available technology at the Library and at home. In short, this donation will make it easy for Book Buddies volunteers to get involved," said WPL

CEO Barry Holmes.

The Book Buddies Program provides volunteer adult tutors for elementary school children (ages 6-10) who experience reading difficulty. Together, they work on phonics and other literacy skills which promote life-long reading habits to the child. The volunteer becomes a mentor, reading and being read to by the child - using children's books and activities. The Book Buddies Program began in 1997 and primarily exists to help children during non-school hours - particularly during the summer.

The donation will be presented to library representatives at the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch following the September 29 Windsor and Essex County Raise-A-Reader Campaign.

Digital photo contest uncovers a wealth of talent



This summer Windsor Public Library held a digital photography contest for youth aged 9-14. The theme was **Urban Jungles** and after receiving 14 entries, two winners were chosen. Our **Critic's Choice**, selected by Brad MacLaren of **MacLaren's Photo Lab**, was awarded to Amy Liu (photo, above left), who won a digital photography book. Our **Popular Choice** winner, Andrea Lei (photo, above right), was selected through online voting on the WPL Facebook page. She won an enlarged version of her photo matted and framed, generously donated by Brad MacLaren. Thanks to all who participated!

Renovations will invigorate Central Library

Customers visiting Central Library over the course of the next several weeks will notice a change coming to the first floor.

A number of initiatives have begun – all with the goal of providing Windsor Public Library customers with a more exciting and lively environment to visit.

“It’s essential that Windsor Public Library renew itself and present a fresh and contemporary appearance to customers. Our goal is to provide another reason for customers to visit, and another reason for them to return regularly”, said WPL CEO Barry Holmes.

Staff has removed the Doll Museum Display and shelving. A new structure will be constructed which will allow WPL to feature displays designed by staff, new materials and

other content of interest to the community. Windsor Public Library is appreciative of the long standing partnership enjoyed with the Doll Museum.

The doll display will be moved and when a new location is found, the location will be announced. Examples from the Doll Museum can still be viewed at the Forest Glade branch of Windsor Public Library.



“I want to draw on the talent we have on staff to generate timely and meaningful displays which attract customers, make them stop, make them take time to explore our

materials and resources, ask questions and generally enjoy their experience visiting us,” said Holmes.

Additionally, a Community Art Wall is being constructed adjacent to the Dufferin Avenue entrance which will be used to feature local art and artists. The content will be rotated on a monthly basis to ensure the wall remains interesting and thought provoking.

Plans also call for some minor changes to the open area near the Children's Centre, with movable seating to accommodate speakers and other community events.

Staff is planning a lunchtime Speaker Series, which will include topical and entertaining subjects which appeal to the customer looking for a location to have lunch and at the same time experience a short, lively and interesting speaker.

Memories from Windsor’s Community Archives



GORDON MCGREGOR PUBLIC SCHOOL (above, left): Built in 1924. Named after one of the original investors of the Ford Motor Company of Canada. Located in Ford City. Photograph taken in 1924.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY (above, right): This photograph was taken in the 1940s. The school was located on



Academy Drive in Sandwich South Township (South Windsor). The first St. Mary's Academy was built on the south east corner of Park St. and Ouellette Ave. It was torn down in 1929 to make way for the new tunnel crossing. The structure in the photograph was built between 1927 and 1929. The school was closed in 1971 and torn down in 1977.

Adult Literacy Program Celebrates 30 Years

The Windsor Public Library Adult Literacy Program is celebrating 30 years of service on Friday, September 17, 2010 at the Hilton Windsor (277 Riverside Drive West), with a dinner, silent auction, dancing and Guest Speaker, the Hon. Jacques Demers. The celebration begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The Master of Ceremonies will be Arms Bumanlag from AM800 CKLW.

Formed in September 1980 as a result of a taskforce initiated by Windsor Public Library which recognized the need for a program to improve, reading, writing and numeracy skills, the group is comprised of community-based volunteers who provide a variety of services to enable adults to achieve personal goals through literacy. The program also assists learners to utilize the public library as a resource for lifelong learning.

The Adult Literacy Program 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.

"For the past 30 years, the program

WHAT'S NEW is produced monthly by the Windsor Public Library. For more information about library programs and services, please call 519.255.6770 or visit us online at windsorpubliclibrary.com.

**WINDSOR
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

at Windsor Public Library has touched many lives in the community. Learners feel comfortable coming into a setting that stimulates reading and doesn't have an institutional feel or remind them of past negative experiences with learning," says Windsor Public Library CEO Barry Holmes.

Guest speaker at the celebration will be Former WHL, AHL and NHL coach, Jacques Demers who has publicly admitted that he is functionally illiterate. He has since become a major advocate for literacy initiatives.



The Hon. Jacques Demers

Tickets are available at the Windsor Public Library Adult Literacy Office (850 Ouellette Avenue) or by calling 519.255.6770, Ext. 4433. Tickets are \$40 per person. For more information, contact Adult Literacy Coordinator, Christine Dean at Ext. 4433.

SOME FACTS ABOUT LITERACY...

- To be literate means you have the skills to understand what you read, communicate with others and engage fully and confidently in life's activities and opportunities – at work, at home and in the community.

IN CANADA...

- Almost half of all Canadian adults (48%) have low literacy skills.
- If serious commitment to improve literacy is not made, 47% of adults aged 16 and over – totaling more than 15 million – will continue to have low literacy skills below Level 3 in 2031. Level 3 (defined as skill level required for successful high school completion and college entry) is the internationally accepted level of literacy required to cope in a modern society.

IN ONTARIO...

- Low literacy rates in Ontario have remained at approximately 42% for over 10 years.
- Over 50% of the total population has low numeracy performance and 42% has low literacy performance.
- 30% of the population (15 years of age and older) have less than a high school education.
- Almost 40% of youth (16-25) have low literacy performance.
- Over 65% of those with low literacy are of prime working age (26-55).

IN WINDSOR...

- Approximately 35,000 people in our community need some type of reading help.